A DAY OF THANKS

After the college’s most successful A Day for Wofford event — $691,634 raised by 1,235 donors through 1,354 gifts — the Office of Philanthropy + Engagement held A Day of Thanks in front of Main Building. During the day, students, faculty, staff and even some alumni dropped by to write thank-you notes to everyone who has made a gift to the college during 2022. A few students stopped to take a photo with President Nayef Samhat, who was there writing notes as well.
Graduates of liberal arts colleges make our world a better place. They contribute professionally, civically and economically. Because liberal arts graduates have been exposed to far-ranging ideas and thoughts, they are in a position to address society’s challenges while living lives of personal fulfillment. Liberal arts graduates — because of the breadth and focus of knowledge — learn to communicate, create, think and adapt. These are the hallmarks of a Wofford education past, present and future, and I’m pleased that this issue of Wofford Today highlights a variety of alumni who have gone on to bring honor to themselves and their alma mater.

This Wofford Today features Alexander Smalls ’74, the only person to receive Tony, Grammy and James Beard awards, as well as other interesting alumni chefs. We also feature Nneka Mogbo ’20, who has begun her Fulbright Fellowship in Algeria; McCown Bridges Griffin ’10, who used her study abroad experiences to help others navigate travel; three graduates — James Scott ’97, Scott Gould ’81 and Steve Jobe ’91 — who have published highly acclaimed books; and six young alumni — Michelle Green ’15, Dr. Michael Jones ’17, Eliza Metts ’21, Paige Bolton Swafford ’19, Elizabeth Heinz Swails ’08 and Paul Walkup ’16 — who are rising stars in their fields. They offer just a small sample of the great and meaningful things our alumni do and the lives they live after Wofford.

We also share some photos of the graduates and families we welcomed back to campus for Homecoming and Family Weekend.

Wofford welcomes you, too! Our campus is open and welcoming because we learn from considering a variety of experiences and perspectives. This is part of our mission and core values, and we appreciate your support. Please return for a visit to see for yourself our dynamic campus community, one that you have helped build.

Go Terriers!

Nayef H. Samhat
11TH PRESIDENT OF WOFFORD COLLEGE
Where thought leads.
Wofford brings a variety of speakers, artists and thinkers with a broad range of opinions to campus because Wofford is a place where thought leads. As a reflection of our mission and core values, we continue to discuss and interrogate ideas with civility and respect. During the fall semester, in addition to hosting an Asian Music Celebration in the Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts, the college brought to campus Mike Pence, the 48th vice president of the United States; Michaela Pilar Brown, an artist whose work was exhibited on campus as part of the Tri State Sculpture Conference; Jim Sonefeld, drummer for Hootie and the Blowfish, who’s also a Wofford parent; Emily Harding, deputy director and senior fellow with the International Security Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies; Mike Rogers, former congressman from Michigan and former chair of the House Intelligence Committee; and Dr. William C. Hubbard, dean of the University of South Carolina School of Law, who gave the annual Constitution Day address. Pence and Rogers were on campus as part of the Hipp Lecture Series on International Affairs and National Security.
MATCH GAME
As members of the Wofford men’s soccer team, Sammy Friedrich ‘21 and Grant Wollam ‘21 were involved in some big matches. None, however, was as important as the matches they made off the pitch. Through the Project Life Movement, Friedrich and Wollam both donated life-saving stem cells to leukemia patients. They beat staggering odds just to donate.
Read more online.

U.S. NEWS RANKINGS
Wofford College continues to be ranked by national publications as one of the best colleges in the United States. U.S. News & World Report’s Best Colleges for 2022-23 ranks Wofford No. 70 among national liberal arts colleges, which included 200 institutions. Wofford is No. 58 on the list of best values and No. 97 for social mobility.
Read more online.

SURF
This fall Wofford hosted one of the largest Southern Conference Undergraduate Research Forums (SURF) since the event was established in 2016. Each year the forum provides an opportunity for students attending the 10 colleges and universities competing athletically in the Southern Conference to share on the academic and creative arts fields. Approximately 150 students from eight of the conference’s 10 institutions presented.
Read more online.

A TWOFOOLD HISTORY
Three Wofford seniors — Georgia Fischer, Grace Levitt and Ivey Rathburn — have contributed to telling the story of Anne Frank in a traveling exhibit that was on campus during the fall. According to Dr. Kirsten Krick-Aigner, professor of German, this is the first time that an institution of higher education has hosted the exhibit in South Carolina.
Read more online.
MORGAN CORP. INTERNS

Micheal Mason ’23 (above), a physics major from Florence, S.C., and Pierce Drummer ’25, an undeclared major from Spartanburg, experienced three months of heavy lifting and life lessons as summer employees with Morgan Corp. They were trained to operate heavy machinery while working for the grading company in Spartanburg. Bulldozers, scrapers and motor graders were the only pieces of machinery they didn’t operate.

Read more online.

“AGAMEMNON”

“Agamemnon” was the fall theatre production. Its cast and crew consisted of eight student-actors, a stage manager, an assistant stage manager and a director. “I hope that ‘Agamemnon’ can bring people to see that (acts of violence are) not the way to (resolve conflicts),” says Audrey Buffington ’24, a theatre major from Greenville, S.C., who played Clytemnestra. “Just be kind.”

Read more online.
Experience Wofford

One of the highlights of the fall meeting of the Wofford College Board of Trustees was the opportunity for students to connect with trustees during a networking breakfast sponsored by the Office of the President and the Career Center. During the event, Josh Whitley ’05, an attorney with Smyth Whitley in Daniel Island, S.C., reconnected with Mackenzie Syiem ’23, an English and Spanish major with a concentration in film and digital media from Shillong, Meghalaya, India. Whitley helped recruit Syiem to come to Wofford from St. Margaret’s School in Tappahannock, Va.
Alexander Smalls ’74 is a storyteller. He’s told stories through song on some of the world’s biggest stages as a professional opera singer for 20 years. His three cookbooks tell stories ranging from memories of his youth to the ways enslaved Africans made culinary contributions on five continents.

Publications, including Food & Wine, have written about the dinner parties that he hosts at his Harlem, N.Y., apartment. An invitation to these parties — for the food, music and the stories — is prized by celebrities around the globe.

Every meal at the five critically acclaimed restaurants he has opened over the past 30 years has told a story as well.

“My uncle was an extraordinary chef, and he taught me the language of food and how to dream up cuisine,” Smalls says. “If you’re not cooking your story, you’re not cooking.”

Smalls’ story began in Spartanburg. He became interested in opera as a child thanks to his uncle, the chef, and aunt, a classical pianist, who exposed him to the world of classical music. Seeing Black performers, including Marian Anderson, on “The Ed Sullivan Show” led him to know that he wanted to sing opera.

Smalls graduated from Spartanburg High School in 1970 and was recruited to come to Wofford by Dr. Paul Hardin, the college president at the time.

Smalls focused on academics at Wofford and went to Converse College for music education. During the spring of his sophomore year, he decided to transfer to the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. Smalls returned to Wofford in October to share the stories of his life and the wisdom he’s gained along the way with the Wofford and Spartanburg communities.

He is believed to be the only person to have won a Tony, a Grammy and a James Beard Award. He won a Tony and a Grammy in 1977 for the cast recording of “Porgy and Bess” with the Houston Grand Opera. He won a 2019 James Beard Award for his groundbreaking cookbook “Between Harlem and Heaven,” and his restaurant The Cecil was named “Best New Restaurant in America” in 2014 by Esquire Magazine.

Smalls’ visit to campus included meeting with students in the Career Center, an interview with the Old Gold and Black student newspaper and a cooking demonstration with Stephan Baity, director of culinary operations for Wofford’s culinary partner AVI Foodsystems, “TODAY” show co-host and Wofford Trustee Craig Melvin ’01 and President Nayef Samhat. They followed a recipe from Smalls’ “Between Harlem and Heaven” cookbook for an egg roll stuffed with smoked brisket, sauteed onions and cabbage.
Samhat, Smalls, Baity and Melvin cooked for a live audience in Burwell.
The day ended with Melvin interviewing Smalls on the stage in the Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts about his career, his childhood in Spartanburg and his time at Wofford. At the conclusion of the event, Smalls was presented the Key to the City by Spartanburg City Council members Erica Brown ’00 and Jamie Fulmer ’92.

Smalls entered the restaurant business after feeling disrespected when he was offered a role beneath the one that he auditioned for with the Metropolitan Opera House. He had been performing professionally in Europe and returned to the states for the audition. At Wofford he discussed that disappointment and how he decided to pick up the pieces.

“I realized I didn’t need to have a seat at the table; I needed to own the table,” says Smalls. He opened his first restaurant with the intention of preserving and celebrating Black culture, even when people questioned his desire to open a fine dining establishment featuring cuisine from South Carolina’s Lowcountry.

“I wanted to do things I felt were needed or part of advancing African American culture and dismantling systems of racism,” Smalls says. His latest restaurant concept, Alkebulan Dining Hall, is 20,000 square feet, and it opened in Dubai earlier this year. It has 11 restaurants that showcase the African diaspora’s influence on the global culinary landscape. He is in discussions to open similar concepts in several major U.S. cities.

Smalls’ latest cookbook, “Meals, Music, and Muses: Recipes from my African American Kitchen,” explores the relationship between music — still a passion — and food in Black culture. To promote the book, he curated the “Alexander Smalls’ Dinner Party Playlist” on Spotify for Food & Wine magazine, which includes jazz, soul, opera and gospel with artists ranging from James Brown and Beyoncé to Giacomo Puccini.

He recently signed a book deal with Phaidon Press for a fourth cookbook.

In June, Smalls released the album “Let Us Break Bread Together.” It’s a collection of spirituals recorded as a jazz album. It’s another endeavor to preserve culture.

“My plan is to create a curated archive celebrating music I consider endangered repertoire,” Smalls says. “I don’t have to record them all; others will be selected to participate as well. African American spirituals are often misunderstood and lost in the boughs of the church.”

