Alex Malvern ’23, an English major from Greenville, S.C., played Alan Strang, and Mary-Michael O’Hara ’25, an English and theatre major from Charleston, S.C., played Dr. Dysart in Wofford Theatre’s spring production of Equus.
Commencement is always a highlight of the academic year. During the weekend of awards ceremonies and receptions, culminating in Baccalaureate and Commencement exercises, we celebrate the members of our community who have spent four years learning and growing and exploring what it means to be citizens, leaders and scholars. We also celebrate those who work every day on the faculty and staff to ensure that our students succeed so they can reach this milestone.

This issue of Wofford Today shares stories and photos from graduation as well as features on some of the people who made the walk across the stage possible for the Class of 2023. During Commencement weekend, we also commemorated the Class of 1973, who returned to Wofford for a 50th reunion as examples of what it means to lead productive lives in service to others. We honored them and their contributions to society as well as those to whom the college conferred honorary degrees: Alexander Smalls ’74 (James Beard, Tony and Grammy award winner), who also served as our Commencement speaker; Brenda Lee Pryce (former South Carolina state representative and community leader) and Patricia Gainey (a retired educator and pioneer in the development of women’s athletics at Wofford).

Even as we celebrate, we begin preparing for another class of Terriers. The summer will be a busy one on campus and a great time to visit. Your engagement is important, and we welcome you so you can see for yourself our thriving community in action.

Go Terriers!

Nayef H. Samhat
11TH PRESIDENT OF WOFFORD COLLEGE
Where thought leads.
Students in Dr. Jessica Tomkins’ Ancient Egyptian History class visited Bob Jones University Museum and Gallery for a hands-on lesson with ancient Egyptian artifacts, allowing students to handle objects that are several thousand years old. The museum has little information about these particular objects, so students spent the end of the semester putting their research skills to the test and the course content into practice by investigating one object each to add to the museum’s knowledge about the artifacts. Tomkins, an assistant professor of history, also has used virtual reality to make the ancient past more accessible and exciting for students. Tomkins, who holds degrees from University College London (B.A.), Oxford University (M.St.) and Brown University (Ph.D.), teaches about the ancient world, specializing in North Africa. Her research centers on the creation of centralized systems of government in the ancient world, particularly in societies where none previously existed.

The students featured, from left, are Samantha Laycock ’24, a biology major and history minor from Marietta, Ga.; Alexandra Key ’23, a history major and English minor from Charleston, S.C.; and Carolina Woody ’25, a religion major from Spartanburg, S.C.
PHI BETA KAPPA
Wofford’s Phi Beta Kappa chapter inducted 38 new members. Phi Beta Kappa is the nation’s most prestigious liberal arts honor society, and the college is one of six independent Phi Beta Kappa colleges and universities in the Carolinas. Wofford received its chapter in 1940. Students who have earned 100 credit hours with a cumulative GPA of 3.6 are considered.

Read more online.

LENDING LANGUAGE SUPPORT
Wofford’s Department of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures hosts teaching assistants each year, including Chinese assistants through the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program. These scholars from around the globe come to Wofford for a semester or a year, and their work enriches the student experience.

Read more online.

BACK IN THE SADDLE
Remington Linker ’25 won just by being at the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association national championships in May. Last year, Linker, a member of Wofford’s equestrian club team, couldn’t even walk, let alone climb on a horse and ride. She had just undergone a second surgery to repair her right knee, which she injured in November 2021.

Read more online.

SHARPSHOOTING TERRIERS
Two Wofford student-athletes took their best shot. Garett Dall ’26 and Ansely-Brooke Springer ’25 competed in the U.S. Junior Olympics shooting competitions in Colorado Springs, Colo., as the first Terriers to compete on that stage. They were among 314 student-athletes receiving an invitation for the competition, which is for top shooters under the age of 21.

Read more online.
MUSIC MAN

The first ticketed gig for Thomas Rowland IV ’23 was a 40-minute set opening for Old Crow Medicine Show. "I'm a low-key, quiet person, and the attention I've gotten since this was announced has been overwhelming," says Rowland, a Spanish and environmental studies major from Georgetown, S.C. "It's the most attention I've had to deal with consistently."

Read more online.

