WHEN IN MILAN

Caroline Mathisen ‘23 studied abroad in Milan this summer and completed an internship with a consulting company while in Italy. The finance major from Charleston, S.C., was particularly proud of her work on a major market analysis project for the company.
In August, Wofford again was recognized nationally by the Princeton Review for our rigorous academics, value and strong alumni network. We also made Degree Choices’ Top 10 among national liberal arts colleges, which recognizes value and earning potential. While these rankings are not without flaws, we nevertheless appreciate the validation of the college’s efforts to make a Wofford education both affordable and accessible.

Accessibility and affordability mean that all people, programs and services at Wofford must have a focus on student success. Our business office must always consider efficiency and best practices. Our enrollment and marketing departments must tell student and faculty stories so prospective students can see themselves here. Our facilities department must ensure that the campus is always ready for visitors, and our Office of Philanthropy + Engagement must always be connecting alumni, parents, employees and friends of the college to our mission and core values. Working together, we continue to graduate citizens, leaders and scholars in four years!

This Wofford Today shares the story behind the Office of Advancement’s rebranding to the Office of Philanthropy + Engagement and why that’s important for student success. We also include excerpts from the State of the College address, something I present each year at the Opening Session for faculty and staff. Finally, you’ll meet the Class of 2026 and other new faces on campus. You’ll also learn more about a summer filled with opportunities for students and faculty to experience undergraduate research together.

Thank you for doing your part to move Wofford forward!

Go Terriers!

Nayef H. Samhat
11TH PRESIDENT OF WOFFORD COLLEGE
Where thought leads.
Three Wofford College students brought their compassion and creativity to the Spartanburg Opportunity Center this summer. Thought led Walker Antonio ’23, Megan Santos ’23 and Kate Timbes ’23 each to create a unique mural for the center, a Spartanburg nonprofit that provides a variety of services to help people who are homeless. Michael Webster, assistant professor of studio art, added his talent to the project by designing and building food service carts to assist volunteers and clients. The goal of the artists was to provide a bright, uplifting space for the people who come to the Opportunity Center to receive services and for the volunteers who provide assistance.
‘MISSION ADMISSIONS’
Megan Tyler ’14, director of admission, recently talked to the “Mission Admissions” podcast about her work, including how she started in admissions and turned it into a career at Wofford. She also discusses what it’s like to work for her alma mater, dealing with stress and navigating difficult situations.
Read more online.

BREAKING THE CODE
Nicholas Jacobs ’23 combined his interests in computer science and environmental studies to create his own internship with Grice Marine Lab, a part of the marine biology department at the College of Charleston. Over the summer Jacobs coded predictive modeling software that will hold archival information of environmental trends.
Read more online.

DISCOVERING HISTORY AND HERSELF
This summer Alexandra Key ’23 saw her hometown in a different way. Key, a history and English double major from Charleston, S.C., attended a historic preservation summer institute. The program allowed 12 undergraduates from around the country to explore the preservation efforts within Charleston’s historic district. Key’s experience was made possible by the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.
Read more online.

CRAFTING BRIGHTER FUTURES
Blake Batten ’23 used her Wofford coursework to launch herself into a summer of research, presentations and giving back to Spartanburg. The sociology and anthropology and art history double major from Anderson, S.C., used her sustainability seminar and museums study courses to come up with a project that makes a difference in Spartanburg through art.
Read more online.

WHERE THOUGHT LEADS AT WOFFORD
Read more about these and other stories online at wofford.edu/woffordtoday.
INVITED BY THE NCAA

Kerrington Johnson ’23 received a couple of special invitations from the NCAA. Johnson, a finance major from Anderson, S.C., qualified for the NCAA East Regionals for the second consecutive year and competed in the 100-meter hurdles. Shortly after the track meet, she participated in the NCAA’s Career in Sports Forum in Indianapolis, Ind. Read more online.

SISTER ACT

Brandi Wylie ’24 opened the door for her sister to finish her education. Wylie, an English major from Spartanburg, began volunteering at the Adult Learning Center as a Bonner Scholar. She convinced her sister, Kasi Mauney, to pursue her GED. Mauney completed the program in five months and earned the highest score in her class. Read more online.

SOCON ACADEMIC HONOR ROLL

Wofford had 247 student-athletes earn a spot on the Southern Conference’s academic honor roll for the 2021-22 academic year. It was a record for the college. The academic honor roll consists of student-athletes who participated in varsity sports and posted a 3.0 GPA or higher, were eligible the entire academic year and were members of the final squad lists.

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Experience Wofford

Ben Sale ’25 spent his summer in the kitchen perfecting vegan and gluten-free recipes for Bear Baking, the business he launched in 2021 during the Terrier StartUP Challenge. Stephan Baity, director of culinary operations for Wofford’s culinary partner, AVI Foodsystems, and others with AVI served as mentors, offering advice and expertise. Sale, a computer science and mathematics major with a concentration in data science from Fort Mill, S.C., is eager to see where this business leads.
The Class of 2026 is Wofford College’s largest ever incoming class with 508 students. They’re also the college’s most selective class and were chosen from a record 4,427 applications.

Facts about the Class of 2026:

There are 174 team captains, including four who captained four different athletics teams.

The class has 135 legacy students.

There are 121 student-athletes (60 signed; 61 are walk-ons).

The class has 60 Palmetto Fellows.

First-generation college students total 77.

The class has 29 students who participated in Boys’ State (14) or Girls’ State (15).

There are 81 students who were presidents of clubs in high school.

Editors of a high school publication make up 16.

The class has 20 Eagle Scouts or Gold Award recipients.

There are seven high school valedictorians in the class.

The class has six salutatorians.

Forty-six members of the class served in student government at their high schools, including 10 who were student body presidents.

Six students have a parent working at Wofford.

The class has 12 international students (three from Sweden and three from the United Kingdom as well as students from Canada, Denmark, Ghana, Jamaica, New Zealand and Vietnam).

The class has representatives from 32 states.
Meet seven Terriers who are beginning their Wofford journey as members of the Class of 2026.

**Anneka Brannon ’26**

**ROSALIND S. RICHARDSON ARTS SCHOLAR**

**INMAN, S.C.**

**Tell us about your art.**

To me, art is a way of sharing life with others. It opens doors for me to truly experience the good, bad and mundane aspects of being human. Through my favorite art media — theatre and dance — I can help people feel seen, as well as see and understand the uniqueness of other cultures and people.

Artistic inspiration comes from my everyday interactions with people. I am intrigued to see how people behave and how much their upbringing and current circumstances shape them as a people. I love to hear their stories and learn about the endless ways people experience life. I use that knowledge when I dive into new characters.

**What strengths are you bringing to the college?**

I am bringing empathy and ambition to Wofford. I take pride in my ability to create a safe haven for others to be themselves. Additionally, I look forward to countless conversations where I can have my beliefs challenged and challenge others.
Joel Gammah ’26
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
AND A BONNER SCHOLAR
GHANA

Why did you choose Wofford?
I chose Wofford because I want to have access to the myriad of resources to engage in in-depth and collaborative research with my professors. I also chose Wofford because of its small student body. The advantage of such a tight-knit community is that I get to have more one-on-one interactions with my professors, and we all get to live on campus as a family.

Did you have an opportunity to visit campus? If so, what was your impression? If not, how did you feel comfortable choosing the college?
Unfortunately, I did not have the opportunity to visit the Wofford campus, but I was impressed with what I saw through the virtual tour and social media. Wofford’s Instagram gave me a great picture of what Wofford looked like, and I loved it. Wofford has a very beautiful campus.

What do you plan to major in? Why?
I intend to major in computer science. A computer science major is going to give me the skills to help develop machine learning algorithms that will help predict rainfall patterns to help control the high rates of flood in Accra, Ghana.

Adam Hoyle ’26
DANIEL SCHOLAR
BELMONT, N.C.

What have you read recently that has impacted or changed how you see the world?
Though typically read as a children’s book, “Alice in Wonderland” has taught me that there is not one perspective of life or set belief that we as people must follow, but rather to think individually, think creatively, and not limit ourselves to the patterns or standards of others but explore the world around us for ourselves.

What do you plan to major in? Why?
I plan to major in English with an emphasis in creative writing because I admire the timeless values captured through writing as well as the pure emotion conveyed by personal expression through words.

What strengths are you bringing to the college?
I am bringing a diverse perspective to Wofford, whether it be in my studies as a literary author, as a curious student or just as a friend on campus. I will always strive to leave behind a positive attitude and promote a broadened array of thought.
Deuce Miller ’26
RICHARDSON SCHOLAR
GREENVILLE, S.C.

Why did you choose Wofford?
I chose Wofford because out of all the colleges and universities I was interested in, Wofford provided me with the most opportunity to succeed and thrive during and after college. With the resources available for me to use and the large network of alumni in the professional world, I believe that Wofford will propel me to becoming my best self.

What have you read recently that has impacted or changed how you see the world?
I am currently reading “The Defining Decade” by Meg Jay. It has impacted me greatly because it not only has shown me how influential this time of my life is, but it also relieves the tension that I must have my entire life figured out right now. These are the times when I can explore and shape my future.

What do you plan to major in? Why?
I plan to major in physics. I chose this major because learning how the world works and its different properties has always intrigued me. I love understanding different forces and laws about reality.

Lyndsay Moore ’26
A LEGACY STUDENT
COLUMBIA, S.C.

Why did you choose Wofford?
I learned to say, “Go Terriers!” before I could walk. I grew up going to Wofford football and basketball games every season. You could find a Wofford sticker on every car that picked me up from school or athletic practices as a child. So, when people heard I decided on Wofford, I am sure it was no surprise. However, it was not until late April, a week before college decision day, that I finally made my decision.

I wanted to look deeper than the stories I heard from my parents, brother, aunts, uncle and grandfathers about their time at Wofford. It was clear to me that my family all enjoyed their time at Wofford, and I was sure I would feel the same, but I wanted to discover why Wofford was for me. I stayed at Wofford multiple times during my senior year, and what I learned about the people is what made my decision. When I arrived at Wofford, I instantly felt a sense of community.

Wofford’s academics were also a huge factor in my decision. I have talked to multiple Wofford alumni in the medical community who have said they felt much more prepared for medical school than other students.
Kate Platte ’26
THE FIRST SIGNEE FOR THE SOFTBALL TEAM
AIKEN, S.C.

Why did you choose Wofford?
I chose Wofford because I knew I would receive a great education at a small college close to home while also having the opportunity to play softball. I felt immediately welcomed by the coaching staff and felt at home on Wofford’s beautiful campus.

What strengths are you bringing to the college?
I bring a great love for family and friends and a passion for education and softball. I also hope to bring a lead-by-example attitude and to help build a family-like atmosphere for our softball team.

What have you read recently that has impacted or changed how you see the world?
Reading the Bible every morning has changed how I see the world for the better. The Bible has always been important to me and my life goals.