Smalls, who serves as a mentor to chefs, describes himself as being a bridge builder and a connector. He also recognizes his ability to inspire.

“Awards are moments of appreciation, but I don’t work for them,” Smalls says. “They’re compliments and are tools to help young people recognize what they are capable of doing. I love to exemplify, ‘If he can do it, I can do it.’”
The Career Center and the Old Gold and Black student newspaper held a panel discussion with Smalls. Then Smalls and Melvin met with OGB staff.

Erica Brown ’00 and Jamie Fulmer ’92 presented Smalls with the Key to the City of Spartanburg.
Sarah McClure’s family opened Southside Smokehouse in Landrum, S.C., during her final year of high school. The family also worked catering and concessions.

“My dad cooked and made change out of an apron, so he would bring my tuition money to Wofford covered in grilled onions,” says McClure ’08. “When I was in college, I worked in the restaurant business a lot, so I didn’t want to follow in that path. I wanted to get out of my small town, travel and see the world.”

At Wofford, McClure fell in love with art history. She spent a semester in Rome and Interims in Greece and Southern Italy, then in Spain. While abroad, she filled her days in museums studying art and her evenings in restaurants and bars experiencing the culture through food.

One of those Interims was with Dr. Peter Schmunk and Dr. G.R. Davis. Not too long ago, they visited Southside and McClure. Rabbit pasta was on the menu, which brought back memories of an eye-opening meal in Greece.

“The first time I ever ate rabbit was with them,” says McClure. “I was 20 and didn’t want to look like I didn’t know how to order. Let’s just say I was surprised when a whole rabbit curled up in a pot came out. But I ate it, and it was delicious. Peter Schmunk also introduced me to prosciutto and melon, and I’ve loved the combination ever since.”

For McClure, travel and food go hand in hand, and she travels often for work and pleasure, which seemed unlikely, if not impossible, in college. After graduation, she began a master’s program in art history at the University of Georgia and started working in restaurants in the Athens area, first front of house before picking up kitchen shifts.

“I don’t know how to not try to do something better, so I asked my boss at this little BBQ restaurant what he thought was the best restaurant in town, and I applied there,” she says. McClure landed the job at The National, a Peter Dale restaurant, and that’s where she fell in love with cooking and regained her love of work in the hospitality industry.

Now McClure is celebrating a decade as chef and co-manager of Southside Smokehouse, where she works with her dad, husband and some of her best friends. In 2018 she was nominated for the South Carolina Chef Ambassador program. She represented the state at food events across the southeast and at a New York media dinner. She’s also been a contestant on “Guy’s Grocery Games.”

“It’s all about hospitality, about making sure everyone around you is comfortable and that their needs are met,” says McClure.

That’s how Richard Brewer ’98 and his wife and business partner Shannan Brewer measure success when they’re cooking and serving for Brewer’s Catering.

“God gave us a love of providing, of sharing kindness, food and hospitality,” says Shannan, who left a career as a chemist to develop the business and do what she needed to for family, including their three children, Rebekah (16), Ryan (14) and Rachel (11). Richard gives weekends and holidays to the business while continuing to work as an executive with Michelin North America.

Richard, who is the genius behind Brewer’s Catering’s rubs, spice mixes and sauces, will only divulge one secret ingredient.

“Love’s the secret ingredient. We put that in everything we do. We delight in exceeding expectations,” he says.

The Brewers and their staff catered the Black Alumni Summit Tailgate during Homecoming Weekend. They served over 100 people, and Richard’s signature barbecued chicken, the mac and cheese, potato salad and baked beans all received rave reviews. The Brewers have catered the event, which has grown every year, for the past decade. They’re also famous for their award-winning shrimp and grits and for creating food “from the heart for the soul.” They’re getting a reputation for offering a wide range of vegetarian and vegan selections as well.

“We are truly thankful for our team that helps us at each event or delivery,” says Shannan. “Our experiences are possible because of the synergy of our team.”

Richard started grilling outside of Wightman Hall with his roommates back in the late 1990s. When he met Shannan, who graduated from Clemson, they started tailgating at both Wofford and Clemson football games. One thing led to another, and their business grew out of this tradition. Continuing a legacy of entrepreneurship is important for the Brewers as they grow and teach their children the significance of owning a business while doing what they enjoy.

“I want our food to remind people of home and family,” says Richard. “I want them to leave satisfied. That’s what it’s all about. This is what we are called to do.”
At Wofford, Kait Roberts ’05 was an English major on the pre-law track, and she enjoyed cooking for friends in the residence halls.

“Cooking in the dorms was ill-advised back then, so the dean of international programs suggested maybe I should consider culinary school,” says Roberts. “She knew I had enjoyed my time abroad in Rome and helped me find a postgraduate program in culinary arts in Italy.”

Roberts returned to the states in 2006 and founded Easy Entertaining in Providence, R.I. The company just celebrated its 16th year in business with almost 50 employees and a feeling of invincibility after surviving COVID-19.

“Food is the only thing left in the world we all have in common. It is not divisive. It brings people together,” says Roberts. “All good memories begin and end with food. I want to be a part of that. I want to bring food and hospitality to folks and make it easy for them to host and entertain.”

Roberts was executive chef of Easy Entertaining for the first decade. Now she focuses on growth strategy, new services and client development.

“I have built a company with a work culture that I am immensely proud of. We have very low attrition and support our employees and have a vested interest in seeing them grow and develop,” says Roberts, who is also proud of the company’s dedicated program to give back to the community with a focus on feeding the homeless and hungry. Every Thanksgiving and Christmas, Easy Entertaining donates hundreds of meals to local shelters.

“That’s important to me,” she says.

MEET ALUMNI CHEFS

Chef David Andrews ’00
D’Andrews Bakery & Café, Nashville, Tenn.

David Andrews ’00 smiles every time he walks into D’Andrews Bakery & Café, the modern restaurant and gathering spot with a Southern sensibility that he opened four years ago in his hometown of Nashville, Tenn.

“I’ll never forget that emotional first year,” remembers Andrews. “This guy walked in and ordered a cookie and a glass of milk. I watched him sit at the table and dip his cookie into the milk before eating it. When I saw the look on his face, I knew I was in the right place. I like being in the happiness business.”

And that’s what it is for Andrews, who spent his first few years after Wofford working in his family’s clothing store before pursuing his dream and attending the Institute of Culinary Education in New York. He studied pastry while working retail in the city to make ends meet. Andrews has worked in some of New York’s top restaurants: Gotham Bar & Grill, Merkato 55 and Xie Xie, where his dessert — the 1,000-year-old ice cream sandwich, inspired by the 1,000-year-old egg, was named one of the best desserts of the year in 2009 by both Time Out New York and New York Magazine. He joined the Kimberly Hotel as the executive pastry chef in 2010, then switched to savory, becoming executive chef, for the next six years.

“Working at the Kimberly was a great experience. I learned all aspects of the business,” says Andrews, who did everything from reviewing balance sheets to writing menus to motivating staff. “I also really honed my people skills, and dealing with people is about 75% of it.”

Andrews, his husband, Matt, their French bulldog, Daisy, and the staff of 12 at D’Andrews have developed a community around what he calls “a restaurant masquerading as a bakery.” And the team appreciates the opportunity to give back. In 2022, the Nashville LGBT Chamber of Commerce named Andrews its Business Leader of the Year, and in 2021 D’Andrews was recognized with the Diversity Small Business Award.

“I know what it takes to do this work, and I enjoy it. There’s a lot of pride, satisfaction and a sense of accomplishment. I expected all that, but I didn’t understand how much I’d grow to love and enjoy our customers and this community,” says Andrews. “That was a pleasant surprise.”
Chef Kim Adams Nelson ’84
Daisy Cakes, Spartanburg, S.C., and Las Vegas, Nev.

Kim Adams Nelson ’84 sold her first cake when she was 10 years old. It was a yellow cake with chocolate icing, and she sold it for $7 in 1972. “My mom and I always baked cakes for people. That’s how I got my start,” says Nelson.

Now Nelson is a chef, entrepreneur and owner of Daisy Cakes, a company that makes and ships hand-sifted, scratch-made, small-batch cakes nationwide. Starting this semester, “Daisy’s Cake-in-a-Jar Minikins” are on Wofford’s campus as well.

“I absolutely love it and the opportunities that have come my way and that I have nurtured because of cooking,” says Nelson, who’s been on “Shark Tank,” “Chopped Sweets” and “Cutthroat Kitchen.” She won two of the three.

Nelson started catering and cooking professionally with Sophie Copses ’83 after graduation from Wofford. Since then, Nelson has owned a restaurant, run a cooking school and managed a career on her terms.

“I’m a worker and a creative person. I’m also persistent,” says Nelson, who now splits time between Spartanburg and Las Vegas. She started a Daisy Cakes production facility in Las Vegas four years ago to provide better shipping options to the West Coast. The move has also meant that Daisy Cakes has expanded into the vegan market as well as into larger venues. Find out how to order and discover several family recipes at ilovedaisycakes.com.
Family Weekend is about celebrating Wofford and the way we’re all connected as part of the greater Wofford family. Some used the weekend to connect through research or the exploration of study abroad or career preparation. Others found connection through the choral concert or volleyball or football games. Still others enjoyed connecting during the Terrier trivia night or band parties in the Stewart H. Johnson Greek Village.

The Harmening siblings have developed a new legacy of connection to the college. The Owens family’s connections to Wofford span generations. Both share their stories in this special Family Weekend 2022 feature.
Day Harmening Cooper ’19 didn’t intend to start a family tradition when she enrolled at Wofford College in 2015.

But three younger brothers — Will ’21, Campbell ’22 and Asa Harmening ’26 — followed in her footsteps. ... even when sometimes they were determined not to.