MASTERWORKS CONCERT

More than 50 students, faculty, staff and friends of the college performed Mozart’s “Coronation Mass” and Beethoven’s “Choral Fantasy” as part of the Wofford Chorale Society. The choir was joined by a 20-piece orchestra, including members of the Spartanburg Philharmonic. Read about the Mitchell family’s involvement on page 41.
Jasmine Jefferson ’24, a sociology and anthropology major from Knoxville, Tenn., began working in the Rayner Greenhouse as a sophomore. “A few other students and I (including Isaiah Mananga ’25, a sociology and anthropology major from Clayton, N.C.) take turns and alternate days watering the plants and caring for them. It’s a super fun job getting to watch them grow and bloom,” she says. The greenhouse is used by student and faculty researchers and is named for Dr. Doug Rayner, professor emeritus of biology, and the late Ellen Tillett.
FOSTERING ENGAGED CITIZENSHIP

A look at the college’s pre-law preparation

LAW, JUSTICE AND INNOCENCE INITIATIVE

BY DUDLEY BROWN

Gracie Hicks ’23 had plans to attend medical school after graduating from Wofford College. Her Psychology and Law class and its focus on wrongful convictions led her to change her mind.

“I recognized the weight they must have been feeling sitting in prison, and I couldn’t imagine being in that position,” says Hicks, a psychology major from Murrells Inlet, S.C. “We learned what other states were doing to reform the criminal justice system. We need to get the word out here, and I plan to dedicate my life’s work to this.”

Dr. Dawn McQuiston, professor of psychology, taught the class that inspired Hicks to shift gears and pursue a legal career. McQuiston, Hicks, Neeley Wilson ’23, a double major in psychology and government from Knoxville, Tenn., and Bladen Bates ’23, a psychology major from Greenville, S.C., co-founded the Law, Justice and Innocence Initiative at Wofford, a group that raises awareness about wrongful conviction through education, outreach and advocacy.

Wilson was the organization’s first president, Hicks served as vice president, and Bates served as secretary.

“There’s nothing like this organization in this area of the country,” says McQuiston, one of three Wofford faculty members serving as coordinators for the pre-law program. “There are so many students from the college who go on to be lawyers and judges in South Carolina. Because Wofford is so connected, the word about what we’re doing can get out. We have alumni support in a way that might be challenging for others.”

During the 2022-23 academic year, the organization hosted multiple events on campus, including panel discussions with attorneys, a documentary screening, a fundraiser for a nonprofit that supports victims of wrongful convictions and a letter-writing campaign during the Christmas season to several people incarcerated across the United States who are believed to have been wrongfully convicted.

Hicks and Wilson also attended the Innocence Network conference with McQuiston in April in Phoenix, Ariz.

“I am immensely grateful to the exonerees I met who shared their stories with me and the community that the Innocence Network provides,” Wilson says. “I will forever be moved by their passion to impact their community and their unwavering positivity despite facing the worst circumstances. I was also struck by the gratitude I received for trying to make a difference in our state.”

McQuiston says most organizations focused on supporting people who have been wrongfully convicted are based at law schools. She’s aware of fewer than five undergraduate programs in the nation providing such support, and she says Wofford should lead the way when it comes to discussions about wrongful convictions in South Carolina.

South Carolina is one of 13 states that does not provide compensation to people who have been exonerated of crimes. McQuiston, who is an expert on the intersection of psychology and the law, including the reliability of eyewitness testimony, says the state has been slow to pursue criminal justice reform concerning factors contributing to wrongful conviction.
According to the Innocence Project, mistaken eyewitness identifications contributed to about 69% of the more than 375 wrongful convictions in the United States that have been overturned by DNA evidence.

“I’ve already started talking to policymakers, and they’re interested,” Hicks says.

The initiative’s second year will involve increasing a focus on legislative advocacy. McQuiston says the group plans to host a regional conference on campus in 2024 that would include exonerated people, attorneys and academics. Although graduating, Hicks and Wilson plan to remain involved with the Wofford organization. Hicks begins law school at the University of South Carolina in the fall, and Wilson graduated from Wofford in three years and will spend next year working or interning in the legal field while applying to law school.

“No matter my field, I am dedicated to contributing to the wrongfully convicted in any way I can,” Wilson says.

That passion excites McQuiston.

“Amazing things happen when college students get excited about advocacy and inspired to change the system,” McQuiston says.

Students participated in a “You Talk!” organized by the Law, Justice and Innocence Initiative that involved discussing facts surrounding important exoneration cases and the psychological consequences of wrongful convictions.
EDWARD K. HARDIN PRE-LAW SOCIETY
Guiding students through a competitive process
BY ROBERT W. DALTON

Julia Allen ’23 is looking forward to starting at Campbell University School of Law in the fall to begin preparing for a career in commercial real estate law. Before she gets there, however, she’ll spend the summer interning with North Carolina Supreme Court Justice Philip Berger Jr.

