THANKS, RAs!
Each year resident assistants move in early for leadership training and orientation preparation. This group will support students all year by mentoring, listening, sharing advice and providing activities and educational programming.
I am always eager to welcome new Terriers to the college. In addition to new students and new families, this fall we also welcomed new faculty and academic staff. There are new faces across the disciplines, and the college hired its first director of academic advising and a new director for the Center of Education, Teaching and Learning.

Magic happens when you put those enthusiastic about teaching with those ready to learn. At Wofford, it’s an everyday magic that has been a part of the college’s culture since the first three faculty stood before the first seven students in 1854. As you’ll see in this Wofford Today, it’s a magic that now extends well beyond the walls of Main Building, where those first students lived, ate, took classes and met with professors.

While every student still takes classes in “Old Main,” students now also spend time learning from the banks of Lawson’s Fork Creek in Spartanburg and in the boardrooms and offices on Capitol Hill. They conduct research with faculty mentors on campus and complete internships abroad. They learn as they serve, lead, compete, perform, live in close quarters with others, and, yes, even when they make mistakes.

For the past decade, Prema and I have been on campus for all of it, and it has been our honor to serve this special place and the teachers and learners who, along with us, call Wofford home. As always, I invite you to visit the campus and experience the magic as well.

Go Terriers!

Nayef H. Samhat
11TH PRESIDENT OF WOFFORD COLLEGE
Where thought leads.
Spartanburg County is one of the fastest-growing counties in the country. Two teams of Wofford students, including Devon Taylor ’24, a chemistry major from LaGrange, Ga., conducted research to determine the impact of that growth on the area’s water quality. Thought led Dr. Amelia Atwell, visiting assistant professor of biology, and Dr. Johnathan Davis, assistant professor of biology, to apply for a research grant from Wofford’s Office of Undergraduate Research and Postgraduate Fellowships. The internal, grant-funded team measured the diversity of fish, crayfish and insects at different points along Lawson’s Fork Creek. They also checked pH levels and oxygen concentrations and discovered several species that indicate that the water quality remains good.
REMAINING AMONG THE BEST

Wofford College remains among the nation’s best colleges, according to The Princeton Review. The college was named to “The Best 389 Colleges” list. Wofford also was ranked No. 15 on Princeton’s list of the “Top 20 Best Alumni Networks” and No. 1 for Greek life. Photo of supportive graduate Emma Reaney ’20 speaking to a psychology class during the spring.

Read more online.

‘HARD COMES FIRST’

Men’s tennis coach Rod Ray is writing a book to be published in 2024. “Hard Comes First” will focus on lessons that Ray has learned as a coach and as the father of a child diagnosed with autism. The book’s website includes a blog where Ray shares stories of perseverance that inspire and support goal setting.

Read more online.

TENURE, PROMOTIONS AND NEW FACULTY

Wofford’s Board of Trustees approved tenure for three faculty members and promoted nine faculty at its spring meeting. Six retiring faculty received emeritus status. The college welcomed 10 tenure-track faculty and 12 visiting professors to begin the 2023-24 academic year. “Wofford College’s faculty are experts in their fields of study and always committed to our students,” says Dr. Timothy Schmitz, provost.

Read more online.

BROWN GIRLS READ SUMMER CAMP

Twenty-six girls between the ages of 10 and 14 spent a weekend at Wofford by participating in the Brown Girls Read Summer Camp. They wrote poetry with an English professor, conducted an experiment with a biology professor and created art with a professor in studio art. Four Wofford students also volunteered to support their stay on campus.

Read more online.
A TRAILBLAZER RETURNS

The Rev. Dr. Otis Turner arrived on Wofford’s campus in 1972 as the college’s first Black faculty member, but he never knew the impact he had during his five years at the college until he recently returned. Student researchers interviewed him about his life and place in Wofford history, and he was reunited with three former students.

Read more online.

THE JOY OF MAKING THINGS

Michael Webster, assistant professor of studio art, was one of nine artists selected as a 2023 State Fellow for Visual Arts through South Arts. South Arts aims to decentralize the art world by giving exposure to artists in the South. Webster won $10,000, and he has three pieces of art in a four-city traveling exhibit.

Read more online.

RADIO AND WWII

Dr. Mark Byrnes’ book “Radio and the Great Debate over U.S. Involvement in World War II” was published by Rowman & Littlefield, and it’s finding its way to college libraries across the United States. The book looks at the relationship between U.S. foreign policy and radio and how that time period shaped media coverage of political discourse.

Read more online.
Experience Wofford

Student-athletes on the women’s soccer team greeted the community and posed for pictures during Wofford Fan Fest. The team has a new head coach this season. Elissa Post, who served as an assistant for the past two seasons, was asked to lead the team in May. Post is the sixth head coach in Wofford women’s soccer history, which dates back to 1994.
WE’VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU

The Class of 2027 is getting acclimated to campus life after receiving a warm welcome beginning with move-in. They’re a record-setting class for the college, and each student brings something distinctive to the community.

“The Class of 2027 was selected from one of our largest and most competitive applicant pools in college history,” says Megan Tyler ’14, Wofford’s director of admission. “We are confident that they have what it takes to be successful at Wofford. They were chosen. Specifically selected. Hand-picked. Of the thousands of applications, the students who joined us this fall rose to the top.”
According to Tyler, the class of 511 students includes:

- 281 women and 230 men.
- 121 legacies.
- 129 student-athletes.
- 89 Pell Grant recipients.
- 76 first-generation college students.
- 70 Palmetto Fellows.

46% of the class is from outside of South Carolina.

The class represents 27 states and 11 countries, including New Zealand, Egypt, Sweden, Jamaica and Croatia.

Their high school accomplishments include:

- The class average GPA exceeds 4.0.
- 178 team captains, including one person who captained four teams.
- 77 were club presidents, including one who was president of four clubs.
- 27 editors of high school publications.
- 24 received Gold and Eagle Scout awards.
- Nine were student body presidents.
- Eight were valedictorians or salutatorians.
In addition, the Class of 2027 includes:

- A finalist from the women’s Croatian basketball league.
- A captain of the under-17 Egyptian national men’s basketball team.
- A tennis player ranked in the top 10 of players in the United Kingdom under 18 years old.
- The recipient of the top attorney award for the National High School Mock Trial Tournament.
- A member of the National Guard who recently completed boot camp.
- Someone who ziplined through the jungles of Belize during the summer.
- Someone who completed a 300-mile backpacking trip that spanned three states and took 19 days to complete.
- Several published writers.
- A chess player with an 1850 rating, which is better than 90% of all rated players.
- The founder of the first independent student film studio in the country who produced a documentary featured in three film festivals.
- A student who started a sneaker consignment business in eighth grade that generated over $12,000 in profits.
HOW DID WOFFORD WELCOME THE CLASS OF 2027?

The move-in swarm!
Students, staff and faculty cheer as families arrive on campus. They swarm the car, unload and tote everything into residence hall rooms.

Fun and games
Getting oriented into the campus community means field day, meeting faculty advisors, service projects, signing the honor pledge and plenty of time to meet friends.

Camp Greystone
First-year students load buses for the trip to Camp Greystone in Tuxedo, N.C., for a day of lakeside fun and gigantic T-bone steaks. (Thanks Gervais Hollowell ’83!)

Opening Convocation
André Caldwell ’05, corporate attorney with Boeing Co., in Oklahoma City, returns to Wofford as the Opening Convocation speaker to share his story. It’s the official start of the Class of 2027’s Wofford story.

Tolling of the bell
The college bell tolls for each first-year student during Orientation week. Next up is a toll for each graduate in the class on graduation day in 2027.

First 54
The first 54 days of the semester are devoted to engaging the Class of 2027 in the community. Departments and organizations across campus show how eager they are to support the college’s
During the opening session for the Class of 2027 on move-in day, Tyler spoke to the class and left them with these words:

“Four years from now, in 1,359 days, you’ll be preparing to cross the stage for your graduation.

“Just imagine what your list of accomplishments will look like four years from now:

+ Graduated with honors.
+ Inducted into Phi Beta Kappa.
+ Received a full scholarship to medical school.
+ Commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army.
+ Started your first day as an investment banking analyst.
+ Earned a scholarship to law school.
+ Pursuing a Ph.D. in medical physics.
+ Moved to Brandenburg, Germany, as a Fulbright English teacher.
+ Joined the staff at NBC in New York City.

“These are just a few accomplishments of our recent graduates.

“Wofford will open doors for you that you can’t even imagine. All you have to do is take advantage of the opportunities provided to you here.

“We’re excited for your arrival today ... not because of the things you’ve accomplished in your past, but for the great things we know are in store for you in your future here.

“So, here’s to the Wofford College Class of 2027! We’ve been waiting for you!”

---

**IF YOU’RE STARTING YOUR COLLEGE SEARCH**

**Things to consider when choosing a college**

Choosing a college is a significant milestone in a student’s life. It marks the start of a transformative journey that will shape their academic, personal and professional future. The process, however, can be overwhelming.

Megan Tyler ’14, Wofford’s director of admission, has a few tips to help students and their families as they begin their search.

**Focus on your fit**

Many colleges share the same overarching goals and offer similar academic programs, co-curricular experiences and opportunities for students to be involved. The primary differentiating factor between colleges is often the campus community. Focus on finding a community that will support you and your goals.

**Visit different types of colleges**

Often learning what you dislike is just as helpful as learning what you do like. Visit both large and small institutions. Use your college visits to gain insight into what you can expect as a student.

**Build a balanced college list**

Applying to a couple of highly selective institutions is great, but highly selective colleges shouldn’t be the only colleges on your list. Your list should also include colleges where your academic profile is similar to the mid-50th percentile of admitted students. Finally, make sure to submit your application to at least one college where your academic profile is above the mid-50th percentile.
Where you attend college doesn’t determine who you’ll be

Your college experience is what you choose to make it. Your acceptance to a prestigious institution doesn’t guarantee your success after graduation. Your effort and execution do. Wherever you end up, invest fully in your college experience and embrace the opportunities provided to you.

Cost and Financial Aid

We know cost is a significant factor for many families in making a college decision. 99% of Wofford’s Class of 2027 received some form of financial aid, and the average financial aid package exceeded $45,000. To be considered for all forms of Wofford funding, we ask students to complete the FAFSA (free application for federal student aid). Even though families may not qualify for federal aid, there is a high likelihood they will qualify for Wofford grant funding. 83% of admitted students who completed the FAFSA last year received a Wofford College grant.

Schedule a Wofford visit

We want you to give Wofford a try. Come visit! Schedule a campus tour at wofford.edu/admission.
MEET SOME MEMBERS
OF THE CLASS OF 2027

AVERY ABRAM '27

Hometown: Atlanta, Ga.
Planned major: Finance with a minor in education
Why Wofford?
I chose Wofford because of the warm, welcoming environment and priority put on student-teacher relationships.

What have you read, watched or listened to that's impacting your worldview?
Like most people my age, I see lots of exaggerated, biased news on TikTok. Rather than feeding into the spread of that news, I try my best to surround myself with people of varying viewpoints and opinions as opposed to only seeing the world from one side of the political spectrum. I also try to read as much as possible from varying sources.

ESSIE CORBETT '27

Hometown: Raleigh, N.C.
Planned major: Biology and chemistry, with lots of classes across disciplines
Why Wofford?
I thrive in an environment that is supportive and collaborative. I look forward to the many unique opportunities that create a cohesive Wofford community, including Interims and living on campus all four years.

Who inspires you?
My teachers inspire me to learn in every way. Relationships with my teachers have always been important to me because they push me to listen to my peers, ask questions and expand my scope of learning. My family pushes me to be my best, seek out the good and take time for myself.