“When it came time for my brothers to apply to college, I was hands off,” says Cooper, who earlier this year earned a law degree from American University, started a job with Mercedes-Benz in Atlanta, Ga., and got married. “We’re a tight-knit family, but we’re all very different personality-wise.”

When Cooper was making her college choice, she drew a box around the geographic area where she wanted to be — growing up in Orlando, Fla., she didn’t like cold weather, and she didn’t want to be on the West Coast. When she began applying, she says she let colleges eliminate themselves, and Wofford came out the winner.

“Wofford pursued me,” she says. “I got handwritten letters. Nobody else did that. They knew I was interested in history, so all of my interviewers were with history professors. They matched me with people who shared my interests. The people at Wofford just really win you over.”

That was also the case for Will Harmening. He had been accepted to the University of Florida and had two friends he was going to room with. He didn’t think there was any way he was coming to Wofford. One weekend changed that, and now he may never leave Spartanburg.

“I came up to visit and started looking around, and for the first time I started second-guessing,” he says. “All of my friends went to Florida or Florida State. I decided I was ready to go out on a limb and do something different, but not too different because my sister was there.”

After graduating from Wofford, Will took a gap year to work at a nonprofit clinic in Orlando. He has now returned to Spartanburg to attend Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine. When he’s finished, he says, Spartanburg may very well become home.

“I’ve fallen in love with Spartanburg,” Will says. “I didn’t think I’d want to be here permanently, but that’s definitely changed. This is where I want to set down some roots and develop my life.”

Campbell Harmening ’22 had followed his siblings through school his entire life. He wasn’t sure he wanted to continue that path in college, although his top three choices were Wofford, the University of Georgia and Rollins University.

“For Asa Harmening ’26, the decision was an easy one. He was sold on Wofford’s academic program, and he had already made friends while visiting his brothers.

“I got to see what it was really like and got to meet a lot of students and just hang with them,” says Asa, who plans to major in history. “It’s kind of cool being able to come in as a first-year student and know a lot of people already.”

Wofford is a break from the Vanderbilt tradition for the Harmening siblings. Four generations of their family, including their mother, Mary Harmening, graduated from Vanderbilt University. Their father, Bill Harmening, graduated from Hampden-Sydney College. Both Mary and Bill say Wofford has been a great environment for their family and they’re happy with the new Terrier tradition.

“Everyone has been so nice here,” Mary says. “We’ve made some really great friends here ourselves through the years.”
Day Harmening Cooper ’19 started a new family tradition when she enrolled at Wofford in 2015. Brothers Will ’21, Campbell ’22 and Asa Harmening ’26 also became Terriers. Their parents, Bill and Mary, are now Terrier fans as well.
A CELEBRATION OF WOFFORD AND FAMILY

Another Owens joins the Society of 1854

By Jo Ann Mitchell Brasington ’89
As a high school student, Sunni Owens '26 was as highly recruited as her sister Sarah Owens '23. When the acceptance and scholarship letters started coming in during her senior year, Sunni and her family celebrated.

"I think Wofford was my second acceptance letter," says Sunni. "I remember running down the stairs to tell my parents. They were just as excited as I was."

Later, when it was time to decide where she would spend her college career, she just kept coming back to the reaction she and her family had to Wofford’s yes.

"It was just different," says Sunni, who had visited Wofford for admission events and to see Sarah. "Nothing else compared."

During Family Weekend, Sunni was inducted into the Society of 1854, just like Sarah was during her first Family Weekend at Wofford. The Society of 1854 recognizes Wofford legacies. This year, 60 first-year students were inducted and recognized along with their Wofford alumni parent or grandparent.

"It’s more than a dream come true," says Ralph Owens '74.

This year’s Family Weekend was especially meaningful for the Owens family. Ralph had a kidney transplant eight years ago. His wife, Flora, is a recent breast cancer survivor. Some of their physicians — including Dr. Charles Edward Huggins ’65, who delivered all three daughters — were Wofford graduates.

"We know we can trust them if they’re Wofford graduates," says Ralph, who beamed while surrounded by his wife and daughters just before the ceremony, held this year in the Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts.

"Through all of it, our daughters never faltered," says Flora Owens. "They have flourished and worked hard to make us proud. ... We are proud parents of three high-achieving daughters who are also loving and compassionate human beings. It’s a privilege to know that I’m a part of the impact that they will all have on society one day."

For everyone, the Society of 1854 event was a celebration of Wofford and family. For the Owens family, that celebration goes even further back than Ralph’s years as a student.

“I had always heard about Wofford from my dad and his stories," says Sarah ’23. "He advocated hard for the Wofford education and this community, but coming to Wofford also meant connecting to my family in a deeper way.

Sarah and Sunni’s grandfather, James Henry Owens Sr., was from Spartanburg and wanted very much to attend Wofford. He never even applied because at the time Wofford was all white, and a segregated society and educational system made his attendance impossible.

“We still have relatives in the Spartanburg area, so being at Wofford has given us the opportunity to get to know them better," says Sarah.

During the Society of 1854 induction ceremony, Sunny’s name was called along with Sarah’s and Ralph’s. They all walked up to the podium to receive the pin and have a photo taken. They were all smiles as they walked away. Then Ralph stopped and pointed a finger toward the ceiling.

“I’ve got one more coming!” he said, referring to Selena, a ninth grader in high school who is already looking at colleges.
Alumni, family and friends returned to campus Oct. 27-29 as the college celebrated Homecoming. Five graduates were honored for leadership and service by the college’s alumni association.

Charles H. Gray ’72
Distinguished Service Award

Robert D. Mickle Jr. ’85 and Vickie Rosalind Muller ’83 received the Charles H. Gray ’72 Distinguished Service Award for exhibiting dedicated service and commitment to the college.

“When I was director of admission, Robert and Vickie were among the students that I recruited,” says Charlie Gray ’72. “Both of them are good, sincere people of superb character. That always impresses me, and it’s that strength of character that they have carried with them through life.”

Mickle is co-founder of Paragon Inc. and has enjoyed a career in housing, development, construction, finance and design. He served as chair of the board of commissioners of the state Housing Finance and Development Authority. Mickle is chair of the Black Alumni Association and a co-founder of the Black Alumni Summit. He also has served as a board member of the National Alumni Association, the Terrier Club and the President’s Advisory Council.

Muller is the associate director of financial services at Midlands Technical College in Columbia, S.C., and she is passionate about enhancing the experiences of Wofford students and African American alumni. She co-founded the Black Alumni Summit, and she was a fundraiser for the Meadors Multicultural House. She is past president of the Wofford College National Alumni Association and is vice chair of the Black Alumni Association.
Distinguished Citizen Award

The Distinguished Citizen Award, which recognizes those with distinguished careers who have contributed extraordinary service to humanity, was presented to the Rev. Tom Brittain ’47.

Brittain was a first-generation college student who graduated in three years. He was a teacher before entering the ministry. A year after he graduated from Candler School of Theology at Emory University, he joined the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and was ordained an elder. He served eight appointments, including Trinity United Methodist Church in Spartanburg. Known as “Big Tom” to his family and church members, Brittain served on the Wofford Board of Trustees for eight years.

“He is a truly wonderful, dedicated, hardworking gentleman,” David Beacham ’77 says. “And at age 95, he can still play golf, preach, teach, marry, bury and care for great-grandchildren, and most of those he would do all on the same day!”

Pride of Wofford Award

The Pride of Wofford Award is presented to a member of the Wofford College Alumni Association who has brought honor and distinction to the college through outstanding professional achievement, and Murrell Smith Jr. ’90 was this year’s recipient.

“Murrell Smith is a wonderful mentor and key voice of direction for my career and academic success,” says Tayvian Gass ’23, who interned with Smith at the Statehouse last summer. “He is what every attorney and representative should be. He is firm in his beliefs, and at the same time he’s willing to reach out to people with different ideas and consider them.”

Smith was unanimously elected the 61st speaker of the South Carolina House of Representatives in the spring. He has represented Sumter in the state legislature since 2000. He is a co-founding partner of the Smith Robinson law firm, who also has served as a public defender and was named to the 2022 list of The Best Lawyers in America.

Rising Star Award

Vanessa Lauber ’09 was presented the Rising Star Award, in absentia, which is given to those who have demonstrated professional accomplishment and continued growth as an emerging leader.

Lauber is a judicial clerk at the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York. After graduating from the Harvard School of Law and passing the bar exam, she worked for a Washington, D.C., law firm. She then returned to Spartanburg, where she served as a judicial clerk for the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Lauber promotes social justice through litigation and advocacy, focusing on civil rights in the context of new technologies, voting and gender equality.

“Vanessa’s profound intellectual curiosity, expertise in literature and law and commitment to the humanities are the substance of these achievements, but equally important is her drive to serve others,” says Amy Chalmers ’11. “Central to her education and ambition is her deep compassion, and she has used her time and talents to help those in need throughout her career.”
Homecoming

Homecoming queen
Sarah Owens ’23 of Charleston, S.C., was escorted onto the field by her parents Flora and Ralph Owens ’74 just before she was crowned the 2022 Homecoming Queen. Owens, a philosophy and international affairs double major on the pre-law track, represented the Orientation Staff. Kerrington Johnson ’23 was first runner-up. She represented the Office of Residence Life and is a finance major and a business minor from Anderson, S.C. Second runner-up was Hallie Dudley ’23, a mathematics major with a minor in computer science from Charlotte, N.C., representing Zeta Tau Alpha sorority. Isaiah Franco ’23 was named Mr. Wofford. Franco is a Spanish and international affairs double major with a concentration in environmental studies from Newton, Pa. He represented the Organization of Latin American Students.

Football wins!
The Terriers defeated East Tennessee State University 48-41 in front of an enthusiastic Homecoming crowd. The Terriers racked up 580 yards of total offense. Amir Annoor’s interception with a minute left in the game was one of many highlights. Annoor is a sophomore from Nashville, Tenn.