Allen, a government and environmental studies double major from Raleigh, N.C., credits the support she received from Wofford’s Edward K. Hardin Pre-Law Society with helping her chart her course.

“They made me realize I was capable of going to law school,” says Allen. “That was probably the most important thing.”

The goal of the pre-law society is to support Wofford students who want to pursue careers in law. It provides an LSAT boot camp, advising and assistance with the law school application process. It also taps into Wofford’s vast network of alumni working in the legal field to bring in speakers and provide internship opportunities.

“The pre-law society is the biggest support group for students who are interested in a legal career and applying to law school,” says Dr. David Alvis, associate professor of government and international affairs and one of the college’s three pre-law advisors. “Today, getting into law school and having a career in the law is a lot more complicated than it used to be.”

The society currently has 110 students. Alvis says membership continues to climb because the society gives students a look at available options in a field that has become more diversified.

“You’re not just doing criminal defense or civil litigation,” he says. “There are also opportunities working with nonprofits or working with in-house counsel. We have many students working for various committees in Congress. There is just a huge range of opportunities.”

Getting into law school is more competitive than ever, Alvis says. The society helps students build a complete resume and work on their personal statements. It also hosts a mock admission process to give students a sense of what to expect.

The LSAT boot camp is one of the society’s most popular programs. It’s five days of intense preparation.

“That was one of the most helpful workshops I’ve ever experienced,” says Allen. Caroline Joy ’23, a government and philosophy double major from Knoxville, Tenn., says she appreciates the society’s comprehensive approach.

“I took the LSAT boot camp, and the professors helped me secure internships with Wofford alumni who are in the legal profession,” says Joy. “They just helped me tremendously.”

HOMETOWN: RALEIGH, N.C.
MAJORS: GOVERNMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Allen is going home to go to law school. She’ll start at Campbell University School of Law in the fall and intends to practice commercial real estate law after graduating. Before she gets there, she’ll spend the summer interning with North Carolina Supreme Court Justice Philip Berger Jr. She previously interned with her grandfather, a worker’s compensation attorney. She credits the professors in Wofford’s Pre-Law Program with helping her realize she was capable of going to law school.

HOMETOWN: SPARTANBURG, S.C.
MAJOR: PSYCHOLOGY

Privott, a Bonner Scholar and Gateway Scholar, has been interested in becoming an attorney since she was in first grade. Testifying as a witness in a case solidified her interest and inspired her to learn more about the legal system. She will attend the University of South Carolina School of Law in the fall after selecting it over Mercer University. She plans to practice either educational policy or family law.
Joy did an internship with Charleston attorney John Linton Sr. '70. Linton introduced her to attorneys who practice in different areas, which helped her decide to focus on civil litigation as a plaintiff's attorney. She will start at Charleston School of Law in the fall. Her grandfather, a banker and civic leader, inspired her to go to law school as a way of achieving her goal of helping others.

Willey will work as a field director for U.S. Sen. Tim Scott’s presidential campaign before applying to law school. He has planned to be an attorney since learning about the career at a fifth-grade career day. During the 2021-22 academic year, he helped start Wofford’s mock trial team, which hosted a regional competition in just its second year. He’s had experience working with a medical malpractice attorney, and he plans to specialize in corporate law.
Jordan Willey ’23 found himself missing something once he arrived at Wofford College.

The college didn’t have a mock trial team, and he enjoyed studying law and having legal discussions while competing with mock trial teams in middle and high school.

“I like justice in the sense that I like when there are rules to help us determine right and wrong,” says Willey, a government major from Moncks Corner, S.C. “We can come to an issue and work through it in a way that’s civil.”

Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, Willey sat at his dining room table and researched how to start a team through the American Mock Trial Association. He was able to generate interest on campus and convinced a professor to offer a mock trial course at Wofford during Interim 2022. The course helped recruit students for the team and allowed it to prepare for regional tournaments.

Last summer, Willey, who served as the team’s first president, interned in the Charleston, S.C., law office of Wofford Trustee Josh Whitley ’05. Together, they investigated how to make Wofford a host site for a regional tournament.

In February, the college’s Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts served as a courthouse for a weekend while 300 students from 13 colleges and universities competed in an AMTA regional tournament. Wofford was one of 32 campuses across the country to host an AMTA regional tournament. The college also had 25 students compete in the tournament on two teams.

The colleges and universities competing at Wofford included Clemson University, Davidson College, University of Central Florida, University of Florida, Florida State University, Furman University, Georgia Tech, Lee University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, University of Tennessee Chattanooga, College of William & Mary and Wofford.