Zion Sampson ’26
DANIEL SCHOLAR
AIKEN, S.C.

Why did you choose Wofford?
I wanted to be at the college that felt the most like home and offered a collaborative environment where I could establish close relationships with peers and professors. Wofford has that and so many more opportunities to have my best educational experience. I couldn’t imagine choosing anywhere else.

How does it feel to be a Daniel Scholar?
It is undeniably a great feeling to have access to an incredible education at no cost, but it’s an even better feeling to know that people and the college believe in me and my abilities. It’s certainly an investment, and I take great pride and responsibility in making sure I return it in service and leadership to the future.

What do you plan to major in? Why?
I plan to major in biology and minor in chemistry on the pre-dental track. I want to go to dental school with the target of being an oral surgeon, and I know the rigorous biology and chemistry curriculum will adequately prepare me for that path.
A team directed by Dr. Laura Barbas Rhoden and Dr. Christine Sorrell Dinkins spent the summer studying the impacts of climate change. As part of the project, students asked people about their own experiences with climate change.

CLIMATE STORIES
PROJECT GIVES PEOPLE SPACE TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES

Growing up in Charleston, S.C., Sarah Owens ’23 and Noel Tufts ’23 got a firsthand look at the effects of climate change every time a king tide sent water rushing into the downtown streets.

As part of a team directed by Dr. Laura Barbas Rhoden, professor of Spanish, and Dr. Christine Sorrell Dinkins, Kenan Professor of Philosophy, they spent the summer asking others about their own experiences with climate change. The project was inspired by a similar one conducted at the University of Pennsylvania.

“The main purpose of this project is giving people a space to voice how they have been impacted by climate change and how they see it in their own communities,” says Tufts, a biology and Spanish double major. “It’s been interesting to see the different perspectives.”

Dinkins says one goal was to get conversations started. The team collected the stories of more than two dozen people. They focused on the effects and stayed away from a debate about the causes.

“Normalizing and empowering climate conversations is its own good,” Dinkins says.

One of those interviewed was an athlete who had to change their practice schedule and take more hydration breaks. Another was a member of a farming family who talked about the impact to crop yields.

Barbas Rhoden says some of the responses were powerful. Some of those surveyed were angry about a perceived lack of action.

“We heard a lot of emotion words and stories about how the changing weather patterns that are part of climate change shape people’s daily routines, shape their holiday traditions and shape their experience of being in a place,” she says.

As the summer progressed, so did the team members’ interview techniques.

“As our student researchers were having these conversations, it struck me how much they were learning alongside those they were speaking with, not so much about the content but how they were able to adapt,” Dinkins says.

Read more online.
When textiles were booming, Una, Saxon and Arcadia were flourishing communities. But the demise of the industry devastated the three neighborhoods northwest of Spartanburg, and today they contain the greatest density of condemned properties in the county.

Led by Dr. Alysa Handelsman, assistant professor of sociology and anthropology, and Dr. Jennifer Bradham, assistant professor of environmental studies, nine Wofford students spent the summer identifying and mapping those properties. They found 48 condemned properties — nearly 11% of the 431 condemned properties in the county — in a four-mile radius.

They also discovered a large number of abandoned properties, but those are not included in their data because they haven’t been documented by city or county officials.

“Abandoned properties are subject to a person’s interpretation, while condemned properties have been investigated,” says Drew Wilson ’23, an environmental studies major from Sandersville, Ga., who mapped the condemned properties. “Our qualitative team has discussed the impact of abandoned houses with residents because the words are synonymous.”

Students also knocked on 500 doors and held focus groups to talk to residents about their concerns about the community.

“A lot of people are concerned for their safety because of prostitution, drugs and a perceived increase in homelessness,” says Sarah Buckmaster ’24, a sociology and anthropology major from Simpsonville, S.C. “Spartanburg has an abundance of health care and after-school resources that these neighborhoods are not connected to. A lot of residents say it seems that Una, Saxon and Arcadia are always missing from the conversation.”

Paola Cruz ’23, a Spanish and sociology and anthropology double major from Charlotte, N.C., says many residents were reluctant to speak out because they feared being evicted if the property owner found out. Some were also skeptical of the students’ motives.

“Being present is really important, and I think people started seeing us around a lot,” Handelsman says. “We’re not going door to door and then disappearing.”

Handelsman says the group has slowly gained the trust of more and more residents.

"Read more online."
A lot of people dance around the issue of mental health. Wofford professor Maya Michele Fein is leading an ongoing research project to build an entire production around the subject.

Two performances of “The Tangle” were held in July in the Sallenger Sisters Black Box Theatre. The 20-minute dance production is an expansion of the eight-minute version that debuted in 2021.

“Mental health issues are connected to us all in some way,” says Fein, assistant professor of theatre. “We want to destigmatize and bring awareness to the vast challenges of the human journey by bridging the arts and mental health education. Each experience with mental challenges is unique to the individual. By exploring this subject through dance, a language that transcends words, it allows for clear storytelling that also offers a personal interpretation.”

Fein’s team this summer consisted of six current students, one incoming student and one recent graduate. It also included Robin Levine — a New York City-based former Broadway performer who currently directs and choreographs nationally — as creator, writer, director and choreographer. The original score was created by award-winning NYC-based composer Jevares Myrick, who has performed on Broadway and in national tours.

The process started with a survey conducted by Fein, Chantel Aguirre ‘23, a Chinese major from Spartanburg, and Kerrington Johnson ‘23, a finance major from Anderson, S.C. The research contributed to the creation of the story, characters, dance movements and lobby display.

Aguirre says a common thread from the surveys returned was that respondents expressed concern about multiple mental health issues.

“Once we started to look across a wide variety of issues, we began to see similarities,” Aguirre says. “We want to point out those similarities and create a feeling of community and help people realize that they aren’t weird and shouldn’t be ostracized.”

Johnson says she wanted to be a part of the project because of her own experience.

“I didn’t really think a lot about mental health until I got here and had my own struggles,” she says. “People are showing a lot of vulnerability in the surveys. My favorite parts are the positives in the lessons they learned in going through their situations.”

Messiah Moring ‘25, a biology major from Boiling Springs, S.C., served as the dance captain. Moring says she signed on because the project provided the opportunity to dance and to raise awareness about mental health.

“As a person who has struggled with depression and anxiety, I think it’s important to learn more about people like me and how they cope,” she says.

Audrey Buffington ‘24, a theatre major from Greenville, S.C.; Marc Rivera ‘25, a chemistry major from Spartanburg; Anneka Brannon, a first-year student from Spartanburg; and Joanna Burgess ‘22, a physics and theatre major from Clinton, S.C., who also served as the technical director, also were members of the dance team.

Yasmin Lee ‘23, a studio art major from Columbia, S.C., is creating a documentary on the evolution of the production and videoed the performance.
Levine says last year’s version looked at anxiety, depression and mood disorders. This year they included post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and bipolar disorder, among others.

Rivera performed a dance that highlights narcissism. Several people had to hand-sew dozens of mirror shards onto Rivera’s costume to represent his character’s journey.

“This person is broken but thinks he’s a star,” says Rivera. “Being a part of this project has shown me that many people have issues, and it’s taught me to be more aware of what others might be going through.”

Fein and Levine hope to expand the production again next year. Their goal is to eventually have a full-length production that they can take on tour.

“The next step is to continue the journey of the characters,” Levine says. “From here, there are a variety of mental health issues that we can dive into. The reason we are using the language of dance is that it is open to interpretation. People experiencing different disorders will experience them in different ways. We want people to see they are not alone.”

Buffington says helping people understand that they don’t have to struggle alone is what drew her to “The Tangle.”

“You can say things with your body that you can’t say with words,” she says. “To be able to say that I can feel you and I can understand you in a way that maybe no one has ever heard before can change someone’s life. That’s the best part about this project.”
Helen DuPré Moseley was a prolific writer, filling thousands of diary and journal pages. She wrote about her family, the weather and the things going on around town. But she rarely wrote about her art.

That’s one of the things Lizzie Richards ’23 learned over the summer while researching the life of Moseley, an artist known for her paintings of surreal figures. As part of her project, Richards, a history and art history major from Columbia, S.C., is now selecting some of Moseley’s works for an exhibit scheduled to open in February 2023.

“Art was only a hobby for her,” says Richards. “When I look at her artwork, it’s so childlike in a way. It’s so creative, and it’s work that should be seen.”

Moseley’s father was a member of the Wofford faculty, and she grew up on the campus. She took over her husband’s insurance business after his death in 1927. In 1934, she was named Spartanburg’s first female postmaster by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Dr. Karen Goodchild, Chapman Family Professor of Humanities and Interim coordinator, is Richards’ faculty collaborator and mentor on the project. Goodchild says it was important for Richards to learn the ins and outs of archival research.

“She is working on an artist about whom a number of scholars have said the same things repeatedly, but Lizzie felt there was more to her story,” Goodchild says. “Lizzie is finding what that more is by poring over diaries, newspaper articles, records of the Spartanburg Artists’ Guild and others. But she also is finding out that you can’t guarantee what you will discover with historical research, and you have to be agile in your thinking in order to keep following your subject.”

Richards became acquainted with Moseley a year ago, when she participated in a project to catalog and restore works in Wofford’s permanent collection. That’s when she began contemplating an exhibit of Moseley’s work.

“Moseley’s last child (Cynthia Elizabeth Moseley) died this past fall,” Richards says. “Helen’s family line is done. I’m grateful to be able to bring her back to light in Spartanburg. Her works command a room of their own.”

Goodchild says Richards’ exhibit will reveal new facets of Moseley’s career.

“She will show how and why Moseley stepped — and drew — outside the lines of the ordinary,” Goodchild says. “Understanding this, viewers may also understand Spartanburg a bit better. I hope visitors will develop a greater appreciation of the medium in which Moseley was a true master: brush drawing. Many know Moseley as a painter in oils, but our curator (Dr. Youmi Efurd) had the insight to collect and preserve a great number of Moseley’s brush drawings in ink, works that decades later astound us with their quirky, confident freshness.”

COMMANDING A ROOM
LIZZIE RICHARDS ’23 PREPARING EXHIBIT OF HELEN DUPRÉ MOSELEY’S WORKS

Helen DuPré Moseley was a prolific writer, filling thousands of diary and journal pages. She wrote about her family, the weather and the things going on around town. But she rarely wrote about her art.

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A group of Wofford students spent the summer looking for something they hoped they wouldn’t find. They got their wish, and that’s good news for Spartanburg children who frequent the playgrounds at 18 parks in the city.

Led by Dr. Grace Schwartz, assistant professor of chemistry, the group worked to assess lead concentrations in soil in Spartanburg city parks. Chronic exposure to lead in soil can cause a variety of health and developmental issues in children.

“This is the first time I worked on a project and hoped I wouldn’t find anything,” says Megan Santos ’23, a biology and studio art major from Concord, N.C. “Some parks had higher content, but the concentration was not high enough to be of concern based on EPA standards.”