Class Awards

The Class of 2012 won the Reunion Trophy, which is presented to the class with the greatest number of people registered for Homecoming Weekend. The class had 61 people registered.

The Class of 1997 received the Reunion Plate, which is given to the class with the highest percentage of people registered for the weekend; 20% of the class attended Homecoming.

The Terrier Trophy is given to the class with the highest percentage of classmates making a financial gift to celebrate their reunion, and the award was given to the Class of 1997, which had 17% of its classmates make donations while celebrating their 25th reunion.
Guest speaker

Don Martin, a motivational speaker and author, participated in Homecoming activities. Martin discussed his book, “Black Man White Industry: My Journey through the Men’s Fashion World,” to conclude the Black Alumni Summit. He was joined by Carl Hall ’87 and Robin Worley.

Black Alumni Summit

Omega Psi Phi check presentation

In May, alumni of the Tau Delta Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. commemorated the 50th anniversary of the chapter’s charter line by establishing an endowed scholarship fund at the college. Awards made from this fund will support internship opportunities for members of the Tau Delta chapter who demonstrate outstanding character, leadership, academic promise and financial need. If there are no qualified Tau Delta applicants, the internship scholarship can be awarded to an African American male student.
Penny Koger Memorial Scholarship

Taylor Fuller '24 and McKenzie Norman '23 received the Penny Koger Memorial Scholarship, which honors the memory of Penny Koger '00. It is given to Black female students with GPAs of 3.0 or higher, who “demonstrate academic excellence, leadership and a commitment to community service” in the Spartanburg-Greenville area.

1854 Heritage Fund Travel Scholarship

James Few III '25 received the 1854 Heritage Fund Travel Scholarship. This fund was established in 2014 by the Black Alumni Association.

Scholarship recipients

A full weekend of events

In addition to reunions for classes ending in 2 and 7, Homecoming weekend brought a variety of other opportunities to gather and engage with the college. There were Classes without Quizzes, including a Sip and Stroll history tour, an All-Alumni Band Party, basketball scrimmages, a men’s soccer game and a variety of tailgates. Family and friends of Dr. Vic Bilanchone also gathered on Saturday morning to remember his life and the impact he had on generations of Wofford students.
CELEBRATORY BANNERS

SHARING HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE COLLEGE’S HISTORY

Those walking around campus during Homecoming discovered a new set of banners lining the sidewalks. The banners celebrate firsts and other college traditions. There’s a banner to celebrate baseball, the college’s first intercollegiate sport, and another to recognize the first international student. The college bell, the arboretum and Phi Beta Kappa also are commemorated as part of a collection of 25 repeating banners. The celebratory set of banners will be up surrounding major campus events, like Family Weekend, Homecoming and Commencement.
The original college mascot was a pit bull Terrier. Legend has it that he was a neighborhood dog who was adopted by the 1909 Wofford baseball team. During a close game, he raced out of the stands and drove off an opposing runner who was trying to tie the score.

The college bell has tolled on campus since Wofford opened in 1854. Forged by the Meneely Bell Foundry, West Troy, N.Y., it weighs about 700 pounds and is 33 inches in diameter. It still tolls the hour on campus and during special events.
These banners highlight firsts: first graduates, first sports, first championships, first publications and first gifts.
The Thinking Men

POEM BY NIKKY FINNEY ABOUT THE BUILDERS OF MAIN BUILDING
The Thinking Men banner honors the enslaved workers who constructed Main Building. Every Wofford College student has taken a class in "Old Main." Academic rigor and thought leaders, as well as communitywide celebrations such as Commencement, Family Weekend and Homecoming, also are celebrated on the banners.
A WINNING COMBINATION

DR. TRACY REVELS

BY ROBERT W. DALTON

Dr. Tracy Revels loves teaching history and writing.

Because of her passion for that combination, Revels, professor of history, has been named the Laura and Winston Hoy Professor of Humanities.

“This is a very great honor,” says Revels. “Wofford has really been my life since I was 28 years old. It’s nice to be able to add this as a part of that life.”

The endowed professorship was established through a gift from Laura and Winston Hoy of Myrtle Beach, S.C., in 2007, with additional funds from the Daniel estate. They are the parents of Will Hoy ’03, and Laura Hoy is a former member of Wofford’s board of trustees.

Revels follows Dr. Deno Trakas, who was the Laura and Winston Hoy Professor of Literature until his retirement in 2020.

“I just adore Deno,” says Revels. “His class (on novel writing) is the only one I ever audited at Wofford. To be able to be gifted with something he held is really special to me.”

Dr. Tim Schmitz, provost, says Revels was a natural fit for the professorship.

“Being named the Laura and Winston Hoy Professor of Humanities speaks to Dr. Revels’ long career in the classroom,” Schmitz says. “She’s a popular professor of history who also has distinguished herself with books and presentations about women in the Civil War and Florida tourism.”

Revels came to Wofford in 1991 after a year of serving as a visiting assistant professor of history at Georgia Southern University. She says it’s sometimes hard to believe she’s been a Terrier for more than 30 years.
Dr. Tracy Revels, professor of history, has been named the Laura and Winston Hoy Professor of Humanities.

She traveled to Myrtle Beach, S.C., to meet the Hoys.

“Just the other day, I had a student ask why I’ve stayed so long,” Revels says. “It just always felt right. This is the way I want to teach, the way I want to interact with my colleagues and the way I want to do research. I met my husband here. Wofford really does feel like family.”

Two of Revels’ first students — Dr. Phillip Stone ’94, college archivist, and Dr. Dwain Pruitt ’95, chief equity officer — are now her colleagues. She also has taught the children of several of her early students.

“My rule is firm. I’ll teach anybody’s son or daughter, but when a grandchild shows up, somebody else gets to be Hoy Professor,” Revels says with a laugh. “I’ll run on that day.”

In addition to her work in the classroom, Revels is an accomplished author of both fiction and nonfiction. Her book “Grander in Her Daughters: Florida’s Women During the Civil War” received the 2005 Rembert Patrick Prize from the Florida Historical Society for the best academic work in Florida history. She’s planning to write a similar book about South Carolina women.

She’s also the resident expert on all things Sherlock Holmes. She has written three Sherlock Holmes novels and in 2021 was inducted into the Baker Street Irregulars, an exclusive literary society based in New York City that is dedicated to the fictional detective.

“I really do love that Wofford allows me to do more than teach basic American history,” Revels says. “I enjoy getting to interact with students in other ways. And Wofford has encouraged my outside activities.”
Freshman move-in day (Aug. 27)

Homecoming throwback (Oct. 3)

First-year orientation picnic (Aug. 27)

A snapshot of campus (Oct. 28)

9th annual Shamrock n’ Shuck (Sept. 29)

Dwayne Harris as new director of campus safety (Aug. 1)

Class of 2026 field day! (Aug. 31)

2022 Kappa Alpha Theta Flower Market (Oct. 6)

2022 fraternity and sorority interest fair (Sept. 8)

WOFFORD ON INSTAGRAM

Check out some photos on Wofford's Instagram from this past fall. Like what you see? Want to know what’s happening on campus? Follow us @woffordcollege on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and TikTok!
CLASS NOTES

1959
Tom Gasque recently published “Letters from Kentucky,” a collection of letters his Aunt Carrie wrote while she was working as a missionary teacher in Appalachia. The book includes his account of his search for everything he could find about the people, places and unusual phrases that appear in the letters.

1964
Robert E. Gregory Jr., a former Wofford trustee and chairman of the board, recently received the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina’s highest civilian honor. Gregory, who is nationally known as a leading business strategist, spent the past decade guiding Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System through the most transformative period in its 100-year history. Starting in 2011, Gregory served as the chair of the Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System Board of Trustees for six years before transitioning to chair the newly formed Apella Health Management Board of Trustees. His service extends throughout the college, state and nation.

1975
Lou McCraw, managing director and partner of PFG Advisors, was inducted into the inaugural Hall of Fame class of Lincoln Financial’s The Resource Group in Berwyn, Pa. The Resource Group is an invitation-only, nationwide network of the top 200 planning professionals within Lincoln Financial Network. McCraw was one of the 20 founding members of The Resource Group in 1999 and has been a contributing member since. He was elected chairman of the board for 2022.

1981
Rebecca Cubbage Dukes retired in June after 38 years in education, most recently serving as director of federal and accountability programs for the Allendale County School District in Fairfax, S.C. She is the CEO of Schoolhouse Mentoring, an education consulting company providing K-12 professional development and grants training and support to districts across the United States.

1987
The Southern Bank has named David Ward its senior vice president of commercial lending for the Spartanburg branch, which is expected to open at the end of 2022. Ward has 35 years of experience in business development, relationship cultivation, client retention, special assets, collections and retail and commercial credit administration.

1990
Richard Shealy, in his ninth year of freelance copyediting for major science fiction and fantasy titles, has now had two different projects win a Hugo Award (given for the best in science fiction/fiction) in the same year. Works he copyedited won Best Series (“Wayward Children,” currently at eight titles, written by Seanan McGuire) and Best Novella (“A Psalm for the Wild-Built,” by Becky Chambers) at the 80th World Science Fiction Convention in September.

S.C. House Speaker Murrell Smith Jr. has received the 2022 Green Tie Award for conservation leadership from the Conservation Voters of South Carolina.

1994
Kimberly Johnson is a member of the North Carolina Bar Association’s paralegal division council and CPE committee. She also serves as chair of the ethics committee. She also is a member of the association’s women in the profession committee and its task force on inclusion. Johnson is a co-planner for the association’s 2023 annual meeting in Cary, N.C.

1995
The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Lee Walton has been elected Princeton Theological Seminary’s eighth president. He will assume his duties on Jan. 1, 2023. Walton will be the first Black president at the seminary, which began as a small school in 1812 on the edge of the Princeton University campus with just one faculty member. He comes to Princeton Seminary from Wake Forest University’s School of Divinity in Winston-Salem, N.C., where he has served as the dean since 2019 and holds the Presidential Chair in Religion and Society. Prior to joining Wake Forest, he served on the faculty at Harvard Divinity School and was the Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and the Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church of Harvard University.