GRAYSON GREGG '27

Hometown: Mount Pleasant, S.C.
Planned major: Biology and Spanish with a minor in finance
Why Wofford?
During winter break in seventh grade, I visited my dad’s side of the family in Florence, S.C. After Christmas, we were getting ready to go home, and we stopped by a Starbucks. There was a deluge of customers, so I held the door for them. An older customer approached me and asked why I was holding the door for everyone else. When I told him I didn’t know, I guess it was just the way I was raised, he seemed impressed and invited me to have coffee with him while I waited for my parents. He told me all about Wofford, his alma mater, and that it is filled with people with a substance of character similar to mine, and that I should consider attending. Later, I applied, and ended up getting a full scholarship on merit, along with a preferred walk-on offer to play on the football team.

Who inspires you?
My grandfather was one of the first Black teachers at his school in Charleston, S.C. He taught both Black and white students, and through his skill and passion for his profession, earned the respect of his students and their parents, regardless of race. He also helped found the Mount Pleasant historical commission, and he was the creator of Mount Pleasant’s Black History Month program. I, however, am not only proud of and inspired by his accomplishments, but also because of his strong character. His willingness to do whatever he could for his family, raising my mom and her two siblings together with his wife, while also remaining a dedicated servant to his community is something that I have learned to appreciate and aspire to emulate in my own life.
JOSEPH KHALIL '27

Hometown: Inman, S.C.
Planned major: Government

Why Wofford?
Wofford has a rigorous academic program. I will be able to immerse myself in different experiences whether that be studying abroad or interning at a local office. I am confident that I will be prepared for my future endeavors. Additionally, its close-knit community is unmatched.

What have you read, watched or listened to that's impacting your worldview?
Recently, I watched “A Bronx Tale” directed by Robert De Niro. In just two hours, the film has taught me a lifetime of lessons concerning economic struggle, the destructive impact of racial prejudices and the role of family in society. Also, I must mention “Amusing Ourselves to Death” by Neil Postman. Though written in 1985, the book’s themes of how entertainment has diluted modern discourse, politics and journalism remain relevant to this day.

JOEY KISH '27

Hometown: Pottstown, Pa.
Planned major: Accounting, economics and finance

Why Wofford?
The people — both students and faculty — were so warm and welcoming when I visited campus several times for interviews. When I walked onto campus for the first time I instantly felt at home, and I cannot say that about any other college I toured (and I went on probably 20 tours). I also felt that the programs and professors for my major were going to greatly help me achieve my goal of becoming a sports agent in the future!

What have you read, watched or listened to that's impacting your worldview?
The YouTube channel “Yes Theory” is a group of guys that capture their experience seeking discomfort in many ways throughout the world. Whether it be spontaneously deciding to travel to a random place that a stranger decides, to hammocking in between cliffs in the Grand Canyon, they really preach the fact that some of the best moments in a person’s life occur when outside of their comfort zone. I really appreciate that message and think that it applies to how humans set goals and live their lives in general.

ASHLEIGH SIMMONS '27

Hometown: Clover, S.C.
Planned major: Government, business minor, pre-law

Why Wofford?
I chose Wofford because of the close-knit community. I also wanted to go somewhere where I could receive a high-quality education and achieve close connections with all of my professors.

Who inspires you?
My parents inspire me the most and have the biggest impact on my life. They encourage and support me to achieve my goals while also teaching me valuable life lessons. They have sacrificed a lot for my sister and me, which motivates me to work hard in both school and sports.

What have you read, watched or listened to that’s impacting your worldview?
I recently watched a documentary called “The Social Dilemma” that highlighted the impacts of the increased use of technology and some of the hazards that come along with it. Social media has one of the biggest impacts today causing a change in the way people communicate and view each other. Although social media has allowed for easy communication and access to things we like, it has affected the way we communicate with other people. Although technology has done wonderful things that were once thought impossible, it has forever changed the way people communicate with each other due to the decrease in interpersonal relationships.
When Shawn Watson was selected to build the future of Wofford College football, one of the first things he did was turn to the past. He shared letters from former Terriers with the current group of student-athletes — letters that talked about how the Wofford experience helped shape them as husbands, fathers and leaders.
“The kids we recruit and their parents are looking for a quality education that will prepare them for real life, for when football ends,” says Watson. “In addition to chasing championships and being a program of excellence, our focus is on developing the total human being. I’m into that piece. That’s what I believe the college experience is supposed to be about.”
Early one Monday morning in July, members of the Wofford College football team packed the media room in Jerry Richardson Indoor Stadium for conditioning.

This wasn’t lifting weights and running — that came earlier. These exercises were about getting the Terriers mentally ready for the rigors of the season.

Erin Wolfe ’21, who played soccer while at Wofford, stood in the front of the room. Wolfe, who is pursuing master’s degrees in clinical mental health and athletic counseling at Springfield College in Springfield, Mass., approached Wofford about leading the program over the summer.

“I’m using my student-athlete background along with my education to teach the football team strategies to improve mental performance and wellness on the field and in the classroom,” Wolfe says.

On this Monday, Wolfe led a session on having confidence in yourself and your teammates and how to keep one bad play from turning into an avalanche. Other sessions focused on leadership, communication, emotion regulation and self-care.

The workshop themes were created based on topics selected by the football team’s leadership council. Wolfe said she drew from her own experience in crafting the biweekly sessions.

“I found that there’s a lot of pressure on student-athletes because Wofford is so academically demanding,” Wolfe says. “There wasn’t a lot of help because people didn’t understand the grind. You can’t really understand it until you’re in it.”

Wofford head coach Shawn Watson says the sessions with Wolfe are just another way for the college to invest in its student-athletes.

“We recognize the need to inform our team regarding mental health and well-being, and we also have the responsibility to teach them practical ways to mentally perform at their best,” Watson says. “Erin has done an exceptional job of equipping our players with information and mental tools that will allow them to thrive while being challenged as student-athletes.”

Cade Rice ’25, a quarterback and a finance major from Dayton, Ohio, says the sessions have helped players develop strategies to overcome the common challenges they face.

“People sharing their own experiences and getting to pick their brains a little bit and seeing what everyone else has to say really helps,” Rice says.

Cam Woolery ’24, a defensive lineman and a business economics major from Chicago, Ill., says Wolfe’s work is giving the Terriers an extra edge as they head into the season.

“It’s already paying dividends in the weight room,” he says. “We just have to practice what we’ve learned daily, get in the habit of building up the tools she’s given us and apply them to the field.”

Erin Wolfe ’21 helped Terriers with mental aspects of being a student-athlete

Wofford head coach Shawn Watson says the sessions with Wolfe are just another way for the college to invest in its student-athletes.

“We recognize the need to inform our team regarding mental health and well-being, and we also have the responsibility to teach them practical ways to mentally perform at their best,” Watson says. “Erin has done an exceptional job of equipping our players with information and mental tools that will allow them to thrive while being challenged as student-athletes.”

Cade Rice ’25, a quarterback and a finance major from Dayton, Ohio, says the sessions have helped players develop strategies to overcome the common challenges they face.

“People sharing their own experiences and getting to pick their brains a little bit and seeing what everyone else has to say really helps,” Rice says.

Cam Woolery ’24, a defensive lineman and a business economics major from Chicago, Ill., says Wolfe’s work is giving the Terriers an extra edge as they head into the season.

“It’s already paying dividends in the weight room,” he says. “We just have to practice what we’ve learned daily, get in the habit of building up the tools she’s given us and apply them to the field.”

Erin Wolfe ’21 relied on her experience as a Wofford student-athlete to lead the football team in mental conditioning exercises during the summer.
Leading by Example

Community service a point of emphasis for Terriers

One of the Wofford College football team’s most important drives last year came after the season.

Players placed barrels at various spots across campus during the spring semester and asked for donations of clothing. Players would empty the barrels each week and take the donations to Miracle Hill Rescue Mission to be distributed to individuals who are homeless or come to the mission for support.

“Spartanburg and Wofford are important to us, and we wanted to take care of the community,” says running back Kyle Parsons ’26, a philosophy major from Weddington, N.C. “People were eager to help. We’d empty the buckets every week, and two days later they would be full again.”

The clothing drive was just one of the community service projects the team launched after Shawn Watson was hired as head coach in December 2022. Players also volunteered at Project Hope, a nonprofit organization that provides services to children and adults with autism.

“I’m going into my senior year, and throughout my time here we hadn’t really been involved in that much community service as a program,” says wide receiver Garrett Vernon ’24, a finance major from Elkin, N.C. “Once Coach Watson took over, we met with community leaders and talked about needs. We wanted to be better leaders and to be a lighthouse for Wofford.”

Watson says he doesn’t want to just teach the players about football. He wants them to learn to be givers instead of takers.

“The world today sells take, take, take and get as much as you can,” Watson says. “I don’t want that message. I want our student-athletes to be servant leaders.”

To fulfill that mission, Watson turned to a familiar face, running backs coach Senorise Perry, who played for Watson at the University of Louisville. Serving as a community liaison is a role Perry has embraced.

“You’ve got to serve before you can become a leader,” Perry says. “Everything doesn’t always go in your favor. Sometimes you have to be grateful for what you have. When the players go to Miracle Hill or Project Hope and see things like that, it gives them a sense of urgency to do more. And there’s always more you can do to help others.”

The clothing drive will continue this year, and the players will be back volunteering with Project Hope. And that’s just the beginning, Vernon says.

“We’re going to have more projects in the future,” he says. “We’re still brainstorming, but we’ve got some good stuff coming.”

The team made weekly clothing pick ups on campus and deliveries to Miracle Hill Rescue Mission. Above are Kyle Parsons ’26, Garrett Vernon ’24 and coach Senorise Perry who came to Wofford in January after a career in the NFL.
MEET SOME STUDENT-ATHLETES:

**AMIR ANNOOR** DB #13

*Year:* Junior  
*Hometown:* Nashville, Tenn.  
*Major:* Finance  
*Extra points:* Annoor plans to be a financial advisor after graduation, either on his own or as part of a firm.

**ANTHONY GARCIA** OL #50

*Year:* Senior  
*Hometown:* Leavenworth, Kan.  
*Major:* Philosophy  
*Extra points:* Garcia spent the summer working on himself, training and preparing for the season. He plans to pursue his real estate license after graduating, although he’s contemplating playing a fifth season.

**TAYVIAN GASS** OL #64

*Year:* Fifth year  
*Hometown:* Sumter, S.C.  
*Major:* Government  
*Extra points:* Gass spent the summer hanging out with his daughter, who was born Dec. 30, 2022. He says he came back for a fifth year to fulfill a promise he made when Shawn Watson was hired as head coach. He plans to work for state House Speaker Murrell Smith Jr. ’90 and start law school next fall.

**GABRIEL HARRIS** DB #19

*Year:* Sophomore  
*Hometown:* Sumter, S.C.  
*Major:* Biology  
*Extra points:* Harris interned at the Goodall Center for Environmental Studies at Glendale and a law firm over the summer. He’ll go to graduate school or law school after finishing Wofford.

**ALEC HOLT** WR #11

*Year:* Senior  
*Hometown:* Jacksonville, Fla.  
*Major:* Business economics  
*Extra points:* Holt did a summer internship with the owner of a physical therapy company to observe how he manages the business. He doesn’t know what he’ll do after graduating, but says it will be fun. “I’ll find something I enjoy doing. The goal is to live life to the fullest,” he says.
BRIDGER JONES K #38
Year: Sophomore
Hometown: Columbus, Ga.
Majors: Accounting and finance
Extra points: Jones worked with a land contractor in his hometown over the summer. After graduating, he hopes to open his own financial advisement firm for professional athletes who are new to the business.

HARRISON MORGAN LB #10
Year: Senior
Hometown: Easley, S.C.
Major: Business economics
Extra points: Morgan is looking forward to sharing the field with his brother, Nick Morgan ’26, also a linebacker. “I love having my brother on the team. I can’t wait to make plays with him,” he says.

DAVID POWERS LB #34
Year: Junior
Hometown: El Paso, Texas
Major: Finance
Extra points: Powers plans to enter the transfer portal after graduation to pursue a master’s degree in his fifth season of eligibility.