The project is a follow-up to a 2021 study by another Wofford team that looked at the quantity and quality of parks in Spartanburg County. The team wanted to measure levels of lead because it’s a common urban pollutant that was formerly used in gasoline and paint as well as in industrial areas.

Students collected five samples from four areas inside each playground and the same number from the surrounding area.

“The composite sample gives us a good idea of the area and the lead concentration,” says Carson Archie ’24, an environmental studies major with a data science concentration from Charleston, S.C. “On our maps you can see where the levels are higher inside or outside of the playground and what would be areas of concern at individual parks.”

After being collected, the soil samples had to be thoroughly dried and extracted in concentrated acid before the lead content could be measured. The process took at least eight hours.

“It was a waiting game to put the samples through the process,” says Kleo Young ’25, a chemistry major from Jonesville, S.C. “My goal was to get more experience in the lab, so going through the steps was satisfying.”

According to EPA guidelines, lead content in residential soil should be below 400 parts per million (ppm). Willow Oaks Park had the highest lead content inside the playground at 18 ppm. Duncan and Priscilla Rumley parks had the lowest at 1 ppm.

Read more online.
In August, the Princeton Review again ranked Wofford’s network of alumni in the Top 25 among all private colleges and universities. Placing Wofford at No. 14, the magazine quotes students as saying that Wofford gives them opportunities to “network with highly influential people.” The magazine also touts the “family atmosphere and close-knit community,” a “rigorous” liberal arts experience, beautiful and well-kept facilities, and “an outstanding study abroad program.” According to student reviewers, Wofford offers “an individualized education and personal attention” and “specializes in preparing students for graduate or professional school.”

So how does that apply to the Office of Advancement changing its name and refining its mission as the Office of Philanthropy + Engagement?

“The Office of Philanthropy + Engagement brings to life the college’s mission,” says Calhoun Kennedy ’89, vice president for philanthropy and engagement. “The office builds relationships with alumni, parents, faculty, staff, trustees and friends and helps them match their philanthropic interests with student and college needs.”

In this model, engagement becomes a key that unlocks increased opportunities for students to connect with professionals interested in mentoring or hiring Wofford graduates. Engagement also opens the door to focused giving. For example, learning more about givers and their interests means pairing supportive alumni with academic departments or putting Wofford families together with programs and services that enhance the student experience.

“Words matter,” says Kennedy. “Philanthropy + Engagement is a good fit because giving Wofford constituents opportunities to engage and support Wofford students is what we do.”

To strengthen giving, participation and engagement, the office has restructured to improve customer service and communication. It has hired two young alumni officers — Dylan Goshorn ’22 and Ella Jarrett Purdy ’22 — to better serve recent graduates. The department also has revamped its social media platforms and deployed new technologies to make giving more convenient and donor-friendly.

“As we build relationships with Wofford constituents, we also build trust. The Office of Philanthropy + Engagement strives to be responsive, positive, impactful and relevant, and we are grateful for the support of the Wofford community as we make this transition and do our part to promote student success,” says Kennedy.
New Initiatives

With a new name come several new initiatives, including a focus on:

+ Participation, especially in classes with young alumni.
+ Scholarship support.
+ Funding for experiential learning.
+ Renovation of the Reeves Tennis Center.
+ Rallying engagement during A Day for Wofford.
+ Building a strong regional alumni club network.
The majority of philanthropic gifts to the college are restricted, which allows donors to connect their interests with student need. For example, gifts to the women’s golf Terrier Excellence Fund are used by Coach Angie Ridgeway to enhance the experience for student-athletes on the team. Student-athletes on the team also benefit from gifts to the Terrier Club, which funds scholarships.
Everyone who attends Wofford College as a student automatically becomes a member of the alumni association. Members of the alumni association are invited to Wofford events on and off campus and have opportunities to travel with other Terriers. Being a part of the alumni association means getting college updates and sharing your news with friends and classmates. Alumni who want more involvement may volunteer to lead regional alumni clubs, host an event or serve on an alumni leadership council.

Many hands make light work! The more people who give, the bigger the collective impact.
The beginning of a new academic year means renewing commitments to the liberal arts, to the college’s mission and core values, to access and to student success. It’s also the ideal time to focus on the future, and the president’s annual pre-session state of the college address does just that. The full presentation was delivered by President Nayef Samhat to faculty and staff as returning students were moving onto campus on Aug. 30, 2022. These highlights show that students, faculty and staff are learning, living and working in a place committed to excellence and improvement.
HIGHLIGHTS FROM PRESIDENT NAYEF SAMHAT’S STATE OF THE COLLEGE ADDRESS

FIVE-YEAR PLAN UPDATE

The Five-Year Plan has been completed a year ahead of schedule.

Goal 1:
Grow the college’s enrollment to 1,775-1,800 students by FY2024.
Growing the student body to 1,800, which was accomplished this year, was a strategic decision based on the campus footprint, facilities and faculty and staff resources. Our student-to-faculty ratio remains 11:1, and the average class size is 15.

Goal 2:
Secure $15 million in gifts to fund a residence hall, adding 150 student beds.
Adding a new residence hall was the linchpin for all the other goals in the Five-Year Plan. Jerome Johnson Richardson Hall, which opened in August 2020, houses first-year students, with athletics facilities for baseball, golf and softball on the bottom floor.

Goal 3:
Begin a women’s softball team to support student enrollment and Title IX compliance.
The first class of Terrier softball players enrolled this fall. The field is complete, and the college has hired Chelsea Butler as the head coach. Competition for the Wofford softball team begins during the 2023-24 academic year.

Goal 4:
Working with our dining partners, secure funding to renovate Burwell Building.
AVI Foodsystems Inc. funded a $12 million complete renovation of the Burwell Building. The fully renovated dining hall opened in January 2022. Wofford has six dining locations: three serve full meals, two serve coffee and grab-and-go options and the final location is a small market near the senior village apartments.

Goal 5:
Secure donor funding to renovate the Campus Life Building.
Maria and Steven Mungo ‘81 gave the lead gift toward the renovation of the Campus Life Building, now the Mungo Student Center. Work was completed over the summers of 2020 and 2021. The game room, fitness center and repurposed Tony White Theater are all popular with students. The building also houses the post office, offices for Campus Life and Student Development, spaces for student organizations and Zach’s food court.

Goal 6:
Issue $25 million in bonds and continue fundraising to finance student need and campus projects.
The Sandor Teszler Library and Marsh Hall have been renovated. The Chandler Center for Environmental Studies is an award-winning, sustainable new classroom and lab building thanks to a lead gift from Delores and Harold Chandler ’71. In addition, the college has entered into a long-term lease with Spartanburg School District 7 for use of a competition-quality track and field facility, and the college completed a new advanced chemistry research lab that was dedicated last spring and named for Dr. Charlie Bass. There also has been an emphasis on establishing scholarships and funding for experiential learning.
ENROLLMENT AND FINANCIAL STRENGTH

The college exceeded budgeted enrollment numbers, welcoming 508 students into our community as members of the Class of 2026 and enrolling 31 transfers as well. Because Wofford remains tuition-driven and because the college does not plan to increase enrollment beyond the 1,800 outlined in the growth plan, meeting enrollment targets means the college has the human and physical resources needed to provide the highest level of support, programs and services to students.

Enrollment success, solid financial management and record giving mean that the college is financially strong even with rising operational costs.

Read more about enrollment and the Class of 2026 on pages 8-15.

OPPORTUNITIES

$150 million Richardson gift:

The $150 million gift to the endowment from Jerry Richardson ’59 continues to roll into the college’s operating budget. The gift is restricted, with the bulk of the interest supporting scholarships for students with financial need. Other funds are allocated for building renovation and restoration and to increase minimum compensation for full-time employees. For the past year, the college has studied and discussed ways to use the final restricted dollars — earmarked for experiential learning — in distinctive ways that will help students discover their academic passions, explore the needs of the world and find purpose in their education. These conversations have implications for discussions regarding senior culminating experiences and Interim.
Community partnerships:

Wofford continues to develop partnerships with our neighbors on the Northside. A new Wofford College Bookstore in The Hub will be complete by the end of the year. In addition to a much larger facility, the bookstore will be adjacent to several restaurants and businesses that will serve as a new gateway to Spartanburg’s downtown. The bookstore joins Milliken House, a sustainability living and learning community in the Northside Station; the College Street House, home of marketing and communications as well as academic offices; the Goodall Environmental Studies Center and house in the Glendale community and the leased track and field near McCracken Middle School in the college’s growing presence in the greater Spartanburg community.

Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion:

Dr. Dwain Pruitt ’95, chief equity officer, continues to work with colleagues to consider the recommendations of the JEDI task force. He is focusing his attention on 10 recommendations, including researching and writing a more accurate history for the website and improving processes for reporting discrimination and harassment. The naming policy was adopted by the board in May.

Changes in NCAA Division I athletics:

Kevin Lennon, vice president for the NCAA, attended the retreat of the Wofford College Board of Trustees in August to discuss the changing landscape in NCAA Division I athletics. He discussed implications of national discussions regarding name, image and likeness; the transfer portal; revenue distribution; student-athlete support models and more. While waiting on national decisions, Wofford College and the Southern Conference will discuss how potential changes will align with our mission and core values.

Summer at Wofford:

With fewer students on campus, the college always spends the summer months focusing on renovation and renewal projects. This was an incredibly busy summer.

- Renovations were completed on Marsh Hall, with the addition of gathering spaces created by the renovation of bathrooms. The college’s housing is a point of pride and a great recruiting tool.
- The Wellness Center in the Hugh R. Black House is in the middle of a complete renovation made possible by the Andy Quattlebaum and Blackwell Family Foundation, with much of the demolition and foundational work completed over the summer. The Wellness Center, which has been temporarily located in the Kilgoclinkscale House, will reoccupy its renovated facility under a new name in December. An announcement will be coming soon regarding the family that has funded the renovation. The dedication for the new Wellness Center will be during the February board of trustees meeting.
- A major repaving of Evins Street and a portion of Cummings Street with crosswalk work near the Admission Building was successful.
- The softball stadium and field were finished over the summer in time for the college’s first Terrier softball recruits to join our community this fall. The softball stadium is now part of a larger athletics complex, which includes Snyder Field surrounded by a new track made possible by lead gifts from the Asherman (Ellen, Philip and Turner ’23) and Young (Cooper, Davis ’25, Margaret ’92 and Mike) families and with support from the Parents Leadership Council and other alumni and friends. The track was named for and dedicated in memory of Jeremiah Tate ’17 during Family Weekend.
Dr. Dwain Pruitt ’95 returned to Wofford College in the fall of 2021 to serve as its first chief equity officer. The year involved all the work associated with establishing a new office, the launch of a new programming series and service on three committees related to the college’s Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion recommendations. Pruitt says, however, that the most important thing he learned was that he didn’t return to the same college that he left.