1997
Tekion Corp. in Pleasanton, Calif., has hired Jeffery Scott Wood as a senior implementation analyst. Wood spent 20 years working for both Universal Computer Systems and Reynolds and Reynolds in the automotive consulting space.
When her Fulbright Fellowship was postponed and then canceled because of COVID-19, Nneka Mogbo ’20 mourned and moved on.

Then, as quickly as it was taken away, the opportunity reappeared. Mogbo departed for Algeria in October, where she is serving as an English teaching assistant.

“I got a call in February that it was back on,” says Mogbo. “It was really bittersweet. While I was excited, I was also concerned that I’m not the same person I was when I was a fresh graduate.”

Mogbo learned in the spring of 2020 that she had been selected for the fellowship. Just days later, with the pandemic starting to shut down the world, she was told it was on hold.

After graduating, she returned to her home in Atlanta to work with the Georgia Legal Services Program and await word on when she would begin her fellowship. After being told the fellowship was canceled, she went to Mexico in April 2021 to clear her head and begin focusing on her future.

She returned to Spartanburg in June 2021 to concentrate on growing her business, Úrú Music Collective. Úrú — which means benefit in Igbo, the language spoken in her parents’ native Nigeria — is a talent management, publishing and recording company for artists from Africa and the Middle East.

“I was burned out from the pandemic, and I wanted to be in a place that felt like home,” she says. “I wanted to be in the place that built the foundation for what I do now, and that’s Spartanburg and Wofford.”

During her 10-month Fulbright fellowship, Mogbo will work with undergraduate and graduate students. She says she’s looking forward to observing the ways students process the language and cultural lessons.

Mogbo says while she was disappointed by the delay, she believes it was for the best.

“If it hadn’t happened this way, I’m not sure I would have become the person I am now,” she says.

Dr. Ramón Galiñanes Jr., director of undergraduate research and postgraduate fellowships, says Mogbo will make the most of the opportunity.

“I am absolutely thrilled that Nneka is finally getting the opportunity to teach and study in Algeria as a Fulbright,” he says. “She is an exceptional bridge builder and scholar and an even more exceptional person who will continue to do a lot of good in the world.”

When the fellowship is over, Mogbo plans to renew her focus on Úrú. She also plans to return to Nigeria, where she spent holidays as a young child, and work on building the infrastructure to support copyright and intellectual property laws.

“For what I want to do, and for what’s best for Úrú, that’s where I need to be,” she says.
Michelle Green '15
B.A. in English, B.A. in environmental studies

Michelle Green is a brand manager at Keurig Dr. Pepper in Atlanta, Ga., overseeing Peet’s RTD Coffee, Xyience and Peñafiel. She says her practical experiences at Wofford through internships sparked her interest in a marketing career. Green says her exposure to different framing and storytelling techniques in her English classes and sustainability exposure in her environmental studies courses have played a large part in her career. “I didn’t realize how frequently I would use that skill across varying scenarios, but it was a skill I leaned on at Deloitte, Rivers Agency and now at Keurig Dr. Pepper,” she says.

Dr. Michael Jones II '17
B.S. in biology

Dr. Michael Jones credits Dr. Ivan Curry ’90 for solidifying his interest in sports medicine and physical therapy. He saw Curry when he suffered a football injury his junior year at Wofford. Jones has since graduated from the University of St. Augustine and practices as one of six physical therapists at The Sports Rehabilitation Center in Atlanta, Ga. “In my practice, I see about 12 patients daily and have to be able to switch gears and treat each one to the best of my ability,” he says. “Having the liberal arts education that Wofford has given me helps me to be able to do this.”

Eliza Metts '21
B.A. in English, B.A. in theatre

Eliza Metts’ degrees in English and theatre provided the perfect springboard for her to dive into her current role as assistant marketing manager for Charleston Stage in Charleston, S.C. “My theatre background gives me a leg up because I didn’t have to have the quirky nuances of theatre work or the basics of the theatre explained to me,” Metts says. “The theatre is a really specific world, and I’m so grateful that I have a background that allows me to navigate it really well. To get to work in the heart of downtown at the oldest theatre in America is a delight beyond my expectations!”

Paige Bolton Swafford '19
B.S. in psychology, concentration in neuroscience

While completing her master’s degree in behavior analysis, Paige Bolton Swafford began a student co-op position at BMW in January 2022. As the vocational training and apprenticeship co-op, she assists with the operations of the BMW Scholars Programs. She also has helped plan community outreach events, including the BMW Charity Pro-Am and the Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering Night at Fluor Field. “Wofford’s liberal arts environment provides the amazing opportunity to mix subjects that might not otherwise be taught together. This concept has led me down the educational path that I am on today,” she says.

Dr. Elizabeth Heinz Swails '08
B.A. in English

Dr. Elizabeth Heinz Swails is communications coordinator at Upstate Forever, a conservation nonprofit based in Greenville and Spartanburg, S.C. Her work focuses on communications, marketing and advocacy strategies and initiatives in the rapidly growing Upstate. Wofford’s curriculum and professors, especially Dr. John Ware and Dr. Carol Wilson in the English department, prepared her well for her academic and communications career. “I never could have accomplished my professional goals without the help and support of my Wofford community, especially the English department,” says Swails.

Paul Walkup '16
B.S. in biology, B.A. in environmental studies

Paul Walkup is a nonpoint source pollution specialist with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 in Chicago, Ill. He reviews grants and other policy documents for state and tribal agencies to ensure they meet federal guidelines. He credits Wofford’s environmental studies department with developing his ability to challenge critical concepts through different lenses of scientific, economic and social considerations. “The professors in this program and the teamwork they encouraged allowed me to step into a graduate program and then my current role with ease,” he says.
**CLASS NOTES**

**2001**

Tony Hudson has been named principal of Heide Trask High School in Rocky Point, N.C. He has been with the school district since 2005, when he signed on as a teacher and assistant coach at Heide Trask. Most recently, he was the principal at West Pender Middle School.

The S.C. Department of Transportation has named Justin Powell its new chief of staff. He previously served as the department’s deputy secretary for finance and administration.

**2005**

Colite International in Columbia, S.C., has promoted Adam Regenthal to senior vice president, sales and marketing.

Jonathan Holder made the National Law Journal’s list of the top 100 jury verdicts in the United States for 2021. Williams’ jury verdict of $26.5 million in a case in Milwaukee, Wis., came in at No. 76 for the year.

**2006**

Dr. Erin L. Higgenbotham has joined North Carolina State University’s counseling services in the division of academic and student affairs as the assistant director of clinical services.

Pinnacle Financial Partners in Chattanooga, Tenn., has hired Jim Thurman as a money management advisor. He had been with Regions Bank for seven years, most recently as a cash management sales officer.

David Williams made the National Law Journal’s list of the top 100 jury verdicts in the United States for 2021. Williams’ jury verdict of $90 million in a case in Orangeburg, S.C., came in at No. 25 for the year.

**2008**

Christie Lee Sapakoff and Michael Cerefice were married on July 3, 2020, in Smithfield, Va. They reside in Chesapeake, Va., with their teenage daughters, Monica Lee Joyce and Kristyn Nichole, and newborn son, Lincoln Michael, born May 18, 2022. Christie Lee received her doctorate in physical therapy in 2012 and practices as a pelvic floor physical therapist. Michael is a process engineering project manager at a global shipping company.

**2009**

James Mitchell II was inducted into the Oak Ridge (Tenn.) Sports Hall of Fame. A 2005 graduate of Oak Ridge High School, Mitchell began playing football at age 7. He continued at Jefferson Middle School and ORHS, where he was named to the All-State and Prep-Extra teams. He still holds ORHS records for career individual tackles and total hits. He continued his football career at Wofford, lettering all four years. He currently teaches and coaches in the Oak Ridge Schools.

**2012**

In July 2022, Jennifer Coggins began a new role as community engagement archivist in the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University.

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**FROM THE ARCHIVES**

**ON THE CITY’S NORTHERN BORDER: HOW WOFFORD GOT ITS CAMPUS**

*By Dr. Phillip Stone ‘94, college archivist*

At nearly 170 years since its opening, Wofford’s age makes it stand out among American colleges and universities. That it still operates on its original campus makes it that much more unusual. One college historian has estimated that fewer than 200 colleges and universities in the United States can make that claim.

Benjamin Wofford’s will only required that the college be located “in my native district of Spartanburg.” Thus, the college could have been located anywhere in Spartanburg County. College historian D.D. Wallace noted that although the presumption was that the college would be located in the village, the trustees did explore other options; they considered a site in Glenn Springs and another in Woodruff. The original board of trustees consulted with other Methodist educators, who suggested that locating the college in a town would be preferable both for the intellectual climate and for the conduct of the students. In the village, the students could board with families, whereas in a rural setting, the college would have needed to build housing for students, so a town setting may simply have been more practical.

When trustees met in April 1851 in Spartanburg to organize, they agreed to purchase a parcel of land about three-quarters of a mile north of Spartanburg’s public square. Jesse Cleveland sold the trustees about 40 acres of his property for $1,835. The Cleveland family owned much of the land on the north side of Spartanburg, extending as far as present-day Cleveland Park. No evidence exists of any permanent occupation of the land that became the Wofford campus before the 1850s, and the histories of early Spartanburg suggest that the county had been hunting grounds for indigenous peoples who lived to the east and west. The trustees also bought a 200-acre wooded tract a mile and a half north of campus to supply the faculty with firewood.

The original part of campus was actually fairly small and probably dictated the layout of the original buildings in a gentle crescent atop a ridge. Subsequent boards purchased adjoining land, as the original trustees had not made plans for future growth. It is indeed fortunate that the college was able to acquire nearby land or it might have been forced to move from its original site. As Spartanburg grew, North Church Street was extended alongside the campus, and Spartanburg General Hospital (now Spartanburg Medical Center) opened north of the campus in 1921.