JACOB RITCHIE TE #89
Year: Junior
Hometown: St. Johns, Fla.
Major: Business economics
Extra points: Ritchie worked with Wofford’s athletics marketing team over the summer. He is considering graduate school after Wofford and hopes to join an NFL team working as a scout.

CHUCK SMITH IV DL #97
Year: Senior
Hometown: Suwanee, Ga.
Major: Sociology and anthropology
Extra points: Smith wants to follow in the footsteps of his father, Chuck Smith III, who played in the NFL for nine seasons. After he’s done with football, he wants a career in sales or sports marketing.
Without question, Wofford’s academic program is rigorous, and that rigor has been a foundation of the college since 1854. Internships, research experiences, work, study away and community-based learning — ways to extend the educational experience — have also become a tradition. Enjoy these stories of students who committed to a summer of experiential learning and how they’re putting themselves in a position for long-term success.

“IT’S VITAL THAT WE CONTINUE TO EDUCATE OURSELVES AND OTHERS AND CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR THE THINGS THAT WE BELIEVE IN. MY BIGGEST TAKEAWAY FROM THIS SUMMER WAS THAT OUR VOICES TRULY DO MATTER.”
This summer, 10 Wofford students gained experience and connections in Washington, D.C., that will give them an advantage when they enter the job market after graduation.

**Alex Horn ’25** better understands what it means to work in a fast-paced, global firm.

**Sarah Greenlee ’24** and **Dalton Perry ’25** learned about the interplay between government, corporate and nonprofit sectors and how they all have a role in ensuring the protection of vulnerable populations.

**Ben Kendall ’25** dedicated his summer to monitoring and researching the progress of bills through Congress while analyzing data in support of underfunded rural hospitals.

**Austin Givens ’24** learned to challenge common misconceptions regarding employee-funded political action committees.

**Madi Fike ’24** and **Lily Butler ’25** learned that the opportunity matters more than the work, and every day is a chance to practice communications, critical thinking and diplomacy skills.

**Ethan Cornell ’24** and **Mallory Cass ’25** enjoyed stepping out of their comfort zones to navigate the capital city, take classes at a large university and experience work in an entirely new environment.

**Simrin Channa ’25** arrived for her internship in Washington, D.C., at the start of Hospice Action Week on Capitol Hill. From the beginning, she was a part of important conversations surrounding hospice and palliative care policies, regulations and funding. The rest of the summer involved work on the marketing and communications team for the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization.

“My experience in D.C. brought to light the fact that our generation will be the leaders of our country one day,” says Channa. “It’s vital that we continue to educate ourselves and others and continue to fight for the things that we believe in. My biggest takeaway from this summer was that our voices truly do matter.”
These experiences are the point of a summer internship program available to Wofford students through The Fund for American Studies. The experience is costly, and Paul Atkins ‘81, former commissioner of the Securities and Exchange Commission and founder and chief executive officer of Patomak Global Partners, made a gift to the college to make the internships possible for all 10 Wofford students.

“New college graduates may have great credentials and skills, but they all have to start at the lowest levels unless they have prior experience,” says Atkins. “Opportunities like this give our students a leg up.”

While in Washington, D.C., the TFAS interns also participate in a variety of lectures, briefings and networking events. Students participating in the program leave Washington with more than 250 hours of professional experience.

According to Dr. David Alvis, associate professor of government and advisor to the Washington, D.C. summer interns, students should walk away with extensive networks and connections as well as an understanding of how our government works.

“We’ve had success with a past Washington internship program during Interim, but that was for three weeks. This program takes most of the summer and covers all expenses — the internships, housing, a stipend to cover meals and a course either on economics or the presidency,” says Alvis. “Students also take a linked course at Wofford, and we bring in guest speakers to give advice on living and working in D.C. We want our students to make the most of their experience.”

Greenlee was on the South Asia Research team for her internship with Free the Slaves, an organization devoted to ending human trafficking and modern slavery. She learned from both her successes and her moments of uncertainty.

“Every moment in D.C. felt like a learning experience,” says Greenlee. “Beyond my internship, it is worth noting other experiences such as navigating (and subsequently getting lost) in the Senate office buildings while searching for a lecture, popping into a Smithsonian on my lunch break or simply debating public policy with my colleagues. D.C. is full of opportunity and meaningful exchange.”

Part of the reason Atkins supported the experience for Greenlee, Channa and the other TFAS interns is because of the transformational internships he had as a Wofford student. He also says having interns is good for business.

“Interns are good for Patomak,” says Atkins, who looks for motivated students from a wide range of majors. “We try to give them a good taste of what it’s like to work here, and we get a lot out of them. A good internship program is a recruiting tool, plus having young folks around livens up the office.”

Alvis says Atkins is being humble. “If you follow the world of financial regulation, Patomak’s team reads like a Who’s Who list. He’s taken on several Wofford interns and given them an introduction into the highest levels of finance and government. He has been generous with his time, resources and connections, and our students are the beneficiaries.”

MORE ABOUT THE STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN TFAS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

LILY BUTLER ’25 completed an internship with Parents Defending Education. She’s a government major from North Augusta, S.C. She has served on Campus Union and is involved in the Edward K. Hardin Pre-Law Society, the Admission Ambassador program and Kappa Delta sorority.

MALLORY CASS ’25, a finance and government major from Dunedin, Fla., interned with the National Automatic Merchandising Association. She is a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority and has completed other internships in the legal field.

SIMRIN CHANNA ’25 spent the summer in a marketing and communications internship with the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. She’s a finance and international affairs double major from Boiling Springs, S.C. She’s also on Campus Union and is a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority.
ETHAN CORNELL ’24, an environmental studies and international affairs double major from Greer, S.C., interned with U.S. Rep. William Timmons’ office during the first half of the summer and the Washington Council of Lawyers during the second half. Heavily involved in pre-law preparation at Wofford, he is a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

MADI FIKE ’24 interned with U.S. Rep. Ralph Norman’s office. The government major from New Smyrna Beach, Fla., is a member of Campus Union and the Edward K. Hardin Pre-Law Society and serves as president of the National Political Science Honor Society. She is a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority and Wofford Live.

AUSTIN GIVENS ’24, an English and government double major from Mount Pleasant, S.C., interned with the National Association of Business Political Action Committees. She’s a member of Campus Union and Zeta Tau Alpha sorority.

SARAH GREENLEE ’24 worked as an intern with Free the Slaves. She’s an international affairs and Spanish double major with a minor in government from Myrtle Beach, S.C. She’s on Orientation staff and is an Admission Ambassador and a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority.

ALEX HORN ’24 is a government and finance major from Lexington, Ky. A member of the student-managed James-Atkins Investment Fund, Orientation staff, the Edward K. Hardin Pre-Law Society and the men’s tennis team, he interned with Patomak Global Partners.

BEN KENDALL ’25 worked for The Picard Group, a lobbying firm. He’s a government major from Fairhope, Ala., and a member of Kappa Alpha Order, the Honor Council and the Edward K. Hardin Pre-Law Society.

DALTON PERRY ’25 interned with the National Disability Rights Network. He’s a government major with an international affairs and history minor from Chapin, S.C. Perry is vice president of the Edward K. Hardin Pre-Law Society and a member of Campus Union and Sigma Nu fraternity. He also has interned with U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn and served as a courier for several law firms.
A MORE COMPLETE HISTORY
LILLY ENDOWMENT GRANT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO A MORE INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONAL HISTORY

By Dudley Brown

Five Wofford College students spent the summer filling a void in the college’s recorded history, and their research will contribute to ongoing campus conversations.

The students collected stories from Black alumni, primarily from the late 1960s through the early 1980s, as the first part of a research project organized by the college’s Office for Civil Rights, Compliance and Community Initiatives.

The Wofford project is one of 18 receiving “Reframing Institutional Saga” funding through the Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE), which is supported by the Lilly Endowment. Projects funded through the NetVUE grants are charged with updating the history and missions of institutions based on today’s context.

“This is the first of what we hope will be several projects to fill gaps in our institutional history,” says Dr. Dwain Pruitt ’95, the college’s chief equity officer and vice president for community initiatives. “We want to bring more people into the college’s narrative.”

Pruitt, a historian, says the college’s archives document the arrival and graduation of Wofford’s first Black students, Al Gray ’71 and Doug Jones ’69, but there’s little else offering insight on the historical Black experience on campus.

“In America, we are addicted to stories with heroes and happy endings,” Pruitt says. “In our history, we have the civil rights struggle and then there’s Martin Luther King Jr. as the hero who solved the problem of racism. That’s not how history works. Civil
rights struggles are ongoing. Just because you have a victory on Sunday doesn’t mean you don’t struggle on Monday. The battle doesn’t stop in one day.”

Interviews with Black graduates from 1989 to the present will be conducted during the 2023-24 academic year and during summer 2024. A history of Wofford’s Black students, faculty and staff will be published in fall 2024 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Wofford’s desegregation.

Gwendolyn Prince-Lawrence ’73
Albert Gray ’71
Janice Means ’73

Pruitt says recording the stories of Black alumni can help the college community gain a more complete understanding of its history and offer insight into today’s campus culture. The students spent 10 weeks focused on the project. They began the summer reading books and articles documenting the college’s history beginning in 1964, when Gray arrived on campus. Pruitt says he challenged the students to identify gaps in the integration narrative and to think through interview questions for alumni. The students learned how to record oral history, ask questions and fact check while experiencing the art of storytelling and communicating ideas effectively.
“This project is community driven, and I’m looking forward to meeting alumni who look like me,” says student researcher Da’Juan Green ’24, a business economics major from Spartanburg, S.C. “I also expect the satisfaction of knowing I made a little contribution to making the college’s history more inclusive.”

In addition to Green, the project’s student researchers were Daniel Brasington ’25, an economics major from Woodruff, S.C.; Dani Emmen ’26, a sociology and anthropology major from Conway, S.C.; Zion Sampson ’26, a biology major from Aiken, S.C.; and Laila Villeda ’26, an undecided major from Cumming, Ga.

Alumni interested in participating in the project are invited to contact Pruitt by email at pruittdc@wofford.edu or by calling 864-597-4046 to schedule an interview. Arrangements can be made to interview people through teleconferencing services if alumni live outside of Spartanburg. Plans also are being made to collect stories during Homecoming and other events when alumni return to campus. Alumni are encouraged to donate photos, memorabilia and publications for the college’s archives or loan materials that can be scanned.

GOING UP

NADIA FERGUSON ’25 GIVES WINNING ‘ELEVATOR PITCH’ ON RESEARCH PROJECT

By Robert W. Dalton

Nadia Ferguson ’25 didn’t have the opportunity to work on a research project after her first year at Wofford College. She made up for it in a big way this summer.

Ferguson, a chemistry major on the pre-med track from Spartanburg, S.C., won the top prize for best overall project presentation in a competition at Furman University. She beat out 14 other students in a competition to give the best “elevator pitch” about their research.

“The goal was to tell why you wanted to do the research, what you gained from it and then what your research was about in under two minutes,” Ferguson says. “Public speaking is not my forte. I prepped in front of the mirror and by reading to myself. I was really surprised when they called my name as the overall winner. There were some really good presentations.”

The goal of Ferguson’s research was to enhance a poloxamer in hopes of developing a treatment to help reduce the side effects of radiation therapy. Dr. Robert Harris ’09, assistant

Nadia Ferguson ’25 was injured in a car accident on May 1, 2022, and didn’t have the opportunity to do summer research last year. She made up for it this year, taking the top prize in a competition at Furman University.
professor of chemistry, was her faculty collaborator and mentor. She plans to continue the research in the spring.

Last summer, Ferguson’s focus was on recovery rather than research. She was seriously injured in an automobile accident on May 1, 2022.

“I got t-boned,” she says. “I was in the hospital for a bit and in a wheelchair for three months.”