“When I left Wofford there were 1,100 students and the campus has 1,800 students now,” Pruitt says. “The faculty are younger and more diverse, and the student body is more diverse.”

While the number of people has increased and there are populations that historically weren’t represented on campus, Pruitt notes that percentages of minority students have not shifted much. Simply settling in on campus can be a momentous experience for students of color.

“Our campus is 80% white, and for many students of color, this is the first time their minority status is on such display,” Pruitt says.

An emphasis on inclusion can’t be underestimated. The college’s Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (OEDI), led by Pruitt, is charged with collaborating with students, administrators, alumni, faculty and staff to foster an accessible, diverse, equitable and inclusive campus community.

“I know as a Wofford grad that Wofford has a great deal to offer, but I also know some students don’t take advantage of these opportunities,” says Pruitt, who believes some need help navigating the campus community. “I do not believe any student accepted at Wofford can’t thrive here. We must connect them to the right resources and identify if we’re missing resources.”

Pruitt is focusing on integrating his office’s work, trainings and discussions across campus operations, from academics to athletics.

“We believe diversity means more than race,” Pruitt says. “We need to make sure programming is in place for students from various cultures, religions and political backgrounds so they can find their place in the Wofford community.”

OEDI is also responsible for overseeing the campus’ compliance with Title IX, civil rights law that prohibits sex- and gender-based discrimination in education programs. Pruitt says the office’s commitment to equity makes Title IX a natural fit.

The 2022-23 academic year marks the 50th anniversary of Title IX, and OEDI will be a partner in an educational campaign to raise awareness across campus on Title IX procedures, regulations and institutional responsibilities. The office also will partner with the college’s athletics department to invite a speaker to celebrate the law’s impact on college athletics. OEDI will co-sponsor several faculty-led events, sponsor its own guest speakers and soon announce plans for an alternative spring break trip for 2023.

Pruitt is a historian, and he embraces the need to discuss history while addressing issues related to equity, diversity and inclusion. In that vein, OEDI funded its first student initiative during the summer of 2022: Alexander Key ’23, a history and English double major from Charleston, S.C., participated in a historic preservation program in her hometown with OEDI support.

“One of the things that led to this office’s creation is that we are talking about history and memory, so part of what this office is committed to is helping students who want to explore the past and engage with how we remember the past,” said Pruitt in an article profiling Key.

Pruitt continues working with others to study Wofford’s history to help the college tell its story and to gain better insight on how the campus evolved into what it is today. He helped with the new walking tour for history, memory and place, and he consulted on the new set of commemorative
Chief equity officer keeps a finger on the pulse

**BY DUDLEY BROWN**

**DR. DWAIN PRUITT ’95 RETURNED TO WOFFORD DURING SEPTEMBER 2021 TO SERVE AS THE COLLEGE’S FIRST CHIEF EQUITY OFFICER. HE’S A HISTORIAN, AND THAT BACKGROUND INFLUENCES HIS APPROACH TO HIS OFFICE’S WORK.**

Campus banners. He also is trying to learn more about some fascinating moments from Wofford’s past. For example, he is currently researching Booker T. Washington’s April 1901 visit to Converse College and Wofford. Preliminary research suggests that Wofford students were reading Washington’s autobiography “Up from Slavery” and were excited to have him speak. President James Carlisle introduced Washington.

While a student at Wofford, Pruitt wrote and published “Things Hidden: An Introduction to the History of Blacks in Spartanburg” with the city’s community relations office. He continues to research the city’s Black history while identifying opportunities to host community events on campus. Wofford’s Black History Month 2023 will focus on Black Spartanburg history.

Still, Pruitt never loses sight of the students. In fact, he’s continuing to make teaching a priority while juggling administrative duties. Last spring, he taught HIST 351, “Witchcraft and Magic in Early Modern Europe,” and he is teaching HIST 101, “History of Early Modern Western Civilization to 1815,” this fall.

“You cannot do an academic job if you’re not engaging with students,” Pruitt says. “Students’ expectations change, and we need to keep a finger on the pulse.”

“We need to make sure programming is in place for students from various cultures, religions and political backgrounds so they can find their place in the Wofford community.”

“The city needs to make sure programming is in place for students from various cultures, religions and political backgrounds so they can find their place in the Wofford community.”

Dwain Pruitt (center) was pictured in fall 1990 with other National Merit and National Achievement Finalists.
Dr. Sandra Rouse landed her first job after college in banking. She was a compliance manager, and she soon realized it wasn’t the right job for her.

She didn’t like the paperwork and limited interactions with people. So she started thinking about previous work experiences that she enjoyed. Being a resident assistant and an orientation leader at Columbia College topped the list. She enrolled in the University of South Carolina’s Master of Education program in college student personnel services with an emphasis on counseling.

Now, 24 years later, she’s still working in higher education and was recently named Wofford College’s vice president for campus life and student development and dean of students. Many of her peers in that master’s program decided to pursue other careers, but Rouse still finds higher education rewarding.

“Each day is different,” she says. “Students excite me.”

Rouse came to Wofford from Newberry College, where she served as dean of students for six years after spending her first two years on that campus as associate dean of students. Wofford embodies what she likes in higher education.

“The size of the student body allows you to get to know students,” she says. “This role isn’t a one-person, one-mindset kind of role. You must take in as much information as possible to make the best decisions for students.”

Rouse moved to Spartanburg and began working on campus in July.

“Wofford has been warm and welcoming,” she says. “I’ve been thrilled with people inviting me to lunch and dinner and offering advice on places to go and people to see.”

Rouse, who was a first-generation college student, recognizes the value of the many departments and services under the umbrella of Campus Life and Student Development, including residence life, campus safety, the wellness center, student activities and fraternity and sorority life.

“It’s cliché, but the different departments are the pieces that shape the college experience,” Rouse says. “The classroom and academics are a central part of life, but campus life is where memories are made, and people come back, think about the good times and laugh.”

Rouse, who has already met with students individually and in groups, plans to make even more time to visit with and listen to students during the fall semester’s first few weeks, especially first-year students. She wants to learn more about their expectations for their college experience, and she wants to begin to know students as people.

“As we focus on being a more inclusive campus, we want to make sure students feel at home and welcome regardless of who they are and where they are from,” she says.

In addition to Newberry, her experience includes positions at the University of North Carolina Greensboro, Salem College and Voorhees University. She served as the director of education and research for the National Association for Campus Activities from 2011 to 2014.

She is active in professional organizations, including the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, the South Carolina College Personnel Association, the National Association for Campus Activities and the National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience. She has National Incident Management Systems certification and is a peer evaluator for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. She has presented her scholarship in the field at conferences and in a variety of publications.

Away from campus, Rouse enjoys dancing. She was a psychology and dance major in college. While at Newberry College, she served as interim coach for the college’s dance team for a while, and she also taught the team ballet and helped with its choreography. Since moving to Spartanburg, she’s signed up for a contemporary dance class at the Chapman Cultural Center.

Rouse looks forward to getting immersed into campus life and once again finds herself “negotiating football schedules” with her husband, Todd Berry, who played football at the University of South Carolina.
Harris named director of Campus Safety

Ask Dwayne Harris ’86 how he’s doing during a walk across campus, and he’ll often respond, “Living the dream.” Harris was promoted to the director of Campus Safety during the summer. He has worked with Campus Safety since 2000 and began serving as the office’s interim director in April.

During his tenure as interim director, Harris successfully filled multiple vacancies, enhanced relationships with partnering agencies and provided positive leadership. He has long been a popular figure on campus while providing a listening ear and being a go-to person for students, faculty, staff and parents. His sense of humor is often on display, even when he’s writing tickets.

“I love these kids,” says Harris, who could be seen fist-bumping graduates and sharing laughs with many of them shortly after they crossed the graduation stage last spring. “It’s fun to watch them grow and become fine individuals.”

He’s been known to change tires or grab items from the store when students are sick, and has even bought vegetable soup from the Beacon Drive-In. He’ll often look out for students whom he senses could use a friend while adapting to college life.

Harris began his career in banking before realizing he wanted to pursue his childhood dream in law enforcement.

“I’m excited to be given the opportunity to lead the Office of Campus Safety at my beloved alma mater,” Harris says. “I look forward to the challenge of making our department the model of integrity, professionalism and an integral part of the Wofford College experience.”
Arrington hired as associate VP for information technology

Trey Arrington assumed the role of associate vice president for information technology in July. He previously served as vice president of operations and chief information officer at Spartanburg Methodist College.

Arrington is a University of South Carolina Upstate graduate. He earned an MBA in project management from Louisiana State University in August.

“I am excited to join the talented Wofford ITS team,” Arrington says. “We have a strong technology foundation here that I look forward to building upon alongside my teammates. Wofford ITS will have a strong focus on customer service, process improvement and providing the college with the technological resources needed for a world-class educational experience.”

Tenure and promotions

Wofford College’s Board of Trustees approved tenure for one faculty member and voted to promote 10 to associate professor and three to full professor.

TENURE

Professor Michael Webster, assistant professor of studio art

PROMOTIONS

Dr. Tim Bersak to associate professor of economics
Dr. Peter Brewitt to associate professor of environmental studies
Dr. Deidra Coleman to associate professor of mathematics
Dr. Lori Cruze to associate professor of biology
Dr. Zachary Davis to associate professor of chemistry
Dr. Aaron Garrett to associate professor of computer science
Dr. Kimberly Hall to associate professor of English
Dr. Carolyn Martsberger to associate professor of physics
Dr. Geoffrey Mitchell to associate professor of biology
Dr. Patrick Whitfill to associate professor of English
Dr. Kara Bopp to full professor of psychology
Dr. Dan Mathewson to full professor of religion
Dr. Dawn McQuiston to full professor of psychology

NEW FACULTY

Dr. Solmaz Bastani, assistant professor of physics
Dr. Crystal Carr, assistant professor of psychology
Dr. Johnathan Davis, assistant professor of biology
Dr. Allison Douglass, assistant professor of English and director of the Writing Center
Reynolds serving as the third John C. Cobb Endowed Chair in the Humanities

Wofford welcomed New York Times best-selling author Sheri Reynolds to its faculty to serve as the John C. Cobb Endowed Chair in the Humanities. She’s the author of seven novels and specializes in contemporary Southern fiction.

Reynolds came to Wofford from Old Dominion University, where she served as chair of the English department since 2016. She has received numerous awards, including the State Council for Higher Education of Virginia’s Outstanding Faculty Member. Her 1995 novel, “The Rapture of Canaan,” was a New York Times bestseller. Her most recent novel, “The Tender Grave,” was published in 2021.

“I’m looking forward to returning to Wofford, which is a model for providing an education in the liberal arts,” says Reynolds, who was a visiting writer at Wofford in 2008. “Wofford has a commitment to student success, a strong academic program and impressive students who are creative and hardworking.”