Only once in its history did events almost force the college to move. After World War II, the South Carolina Methodist Conference debated a plan to consolidate its three senior colleges (Wofford, Columbia and Lander) onto a new, coeducational campus. The conference recognized that the merged college would have to be in Spartanburg to keep with the terms of Benjamin Wofford’s will. The proposal was to acquire land in the northern part of Spartanburg County for a new campus. Friends of the college, however, objected to abandoning the Wofford campus, which was by then nearly a century old. Supporters of all of the colleges also opposed what would have amounted to a closing of the other two. After a period during which Wofford and Columbia shared an administration and board of trustees, the proposal was abandoned.
Elizabeth Rabb ’01, Wofford College’s deputy athletics director and senior woman administrator, has been appointed to the NCAA Division I Council. Her term will conclude in 2026.

The Division I Council is a high-level group responsible for the day-to-day decision-making for Division I. The council is comprised of 40 members, including a representative from each of the 32 Division I conferences, four commissioners, two student-athletes and two faculty athletics representatives. Rabb is the first senior woman administrator to represent the Southern Conference on the council.

“I am honored and excited to represent the Southern Conference on the council and will work diligently to make sure our membership’s voice is heard during this time of unprecedented change in Division I athletics,” Rabb says.

Rabb is in her 21st year as a member of the Wofford athletics staff. In August of 2019, she was named deputy athletics director, overseeing external operations. Her responsibilities include covering the areas of compliance, advancement, media relations, video services and ticketing. She took on the role of senior woman administrator in September 2015. Before moving into the role of deputy athletics director, she served as associate athletics director for compliance and also provided oversight for the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC).

She’s the sport supervisor for women’s tennis, women’s golf, volleyball, women’s soccer and women’s lacrosse. In July of 2011, she ended a three-year term as a member of the NCAA’s administration cabinet. Rabb also served a term on the NCAA’s Olympic Sports Liaison Committee and is currently on the NCAA Division I Nominating Committee. She has added experience as Wofford’s ticket manager and cheerleading coach during...
2014
Kalle Davis was promoted to managing director of leadership development at Teach for America in June 2022. She resides in Atlanta, Ga.

2015
Ashlee Moody Davis is now serving as director of development for the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation. In June, she celebrated her six-year anniversary at VOC, based in Washington, D.C.

The Spartanburg Area Conservancy (SPACE) has named Sam Parrott its executive director. He previously served as membership and outreach director for Three Rivers Land Trust in Salisbury, N.C.

2017
Jamey Bower recently graduated from The Ohio State University with a Ph.D. in chemistry. He has joined Dow Chemical Co. in Houston, Texas, as a senior research specialist.

The Turner Padget law firm has added Hunter Windham to its Charleston, S.C. office. He joins the insurance litigation practice group and will support the insurance litigation team by representing insurance companies and insureds. Prior to joining Turner Padget, Windham clerked for Judge A. Marvin Quattlebaum Jr. of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

2018
Dr. Alex Parler graduated from the Medical University of South Carolina in May and began a three-year residency program in pediatrics in Greenville, S.C.

2019
In August, Grant Page joined the Union County School District as a social studies teacher at Sims Middle School.

Jacob Hollifield has joined Forbes Books, the global book publisher of Forbes Media, as an associate editor in Charleston, S.C. He previously worked as the assistant editor at The Local Palate magazine.

FACULTY

Dr. Laura Barbas Rhoden, professor of Spanish, had the chapter “Environmental Humanities Approaches to Central American Texts in Undergraduate Curricula” published in the volume “Teaching Central American Literature in a Global Context.” Additionally, her article “Ecology, Coloniality, Modernity: Argentine Fictions of Tierra del Fuego” was chosen for inclusion in the special archival issue of Mosaic: An Interdisciplinary Critical Journal. Volume 54.2 of the journal, a collaborative project with Dutch artist duo Bik Van der Pol, features a dozen articles selected from those published during the last 50 years.

Dr. Christine Sorrell Dinkins, William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Philosophy, wrote the foreword for “Hermeneutic Phenomenology in Health and Social Care Research.”

Dr. Courtney Dorroll, associate professor of religion and interim co-director of the Center for Innovation and Learning, and Dr. Rachel Vanderhill, associate professor and chair of government and international affairs, published the article “Teaching, Self-Care, and Reflective Practice during a Pandemic” in the journal Political Science and Politics.

Dr. Philip Dorroll, associate professor of religion, and colleagues edited the publication Māturīdī Theology: A Bilingual Reader.

The North Spartanburg Rotary Club awarded Dr. Alysa Handelsman, assistant professor of sociology and anthropology, and Sarah Buckmaster ’24 a $3,000 grant to support Spartanburg Housing’s after-school programs at Prince Hall and Camp Croft apartments. Sustainability seminar students like Buckmaster have worked with Spartanburg Housing since 2019 to develop, implement and run this program during the school year.

Dr. Dane Hilton, assistant professor of psychology, and colleagues published the article, “The importance of executive functioning for social skills in college students: a relative weights analysis,” in the Journal of American College Health.

Dr. Trina Janiec Jones, professor and chair of religion, published “Reconnecting,” the second of two articles for The University of Chicago Divinity School’s Craft of Teaching in the Academic Study of Religion blog.


2021
Dr. Alex Parler joined the University of South Carolina in May and began a three-year residency program in pediatrics in Greenville, S.C.

The Turner Padget law firm has added Hunter Windham to its Charleston, S.C. office. He joins the insurance litigation practice group and will support the insurance litigation team by representing insurance companies and insureds. Prior to joining Turner Padget, Windham clerked for Judge A. Marvin Quattlebaum Jr. of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

Dr. Trina Janiec Jones, professor and chair of religion, published “Reconnecting,” the second of two articles for The University of Chicago Divinity School’s Craft of Teaching in the Academic Study of Religion blog.


RECENT ACCLAIMED BOOKS BY ALUMNI AUTHORS

Black Snow
by James Scott ’97

James Scott ’97 was back in Spartanburg Nov. 1 to speak and sign books at the Hub City Bookshop in downtown Spartanburg. The visit was part of his author’s tour for “Black Snow: Curtis LeMay, the Firebombing of Tokyo, and the Road to the Atomic Bomb.”

The book recounts the devastating March 10, 1945, operation in which nearly 300 American B-29s thundered into the skies over Tokyo and ignited a firestorm that flattened 16 square miles of the city and killed more than 100,000 men, women and children. Scott, a former Harvard Nieman Fellow, won the prestigious Gilder Lehrman Prize for Military History from the New York Historical Society for his 2018 book “Rampage.” His book “Target Tokyo” was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 2016. His other books are “The War Below” and “The Attack on the Liberty,” which won the Rear Admiral Samuel Eliot Morison Award.
As a Wofford student, Steve Jobe ’91 spent most of his days on the basketball court or wandering Spartanburg to discover more about the area’s history. Now, he has a history series for young readers designed to inspire as well as educate.

The series features 12 works ranging from titles about Mary H. Wright and Daniel Morgan to peaches, music and NASCAR, and they’re all about Spartanburg County.

“The series is written for use in the schools — it’s curriculum-/standards-based — but it’s also a fun read for adults,” says Jobe, who has taught high school history for more than 20 years. “I want to inspire people, whatever their age, to get out there and explore, and Spartanburg has lots of interesting sites and people to discover.”

In September Jobe returned to Spartanburg to release the Spartanburg History Series for Young Readers as the featured speaker for the Spartanburg County Public Libraries Dennis L. Bruce Author Series. During his talk, he discussed coming to Wofford and how that influenced his path.

“I came to Wofford from Indiana... to play basketball but also because I was tired of corn and cold,” says Jobe, who majored in business economics. On the side, and with the support of local historians, including Dr. Doyle Boggs ’70, who was director of communications at Wofford at the time, Jobe began organizing his own personal field trips to historic sites in the area: Duncan Park, the James Byrnes house in Converse Heights, Vanderbilt Road and the site of Camp Wadsworth, the Cowpens Battlefield and others.

After graduation, he took a position as a graduate assistant at Oglethorpe University in Atlanta. There he became certified to teach secondary history. He returned to Spartanburg as a teacher and coach at Dorman High School. He’s also taught at Spartanburg High School, Spartanburg Day School, Frederica Academy on St. Simons Island in Georgia and now at King’s Ridge Christian Academy in Marietta, Ga. He holds master’s degrees from Converse University.

Todd Stephens, county librarian, approached Jobe about the book series because of the impact Jobe made on Stephens’ sons.

“Students loved his classes and his tours,” says Stephens. “He made local history fun, and his class trips to see the historic symbols and landmarks in downtown Spartanburg were the stuff of legend. We wanted to share Steve’s knowledge and fun stories about history with a wider audience.”

Jobe is also famous for his collection of bobbleheads, all of historic figures.

“Students need to understand how invested you are, and I supposed hundreds of bobbleheads say that,” says Jobe. “There’s nothing better than for a student to see one of my bobbleheads and ask, ‘Who’s that?’ It opens a conversation and an opportunity to share my passion for history.”

The series is available in print in the library store at the Spartanburg County Public Libraries headquarters or digitally at flipsnack.com/sptlibraries/history-series/full-view.

The Hammerhead Chronicles
by Scott Gould ’81

“The Hammerhead Chronicles” is the latest novel from critically acclaimed Southern storyteller Scott Gould ’81. The book explores the effects of grief, racism, homophobia, revenge, love and loss on an oddball cast of contemporary characters in a small, fictitious South Carolina town. It’s a fast-moving, comic story, and it’s available now in local bookstores as well as national chains.