Ferguson’s experience this summer helped solidify her plan for her future. She wants to attend medical school to become an OB-GYN.

“I wanted to get closer to research because I was on the fence about what I wanted to do,” she says. “Doing this helped me decide that I don’t want to work in a laboratory; I want to be in a clinical field.”

She plans to specialize in minority maternal health. It’s something she’s wanted to do since watching a documentary on the maternal fatality rate among Black women when she was in seventh grade.

“Black women have a higher fatality rate,” she says. “You have to look at the past — how your mother or grandmother gave birth — to help the present. I want to have a hands-on role in making a positive change.”
By Dudley Brown

Wofford College proudly touts that 98% of its graduates report a positive career outcome, and the college always seeks to learn more about its alumni and what contributes to their success.

According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers, a positive career outcome is when a graduate is employed, enrolled in a postgraduate program, serving in the military, interning, volunteering or on a career path within six months of graduation.

“It’s a super good snapshot and benchmark,” says Curt McPhail ’96, executive director of Wofford’s Career Center in the Mungo Exchange.

Wofford collects information on graduates and their first destinations by asking seniors to participate in the college’s First Destination Survey in the spring leading up to Commencement and throughout their first summer after graduation.

The Career Center receives updates on more than 95% of each class through survey participation and from faculty and staff eager to share the accomplishments of graduates.

“Because of Wofford’s tight-knit community, we often find almost every single graduate to understand what they’re doing,” says McPhail.

In addition to collecting the whereabouts of graduates, the survey asks questions about satisfaction. All respondents from the Class of 2022 said they were happy with their career outcome within their first six months of graduation. A report on the Class of 2023’s survey results will be complete by the end of the year.

The Career Center and the Office of the Chaplain have partnered to take a closer look at vocation thanks to a Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE) grant, which will help faculty and staff grow in their understanding of vocation across the academy. The college is also participating in the Association of American Colleges & Universities Curriculum-to-Career Innovations Institute, another resource that will allow Wofford to be even more intentional in linking student learning to career preparedness.

The grant will support four years of research into the college’s career outcomes.

“We have in our mission of the college that we prepare students for extraordinary and positive contributions to a global society,” says the Rev. Dr. Ron Robinson ’78, Perkins-Prothro Chaplain and Professor of Religion. “We like to think of graduates as being whole, multidimensional people who are kind and compassionate and finding a way to live their positive values in whatever they do.”

Robinson likes framing the discussion around understanding jobs, careers and vocations. He says a job is often what many people will experience early in life.
when there’s a need to simply make money to live. Eventually, their skills and experiences make it possible to have a career. Vocations are born out of passions and commitments.

“The vocation can come from our inner voices, gifts and talents,” Robinson says. “Our family and friends or, in my case, faith community can help us figure out what we’re called to.”

McPhail says one of the college’s responsibilities is to help students recognize the need to keep learning and building on the education they experienced in college.

“Our job is to get folks ready for life after Wofford,” McPhail says. “It’s not just about getting a job but approaching that first job with a ‘what can I learn attitude’ and having the skills to get the next job and the next one after that.”

A LOOK AT SOME FIRST DESTINATIONS FOR THE CLASS OF 2023

DAHLIA CUTLER
Psychology major
First destination: Pursuing a master’s in sport and performance psychology at the University of Denver.
How did Wofford prepare you? I was a student-athlete, and track and field was just as important to me as my education. I learned just how important mental health is in both places and just how much of an impact support from friends, professors and coaches can have on the big things in life but also on the everyday stressors.

THOMAS CUTTINO
Government major
First destination: Cuttino is spending the fall studying for CPA exams. In January he begins work for Deloitte in New York City as a risk and financial advisory analyst.
How did Wofford prepare you? Wofford’s preparation was primarily twofold: academic and social. Academically rigorous coursework and challenging material over a four-year period equipped me to retain difficult material at a high volume and pace, reflective largely of that in the professional world. Socially, proximity to Wofford’s faculty, staff and alumni network thanks to the small size of the college served as a pillar for navigating my career path and future endeavors. Without the ability to foster these close relationships with insightful and knowledgeable individuals, my experience at Wofford would have been markedly different.
What campus opportunities and services do you encourage Terriers to take advantage of when preparing for life after college? Leadership positions and organizational membership were an integral piece of my time at Wofford. Being involved was vital to my student experience. Contributing to a given cause will have an incalculable impact both in your time as a student and in the furtherance of your goals, personally and professionally.

GRADUATE SCHOOL FIRST DESTINATIONS AVERAGED OVER THE PAST 5 YEARS (2018-22)

- Health care (22%)
- Accounting (15%)
- Law (15%)
- Counseling/social work (12%)
- Business (MBA, management) (12%)
- Other (12%)
- STEM studies (7%)
- Education (5%)
- Divinity (2%)

NOTEWORTHY:
The most frequently attended graduate schools over the past five years are:
University of South Carolina
Wake Forest University
Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston
Clemson University
Converse University
The Citadel
The Ohio State University
Xavier University

Over the past five years, 33% of the graduating class have pursued graduate studies as a first destination.
LILLY HATTON
Biology major
First destination: Hatton is a first-year medical student at the Indiana University School of Medicine.
How did Wofford prepare you? My Wofford science courses taught me the foundational content needed to gain acceptance into medical school, but Wofford also taught me the value of human connection and community. Medical school is academically rigorous, and my time at Wofford taught me how to build community and support my peers at any stage in my educational journey.

OLIVIA HUGHES
Biology major
First destination: Pursuing a master’s degree in marine biology at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and playing Division I soccer for the Islanders.
What campus opportunities and services do you encourage Terriers to take advantage of when preparing for life after college? Take at least one Interim abroad if possible. I traveled to Bonaire with Dr. Dave Kusher and obtained my advanced scuba diving certification, which is a huge advantage in my field. It was also my first trip out of the United States, and it was amazing to experience a different country and culture.

NICHOLAS JACOBS
Environmental studies major, emphasis in data science
First destination: Pursuing a Ph.D. in ecology and evolutionary biology at Tulane University, New Orleans.
How did Wofford prepare you? The faculty, and especially my advisor, are a big reason that I understood and achieved my goals of being accepted into an ecology doctoral program. Wofford introduced me to concepts such as REUs (Research Experiences for Undergraduates, funded through the National Science Foundation), coding in R and more during my undergrad that helped my name stand out throughout the application process.

SOLANA ROSTICK
Art History major
First destination: Pursuing a master’s degree in museum studies and a certificate in curatorial studies from the University of Florida.
What campus opportunities and services do you encourage Terriers to take advantage of when preparing for life after college? Take advantage of the Student Success Center. Dr. James Stukes and Dr. Boyce Lawton were the heroes of my acclimation to college. I left my home in Tampa, Fla., to receive the gift of a Wofford education. I was a Gateway Scholar. My parents never worried about me because I had such an incredibly reliable support system from day one — a surrogate family of sorts.
More Class of 2023 first destinations

NICK ACKARD  
Finance and humanities double major  
**First destination:** Ackard is on the marketing and sales team for Omatic, a Charleston, S.C.-based tech company that works with nonprofits to help make fundraising more efficient and impactful.

PAOLA CRUZ  
Sociology and anthropology and Spanish double major  
**First destination:** Cruz is enrolled in New York University’s songwriting and music composition master’s program.

GIBSON DOWD  
Psychology major, sociology and anthropology minor, neuroscience concentration  
**First destination:** Dowd is pursuing a Ph.D. at the University of Iowa’s College of Pharmaceutical Science. He’s in the drug discovery and experimental therapeutics program.

ELLIE FLETCHER  
Biology major, music minor  
**First destination:** She is working in health care with plans to become a physician assistant.

ISAIAH FRANCO  
Spanish and international affairs double major  
**First destination:** Franco is pursuing a master’s degree in environmental social sciences at The Ohio State University.

RYAN GALANIE  
Computer Science and Spanish double major  
**First destination:** Playing professional baseball with the Chicago White Sox.

ALEX GREEN  
Finance major, French minor  
**First destination:** Working as a financial analyst for Live Oak Bank in Wilmington, N.C.

**FIRST DESTINATIONS BETWEEN 2018-22**

**NOTEWORTHY:**
Wofford’s career outcomes rate has consistently been 98% or higher for the past five years. That means almost all graduates are employed, in graduate school, serving in the military or as a volunteer, or taking a gap year in preparation for a professional path.
**CALLIE HENLINE**
Government and sociology and anthropology double major
**First destination:** An intern with Spartanburg Housing, Henline plans to pursue a master's degree in social work.

**GRACIE MALCOMB**
English and humanities double major
**First destination:** Part of the Winston-Salem Fellows Program, Malcomb is working for Habitat for Humanity in the communications and marketing department.

**KINSLEY MARSH**
Biology major, mathematics minor
**First destination:** Pursuing a master's degree in genetic counseling (part of the inaugural class) at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston.

**CHANDLER MCMILLAN**
Biology and English double major
**First destination:** He is working in the medical field before continuing his education in medical school.

**JOANNA MILLER**
English major, Arabic and religion minors
**First destination:** Attending Simmons University in Boston, Mass., in pursuit of a master's degree in library science and archives management.

**MCKENZIE NORMAN**
Government major
**First destination:** Commissioned as a second lieutenant and serving on active duty with the U.S. Army at Ft. Gregg-Adams, Va. She soon will be stationed at Ft. Bliss, Texas.

**KELLY PERSON**
Psychology and Spanish double major
**First destination:** Person is working with Teach for America in New York City.

**CAEDYN PORZIO**
History major
**First Destination:** Attending Washington and Lee University School of Law.

**HAMPTON RANDALL**
Environmental studies major, pre-ministry program
**First destination:** Pursuing a master's degree in divinity at Vanderbilt Divinity School.

**JOHN MARTIN REED**
International affairs major
**First destination:** Commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army, he is an armor officer at Fort Moore, Ga.

**LILY RICHTER**
French major, Francophone studies minor
**First destination:** After a summer internship at the French Embassy in Washington D.C., Richter is in a master’s degree program in international business and the wine industry in Bordeaux, France.

**MEGAN SANTOS**
Biology major, studio art minor
**First destination:** Working as a seventh-grade science teacher at Legacy Early College in Greenville, S.C.

**KENNEDY SMITH**
Finance major
**First destination:** Working as an advertising account executive with The Variable in Winston-Salem, N.C.
KIMBERLY TOVAR
International affairs and Spanish double major, government minor
First destination: Working as an immigration specialist for the Catholic Charities Office of Immigration Services with plans to become a department of justice accredited representative.

ANNA TURNER
English and Spanish double major, education minor, film and digital media concentration
First destination: Turner is teaching English in Sevilla, Spain, as part of the North American Language and Culture Assistants program.

DIAN WALKER
Humanities major
First destination: Working as an account coordinator for a global art and design marketing and public relations agency in Sydney, Australia.

BRADY WOLFE
Biology and religion double major, pre-med program
First destination: Attending the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston.

CAMP WILLIAMS
Biology and Spanish double major
First destination: Working as an associate to the CEO at NAI Earle Furman, a commercial real estate firm in Greenville, S.C.

LUKE WILLIS
Government major, American politics concentration
First destination: Working as an admission counselor at Wofford College.

WOODS WOOTEN
Government major
First destination: Working as a press assistant for Nikki Haley for President.

Alumni, current students and prospective students and their families gathered across the Southeast for the Summer City Tour events, sponsored by the Career Center and the Office of Philanthropy + Engagement. Supporting students in finding those first destinations is one of the goals of the gatherings.
1970

Kitt McMaster published “Hanna Rion – Her Life and Writings,” a biography of author Hanna Rion. He is a retired physician and pathologist from West Columbia, S.C., who wrote “James Henry Rion: Son of South Carolina” in 2021 about Hanna Rion’s father.