The John C. Cobb Endowed Chair in the Humanities was established by a $2.5 million gift from Cobb’s sister, Ann Cobb Johnson of Spartanburg. Cobb, a 1976 Wofford graduate, joined the college as a professor of humanities and English in 1994. He died in the summer of 2004 in an automobile accident.
1969

Bob Glenn and Tom Young are celebrating the 50th anniversary of The Cargo Hold, the jewelry, beads and findings company they co-founded in Charleston, S.C.

1978

Brad Burnett, who spent his entire career in the textile industry, has been awarded the David Clark Award for distinguished leadership and service to the Southern Textile Association. Burnett started his career with Milliken and Co., serving for 10 years before joining Inman Mills in 1990 as manager of the Mountain Shoals plant. He retired from Inman Mills in 2018. He has served in leadership roles with the South Carolina Manufacturers Alliance and subsequently the Southern Textile Association. He served two terms as mayor of the city of Woodruff, S.C.

J. Barnwell Fishburne has been appointed to a second term on the South Carolina Department of Transportation Commission representing the 6th Congressional District. Fishburne has represented the district on the commission since 2018, including terms as chairman and vice chairman. He currently serves as chairman of the audit committee. He is the owner of Fishburne and Co. Development Corp. in Walterboro, S.C.

After serving in the South Carolina United Methodist Conference for 45 years, the Rev. Dr. Kim Strong has retired from full-time service as a pastor. He lives in Longs, S.C., and serves as a retired pastor at Joseph B. Bethea United Methodist Church in Myrtle Beach.

1980

Rick Patterson, who has been employed by the NFL as a game official since 1996, officiated during Super Bowl LVI at SOFI Stadium in Inglewood, Calif., on Feb. 13, 2022. It was his third time officiating a Super Bowl.

1981

ServisFirst Bank Piedmont in Charlotte, N.C., has named Roy Watkins senior vice president, commercial banking officer. Watkins has more than 40 years of experience in the banking industry, serving as senior vice president for BB&T for the past 13 years.

1982

Richard Meehan Jr. has published a new book, “Ford the Pacholet.” It is a Revolutionary War novel culminating in the Battle of Cowpens. He’s also the author of “Cometary Tales” and “The Janitor’s Closet: How to Get into the Janitorial Business and Stay There!”

1989

The Rev. Furman L. Buchanan has been named priest-in-charge of Christ Episcopal Church in Mt. Pleasant, S.C. He was scheduled to lead the first services reopening Christ Episcopal Church, which was planned for mid-September. Ordained to the priesthood in the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina in 2007, he has served as rector of St. Peter’s Episcopal Church in Greenville, S.C., since 2010, and previously served as both associate rector and priest-in-charge at St. Martin’s-in-the-Fields Episcopal Church in Columbia, S.C.

Stay in touch with the college and other alumni through WOFFORDCONNECT!

The online service allows you to:
+ Update your personal profile.
+ Adjust your privacy settings to control what, if any, of your profile will be available for other alumni to see.
+ Search for classmates by industry, location and more.
+ Sign up for myMentor to connect with current students.
+ View your giving history.
+ View and pay your pledge.
+ Manage your communications preferences.

For more information, contact the Wofford College Alumni Association at alumni@wofford.edu.

1992

Amy Cates Kelly joined DailyClout in March 2022 as program director. She manages 3,500 volunteers who are conducting crowdsourced research. She resides in Englewood, Colo.

Nicole Tucker-Whitaker completed her doctorate in STEM education with a focus on mathematics at The Ohio State University in August 2021. She is currently an adjunct professor at the University of Cincinnati in the master’s curriculum and instruction program. In April 2022, she presented research from her dissertation at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association.

1994

Col. Todd Burroughs assumed command of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C., on June 16, 2022. He recently returned from overseas deployment, where he served as deputy director of the Military Advisor Group (North) in Erbil, Iraq, in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

1995

George L. “Beau” Inabinet Jr. was promoted to member at the Maron Marvel Bradley Anderson & Tardy law firm in January. He manages the firm’s Charleston, S.C., office. He has served as national coordinating counsel for over 20 years, defending national and multinational corporations in asbestos and silica litigation. He serves as local counsel in South Carolina for distributors, premises owners and product defendants in asbestos litigation. He also represents companies involved in product liability, toxic tort and opioid litigation.
While many Americans enjoyed fireworks and fun on July 4, Phifer Nicholson ’16 soaked in the silence half a world away.

Directly in front of him stood four black headstones. Beyond the stones was a field where Nazis dumped the ashes of Jews, Roma, and other so-called untermenschen (“subhumans”) murdered in the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp during World War II.

“It felt like sacred ground,” says Nicholson, who is pursuing a master’s of divinity and attending medical school at Duke University. “It felt like a place where people had died.”

Nicholson was in Europe for the 2022 Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics. He was one of 14 medical students chosen for the two-week program. Journalists and seminarians also were part of the group, which numbered more than 30.

“It was a privilege to engage in conversations about the role that medical and other professionals played in making the Holocaust possible, and to have those conversations in the place where it happened,” says Nicholson. “We were approaching contemporary ethical questions through that lens.”

Nicholson says the experience gave him a deeper appreciation of the need for self-reflection.

“I have to be aware of my blind spots and step into the shoes of the people who perpetrated this,” Nicholson says. “Many were doctors who went to medical school just like me. They bought into this and thought they were doing good.”

He says he hopes to remain humble and constantly question his actions and inaction. He says he wants to constantly invite critiques from other healers and to allow himself to be corrected if necessary.

“I have the self-awareness that I can be part and parcel to evil, and I have to be incredibly careful that I don’t participate in evil,” Nicholson says. “I think this will give me more grounding in the way I hope to approach medicine and bioethics in general, as well as seek to be in solidarity with those on the margins.”

Nicholson has one more year of divinity school, followed by his last year of medical school. He currently hopes to pursue a career in a surgical discipline.

“I plan to spend three months in Sudan next spring working with missionary surgeon Tom Catena and see where that leads,” he says.

Nicholson says he wouldn’t have the opportunities in front of him without the experience he had at Wofford.

“‘I’m truly grateful for the investment my professors and other members of the Wofford community made in me,’ he says. “They opened up my world and gave me an imagination I didn’t have before. I wouldn’t be where I am if I hadn’t gone to Wofford.”
Reed Worrell and Heather Worrell announce the birth of their daughter, Hannah Grace Worrell, on May 25, 2022. They reside in Mt. Pleasant, S.C., where he is the chief technical officer at Smart Wire Solutions.

1996

After living in North Carolina for over 25 years, Anna Evans Banks and her husband, Andrew, have moved to Summerville, S.C. She is a freelance photographer.

Ryan Beasley, a defense attorney in Greenville, S.C., has been named to Talk Greenville’s inaugural class of top lawyers.

The City of Manassas, Va., has named Nicole Pringle Kirven to direct its social services department. She has more than 20 years of clinical experience in understanding the intricacies of abuse, poverty and strategic planning to ensure community success. She previously worked as the assistant director of Stafford County Department of Social Services, with focus on the self-sufficiency and benefit programs.

Matt Solomon was the unanimous choice to be the Republican candidate for Colorado’s Senate District 8 in the November election. He resides in Eagle, Colo., where he founded Tactical 101, a business consulting firm, and served on town council. He also is the author of the book “Fortunate Accidents.”

1997


1999

Kevin Mullinix has been named vice president of human resources at NearU in Charlotte, N.C.

2000

After 12 years in the funeral and cemetery industry, Justin Alford has taken a role as a logistics account executive with Integrity Express Logistics in Tampa, Fla.

Connor Kreese earned his master’s degree in health administration from the Medical University of South Carolina in May 2022. He completed two internships with MUSC while working on his degree. Before graduation, he accepted a position in Charleston with the MUSC Medical Center and is currently employed as a quality and safety data analyst for quality management of the children’s and women’s clinics.

2001

Anne Wheeler Bell and Jason Allen Bell announce the birth of their son, James Allen Bell, born May 26 in Columbia, S.C. He has three sisters, Avery, Emma and Eleanor.

2002

Kristi Sparks Hoffmaster has joined Okta in Greenville, S.C., as a senior security analyst. She previously served as the systems governance manager at FloQast, a private financial software company in Los Angeles, Calif.

2003

Dr. Anna Brink has been named director of Title I for Greenville County (S.C.) Schools. She previously served as the director of federal programs, accountability and professional development in Laurens County District 55.

The college’s Lifelong Learning program offers day trips, and plans are underway for travel across the country and internationally.

**LIFELONG LEARNING AT WOFFORD**

**OPPORTUNITIES RANGE FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL**

By Dudley Brown

Wofford College’s Lifelong Learning program has much to offer, even if you don’t live in Spartanburg or if you’re just planning a trip to town for Homecoming or a football Saturday.

**Online clubs (monthly meetings)**

- Book Club led by founder Dr. Ana Maria Wiseman, retired dean and professor emeritus.
- Film Club led by founder Dr. Dave Whisnant, retired vice president and professor emeritus.
- Wine Club led by Lynda and Randy Hurteau, along with Dr. Ana Maria and Dr. Dennis Wiseman, retired provost and professor emeritus.

“Our online clubs picked up some people who lived outside of Spartanburg who wanted to keep participating,” says Lucy Woodhouse ’90, director of Lifelong Learning. “It’s going to be fun to see our clubs continue to grow with people from all over.”

There are one-day events and trips as well, including “Edgefield, Peaches, Politics and Pottery,” on Nov. 10, led by Charlie Gray ’72, the founding director of Lifelong Learning at Wofford.

“Starting in the spring of 2023, Lifelong Learning plans to offer group trips to destinations around the country,” says Woodhouse. “Plans for international trips are also underway.”

The program is now headquartered at Central United Methodist Church, an institution that shares a long history with the college.

Discover more about Lifelong Learning at Wofford and its offerings at wofford.edu/lifelonglearning.
**Carlyn Fralick ’16**

**B.S. in psychology**

Carlyn Fralick is a mitigation specialist and sentencing advocate in the Office of the Public Defender in Fairfax, Va. In this role, she compiles rich social histories for a truthful, compelling and humanizing portrayal of her client’s life for consideration by a prosecutor, judge and possibly a jury. As a psychologist in the legal field, Fralick assists in a variety of forensic evaluations and assessments. She says that every class, faculty member and classmate played a role in guiding her career path. “I regularly find myself thanking Wofford,” she says.

**Matthew McQuilla ’19**

**B.A. in government**

After earning a master’s degree in international affairs from The Pennsylvania State University and working for a year, Matthew McQuilla is now attending law school at Northwestern University in Chicago. He says the reading-intensive courses at Wofford gave him the skills he needs to become a successful lawyer. From serving on Campus Union to playing running back on the football team, McQuilla says he took advantage of all that Wofford had to offer. “Every single group and organization that I was a part of at Wofford offered me a new learning experience on how to better myself,” he says.