“Whereabouts,” Gould’s debut novel, was released in October 2020. It won an Independent Publisher Gold Medal among other awards. Published in 2021, “Things that Crash, Things that Fly” is a memoir and Indies Today Finalist. “Strangers to Temptation,” a collection of short stories, was published in 2017. Gould teaches creative writing at the South Carolina Governor’s School for the Arts and Humanities.

Dr. Jeremy Morris, assistant professor of biology, and co-authors published the article “Impacts of conservation activities on people who are incarcerated: a case study based on qualitative and quantitative analyses” in the journal Ecology and Society.

Dr. Patricia Nuriel, associate professor of Spanish, published the article “La recuperación del espectáculo danzante píndico argentino de los años 30” in Mundos del hispanismo: una cartografía para el siglo XXI.

Dr. Dave Pittman, professor of psychology, published two research manuscripts this summer: “A Glucokinase-linked Sensor in the Taste System Contributes to Glucose Appetite” in the journal Molecular Metabolism, and “Further disentangling the motivational processes underlying benzodiazepine hyperphagia,” with four student authors, in the journal Pharmacology, Biochemistry and Behavior.

Sheri Reynolds’ novel, “The Tender Grave,” has been named as a finalist for the Virginia Literary Award for Fiction. Reynolds is the John C. Cobb Professor of Humanities.

Dr. Charles Smith, associate professor of biology, and a colleague published “Tail movements by late-term fetal pitvipers resemble caudal luring: prenatal development of an ambush predatory behavior” in the Royal Society of Open Science. Smith also presented two posters — “Tail movements by late-term fetal pitvipers resemble caudal luring: prenatal development of an ambush predatory behavior” and “Does rattlesnake rattling resemble the defensive tail motor patterns of non-rattlesnake colubroids?” — at the Biology of the PitVipers 4 Conference in Rodeo, N.M.

Dr. Katherine Steinmetz, associate professor of psychology, and Brandon Edwards ’23, along with collaborators at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, have published the article “Investigating social connection as a protective factor against exam stress in college students” in the Journal of American College Health.

Dr. Yongfang Zhang, associate professor of Chinese, published the chapter “Developing a PCA-Informed Learning Spiral for a Beginner-Level STARTALK Chinese Program” in “Performed Culture in Action to Teach Chinese as a Foreign Language: Integrating PCA into Curriculum, Pedagogy, and Assessment.”

Whatever your destination, McCown Bridges Griffin ’10 can get you there in style.

Griffin is the owner of Escargot Travel. She started the company in 2021 and operates it out of her Spartanburg home. Escargot is a full-service agency that specializes in custom luxury travel experiences around the world.

Griffin spent nearly eight years working at the Children’s Museum of the Lowcountry in Charleston, S.C., starting as a marketing coordinator before being promoted to director of marketing. While there, she, her husband, Jeffrey Griffin ’10, and their children traveled often. By Griffin’s count, they’ve logged more than 700,000 miles, visiting six continents and 52 countries.

Their daughter, Eliza, got her first passport when she was 3 weeks old.

“She’s now 4 years old, and she likes being at home,” Griffin says with a laugh.

When the museum was shut down by COVID-19 in 2020, Griffin began thinking about a career change.

“I spent 2020 looking at how I could do travel, how I could take that passion and hobby and help others,” she says. “I got a lot of messages from people reaching out to ask how we traveled with kids. I had several people say they couldn’t even take their kids to the grocery store, and we were taking ours to another country.”

The family also was looking to make a move, and they decided to return to the town where they spent their college years.

“It’s nice to plug back into the Spartanburg community,” Griffin says.

She adds that her travel experiences, along with her training and personal connections in the travel industry, set Escargot apart from other agencies.

“Our clients appreciate my personal experience, knowing the culture and people of different places,” she says. “I’m able to offer experiences and perks that clients can’t find on their own.”

Griffin says Escargot is growing faster than she imagined it would. She’s OK with that.

“This has always been in the back of my mind,” Griffin says. “I love travel, and it’s great to be able to work at something that doesn’t feel like work.”

McCown Bridges Griffin ’10 is the owner of Escargot Travel. She started the agency, which she runs out of her Spartanburg home, in 2021.
Wofford’s All Saints’ Remembrance Tolling of the Bell ceremony took on a special meaning for Patrick Lindsay ’23 this year.

The names of students, staff, faculty, alumni and friends of the college who have died during the past year are read each year on Nov. 1, and the bell in Main Building tolls for each of them. It tolled 177 times this year. Number 151 was for Dawson Jerome Stallworth Jr. ’64, Lindsay’s grandfather.

“It’s a little more personal this year,” says Lindsay, an international affairs major from Camden, S.C. “It means a lot to me, and I know it would mean a lot to my grandfather.”

Stallworth was supposed to visit Lindsay and Margaret Ann Hughes ’24, his granddaughter, over Homecoming Weekend. But he died on Friday, Oct. 28.

“We were supposed to eat dinner together Thursday night,” Lindsay says. “The last time I talked to him was last Sunday (Oct. 23). “We were just catching up on Wofford and South Carolina football.”

The tolling of the bell is a Wofford tradition. It tolls three times for every student — to welcome them to campus as first-year students, to celebrate their graduation and upon their death.

Before the operation of the bell was mechanized, students known as bellringers received a scholarship to ring the bell. Today’s bellringers assist the Office of Admission with recruitment events and receive a scholarship for their participation.

The Rev. Dr. Ron Robinson ’78, the college’s Perkins-Prothro Chaplain and Professor of Religion, decided to add the modern-day Bellringers to this year’s ceremony.

“The Rev. Dr. Ron Robinson ’78, Perkins-Prothro Chaplain and Professor of Religion, leads Wofford’s All Saints’ Remembrance Tolling of the Bell ceremony.

Bladen Bates ’23, an art history and psychology double major from Travelers Rest, S.C.; Anna Lee Hoffman ’23, a humanities major from Milton, Ga.; and Olivia Turner ’23, a humanities major from Lexington, Ky., climbed into the tower to toll the bell. Robinson noted during the ceremony that it was the first time women had tolled the bell.

Nick Ackard ’23, a finance and humanities double major from Mt. Pleasant, S.C.; and Hampton Randall ’23, an environmental studies major from Simpsonville, S.C., are two of the bellringers who participated in the reading of the names.

“This is probably my favorite Wofford tradition,” says Turner. “Each tour I give, I tell about the tolling of the bell, and I get chills. It’s a testament to how Wofford cares for you throughout your lifetime.”

View the list of those remembered at wofford.edu/about/news/news-archives/2022/all-saints-day.
IN MEMORIAM

1955
Dr. Leonard Hobson “L.H.” Buff Jr., Sept. 9, 2022, Spartanburg, S.C. Buff taught biology at Spartanburg Methodist College for 25 years, retiring in 1995. Early in his career, he served as youth minister at Clemson United Methodist Church and as director of the youth at the Methodist Board of Education in Columbia, S.C. He loved music and sang in choirs at many churches and schools throughout his life, including Central UMC in Spartanburg, where he was a member. He was a Boy Scout leader and enjoyed working with youth. He was a voice for many boys and girls in the Guardian ad Litem program for many years. He had a love for genealogy and was a member of the Lexington County Genealogy Society. He went to Europe in search of his family lineage, was a regular visitor to the Columbia archives researching his ancestors and later wrote books on the Buff, Gunter and Miller families.

1959
The Rev. George Bull Salley Jr., Aug. 10, 2022, Savannah, Ga. Salley served four years in U.S. Army Intelligence. He worked as a CPA in Greenville and Spartanburg before receiving the call to the priesthood. He graduated from St. Luke's School of Theology of the University of the South in 1973 and was ordained in 1974. He served the Diocese of Upper South Carolina for 12 years, first as the founding vicar of St. Alban's Church in Lexington, S.C., and then as curate and rector of All Saints Church in Cayce, S.C. In 1983 he was called to Savannah to serve as rector of St. Michael and All Angels Church, where he stayed until retiring in 1999. He remained active in the priesthood for many years after retirement, serving as interim priest at St. George's and as priest-associate at the Collegiate Church of St. Paul the Apostle, both in Savannah. He served on numerous committees and commissions in both the Diocese of Upper South Carolina and the Diocese of Georgia, and he served as dean of the Savannah Convocation.

1960
Michael Eugene Cavin, Sept. 1, 2022, Greensboro, N.C. Cavin spent his entire career in the building supply industry, where he traveled to help restructure manufacturing plants. While at Wofford, his passion as a drummer led him to join two bands, The Aristocrats and later The Collegiates. He played drums at several Wofford reunions. He enjoyed playing golf and was the last surviving member of his foursome of 20-plus years.

Perrin Quarles “Pep” Dargan Jr., Oct. 20, 2022, Mount Pleasant, S.C. Dargan had a successful career as a stockbroker, principally with the A.G. Edwards firm. He was an avid golfer who played many of the world's great courses, including The Old Course at St. Andrews, Gleneagles, Augusta National, Pebble Beach, Cypress Point and Wade Hampton. Following back surgery in his early 70s, he shot his age and under many times, frequently on his challenging home course, The Reserve in Pawleys Island, S.C. He notched two holes in one, separated by a 50-year drought. He enjoyed food and was as pleased with a cheeseburger as he was with any fine meal. He was a recovering alcoholic who at his death had remained unflinchingly abstinent for nearly 50 years, during which time he counseled many people. He was baptized and raised Presbyterian, but after marrying he became an Episcopalian. He served multiple stints in his Episcopalian and Anglican parishes on the vestry, as senior warden and as treasurer.

1961
William Slaughter “Bill” Derrick, Oct. 6, 2022, Myrtle Beach, S.C. After graduating from the University of South Carolina School of Law, Derrick spent his entire career serving clients in Marion, S.C., and surrounding areas. Always believing that everyone, regardless of means, was entitled to fair representation under the law, he served many years as a public defender in Marion County. He was an active participant in various civic and nonprofit organizations, including serving on Marion City Council and the Marion Rotary Club. He had a deep and abiding love for the Pee Dee River Basin and spent many days hunting summer ducks and catching redbreast along the Little Pee Dee River. He also loved spending time with family and friends at cookouts along the riverbanks at White Oak and Dill Creek landings.