Jim Stevens has authored a memoir titled “Mill Hill Scientist: A Life Journey from the Edge of Poverty to Fulfillment,” which chronicles his early life and success in his scientific career. He is a retired consultant and tech contractor from Irmo, S.C.

1972


1979

Seacoast Banking Corp. of Florida in Stuart, Fla. added Jay B. Shearouse III to its board of directors. He was previously senior vice president of Fidelity Federal Savings Bank in West Palm Beach, Fla.

1980

Roddey B. “Rod” Gettys, president and CEO of Pickens Savings and Loan, attended the Independent Banks of South Carolina’s annual convention in Savannah, Ga., in July. While there he connected with C. Dorn Smith III ‘80, CEO and chairman of the board of The Citizens Bank; James R. “Jimmy” Fowler ‘83, executive vice president and Anderson market executive for Countybank; and James A. “Andy” Timmerman ’87, president and CEO of Abbeville First Bank.

1981

Trustee Ronnie Andrews was appointed to the board of directors at Agendia in Irvine, Calif. He previously served as president and CEO of Oncocyte.

1982

Joey Embro III joined Washington Academy in East Machias, Maine, as assistant resident life director and dorm director.

1989

Dr. Kirk Campbell joined Singing River Health System in Gulf Coast, Miss., as a gastroenterologist. He previously was a physician at Louisiana State University Health Science Center.

Nucor Tubular Products in Louisville, Ky., has named John Williams as its regional sales manager for the Northeast.

1990

Dixie High School in Due West, S.C., hired Warren Hammond as a teacher of South Carolina history and track and field coach. He was previously a teacher at Anderson County Alternative School.

1991

Clara Mayhew Stokes was promoted to chief advancement officer at CARITAS in Richmond, Va. She was previously chief development officer.

1994

Tammy Mabry Grice became an audit, accounting and quality control partner at Elliott & Painter in Greenville, S.C.

1995

Lance Crick joined Ryan Beasley Law in Greenville, S.C., as an attorney. He was formerly with the U.S. attorney’s office for the district of South Carolina.

The Rev. John Evatt became a recycling center attendant in Oconee County, S.C. He also is a special education behavior therapist at West-Oak High School in Westminster, S.C.

Willem Alexander Groot joined Berkadia in Charlotte, N.C., as senior vice president and managing director, after five years as managing director at Wells Fargo.

The Morristown Fire Department in Morristown, Tenn., promoted Anthony Livesay to deputy chief. He has been with the department for more than 20 years.

1996

Charleston Southern University has promoted Dr. David Cross to full professor of Spanish. He had been an associate professor of Spanish at the university since 2014.

Carl A. Young was named chief information officer for ATC Development in Augusta, Ga., in July. A 27-year U.S. Army signal and cyber veteran, he retired as a colonel.

UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION AND SUBMIT YOUR NEWS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF WOFFORD TODAY.

Submit updates electronically by visiting wofford.edu/alumni and clicking “Share News.”

Write to us at: Wofford Alumni
429 N. Church St.
Spartanburg, S.C. 29303

Call the Alumni Office at 864-597-4185.

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

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

For more information, contact the Wofford College Alumni Association at alumni@wofford.edu.
Wofford’s connection to the United Methodist Church goes back over 170 years, and, in many ways, the relationship precedes the founding of the college.

Methodism started as a movement within the 18th century Church of England, and John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, remained an Anglican priest his entire life. Wesley often talked about “the connection” between members, local churches and clergy, and that connectional structure, with shared liturgy, values and ministries, continues today. When Methodists arrived in North America, the movement spread, and after the American Revolution, Methodism became an independent denomination. Education was a priority for the new church, and as Dr. Ron Robinson ’78, Perkins-Prothro Chaplain and Professor of Religion, often notes, “Methodists founded churches and colleges, and they knew the difference.”

Methodist ministers profoundly shaped Benjamin Wofford, and he spent a few years as an itinerant Methodist minister himself before family concerns led him to stop traveling. He retained his ordination and later helped found Central Methodist Church in Spartanburg. David Duncan Wallace’s History of Wofford College and other sources note Ben and Anna Todd Wofford’s interest in founding a college and their support of other Methodist colleges. No doubt the influence other Methodist ministers had with Ben Wofford shaped his plans. When he founded Wofford College in his will, at least part of his goal was to create a college for the South Carolina Methodist Conference. The will placed the college “under the control and management of the Methodist Episcopal Church of my native state, South Carolina.” The majority of the trustees named in his will were South Carolina Methodist clergy.

South Carolina’s Methodists supported Wofford and other colleges generously over the years. While Benjamin Wofford’s gift got the college started, other Methodists quickly joined in to help the college financially. Annual apportionments from the conference were a vital source of funds, and without them, it’s not certain that the college would have survived the lean times after the American Civil War. Many of the college’s fundraising campaigns in the 19th and early 20th centuries used the church’s structure to help get organized.

The college supported the work of the Methodist Church as well. While there was never a requirement that faculty or trustees had to be Methodists, many were, and they were often frequent speakers or guest preachers in churches throughout the state. Quite a few early graduates went on to serve as clergy in South Carolina, and they often received their licenses to preach while still students. Student publications showed a keen awareness of the affairs of the church. William Wallace Duncan, an 1858 graduate, was the first alumnus to become a Methodist bishop in 1886, and he was serving as a faculty member when he was elected. He later became the chairman of the board of trustees. In the 20th century, President Henry Nelson Snyder, though a layman, served on a number of significant national church committees, including the commission that drafted the 1935 hymnal and the commission that steered the reunification of the northern and southern branches of the church in 1939.

The relationship continues today. Wofford is one of just over 100 colleges and universities related to the United Methodist Church. Members of the Wofford College Board of Trustees are officially elected by the South Carolina Annual Conference each year upon nomination from the board itself. The Annual Conference’s senior college fund still supports scholar- ships for United Methodist students at Wofford. The conference archives are located at Wofford. Among its many treasures, Wofford’s archives has an ordination certificate signed by John Wesley, which helps show how the connection to early Methodism continues to this day.
1997

The University of South Carolina has named Dr. Shelley Haddock Dempsey its inaugural assistant provost for graduation and retention.

Gibbs Leaphart, a member of the Robinson Gray law firm in Columbia, S.C., has joined the board of SoundBites, a local nonprofit that helps young people get what they need to develop their musical talents.

PureWow interviewed Dr. Dendy Engelman for a beauty article. She is a physician and dermatologist at Manhattan Dermatology & Cosmetic Surgery and physician director of dermatologic surgery at New York Medical College and Metropolitan Hospital.

1998

Colleen Cunningham Ammidown joined Milford Regional Physicians Group in Milford, Mass., as a nurse practitioner, after a six-year career as nurse practitioner with Steward Medical Group.

Women We Admire, a professional women’s network, has named Penn Page Williams one of its Top 50 Women Leaders of South Carolina for 2023. Williams is the COO of Pintail Capital Partners in Greenville, S.C. She leads the operations and strategic business initiatives for Pintail and oversees the creation and execution of their annual and long-range business plans.

1999

Wofford has 31 trustees who serve as the governing body of the college under the terms of the will of the college’s founder, the Rev. Benjamin Wofford, and by the state’s articles of incorporation. Trustees are elected to staggered four-year terms by the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. Tenure is limited to 12 consecutive years of service.

McDowell is an attorney focused on issues related to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act in Atlanta. She’s a civic leader and serves on the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Region 3 Advisory Council, the In-House Benefits Counsel Network Board of Directors and the United Way of Greater Atlanta’s Clayton County Advisory Board. McDowell’s engagement with Wofford includes endowing a scholarship fund and serving as president of Wofford’s National Alumni Executive Council and as a member of the President’s Advisory Council.

Smith is the speaker of the South Carolina House of Representatives and founding partner at Smith Robinson. Elected to the state House of Representatives in 2001, he has served on or chaired the following: the Judiciary Committee, the Ways & Means Committee, the Health and Human Services Committee, the House Ethics Committee, the State Fiscal Accountability Authority and the South Carolina Military Base Task Force. In 2022, Smith was unanimously elected speaker of the House of Representatives. He has served on the college’s Alumni Board.

2003

The American Inns of Court has chosen Erin Miller Wallin as one of two 2023 national Pegasus Scholars. Beginning in October, she will complete a six-week legal study with top barristers and judges in London, Northern Ireland and Scotland. She is the career law clerk for the chief judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee in Chattanooga.

2004

Kelly Turner Harvey is now a community development loan officer with CLIMB Fund in Charleston, S.C. She was previously vice president and mortgage loan originator at Coastal Carolina National Bank.

Three alumni were elected to the Wofford College Board of Trustees in June: Monique McDowell ’92 of Atlanta, Ga.; Murrell Smith Jr. ’90 of Sumter, S.C.; and Jim Switzer ’80 of Spartanburg.

Current officers are Christopher A.P. Carpenter ’90, chair; Ashley Richardson Allen, vice chair; and the Rev. William F. Malambri III ’98, secretary.

Three alumnus were elected to the Wofford College Board of Trustees in June: Monique McDowell ’92 of Atlanta, Ga.; Murrell Smith Jr. ’90 of Sumter, S.C.; and Jim Switzer ’80 of Spartanburg.

CONTINUING TO SERVE

THREE GRADUATES ELECTED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

New Trustees: Monique McDowell, Murrell Smith, Jim Switzer

Three alumni were elected to the Wofford College Board of Trustees in June: Monique McDowell ’92 of Atlanta, Ga.; Murrell Smith Jr. ’90 of Sumter, S.C.; and Jim Switzer ’80 of Spartanburg.

Current officers are Christopher A.P. Carpenter ’90, chair; Ashley Richardson Allen, vice chair; and the Rev. William F. Malambri III ’98, secretary.

Dr. Blanding Jones ’92, Wade Keisler ’80, Craig Melvin ’01, Greg O’Dell ’92 and Margaret Young ’92 were reelected to four-year terms on the board.

Wofford has 31 trustees who serve as the governing body of the college under the terms of the will of the college’s founder, the Rev. Benjamin Wofford, and by the state’s articles of incorporation. Trustees are elected to staggered four-year terms by the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. Tenure is limited to 12 consecutive years of service.

McDowell is an attorney focused on issues related to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act in Atlanta. She’s a civic leader and serves on the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Region 3 Advisory Council, the In-House Benefits Counsel Network Board of Directors and the United Way of Greater Atlanta’s Clayton County Advisory Board. McDowell’s engagement with Wofford includes endowing a scholarship fund and serving as president of Wofford’s National Alumni Executive Council and as a member of the President’s Advisory Council.

Smith is the speaker of the South Carolina House of Representatives and founding partner at Smith Robinson. Elected to the state House of Representatives in 2001, he has served on or chaired the following: the Judiciary Committee, the Ways & Means Committee, the Health and Human Services Committee, the House Ethics Committee, the State Fiscal Accountability Authority and the South Carolina Military Base Task Force. In 2022, Smith was unanimously elected speaker of the House of Representatives. He has served on the college’s Alumni Board.

Switzer is a wealth advisor with more than 32 years of experience. He founded Switzer Wealth Partners, and he is a past board member for M.S. Bailey & Sons in Clinton, S.C. Switzer currently serves as a member of the investment committee for The Bailey Foundation. He previously served on the Mary Black Foundation’s investment committee. He’s a former trustee for Christ School in Arden, N.C., and Spartanburg Day School. Switzer has been active with the college for many years, including past service on the Alumni Board, Parents Advisory Council and Terrier Club Board of Directors.
Alex Bentley ’17 had a good day on Feb. 16, 2021.

A man in the Ecuadorian village that Bentley has made his home brought him a snake. It turned out to be a new species of dwarf boa — one of about 20 new species of reptiles and amphibians that Bentley and his team have discovered.

The man with the snake was just as important. Before Bentley arrived on the scene as research coordinator at Sumak Kawsay In Situ in 2019, the snake would have met a different fate.