**Andrew Novak ’17**

**B.A. in business economics**

Andrew Novak had a momentous first full season on the PGA Tour, including earning a spot in his first major tournament, the 2022 U.S. Open in June. He played in 30 events this season and made it to the weekend 14 times. His best finish came at the Corales Puntacana Championship, where he tied for 11th. He finished the season ranked 156th in the FedEx Cup standings. During his time at Wofford, Novak was a three-time All-Southern Conference selection and two-time NCAA regional individual qualifier, while also being named the 2017 Southern Conference Player of the Year.

**Molly Humphries Owens ’19**

**B.A. in history, art history and English**

Molly Humphries Owens used her experience of Wofford construction to build her own learning experience. She witnessed the Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts rise from the ground up and used those observations and her relationship with Dr. Youmi Efurd, Wofford’s curator, to begin a career in the art world. Owens earned a master’s degree in museum studies at Johns Hopkins University and is now the tour programs coordinator at the Mint Museum in Charlotte, N.C. “Working in the art history department while the arts center was being built helped me see the whole process of what a museum needs,” she says.

**Ella Patrick ’20**

**B.A. in Chinese**

Ella Patrick moved to Los Angeles to pursue a career in marketing and is currently an account manager for TV at Concept Arts. She recently had the opportunity to work on the key art for the “Harry Potter 20th Anniversary: Return to Hogwarts” reunion special. Patrick says her interim and internship experiences at Wofford prepared her to jump straight into her career field. “I didn’t feel like I needed to take a year and travel or do something else because I had checked so many of the boxes I wanted to have out of my college experience,” she says.

**Chloe Wanink ’20**

**B.A. in sociology and anthropology, B.S. in psychology**

Chloe Wanink is resuming her playing career after a stint in coaching, signing with the Tindastoll Basketball Club in Iceland. After graduation, Wanink pursued a master’s degree at the University of Mary in Bismarck, N.D., while working as an assistant women’s basketball coach for the Marauders. Wanink is Wofford’s all-time leading three-point shooter and is one of 16 Terriers in program history to score over 1,000 points. She was a three-time All-SoCon player, while also being named to the all-freshman team. “Playing professionally overseas has been a dream of mine since playing at Wofford,” she says.
For Wofford's first 50 years, almost all of its students came from South Carolina or nearby states. Many remained in the region after leaving the college. In the late 19th century, some faculty began traveling to Europe for graduate study, but international travel would have been a rarity for most people at the college. It seems as though Wofford’s Methodist connections, and perhaps the work of Methodist missionaries elsewhere, may have been responsible for some of the college’s first international students.

Buichi Muraoka enrolled at Wofford in September 1905, becoming the first international student to appear in the college’s records. Those records indicate that he was just shy of his 24th birthday when he came to Wofford. According to his senior biography, he was from the Yamaguchi prefecture of Japan. He joined the Preston Literary Society and contributed two articles to the Journal, the college’s literary magazine. Following his graduation from Wofford — no small achievement when a third to half of freshmen didn’t earn degrees at the time — he went on to study theology at Vanderbilt University. Muraoka was ordained a deacon in the Tennessee Methodist Conference in 1911 by Bishop John C. Kilgo, who attended Wofford for two years from 1880-82. After completing his studies at Vanderbilt, Muraoka returned to Japan, where he taught in Kobe. He died in February 1946.

A year after Muraoka enrolled, Toichi Murata came to Wofford as a freshman in the Class of 1910. At age 21, he had been living with an older sibling in the U.S. attorney before entering private practice. He joined the Preston Literary Society and also wrote in the Journal. He also went to Vanderbilt to study for the ministry following his graduation, earning his Bachelor of Divinity in 1913. Murata received a master’s degree in philosophy from Columbia University in 1914. By 1916 he was serving as a Methodist minister in Osaka, and in 1923, in Nagasaki. In 1931, he became the chaplain at Kassui Women’s College in Nagasaki, which had been founded by Methodist missionaries. Murata remained there until his retirement in 1942. He served a smaller church during World War II and was, according to research undertaken in the 1980s by Dr. Tsukuru Hirashima ’82, suffering from malnutrition by the end of the war. He died two months after the atomic bombing of Nagasaki.

Both students made an impression on their South Carolina classmates, one of whom remembered a student “learning a painful lesson in judo” when he made fun of one of the two Japanese students. Muraoka maintained at least some correspondence with classmates after leaving. Both were out on the speaking circuit around South Carolina while they were students, sharing their background and culture as well as raising funds for their own educations.

The college’s next international student came from Brazil. Nathaniel Vespucio de Freitas Cabral enrolled in 1912 following two years at the Wofford Fitting School. His father was a Methodist minister in Porto Alegre, Brazil. Cabral joined the Carlisle Literary Society and became the secretary of the Wofford Prohibition League. He took part in class football and basketball and was on the gymnastics team. He was a good student, earning distinctions in biology, phi Beta Kappa, and the highest grades in the college. He was also an outstanding athlete and a popular leader. After Wofford, Cabral returned to Brazil to become a successful lawyer and politician. He served as a congressman and as minister to the United States. He died in 1952, leaving a lasting legacy in Brazilian politics and society.
Catherine. Paige is the chief financial officer at the Common Sense Society in Washington, D.C.

Josh Harris and Cassandra Harris welcomed a daughter, Ella Frances, on May 19, 2022. The family resides in Moore, S.C. Josh is an adjunct instructor of finance at Wofford.

The Beach Company has promoted Patrick Seignious to lease administrator at the company’s headquarters in downtown Charleston, S.C. Seignious joined the company earlier this year as a property management assistant.

Stewart Barber Young has joined the Semiconductor Industry Association in Washington, D.C., as director of government affairs. She will work with Congress, the White House and federal agencies to advance the industry’s policy priorities. She was most recently senior vice president of government affairs at Corley Consulting, leading congressional engagement on issues such as appropriations, trade, workforce and supply chain.

2010

Tonni Wickline Bennett was recently hired as vice president of sales at Daily, a software company based in San Francisco, Calif. Her husband, Landon Bennett ’11, is the CEO of the software company Ad Reform. They live in Decatur, Ga., with their children, Brooklyn and Dallas.

Ashley DeCleene and Joseph Bliss were married on Dec. 15, 2019, at Twelve Oaks Farm in Lexington, S.C. She works as a personal tutor in Lexington.

2011

Laura Mitchell and Chance Knight were married on June 25, 2022, in Columbus, Ga.

Lisle Traywick and Bridgette Ewing were married in Charlotte, N.C., on April 23, 2022.

Margaret Strom Williams was sworn in as a magistrate judge on March 2, 2022, in Columbia, S.C.

2012

Pari Barr Baker and Taylor Baker ’11 welcomed their daughter, Pippa Adele Baker, in February 2022. They live in Hot Springs, Va., where she is a clinical social worker at Bath Community Hospital and he is an attorney.

2013

Emily Shaw Arce and Dr. Paolo Arce ’12 welcomed a son, Julian Arce, on Oct. 13, 2021. They reside in Spartanburg, where she is a senior perfumer at Grace Management Group, and he is a pediatrician with Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System at Medical Group of the Carolinas – Westside.

chemistry, psychology, English and political science. After graduation, he served in France during World War I. Cabral became a public health official in Brazil, working with the World Health Organization and the Rockefeller Foundation. Later he worked for Standard Oil in Rio and in 1940 moved to Porto Alegre. He built his retirement home and served on the town council there. Cabral died in 1970.

Of course, since 1916 Wofford has become a home for many other international students and faculty, and the college’s American students and faculty have studied throughout the world. These earliest international students brought new perspectives to the Wofford campus, helping enrich the experience for everyone.
After six years in private practice and being named a National Top 10 Family Law Attorney Under 40, Melissa E. Simondi has accepted an invitation to join the faculty at the Charleston School of Law. She will teach legal writing, legal research and trial and appellate advocacy.

2014

Zach Barnes has been named legislative assistant for Rep. Andy Biggs (R-Ariz.). Barnes previously worked as federal outreach associate for the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. Before that, he spent four years at the Department of Housing and Urban Development working for Ben Carson.

Taylor Brown was named to Columbia Business Monthly’s Best and Brightest 35 and Under for 2021 and was elected vice chair of the board of directors for the Hive Community Circle in Columbia, S.C. She is the director of development at Key Changes Therapy Services in Columbia.

CARVER’S LEGACY

SPARTANBURG’S CARVER HIGH SCHOOL PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN INTEGRATING WOFFORD

By Dudley Brown

Al Gray ’71 and Doug Jones ’69 are familiar names in Wofford College’s history. Gray was the college’s first Black student. Jones was the first Black student to graduate from the college, while Gray’s studies were interrupted during the Vietnam War.

Both were graduates of Spartanburg’s Carver High School, and they were joined on Wofford’s campus by a few of their Carver schoolmates to help desegregate the college in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Many of those alumni are continuing to make a difference for today’s students and future generations of Terriers.

Six of them have established an endowed scholarship to support Wofford students pursuing internships. They’re continuing a legacy.

“Carver High School and Cumming Street School teachers often came to support us no matter what we were doing,” says Rudy Long ’73, who was one of the first two Black student-athletes on the Wofford football team and a charter member of the college’s chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

Long, who lives in Columbia, S.C., and many of his classmates describe themselves as being part of a pipeline that was intentionally established from Carver High School.

Alumni contributing to the Carver Legacy Scholarship are James Cheek ’73, Phillip Fant ’74, Gwendolyn Prince-Lawrence ’73, Gray, Jones and Long. Memorial donations were made in honor of William Hunter ’73, Donald Gene Robinson ’73, Jennifer Foster-Dean ’74 and Bobby Leach, a former assistant dean at Wofford and the college’s first Black administrator.

“I was involved in everything at Carver,” says Gray, a member of the Wofford College Board of Trustees from 1998-2010. “I got here and learned to be very individualistic. Everyone would ask me how I could be so isolated, and I said, ‘You adapt and learn. It’s a defense mechanism.’ That worked well for me, and my focus was on academics.”

The college’s administration recognized the need to recruit more Black students and built a relationship with Carver High School. Earlier this year, Cheek and Fant established scholarships at Wofford, and Cheek reminisced about visiting Wofford’s campus for a recruiting event and having a conversation with a man he thought was a professor. When he returned to Carver that Monday morning, he learned that he was talking to Wofford’s president Dr. Paul Hardin III. Hardin encouraged Cheek to compete for a Wofford scholarship, which was awarded to him.

The college’s early Black students made concerted efforts to get involved with campus clubs and organizations to pave the way for others.

“It was a transition for me as well as my professors and classmates coming from a segregated society,” Long says.

Prince-Lawrence, who lives in Statesville, N.C., was one of the first women to attend the college. She...
Jordan Metts Rhyne and Johnathan L. Rhyne III ’18 announce the birth of their son, Johnathan Laban Rhyne IV, on May 2, 2022. They live in Winston-Salem, N.C., where she is a banking professional and he is a senior account manager with Ryerson’s RCSS Group.