Medus Preston “Pete” Henry, March 9, 2021, Easley, S.C. Henry was a U.S. Army veteran. He worked for Alice Manufacturing for many years and retired as vice president of Mayfair Mills. In retirement, he worked as a part-time associate with Robinson Funeral Home. He was a longtime member of Brushy Creek Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon, trustee and in many other capacities.

Dr. Donald Collins “Don” Jones, Aug. 23, 2022, Hendersonville, N.C. Jones served in the U.S. Army at Fort Sill, Okla., where he was the director of sports. He was a high school teacher and football coach in Virginia and South Carolina. He then became an assistant professor and athletics director at Berry College in Rome, Ga., where he also served as head basketball, track and field and cross-country coach. He became director of Camp Kanuga in Hendersonville and worked as a sales estimator for Hendersonville Paving Co. He also was a corporate motivational speaker. He served as president and executive director of the Henderson County Education Foundation for 10 years, leading the community to grow the foundation’s number of scholarships from four to 63. He was a member and teacher of the Roy Johnson Men’s Sunday School class at First United Methodist Church in Hendersonville for 40 years.

Dr. Thomas William Kelly Jr., Oct. 2, 2022, Murrells Inlet, S.C. After graduating from the Medical College of Virginia, Kelly began his dental career with five years of private practice in Spartanburg. In 1970, he joined the Veterans’ Administration as a staff dentist, serving in Salisbury, N.C., and Leavenworth, Kan. In 1974, he was chosen as chief of dentistry for the VA Medical Center in Fayetteville, N.C., where he also served as chief of staff. During his years...
in Fayetteville, he was on the faculty at the University of North Carolina Dental School. He helped train over 500 dental students and nearly 100 dentists seeking postgraduate training and degrees. He retired after 29 years of service and returned to private practice in Murrells Inlet. He served on the faculty of the dental department oforry-Georgetown Technical College from 1999-2017, helping train approximately 540 dental assistants and hygienists.

1962
Barry Carlisle Newton, Aug. 2, 2022, Cary, N.C. Newton earned a master's degree from Duke University in 1963, then served in the U.S. Army for two years. He taught for the Department of Defense school system for U.S. military families in Germany for three years. He joined Bank of America in 1968, rising to senior vice president of bank operations. He retired in 2000, then worked for several years with WestStar Technologies. Newton enjoyed traveling, returning to Germany and France several times. He also enjoyed boating, teaching his children to water-ski and swimming with his golden retriever, Oscar. He played tennis, golf and guitar.

1964
Albert Bernard Martin, Oct. 9, 2022, Spartanburg, S.C. Martin was a U.S. Army veteran who served a year in Italy. He worked as a supervising cartographer for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Martin was a member of Roebuck Baptist Church, where he was a deacon, as well as a member of the choir and the men's fellowship class. He enjoyed traveling and visiting all 50 states.

Dawson Jerome “Jerry” Stallworth Jr., Oct. 28, 2022, North Augusta, S.C. Stallworth started a tradition of family members graduating from Wofford, with two daughters, two granddaughters and a grandson following in his footsteps. A U.S. Army veteran, he retired after 26 years in management with Sears, Roebuck and Co. He and his wife then established Sentimental Journey, an antique and jewelry business. He was a member of The Episcopal Church of the Ridge, where he served as a lay reader. He was a member of the South Carolina Forestry Commission for the past 10 years. An avid outdoorsman, he especially enjoyed fishing and hunting with his friends.

1967
Stephen Bruce Jones, Aug. 17, 2022, Seneca, S.C. Jones enlisted in the Navy, where he was a submariner on the USS Clamagore, which is now docked beside the USS Yorktown in Charleston, S.C. He spent his entire career in merchandising management, most notably with Tom's Foods and Moore's Foods. He was on the golf team while at Wofford and loved playing and watching the sport. He could fix anything after analyzing it for two to three weeks. He enjoyed ancestry, finding a good dirt road to drive on and his cats.

Fredrick Emde “Rick” Placak Jr., Sept. 21, 2022, Columbus, N.C. Placak was a U.S. Army veteran. He was president of Village Properties and Appraisal and had a 50-year career as a residential realtor and appraiser.

1968
Donald Everette “D.O.” Owens, Aug. 22, 2022, Boiling Springs, S.C. Owens served as a pit crew member on the NASCAR team owned by his father, Cotton Owens, throughout the 1960s and 70s. The team won the 1966 NASCAR Grand National championship. After many years with Aetna Insurance Co., he returned to work at his father's side until his subsequent retirement. He also was an avid golfer.

1973
Joseph H. “Joey” Blanton II, Aug. 24, 2022, Concord, N.C. Blanton spent most of his career specializing in commercial insurance at Blanton Insurers, the company founded by his father in Spartanburg, S.C. He worked with the U.S. Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program for 12 years, traveling domestically and internationally as Olympic Development Administrator for Region 5 (N.C. to Texas). He was active with the Rotary Club of Spartanburg and volunteered with Mobile Meals. He was a voracious reader, with a special interest in history and different cultures. He loved the mountains of North Carolina, his many cats and dogs and all things Wofford College.

1977
George Cameron Todd Jr., Aug. 30, 2022, Spartanburg, S.C. Todd was a partner in Alliance Wealth Partners at the time of his death. He was previously a financial advisor at Morgan Stanley and was first vice president at Bank of America. Todd, who gave of his time, talent and resources to the college and Spartanburg community over the years in a variety of capacities, served on the Terrier Club Board of Directors, the Alumni Association board and the Parents Advisory Council. He received the Distinguished Service Award from Wofford’s Athletics Hall of Fame in 2001 and was recognized as the Young Alumnus of the Year by the college's Alumni Association in 1993. In 1984, Todd and his wife, Sarah, established the G. Cameron Todd and Elizabeth C. Todd Endowed Scholarship at Wofford in honor of his parents. Awards are made annually to students planning to enter the field of business, with preference given to student-athletes. Memorials may be made to this fund.

1985
Stephen Terrell Jeter, Aug. 12, 2022, Richmond, Va. Jeter founded The Handlebar, a music club in Greenville, S.C., with his brother, John, in 1994. He worked in management and field positions at Frito-Lay, Pepperidge Farm and, since 2018, R.L. Schreiber in Richmond. He enjoyed CrossFit, pickleball and listening to music. He donated a kidney to his brother in 1984, and he called his sister, Sally Jeter Gregg, every Saturday morning.

2011
John Sherrod Bumgardner, Oct. 12, 2022, Lexington, S.C. A multitalented musician, Bumgardner was an exceptional drummer as well as a songwriter and vocal performer. In 2021, he wrote, composed and released a solo country music EP titled “A Heart Breaks Slow” as the artist JB Redbeard on major streaming platforms. He was an avid outdoorsman. He enjoyed scuba diving, earning advanced credentials and frequently exploring the state’s inland and oceanic underwater landscape. He also was a skilled hunter and particularly enjoyed bow hunting. He had a lifelong love of learning, particularly through traveling and experiencing new cultures, customs and geographies. He undertook postgraduate studies in Arabic at the University of Jordan. Bumgardner was an accomplished chef and a black belt in tae kwon do. One of his favorite joys in life was a good nap after a holiday meal.

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CHOOSING TO GIVE

Monique McDowell ’92

Monique McDowell is a senior attorney for Southern Company. She is highly involved in the Atlanta community, including with United Way of Greater Atlanta and the American Red Cross.

Q: You made your first gift of $50 to Wofford before graduation in 1992 to your class scholarship fund. Do you remember what motivated you to contribute?
A: Seniors were asked to donate their dorm room deposits instead of receiving a refund. It was an effortless way to support the class scholarship fund.

Q: You have continued to be loyal with gifts each year since graduation. What motivates your generosity?
A: My primary motivation for contributing to Wofford has not changed. It has always been the desire to give back to the college that provided me with a solid educational foundation, valuable experiences and fond memories.

Q: In 2016, you committed to establishing a named endowed fund at Wofford. What influenced you to do this, and how will the funds help a current student?
A: I was a Wofford Scholar and received endowed scholarships. One of the scholarships I received was named in honor of a family. I recall thinking it would be nice to give the same opportunity to a student by endowing a scholarship. Endowed funds increase access to Wofford by reducing financial obligations of students and their families. Establishing a Wofford endowed fund was a proud Terrier moment for me, and I look forward to hearing about the great things the scholarship recipients do in their lives and to seeing their names on the Wofford alumni donor roll.

Q: Do you have a favorite spot to visit when you're back on campus?
A: My favorite spots to visit when I’m on campus are Old Main (of course), Greene Hall, Carlisle Hall, which was called the “new dorm” back in 1991, and, embarrassingly, Krispy Kreme.

Q: You have served the college on the Alumni Association Board and the President’s Advisory Council. Can you talk a little about those roles and how they have strengthened your ties to Wofford?
A: It was an honor to serve as the first African American president of the Alumni Association Board, and I’m pleased that diverse alumni have continued to serve on and lead it. Membership on the Alumni Association Board and the President’s Advisory Council has made me more informed and enabled me to be consistently connected to Wofford. These roles keep members current on the college’s successes, initiatives and challenges and are a great way to share your talents and perspective with Wofford’s leaders.
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AVI Foodsystems Inc. welcomed Grace Sorrell ’23, a double major in humanities and sociology and anthropology from Rougemont, N.C.; Andrew Arends ’24, a finance major with a minor in film and digital media from St. Matthews, S.C.; Arnise Wright ’24, a biology major with a minor in sociology and anthropology from Goose Creek, S.C.; and Demir Degirmenci ’23, a finance major from Forest Hills, N.Y., into the kitchen in the Burwell Building for some holiday cookie decorating fun.