“One of the coolest things is that the guy who found it and his brothers used to all kill snakes,” says Bentley. “This is the most biologically diverse place on Earth, and it’s important for people to understand that and take pride in it. I have tried to inspire in people a desire to protect what they have. That’s exactly what happened.”

Bentley immediately realized that the snake was unlike any he had ever seen. He contacted colleagues and discovered a similar snake had been captured a few years earlier in the same area.

“Fortunately, we had a male and female, and you need both to describe a new species,” says Bentley.

Describing a new species is a tedious process that can take years. The first step, after acquiring a male and female, was for Bentley and his team to analyze the genetic makeup of the pair. After that, they collected evidence that differentiated the species from its closest ancestor, took a 3D CAT scan of the snake’s cranium, and compared the habitat, distribution and natural history with the closest species.

The description of the new species was published in December 2022.

Bentley and his team have since identified a new species of frog (a process that took three years), a new species of tarantula that will soon be published and a new genus of pseudo-scorpion. He also has published a field guide that details the region’s status as the most diverse place on Earth for reptiles and amphibians, with 285 species in an area smaller than metropolitan London.

Bentley, who says he fell in love with studying snakes when he was 5 years old, had made up his mind to attend another college but came to Wofford for a visit. That’s when he met Dr. Charles Smith, associate professor of biology.

“He recognized my dedication and took me under his wing,” Bentley says. “He was a wonderful mentor. I had a really good educational experience at Wofford. I was able to establish personal relationships with the professors, and the biological training I got was great for my style of learning.”

Alex Bentley shows new species of snake.

Bentley first studied in Ecuador as part of a comparative ecology program during his junior year. He knew then that he would be back, and he doesn’t picture living anywhere else.

“I tell people this is my habitat,” he says. “I built my house here, got a dog and little family. There’s a jungle and trails behind the house and spaces for environmental education. I’m really happy here.”
Lianne Moore Parr is now lead scientist at Booz Allen Hamilton in McLean, Va., and chief of staff in support of program managers in the biological technologies office at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. She was promoted from associate.

The William & Mary School of Education in Williamsburg, Va., has appointed Dr. Leandra Parris associate dean and director of diversity and inclusion. She was an assistant professor at Illinois State University from 2013 to 2019.

Erica Cosh Whitt and Alex Whitt announce the birth of their first child, Jacob Alexander Whitt II, born May 12, 2023. The family resides in Spartanburg, S.C., where she is a licensed clinical social worker and he is the technical director for athletics at Dorman High School.

2008

Lizzie Lambert Cox joined the IRS Office of Chief Counsel in the small business/self-employed division as an attorney in Atlanta, Ga. She was an attorney at GDCR Attorneys at Law for seven years.

Misha Lee and Jacob Daugherty announced the birth of their son, Jacob Rhodes Lee-Daugherty, on Jan. 31, 2023. Lee is an assistant general counsel at Interpublic Group in New York City.

2009

University School of Nashville (Tenn.) has promoted Dr. Scott Collins to director of enrollment. He served as assistant director of admission for almost 11 years.

Concetta Wilson Smith and Will Smith announce the birth of their daughter, Anne Riley (Annie) Smith, born Feb. 4, 2023. She joins big sister Caroline. They live in Nashville, Tenn.

2010

Ashley DeCleene celebrated her third anniversary with Joe Bliss on Dec. 15, 2022. She is a self-employed personal tutor in Lexington, S.C.

Fran Battles Girdler and John Girdler welcomed their son, Tom Girdler, on March 14, 2023. They live in Nashville, Tenn., where she is a speech language pathologist.

Nucor Corp. in Charlotte, N.C., has promoted Brittni Jenkins to senior compensation analyst.

Allyson King Moffat and Dr. David Moffat II announce the birth of their son, Duncan Wilbanks Moffat, born May 22, 2023. He joins siblings Wells and Taite. They live in Columbia, S.C., where Allyson is a quality assurance manager at the U.S. Department of State and David is a bariatric surgeon.

Mary Miles Rogers married David Brice on May 17, 2023, in Paris, France. She is a paralegal at Nexsen Pruet. They live in Columbia, S.C.

2011

Dr. Nathan Redding was promoted to senior lecturer at Clemson University. He has taught in the biological sciences department since 2018.

2012

Hallie Willm Biediger and M. Brooks Biediger welcomed daughter Elizabeth “Lizzie” Barbara Biediger on Dec. 29, 2022. Biediger is a staff attorney at the South Carolina Department of Commerce.

Eric Breitenstein was named to the 2024 College Football Hall of Fame ballot. He was named to the SoCon Hall of Fame in May 2020. He is a science teacher at Osborn Middle School in Phoenix, Ariz.

Hayes Brown sank a two-foot birdie putt on the second hole of a sudden death playoff to win the mid-amateur division in the Lupton Memorial Tournament at the Honors Course in Oleowah, Tenn. A resident of Charlotte, N.C., he is the CFO and director of retail development at FACED the Facial Studio.

The Sumter Board of Realtors in Sumter, S.C., to its 40 Under 40 Class of 2023.

Patton

The Products Finishing website has named Jan Patton, a research chemist at Metal Chem in Gaffney, S.C., to its 40 Under 40 Class of 2023.


2013

Ally Bank has promoted Kellee-Morgan Witherspoon Abercrombie to director of software engineering. She had been a principal technology strategist at the company. She lives in Charlotte, N.C.

Katy Tamblony Burt and Jason Burt announce the birth of daughter Everett "Evie" Jeanne Burt, born Aug. 31, 2022. Burt is director of student affairs of the James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine at Medical University of South Carolina.

Mary Carman Jordan received national board certification in health and wellness coaching. She is director of campus events in Wofford’s admission office.

Mary Katherine Dubose Lentz and Joe Lentz announce the birth of their son, Joseph “Dial” Lentz, born Feb. 24, 2023. They live in Charlotte, N.C., where she is an assurance manager at PricewaterhouseCoopers and he is a project accounting manager at Charlotte Pipe and Foundry Co.

2014

Grace Longanecker Lipscomb and Brian Lipscomb ’15 welcomed their third daughter, Scarlett Lipscomb, on April 7, 2023. She joins sisters Felicity and Lelarei. They live in Fort Riley, Kan., where Grace works in Army health care and Brian is a captain in the U.S. Army.

Dr. Tanner Oldham and Millie Oldham announce the birth of a daughter, Margaret “Mae” Ellis Oldham, born April 28, 2023. He is a dentist at Cedar Spring Family Dentistry.

The William & Mary School of Education in Williamsburg, Va., has appointed Dr. Leandra Burt, born Aug. 31, 2023. Burt is director of staff in support of program managers in the biological technologies office at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. She was promoted from associate.

The South Carolina Society of Association Executives has recognized Hank Davis as the 2023-24 Lobbyist of the Year. He is vice president of government affairs and community
Dr. Samantha Borders-Shoemaker ’12
B.A. in history
Borders-Shoemaker is an author, poet and conflict resolution specialist. Her latest book, “Waiting for Scotland,” is her second, full-length poetry collection. Her other works include “Frankenstein & the Phoenix,” “Rooted in Time” and “The Conscious Objection.” She lives in Smithfield, Va., where she is cultivating a conservation program for Choctaw Indian Ponies. She says Dr. Sally Hitchmough’s course on 19th century British literature had a profound impact on helping her discover her poetic voice and style.

Ellis Goodwin ’22
B.S. in biology
Goodwin is working on his doctorate in physical therapy at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. He’s also running EAG Enterprises, a vending machine business. Goodwin started his first clinical rotation and is keeping an open mind about the specialty he plans to pursue, but he’s leaning toward sports, orthopedics or acute care. “My Wofford experience and the education I received prepared me for the challenges and coursework in PT school,” says Goodwin. “Having a liberal arts background helps me analyze situations with a broader world view.”

Khoi Nguyen ’17
B.S. in environmental studies
Nguyen got his start at Palmetto Brewing Company and later became head brewer and partner of Ghost Monkey Brewery in Mount Pleasant, S.C. With Nguyen as brew master, the brewery was nominated for Charleston’s best cold beer. “During my time at Wofford, I secured a couple of internships working at a winery in Virginia. The environmental studies major taught me that there are career opportunities outside the traditional tracks,” he says. “If it wasn’t for that program, I never would’ve thought to pursue the alcohol space as a career.”

Rik Ujaan ’21
B.A. in international affairs
Ujaan works at Elliott Davis as an audit associate in Charlotte, N.C., and is completing requirements for his CPA license. In May 2022, he completed a master’s degree in accounting at Wake Forest University. “Being required to take many classes across different disciplines is a good thing,” Ujaan says. “I took four accounting classes while trying to take a variety of classes, and that’s how I found an interest in it. Almost any professor I had, I was impacted by them and walked away a better student and person.”

Olivia Vasquez ’18
B.A. in government
Vasquez completed the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort program in Germany immediately after graduation, then became a travel agent for Jet Set World Travel in Atlanta, Ga. She now works as an international relations manager at The Plaza Hotel in New York City. “I’ve always loved world politics,” she says. “I handle all diplomatic and Middle East guests who stay here, so it’s funny how I ended up working for diplomats on a level that is not actually working in public policy but booking their hotel rooms. It’s been awesome.”

Chase Wolfe ’14
B.A. in Chinese, B.S. in chemistry
Wolfe recently appeared in the second season of “Don’t Forget the Lyrics!” on FOX. He also will play the lead in the nationally touring Broadway production of “Pretty Woman: The Musical.” When not acting, he works on a cruise ship. “The fact that I have two degrees gets me about an extra minute and a half in every audition room. They talk to me and see who I am as a person,” he says.
relations at the South Carolina Restaurant and Lodging Association in Columbia, S.C.

Ruth Lawson Fowler married Joey Jordan on March 11, 2023, at First United Methodist Church in Bennettsville, S.C. She is a materials analyst and continuous improvement lead at Shakespeare Co. in Columbia, S.C.

Rob Galloway reached the third round of gentleman’s doubles draw at Wimbledon with his partner Lloyd Harris from Cape Town, South Africa.

Courtney Grafmeyer was promoted to chief financial officer for Margaret Donaldson Interiors in Charleston, S.C., following three years as an accounting controller at the company.

Edison Partners added Shelby McKeown to their team as an investment associate. She was a global loan products officer at Bank of America for three years.

2016

Ashley Cantey was promoted to property manager at The Jasper in Charleston, S.C. She has served as the property’s assistant manager since 2021.

2017

Albert Kitchens became a licensed CPA on Nov. 21, 2022. He is a senior tax associate in Columbia, S.C.

Jeter Hrubala Wealth Strategies has named Julie Robinson Peeples financial advisor in its Isle of Palms, S.C., office. Peeples joined the company in 2022.

Alex Pruitt was promoted to vice president at Capitala Group in Charlotte, N.C. He was a senior associate with the firm for a year.

2018

Liz Holcomb and Connor Donohue were married on June 16, 2023, in Greenville, S.C. She is an account manager at ScanSource, and he is an investment banking analyst at Boxwood Partners. They live in Greenville.

Berkeley Manchester and Robert Barrett Jr. ’19 were married on May 27, 2022, in McFarland’s Cove, Maine. She is a compliance administrator at the London Co., and he is an investment banking analyst at Booz Allen Hamilton. They live in Richmond, Va.

2019

Taylor Bunge and Kyler Stemen ’18 were married on June 3, 2023, in Fort Mill, S.C. Taylor graduated from Georgia Tech in May with a master’s degree in human-computer interaction. Kyler works in infrastructure investment at Nuveen in Charlotte, N.C.

Austin Ciuffo joined the intellectual property practice group at Spencer Fane in Greenville, S.C. He has been a patent litigation associate at the firm since April 2023.

Carrington Eley married Vasilios Nasoulis on Dec. 17, 2022, in Greenville, S.C. She is an assistant for Sallie Holder at Sallie Holder Speaking and Coaching in Greenville, S.C.