Rylie McCrackin Sally and Palmer Sally were married on April 30, 2022 in Murrells Inlet, S.C. They reside in Myrtle Beach, S.C., where she is a registered nurse at Tidelands Health, and he is director of business operations at Scripta Insights.

2019

Mary Burgess Harrelson and Ryan Allen were married on Dec. 11, 2021, in Spartanburg, S.C. The couple lives in Charleston, S.C., where she works in facilities procurement at Naval Information Warfare Center Atlantic.

U.S. Sen. Bill Hagerty (R-Tenn.) has promoted Riley Stamper to legislative aide. He has served as a legislative correspondent for Hagerty since January 2021. Stamper, a ninth-generation Tennessean originally from Knoxville, served as a personal aide to Hagerty during his 2020 campaign.

2020

Megan Dempsey and Wyatt McDonald were married on May 8, 2022, in Travelers Rest, S.C. They both attend medical school at the Medical University of South Carolina and are part of the AnMed program in Anderson, S.C., where they will complete their third and fourth years.

Julia Funderburk has joined Crafted in Charlotte, N.C., as a content writer.

2022

Meredith Bean is interning in the Savannah River National Laboratory’s Atmospheric Technologies Center in Aiken, S.C. She is researching how surface roughness (trees, buildings, etc.) affects weather patterns.

Ella Jarrett and Chris Purdy ’21 were married on July 9, 2022. She recently joined Wofford’s Office of Philanthropy + Engagement team as a young alumni officer. He is in his second year of medical school at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville.

Christopher Knox has joined Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices C. Dan Joyner Realtors as a sales associate in Greenville, S.C.

Carmen Pavao has been hired as an assistant property manager of Riverbend Club Apartments in Athens, Ga.

The Spartanburg Herald-Journal has hired Chalmers Rogland as a reporter to cover public safety and breaking news.

was a day student before Wofford began admitting women as residential students. She transferred from Stillman College in Alabama and had a young family.

“It never occurred to me that I was breaking a barrier,” says Prince-Lawrence.

Prince-Lawrence, who was the valedictorian of her Carver High School class in 1967, and her family lived on Evins Street while she was a Wofford student. She explains that she had a full-time job and family commitments, which did not allow for much involvement on campus beyond academics.

The new Carver Legacy Scholarship will give special priority to descendants of Carver High School alumni and students who attended Carver Middle School (Spartanburg District 7 transitioned Carver to a junior high and middle school after local public schools were desegregated).

Cheek says the scholarship lends credence to a line from the Carver High School alma mater that said, “Your name to us will never die.” The scholarship is accepting additional gifts to grow its impact on students. Visit wofford.edu/give to contribute.
IN MEMORIAM

1940

The Rev. Dr. Charles Henry Mercer, July 9, 2022, Durham, N.C. Mercer celebrated his 102nd birthday in January, and at the time of his death, he was the oldest serving elder in the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. He was a United Methodist pastor for 58 years, serving at churches across North Carolina. In addition, he served as the district superintendent of the New Bern district and later the Durham district, as well as the executive director of the United Methodist Church North Carolina Conference Council on Ministries. He fully retired from the ministry in 2001. He served as a member of the board of visitors for Duke Divinity School. He also was a trustee of Louisburg College and a trustee of Lake Junaluska Assembly. He was a past president of the Fairmont Rotary Club and the Laurinburg Kiwanis Club, chairperson of the Johnston County Chapter of the American Red Cross and a member of the executive committee of the Mental Health Association in Johnston and Scotland counties.

1954

George Frierson Altman, May 25, 2022, Moncks Corner, S.C. Altman was a veteran of the U.S. Army who served in Korea. He played basketball and was the quarterback for the first football team at Aynor High School. He later returned to Aynor to teach science and coach the girls basketball team. He was a retired counselor for the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department. He enjoyed fishing and playing tennis, which he continued to do into his 80s.

REMEMBERING DR. JAMES SEEGARS

Under the direction of Dr. Jim Seegars, Wofford College’s Department of Psychology gained a reputation in the 1970s for having energetic and young faculty who provided opportunities for students to participate in research. Dr. Ed Coffey ’74 wanted to experience it, and he registered for an introductory psychology course being taught by Seegars.

“I was hooked from the first lecture,” says Coffey, a neuropsychiatrist who is an affiliate professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences with the Medical University of South Carolina. “I wanted to understand human behavior, and I wanted to be like that guy.”

Seegars would eventually become Coffey’s father-in-law and one of the most influential people in his life. Seegars died July 23.

“As a son-in-law, I got to know the man in addition to the professor, and he was even more amazing as a person,” Coffey says.

Seegars was the first chair of the college’s Department of Psychology and served in that role for 37 years before his retirement in 1999. In 2004, the psychology floor in the renovated Roger Milliken Science Center was named and dedicated in his honor.

He and his wife, Shirley Seegars, were married 69 years. Shirley died on Aug. 13.

They had seven children, including four who are Wofford alumni. Coffey’s wife, Kathy Seegars Coffey ’74, and her twin sister, Susan Seegars Harrison ’74, were among the first women to attend the college as day students. Kim Seegars Clayton graduated in 1977, and Jay Seegars graduated in 1992. Several of the Seegars’ sons-in-law are Wofford alumni, and two of their 15 grandchildren, Cate Seegars ’25 and Mason Seegars ’26, are current Wofford students. The couple also had 13 great-grandchildren.

“He was very charismatic, but not in a show-off kind of way,” Coffey says. “He was professional and referred to the science, but he connected that science in a direct, uncomplicated way to what we as people say and think and do.

“He had a way of tying the science to one’s everyday life. You were immediately interested in what was said. It wasn’t a dry piece of research. It was immediately relevant to what was going on at the time.”

Seegars was active in the Spartanburg community and the Episcopal Church of the Advent. Coffey says that Seegars taught a Sunday school class that centered around that week’s cover of Time magazine. The class would discuss how the cover reflected what people were saying, thinking and doing, and what might have been taking place.

In addition to serving his church, Seegars was president of the South Carolina Psychologists Association and volunteered on many boards, including Spartanburg Mental Health, the Charles Lea Center and the York Place Episcopal Home for Children. He also maintained a private clinical practice.

“He was literally a therapist for everybody,” says Coffey, who watched Seegars have dinner with his family after a day of teaching. Then, Seegars would often return calls late in the evening and lead therapy sessions.

Coffey was Wofford’s fifth Rhodes Scholar. He never saw his application packet, but he knows Seegars, President Joe Lesesne and Dean of the College B.G. Stephens worked on his behalf behind the scenes.

“Like all of us, he loved Wofford College, the people and the faculty he worked with,” Coffey says. “Like many of those faculty, they were all good friends, and I think in part it became like family to him. He understood there’s no richer life than that as a teacher.”
1955
Dr. Granville Lassiter Sydnor, April 30, 2022, Denton, Texas. He was the owner of Sydnors and Associate, which assisted nonprofits, schools, colleges and universities in fundraising and evaluations.

1957
Cermette Justing Clardy Jr., June 25, 2022, Isle of Palms, S.C. Clardy served two tours of active duty in the U.S. Army, including one in Vietnam. He worked in college and university advancement for more than 20 years, beginning his career at Wofford. He also worked at public and private colleges and universities in South Carolina, Florida and Mississippi. He started his own firm, Clardy and Associates, in 1983, working for over 30 years with colleges, hospitals and museums on capital campaigns and strategic planning. He retired in 2015 at age 80. He was a fierce advocate for Southern literature, Wright says. "It was the first time," Wright says. "It was the were getting to see these things for he taught, like he was excited that you were enjoying teaching. He enjoyed exposing students on a monthlong trip to Ireland during Interim. Over time, those trips became the stuff of legend.

Dooley, who taught at Wofford for 40 years, died Aug. 13, at his home in Spartanburg. He was 79.

David Wright '91, president of WrightEngage in Chicago, joined Dooley for one of his Ireland tours as a 20-year-old. He says it was everything he expected, and more.

"We went to the Lake Isle, a few of us climbed Ben Bulben and got a little lost, and went to the Abbey Theatre, all places Dennis had taken us to before in a classroom in South Carolina," says Wright. "All this and innumerable high crosses, pub crawls and tales of the Easter Rebellion."

While Dooley, who retired in 2009, enjoyed the Interim trips, he also enjoyed teaching. He enjoyed exposing students to modernist Irish and Southern literature, Wright says.

"He shared a sense of anticipation when he taught, like he was excited that you were getting to see these things for the first time," Wright says. "It was the excitement of introducing a friend to something you love and being thrilled to have them join the club."

Charles Usry '03, an attorney in Columbia, S.C., says Dooley was one of his favorite professors.

"You know he was passionate about teaching because he got up early to do it," Usry says. "Like a lot of students, I wasn't a fan of 8 a.m. classes. But I took his, and I kept coming back for three years. He taught us W.B. Yeats and James Joyce. I still have my book with all the notes I wrote in it from the Yeats class."

Usry also made one of the trips to Ireland. It was memorable, he says, because it was his first trip out of the U.S. and he made some lasting friends along the way.

"Dr. Dooley took us to sites that people wrote about and showed them to us," he says. "It was cool to get to see what he taught us. It was just an awesome experience, and I'm so grateful for it."

Dooley founded the Wofford Writers Series in 1981. The series brought a variety of authors to campus, including Nobel Prize-winning poet Seamus Heaney, novelist Ron Rash and South Carolina's own Pat Conroy and James Dickey.

REMEMBERING DR. DENNIS DOOLEY

Every other year during his Wofford tenure, Dr. Dennis Dooley, professor of English emeritus, took a group of students on a monthlong trip to Ireland during Interim. Over time, those trips became the stuff of legend.

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1958
Dr. Charles Warren Derrick Jr., June 5, 2022, Columbia, S.C. Derrick served as chair and professor of pediatrics at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine for 29 years. He was a U.S. Army veteran, serving for two years as battalion surgeon for the 34th Artillery, 2nd Active Component. He was awarded the Order of the Palmetto, the state of South Carolina's highest civilian honor.

1959
John King Williams Sr., July 27, 2022, Spartanburg, S.C. Williams was retired from Norfolk Southern Corp. In 2013, he established the Leila King Williams and John Lafayette Williams Endowed Scholarship Fund at Wofford in honor of his parents to benefit students with demonstrated financial need.

"Soon after I heard of his death, I sat and read my 150-page '98 Ireland Interim journal, and it was full of Dennis' life and his stories and love for the country of his heritage," Lane says. "He introduced me to his old friends there, both the local people, the high crosses and the numerous out-of-the-way pubs. I will forever remember all this."
**REMEMBERING CORRY W. OAKES III ’89**

Oakes, a native of Lawrenceville, Ga., attended Wofford on an academic and athletics scholarship. He was a force on and off the football field — playing outside linebacker and earning a B.A. in business economics.