American Leadership Academy in Lexington, S.C., named Chandler Engel as baseball coach.

Brooke Elizabeth Lane joined Profection Physical Therapy as a physical therapist in Florence, S.C. She graduated from University of St. Augustine with a doctor of physical therapy degree on April 20, 2023.

Fletcher Magee was featured in an article by Montenegro newspaper Vijesti, which discussed his performance in the AdmiralBet ABA League.

Northern Tides Therapy hired Brittany Joyce Randall as an outpatient occupational therapist after her graduation from the Medical University of South Carolina in May 2023.

Paige Bolton Swafford accepted a full-time position at BMW Manufacturing Co. in Greer, S.C., as an energy sustainability engineer. She completed an 18-month internship with the company.

Currieisha Williams was featured in an article by the News & Press in Darlington, S.C., highlighting her pursuit of a master’s degree at Harvard University’s Graduate School of Education. She has been working as a mathematics teacher for Teach for America since 2020.

2020

JetSweep hired Ryan Lovelace as a demand generation specialist. He lives in Washington, D.C.

Eliza Metts married Will Monts on May 27, 2023, at St. Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church in Charleston, S.C. She is a marketing assistant at the Charleston Stage Co.

ETC selected Sammy Verdin as one of its Fred Foster Student Mentorship Program mentees. He continues to pursue a master’s degree in lighting and scenic design at Tulane University.

2021

Maggie Adcock married Will Lynch ’22 on Nov. 12, 2022 in Birmingham, Ala. They live at Fort Rucker in Enterprise, Ala. She is an audit associate for Elliott Davis, and he is a second lieutenant training to be a Chinook pilot in the U.S. Army.

Caroline Mathisen joined the Beach Real Estate Funds team in Charleston, S.C. as a fund intern.
As a nurse case manager at Fort Jackson in Columbia, S.C., Candice Dulaney saw the ravages of war every day in the soldiers and veterans that she treated. The experience moved her to join the U.S. Army Reserve.

“From 2009 to 2011, we were bringing back a lot of wounded soldiers, mostly from Afghanistan and Iraq,” says Dulaney. “Hearing their stories, some of the things they had seen and done and the sacrifices they had made, I felt inclined to further assist in any way I could.”

Dulaney, the mother of Ali Dulaney ’26, decided to honor the sacrifices of those soldiers with a gift to Wofford’s Military Memorial. The memorial will be a public space on campus that will bear the names, class years, service branches and ranks of those who died while on active duty beginning with World War I and Wofford’s establishment of a U.S. Army Reserve Officer Training Corps unit.

“I was excited when I heard Wofford was doing this,” Dulaney says. “I wanted to drop something in to help get the project going.”

Dulaney joined the Army Reserve in 2011. She is now a major.

“I was 35 at the time, and I thought I had missed my chance,” she says. “Then I found out they were still taking nurses up to age 52.”

Dulaney still works at Fort Jackson, one of the largest training bases in the country. Later this year, her unit will be mobilized for a year. She says she’ll welcome the mission and the opportunity to continue to support the Military Memorial as well. She looks forward to seeing the finished project, which will begin once the funds for the project have been raised.

“Wofford is invested in its alumni, and that’s something I encouraged Ali to seek,” Dulaney says. “Recognizing the people who went before you and showing your appreciation for them meets the mission of the college.”
**IN MEMORIAM**

### 1952

**Max Burton Trout**, June 20, 2023, Cumming, Ga. Trout was drafted into the U.S. Navy during World War II. He worked for the U.S. Postal Service before entering Wofford. During his career as a real estate officer, he acquired hundreds of postal sites and buildings in the Southeast. He served as a ruling elder in four Presbyterian churches and chairman of the building committee in three. After retirement, he developed numerous commercial and residential properties and was qualified as an expert witness on real estate values. He was a lifelong member of the Sons of the American Revolution, serving once as president of the Daniel Morgan Chapter and twice as a South Carolina regional vice president. He was a long-time member of the Piedmont Historical Society and was also a life member of American Legion Post 45 in Inman, S.C. For the past 40 years his hobby was genealogy.

### 1954

**Gene Eldredge Collins**, Aug. 11, 2023, Effingham, S.C. Collins was a U.S. Army veteran. He retired as supervisor of the Florence Vocational Rehabilitation Center.

**Walker Reid McBride**, May 14, 2023, Pacolet, S.C. McBride was a veteran of the U.S. Army. He served for two years in Japan and an additional six years in the Army Reserve. He founded his own company, Night Guard Associates. McBride retired in 2016 at the age of 84. He was a lifelong member of Pacolet United Methodist Church.

### 1956

**Grover Cleveland Whitmire**, May 25, 2023, Sunny View, N.C. Whitmire was a veteran of the U.S. Navy who served during the Korean War. He was a retired postal carrier. He was a member of Coopers Gap Baptist Church for 70 years, serving as chairman of the deacon board, Sunday school superintendent and Sunday school teacher. He served on the St. Luke's Hospital board of directors and the Polk-Rutherford-McDowell Health board.

### 1958

**Joseph Nates “Jack” Blanton Jr.**, May 9, 2023, Greenwood, S.C. A U.S. Army veteran, Blanton worked as senior vice president and comptroller of South State Bank until his retirement in 2000. He served as chairman of the Orangeburg County Board of Special Needs and Disabilities. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Orangeburg for many years and was one of the youngest men of the church to be ordained as a deacon. Blanton was an active member of the Orangeburg Lion’s Club and served as president and secretary-treasurer. After moving to Greenwood, he joined South Main Street Baptist Church and the Martin Moore Sunday School Class. He also was a member of the Greenwood Lions

**REMEMBERING BISHOP MARSHALL L. “JACK” MEADORS JR. ’55**

Every time he walks into his office, the Rev. Dr. Ron Robinson ’78 gets a reminder from Bishop Marshall L. “Jack” Meadors Jr. ’55.

The room was renovated in memory of Meadors’ late wife, Hannah, and a plaque outside the office door bears their names.

“Each time I am reminded that the chaplain’s office has to be a place where everyone is welcomed, because that is who the Meadors family is,” says Robinson, Perkins-Prothro Chaplain and Professor of Religion.

Meadors, a retired United Methodist bishop and a former member of the Wofford College Board of Trustees (2001-13) died May 25 in Anderson, S.C.

Meadors was a loyal, energetic and creative friend to Wofford, says the Rev. Dr. Will Willimon ’68, professor of the practice of Christian ministry at Duke Divinity School, retired United Methodist bishop and a Wofford trustee.

“Amid all of his other responsibilities as bishop and church leader, he always found time for Wofford. His leadership in the area of racial reconciliation at Wofford with the establishment of the Meadors Family endowments is particularly noteworthy. In this, and in so many other moments of justice advocacy, Jack gave a fine Christian witness so that future generations of Wofford grads might make some of the same contributions to the betterment of humanity.”

Meadors was ordained elder in the United Methodist Church in 1958, and he served several churches in South Carolina and Georgia. In 1992, he was elected bishop and assigned to the Mississippi area. He retired in 2000.

Throughout his career, Meadors held a variety of leadership positions. He was president of the Mississippi Religious Leadership Conference, an organization of religious leaders who worked to promote tolerance and understanding of diversity. He also was a director of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, a director of the General Board of Church and Society, and he chaired the Council of Bishops’ Initiative on Children and Poverty from 1995-2000.

In 1999, he was a member of a delegation, led by the Rev. Jesse Jackson, that traveled to Belgrade to secure the release of three American prisoners of war during the NATO bombing. He then led a delegation to Macedonia to visit refugee camps and to visit Kosovo to assess the war damage in Pristina and the outlying villages.

Meadors was not afraid to get into “good trouble.” He was arrested twice — once while protesting the Iraq war in March 2007 and again in July 2014 while protesting immigration deportation policies.

“I didn’t hear many sermons Bishop Meadors delivered, but I frequently saw how he interacted with others,” says Robinson. “Always open and focused on the person with whom he was interacting, inevitably he was kind. Actually, kindly confrontational. Once he asked me why I hadn’t been arrested lately for standing up for something.”
As a mathematician, Dr. Richard Long Robinson ’61 was good with numbers. He also had a way with words.

“He was a great public speaker,” says Dr. Dan Maultsby ’61, dean emeritus. “He had a dry sense of humor, and he was absolutely hilarious. We always asked him to speak when we had someone coming in that we wanted to impress.”

Robinson, Larry Hearn McCalla Professor of Mathematics emeritus, died Aug. 8 in Spartanburg. He was 84.

Robinson delivered one of his most memorable addresses to the Wofford College Board of Trustees on Oct. 3, 1988. Then-president Dr. Joe Lesesne told him “to give a speech that was brief and light but with a pungent point,” Robinson said in opening his presentation. He titled the speech “Contemplations on Spring Onions.” To read the speech, visit wofford.edu/woffordtoday/springonions.

Robinson, a native of Spartanburg, was a U.S. Army veteran. After being discharged, he returned to Wofford and taught for almost 40 years. He retired in 2004. During his tenure at Wofford, he served as chair of mathematics and as the director of the Gifted and Talented Summer Program for fifth- through ninth-grade students.

“He was one of the brightest people I ever knew,” says Maultsby. “He was a brilliant student of mathematics. He could sit and solve problems with the very best anywhere.”

Maultsby says Robinson was a demanding teacher, but “the students who stayed in his class found out that he wasn’t a bear.”

1959

Dr. Thomas James Gasque, July 12, 2023, Columbia, S.C. Gasque moved to Vermillion, S.D., in 1968, where, for 35 years, he taught in the English department at the University of South Dakota. For the last 45 years of his life, Gasque researched and wrote about his aunt, Carrie Durant Reaves, whose letters home from her time in an Appalachian mission school have been a treasured family heirloom. Half a lifetime’s work was finally completed in 2022 with the publication of his historical biography, “Letters from Kentucky – My search for Aunt Carrie.” He was a Boy Scout and Order of the Arrow Eagle Scout. As both camper and counselor, he wrote plays that were produced at camp over the past 70-plus years.

The Rev. Harry Robert Stullenbarger, June 24, 2023, Pawleys Island, S.C. Stullenbarger was a retired United Methodist minister who served for over 50 years. He was a trustee of the Methodist Oaks, chairman of the S.C. United Methodist Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry, trustee and chair of the United Methodist Center and trustee of Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry.

1962

Donald Baxter Gibson, July 15, 2023, Spartanburg, S.C. Gibson’s served in the South Carolina Army National Guard. His career in chemical engineering, development and management spanned 45 years. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Spartanburg, where he served as a deacon, Sunday school teacher and member of the media ministry team.

Aquilla Richard “Dickie” Johnston Jr., June 9, 2023, Columbia, S.C. Johnston, a U.S. Coast Guard veteran, was founder and president of the Johnston Co. He enjoyed seeing new places and meeting new people. Spending time on the water, playing tennis and hunting were some of his favorite pastimes, and he most enjoyed the end of the day, when he could build a fire, make a cocktail and settle down with a good book.

Dr. Robert Clyde “Bob” Monson, July 18, 2023, Spartanburg, S.C. Monson served as a United Methodist pastor and chaplain for 42 years.

1964

Dr. Wilbur Cunningham Ormond Jr., June 30, 2023, Hookerton, N.C. Ormond taught English, writing and literature at the college level for almost 40 years. He also served as a pastor for four decades in the United Methodist Church. He enjoyed music and played several instruments.

1966

William J. “Bill” Bates, July 23, 2023, Charleston, S.C. Bates was a partner in the law firm of Young Clement Rivers, where

REMEMBERING DR. RICHARD LONG ROBINSON ’61

Robinson was an active member of Central United Methodist Church, where he distributed bulletins and collected the offering each Sunday. He was a member of the Upper Room Sunday School Class.