After graduating, Oakes went to work for WJB Video, a Blockbuster Video franchisee whose managing partner was George Dean Johnson Jr. ‘64. Johnson took an instant liking to Oakes, and for more than 30 years they were together as friends and business partners.

Their next endeavor together was Extended Stay America, where Oakes served as president and COO. They took the hotel chain to unprecedented heights, turning it into the fastest-growing owner-operated chain in industry history before selling in 2004.

“Corry was more than just the consummate professional and leader in the lodging industry,” according to a statement shared by George Dean Johnson Jr., Geordy Johnson and Susanna Johnson Shannon on behalf of The Johnson Group and the Johnson family. “He was a tremendous community servant, a mentor to all he worked with, a loving father and family man, and a most trusted advisor on so many different levels to our family. Words cannot describe how deeply he will be missed.”

Oakes, Todd Turner and Jim Ovenden ’85 — along with Johnson and the late H. Wayne Huizenga — then founded OTO, a hotel development and hospitality management company.

“Over the past 18 years with OTO, I’ve spent more of my waking hours with Corry Oakes than I have with any member of my family,” Turner said during the memorial service. “That may have felt like a sacrifice to my wife and kids, but I am who I am because of my time with him. I’m a better father, husband, friend and human. Our time together was a rare and spectacular gift that I will forever cherish.”

Oakes served on Wofford’s Board of Trustees from 2009-21 and was chairman from 2019-21. He previously served on the Terrier Club board of directors and on the President’s Advisory Board.

Johnson honored Oakes’ service to Wofford and the community by establishing two endowed scholarships in his name. The Corry W. Oakes III ’89 Endowed Scholarship Fund was established in 2006 to support members of the football team. The Corry W. Oakes III Endowed Interim Support Fund, established in 2021, will allow students with financial need to make the most of international travel and internship experiences.

“Corry’s impact on our community will stretch far beyond the 37 years he’s been a Terrier,” says Wofford President Nayef Samhat. “Future generations will have opportunities for a Wofford education and for international travel, study and internships because of his legacy. He was a champion for student success, dedicated to the educational mission, and we will always remember his commitment, generosity and love for Wofford College.”

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**1960**

Harry Thomas Jordan, May 29, 2022, Marion, S.C. He was the owner of Jordan Scrap Metal of Florence, S.C. He was a member and past president of Woodbury Hunting Club.

Wallace Robert “Mickey” Reeves III, July 24, 2022, Camden, S.C. Reeves was the former personnel manager for Skyline Manufacturing and retired owner of Reeves Block Co. He was an avid golfer and a member of the Camden Country Club. A Shriner, Reeves was a part of the Nomads Go-Kart team. He also was past president of the Camden Jaycees, where he received the Distinguished Service Award.

**1964**

The Rev. Jerry Leroy Phillips Sr., July 23, 2022, Lancaster, S.C. Phillips was a veteran of the U.S. Army and served as chaplain in the Army Reserve. He was a 50-year life member mason, becoming a master mason in 1971. He served as grand chaplain of Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of South Carolina from 2008-15. In 2015, he was elected grand chaplain emeritus. He was past master and current chaplain of Great Falls Lodge 277 and was a 32nd degree Scottish Rite Mason. He was awarded the Albert Gallatin Mackey award, the highest award one can receive in the masons. He was a pastor in the South Carolina United Methodist Church for over 39 years and enjoyed mentoring young pastors. He enjoyed hunting, telling jokes, reading, watching movies, traveling, working crossword puzzles and attending Wofford football games.
1965
Charles Albert Bethea, June 5, 2022, Darlington, S.C. Bethea was a veteran of the U.S. Navy. He served during the Vietnam War. Bethea worked as a senior control room operator and senior training manager at Carolina Power and Light for most of his career. He was a member of the American Legion in Florence, S.C., and in 2017 he received the National Achievement Award for distinguished service. He also was a member of the Kiwanis Club. He was an avid fisherman, and he ran in the Cooper River Bridge Run for 25 consecutive years.

John Spence “Jack” Reid, July 17, 2022, Richmond, Va. Reid began his career as a high school teacher and assistant football coach. He later coached football and track at the University of Richmond. During the height of the Cold War, he helped bring athletes to Virginia for the U.S.-U.S.S.R. track meets. He moved into school administration and co-managed the Henrico and Chesterfield school systems, creating the Chesterfield Public Schools foundation at the end of his career. He served as chairman of the Republican Party in the 3rd Congressional District for several years before seeking office himself. In 1989, he became the first Republican in the modern era elected to represent Henrico County in the Virginia House of Delegates, a position he held through nine election cycles before retiring in 2008.

1967
Donald Chester Williams, May 23, 2022, Forest City, N.C. Williams served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War, reaching the rank of lieutenant colonel before retiring. He had a second career working as a civilian for the Department of the Navy before retiring in 2009. He played defensive tackle on the Wofford football team and was named to the Associated Press Little All-America team.

1968
William Harlan “Willie” Pegram, July 15, 2022, Sanford, Fla. Pegram attended Wofford on a basketball scholarship; he became team captain and earned MVP honors his senior year. Pegram was inducted into the college’s Athletics Hall of Fame in 2001. A veteran of the U.S. Army, Pegram began working for Church’s Fried Chicken after leaving the military. In 1980 he became a franchisee in Sanford. He enjoyed supporting his children’s sporting events and keeping tabs on his stock portfolio. He was an avid bridge player, golfer and tennis player.

1969
James Daniel Dantzler, June 29, 2022, Orangeburg, S.C. Dantzler spent several years in the banking industry before transitioning to telecommunication sales. He served in the National Guard. He enjoyed playing golf and making artichoke relish and other dishes for his friends and family to enjoy.

John Murchison “Chuck” Jackson III, July 3, 2022, Bennettsville, S.C. Jackson served in the U.S. Army and Army Reserve. He graduated from the War College and retired as a lieutenant colonel. He worked as a bank manager at SCNB in Florence before moving to Bennettsville, where he worked as a land surveyor for 45 years. He served several terms on the Bennettsville City Council and the Bennettsville Housing Authority. He was a lifelong member of St. Paul’s Anglican Church, where he served on vestry. Jackson was also a member of Rotary International. No longer able to play golf or hunt in recent years, he still enjoyed nature and the friendships developed at his hunt club and among the breakfast crowd at Magnolia Cafe.

Joseph Carroll Moon, June 8, 2022, Greer, S.C. Moon had a long career in textile sales. He also was the co-inventor of the spirit car flag, which was first created in the basement of his home. He was an avid golfer and a devoted fan of high school and college football. During the late 1980s, he served as the president of the Greenville Touchdown Club and was influential in starting the Greer Area Touchdown Club, serving as the club’s first president. In semi-retirement he volunteered with Greer First Presbyterian Church’s Dunbar Buddies Program, reading weekly to students at the Dunbar Child Development Center.

1970
Loyless Thomas Wright Jr., June 1, 2022, Spartanburg, S.C. Wright was a U.S. Army veteran who served during the Vietnam War. He retired from Bank of America as assistant vice president after 30 years of service and then worked for National Bank of South Carolina for five years.

1971
Walter Franklin Bacon, June 27, 2022, Irmo, S.C. Bacon retired from SCANA, where he was a chemical engineer. A U.S. Navy veteran, he was a member of Union United Methodist Church in Irmo.

1973
Merle Darrow Russ, June 6, 2022, Lovettsville, Va. Russ retired from the U.S. Army as a colonel in 1998. He then worked as a senior executive in the defense industry before retiring a second time to grow grapes for the wineries of Northern Virginia. He enjoyed cooking, traveling, skiing, sailing, golfing, riding his Harley Davidson and writing political commentaries. He established the Hobby Horse Vineyard in 2015, and the grapes from the vineyard are already acclaimed. The 2019 Winery at Bull Run Petit Manseng, made exclusively from Hobby Horse grapes, won a gold medal in the Virginia Governor’s Cup in 2021. In the last weeks of his life, he continued to be active in his vineyard, planting the last acre of grapes just days before his death.

1983
John Zachary Carnes, June 30, 2022, Kennesaw, Ga. Carnes attended Wofford on a football scholarship. He earned a degree in mechanical engineering before discovering accounting. He then earned his CPA and started his own firm.

1985
Verlinda Ruth “Linda” Gunter, July 5, 2022, Wagener, S.C. Gunter had an extensive career as a librarian in Beaufort and Orangeburg county schools. She was a lifelong learner, taking classes online and expanding her wealth of knowledge throughout her life. She enjoyed reading, traveling and attending church.

1987
Timothy Edward Powers, June 23, 2022, Spartanburg, S.C. Powers was the vice president of the Problem Asset Division for Regions Bank. He previously worked for Wachovia.

2026
Kelly Marie Herring, Aug. 22, 2022, North Augusta, S.C. Herring was a 2022 graduate of North Augusta High School, where she was a member of the marching and concert bands. Enrolled to begin at Wofford this fall, she enjoyed literature, poetry and music.

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Drake McCormick and Blakely Graham each made gifts to the college even before graduation.

They continue to give, and here’s why from an interview with Drake McCormick.

Q: Do you remember what motivated you to contribute as students?
A: Wofford gave us so much — a fantastic education, incredible lifelong friends and, most importantly, each other. For each of us, the small gifts we gave were motivated by our love for Wofford and being Terriers.

Q: Why do you give now?
A: Wofford is kind of like the gift that keeps on giving — whether it is through meeting different alumni throughout the years and instantly making a connection (in work and in our communities) or by the quality education that helps us stand apart from the rest. We give because those before us gave, and it allowed us to experience something incredible. Hopefully, we can help play a small role in helping future students have an incredible Wofford experience, too.

Q: Each of you took advantage of the service provided by the college to create a will for free. In doing so, you expressed an intent to provide a bequest to Wofford. What inspired you to do this?
A: As a financial planner, I am constantly having conversations with my clients about legacy planning. After entering my business, I was shocked at the amount of folks (of all ages) who have not done hardly any planning — like creating a will. When I read about the service that allowed Wofford alumni to create a will for free, I jumped on the opportunity and encouraged others to do so. For some folks, a great deal of assets and sources of wealth come together in the event of death. By including Wofford in some of our estate planning, we are able to honor Wofford with a piece of what we have been able to achieve throughout our lives.

Q: Do you have a favorite spot to visit when you’re back on campus?
A: To me the best spot on campus where we always make a point to stop (even if we are just passing through) is the grassy area right in the middle of the academic part of campus. You can look around and see Old Main, the library and the Daniel Building, which reminds me of the past in a way and how transcendent our education is. Then, you continue looking around and see the new Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Arts Center and the Roger Milliken Science Center, which is a reminder of all that is to come.

Q: Next year is your 5th reunion. Are you looking forward to reconnecting with your classmates?
A: Definitely! Living in South Carolina, we fortunately get to see friends often and catch up or travel together, etc., but we are looking forward to seeing some friends we have not seen in a while!
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