“He spent a lot of time as a student of the Bible after he retired,” Maultsby says. “He studied the text and what other people said about the text and used that to put together meaningful lessons.”
he worked for 46 years until his retirement. He served as president of Land Title Agency and was chairman of the real estate section of the S.C. Bar Association. An avid lifelong reader and student of history, he served as a board member and trustee of the Charleston Museum. A special area of interest was South Carolina’s role in the Revolutionary War. He served as president of the Charlestowne Neighborhood Association and as a member of the Wofford Alumni Association board. As a member of Bethel United Methodist Church, Bates attended the Everett Spell Sunday School Class, taught Senior High Sunday School and volunteered as a parent helper with the Methodist Youth Ministry. Chock, an English Springer Spaniel, was his constant companion for 11 years. Bates walked Chock several times a day, making friends with those with two legs and four all along the way.

John Whitley Hinks Sr., May 25, 2023, Columbia, S.C. Hinks established Hinks Mortgage Co. in 1983, a company he operated for 30 years. He was an avid golfer, and he was the “Big Splash Champion” at Wildewood Country Club. Hinks co-founded Carolina Sunshine for Children, a nonprofit that fulfills wishes for children with life-threatening illnesses. He also was a member of the Columbia Rotary Club.

James Douglas McLain, June 19, 2023, Kannapolis, N.C. McClain served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War. During his career, he worked for Probst Brothers Distributors and Cooperative Christian Ministries. He enjoyed playing golf, going to the beach and reading.

Harry Latané Johnston, July 16, 2023, Mount Pleasant, S.C. Johnston was a U.S. Air Force Veteran. He spent most of his career as a CPA in Spartanburg and Greenville. In 1992, he founded an independent accounting and financial advisory firm. He was an avid reader of the Bible and literary classics, an aviation enthusiast, a fly-fishing fanatic and a curious traveler.

Jackson “Jack” Mizell Jr., July 10, 2023, Jacksonville, Fla. Mizell was a veteran of the U.S. Army who served in Korea during the Vietnam War era. After his service, he worked in the financial banking industry for more than 30 years.

Sidney Allan Allred, June 12, 2023, St. Augustine, Fla. Allred spent many years building Valley Shore Farms. He enjoyed traveling the world and snow skiing throughout Europe. He also enjoyed fishing and hiking in North Carolina. Allred played football at Wofford, earning Associated Press Little All-America honors as a linebacker in 1968. He was inducted into Wofford’s Athletics Hall of Fame in 1991.

Holman Cleveland Gossett Jr., July 18, 1970, Greenwood, S.C. Gossett was a veteran of the U.S. Army Reserve. He won four terms as seventh circuit solicitor, serving Spartanburg and Cherokee counties. During his 16-year tenure, he established the victim’s advocate program in his office and instituted an automated case management system. Following his service as solicitor, he returned to private practice before retiring. He enjoyed tennis and played regularly.

Dr. Jimmy Randall “Randy” Grant, May 26, 2023, Woodruff, S.C. Grant was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. He taught in the public school system in Woodruff from 1974 to 1987, starting in the history classroom and retiring as assistant principal at Woodruff Primary School. He served as an assistant coach for the seventh- and eighth-grade football, seventh- and eighth-grade girls’ basketball and varsity baseball teams. He was head coach of the Woodruff High varsity basketball team.

IN MEMORIAM

Once, during a lunchtime discussion outside of Daniel Building, Dr. John L. “Jack” Seitz was asked what kind of bird he would like to be.

Seitz chose a hummingbird because they are energetic and colorful. When told they were also aggressive, he quickly changed his mind.

“That’s indicative of his kind, compassionate and gentle nature,” says Dr. G.R. Davis, Dr. and Mrs. Larry Hearn McCalla Professor of Biology emeritus.

Seitz, professor of government emeritus, died Aug. 9 in Spartanburg. He was 92.

“Jack was just a gentle soul,” Davis says. “He always had a dog, and they walked several miles to work every day. The dog would sit out with us and have lunch.”

Seitz was a high school teacher before joining the faculty at Wofford. He became chair of the department and taught at the college for 35 years.

Before beginning his career in education, Seitz worked for the U.S. Army’s Counterintelligence Corps, a World War II and early Cold War intelligence agency. Because of his work he lived in a variety of countries, including Korea, Iran, Brazil, Liberia and Pakistan.

“When he’d gotten enough of that life, he came home and got a job at Wofford,” says Dr. Dan Maultsby ’61, dean emeritus of the college. “We needed someone in that role, and the students enjoyed his classes.”

Seitz became interested in environmental issues during his tenure at Wofford, including climate change. He wrote six editions of the textbook “Global Issues: An Introduction.” The book was translated into several languages and used in classrooms around the world.

“He was very devoted,” Davis says. “It became a lifelong project for him to keep his book updated, even after he retired.”

REMEMBERING DR. JOHN L. “JACK” SEITZ
for three seasons and the varsity volleyball team for one. He also served as statistician for the varsity football team. Grant worked as an adjunct professor at several colleges and universities from 2001 to 2022, serving the majority of the time at Spartanburg Methodist College and Spartanburg Community College. He was vice chairman of the Spartanburg County School District 4 Board of Trustees and served on the board at R.D. Anderson Applied Technology Center. Grant was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Woodruff.

1975

Martin Field Smith, June 24, 2023, Milton, Ga. Martin worked for Citicorp and then Bank of America for many years before retiring in 2013. He enjoyed playing basketball, golf and tennis, as well as traveling and deep-sea fishing.

1979

Dr. Marshall LeRoy Meadows III, July 17, 2023, Anderson, S.C. A founding partner of Primary Care Associates and the medical director of National Health Care of Anderson for 30 years, Meadows died in a tragic accident. He was associate medical director of Arthritis of South Carolina, president of the medical staff of the AnMed Health and medical director of AnMed Wellspring. He served as president, secretary and treasurer of the state medical association and was named the association’s Communicator of the Year in 2017. In 2018, he received the inaugural Robert M. Rainey Philanthropy Award, sponsored by Foothills Community Foundation. His civic involvement included membership on the board of directors of the Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce, Upstate Forever, Anderson Interfaith Ministries and Anderson Arts Center. He was a member of St. John’s United Methodist Church of Anderson, where he served on numerous committees. Meadows enjoyed entertaining his family, friends and co-workers, and his fireworks displays and oyster roasts were always big hits.

Rickie Leonard Miller, July 1, 2023, Spartanburg, S.C. Miller was an anesthesiologist tech at Spartanburg Medical Center. He also was employed at Dillard’s in the shoe department at WestGate Mall. He was known for his generosity, often buying items simply to give them away. Miller was a stylish dresser and was involved in a yearly fashion and arts showcase in the Spartanburg area.

1996

Justin Joseph Hage, Aug. 3, 2023, Lakeland, Fla. Hage was the CEO and publisher at Front Door Press. He was previously the controller at Victory Church and the chief information officer and controller at NuTech Plastics. He started his career as a cost accountant with Milliken and Co. and worked for the company in Japan.

2009

Murray Melinda Meetze, June 21, 2023, Boulder, Colo. Meetze started her career working for the University of South Carolina before forgoing her path westward. She loved nutrition, writing, travel, nature, capturing images with her camera, hiking and spending time in a hammock while reading and listening to folk music. She enjoyed helping others, contributing to the Uniquely Striped website for Ehlers Danlos Syndrome to raise awareness and enrolling in clinical trials. At Wofford, Meetze was an admission ambassador and member of the Wofford Success Initiative. She participated as an exchange student in Japan for two semesters.

FRIENDS

Lisa Barbee Switzer, July 18, 2023, Pauline, S.C. Switzer was an administrative assistant in Wofford’s Office of Financial Aid. She retired in 2014 to spend more time with her grandchildren. She was a member of Southside Baptist Church in Spartanburg.

REMEMBERING DR. DAVID M. “DAVE” WHISNANT

Dr. David Melvin “Dave” Whisnant was a much-loved Wofford College professor whose embrace of technology led him to be named the college’s vice president of information technology.

He died on Aug. 14. He was 80.

“Dave served the college in so many different ways,” says Dr. Tim Schmitz, Wofford’s provost. “By the time I got to Wofford he was already working full time as an administrator, but it was clear how well liked he was. I soon came to know why. He was a warm and kind person with a bright, big smile and an infectious laugh.”

Whisnant arrived at Wofford in 1983 to teach physical chemistry. He also taught numerous Interim courses on Western films, digital photography and rock ‘n’ roll music appreciation.

Whisnant began his teaching career at Northland College in Ashland, Wisc. He was among the first people in Ashland to own a personal computer, and he was an innovator while developing computer applications that assisted with the teaching of chemistry. He received numerous awards and was recognized by the National Science Teachers Association and received seven National Science Foundation grants. He served on multiple American Chemistry Society committees and sat on the editorial board for the Journal for Chemical Education: Software.

As Wofford’s vice president of technology, he demonstrated how to integrate technology into teaching methods.

Whisnant also was active in the Spartanburg community by volunteering in schools, teaching basic chemistry concepts to elementary students, occasionally volunteering at the Spartanburg Science Center and serving as a judge at science fairs.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Linda Dyson Whisnant; his two sons, Dr. Clayton Whisnant, Wofford’s Chapman Family Professor of the Humanities, and Aaron Whisnant; four grandchildren and his brother, John Whisnant, in Minneapolis, Minn.
A radiologist in San Antonio, Texas, Hammet is also a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force Texas Air National Guard. He was a Phi Beta Kappa biology major at Wofford, senior class president and a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. In 2016, he established an endowed fund to provide scholarships for students who demonstrate outstanding character, leadership, academic promise and financial need with preference given to students from historically marginalized communities.

**PHILANTHROPY + ENGAGEMENT PROFILE**

**CHOOSING TO GIVE**

**Dr. Chris Hammet ’82**

Q: You made a gift of $50 to the college in 1983, the year after you graduated. Do you remember what motivated you to contribute?

A: Pay it forward, if that was a term then. I was the very fortunate recipient of a scholarship for my four years at Wofford, a situation that allowed me, and my parents, to emerge debt free for the education I received.

Q: You have given consistently over the years, only missing one year since graduation! Are you still motivated for the same reasons or have they changed?

A: Probably forgot the one year during moves with the Air Force. The same main reason applies for the continued and incrementally increasing giving for all these years, as well as my true pride in the path Wofford College has taken in academics, student demographics and outreach to the community and state.

Q: What influenced you to start a named endowed scholarship fund?

A: I greatly benefited from one and was in a position to do so when asked. Gives me a dog in the fight, so to speak.

Q: In 2017, you chose to include Wofford in your estate plan to further grow your scholarship. Was it a difficult process? Why did you feel that was important?

A: Easy decision. Great to know with some certainty what happens to the fruits of your own labor, thrift and investment strategy in the decades to come.

Q: What people or programs influenced you during your time at Wofford?

A: In general, the liberal arts curriculum and ability to step outside of your major field for classes. Interim was great. I did and learned things that I would never have thought to pursue. Dr. Don Dobbs is the most dear professorial memory to me.

Q: Do you have a favorite spot to visit when you’re back on campus?

A: Not any one spot. The campus overall looks amazing — the trees, the lack of traffic, and the conviviality of the students you pass while walking.

Q: 2022 was your 40th reunion. Did you enjoy reconnecting with your classmates?

A: Very much. Everyone seemed to be a truer, more authentic version of themselves than I remembered, hopefully me as well. Maybe some filters fall away over time.
NEW FRIENDS.
OLD FRIENDS. GOOD TIMES.

HOMECOMING

Terrier Club Invitational Golf Tournament | Alumni Board Meeting
Women's Career Luncheon | Black Alumni Summit | History Sip & Stroll
50 Year Club Dinner | All Alumni Party | Alumni Service Awards
Family Tailgate Luncheon | and more!

NOVEMBER 3-4, 2023


WOFFORD.EDU/HOMECOMING