Seventy judges supported Wofford’s tournament, and Willey estimates that 75% of them were Wofford alumni. Willey and other students, including Porter Thompson ’24, an accounting and finance major from Asheville, N.C., and Cannon Murray ’25, an undeclared major from Columbia, S.C., organized the regional tournament hosted at Wofford.

“What the organizers for the mock trial competition did was truly astounding,” says Dr. David Alvis, associate professor of government and international affairs and the Wofford team’s faculty advisor. “Not only did they successfully beat out many other large colleges and universities for the bid to host the event, but they invested an enormous amount of time and energy in organizing something that is usually done by a full-time administrator. The whole thing was a great testament to the enterprising spirit of our mock trial team at Wofford.”

Willey is pleased with the support that alumni extended and how the team continues to grow.

“It’s something I can leave behind that will benefit other people,” Willey says. “It can help students get into law school and set themselves apart. This will give us another competitive edge.”

Willey will serve as a field director for U.S. Sen. Tim Scott’s presidential campaign while taking a gap year before law school.
When André Caldwell ’05 talks about climbing the career ladder, he uses the words quickly, efficiently and humbly.

Caldwell, senior counsel and director for mobility, surveillance and bombers at Boeing Defense, Space and Security, visited Wofford’s Career Center in the Mungo Exchange in March to share his career path and answer questions from students, many of whom are interested in careers in the law.

“I consider the weekend I came to Wofford to interview for the Richardson Scholarship the most pivotal weekend of my life to that point,” says Caldwell, who was awarded the scholarship and went on to double major in government and philosophy and become a student-athlete on the college’s track and field teams. “After that, I never turned down the opportunity to listen to possibility. My career has been a pipeline of relationships, mentoring and trust.”

Caldwell surprised even himself when he chose to attend law school at the University of Oklahoma, far from his family, hometown and Wofford friends. The decision, however, turned out to be what he needed, and the relationships he developed there led to an internship with the U.S. attorney’s office and a job as an assistant U.S. attorney (or federal prosecutor) after law school, an atypical path to that role.

“I’ve tried to pick the opportunities that would challenge me,” Caldwell told students. “That’s how you fuel growth, by making choices that stretch you.”

While in the U.S. attorney’s office, Caldwell worked a large-scale wiretap drug conspiracy case against the South Side Locos, a gang that was featured in an episode titled “Crazy Killers” on the FX TV series “Gangland.” He also prosecuted a doomsday prepper who was found in possession of a grenade launcher. In his four years as a prosecutor, he took 25 cases to trial and was awarded the FBI Excellence Award, presented by the director of the Bureau.

When Caldwell left the U.S. attorney’s office to work with Crowe & Dunlevy, at the time the oldest and largest law firm in the state, he did so with the idea of making himself a better candidate for a judicial position.

“I knew I needed civil experience,” says Caldwell, who later applied for a federal magistrate position and made it to the final round of interviews. Ultimately, the experience made him rethink his desire to join the judiciary and helped him realize that he needed another challenge.

Caldwell, now versed in commercial litigation and with the experience of helping the firm develop its white-collar criminal defense practice group, accepted a position with Ogletree Deakins, a large international firm that could give him the opportunity to return to the Southeast. At Crowe & Dunlevy, he was one of the go-to trial lawyers, mainly because of his courtroom litigation experience with the U.S. attorney’s office. At Ogletree Deakins, he was eager to build knowledge in employment law, and he helped establish a workplace investigation practice group, co-chairing the international arm of that practice area. With the firm, he quickly made partner and accepted leadership positions, including leading the firm’s Black Attorney Resource Group.

Then came another opportunity — this time with The Boeing Company in corporate law — thanks to the people who mentored him at the U.S. attorney’s office. He’s been with the company since June 2022 and is embedded in the mobility, surveillance and bombers group within the defense business division.

“It was a left turn in my career, but I knew the pedigree of the Boeing legal department, and I just kept thinking about how much I could learn from them,” says Caldwell. “So, here I am in a new challenge, and I love the challenge.”

Caldwell remains in Oklahoma City with his wife, Mary, and their three children. They’re both involved philanthropically in their community and seek to set an example for their children. To stay fit and destress, Caldwell has practiced judo (he’s good enough that he missed the London Olympics by only four spots), run marathons, cycled and journaled. Spending time mentoring and with those in his circle who have mentored him also remains important.

“I hope all of you have something,” Caldwell shared with students. “Lawyers are not far behind dentists in suicide, so it’s important to pick healthy patterns to protect yourself.”

Caldwell is enjoying the Boeing culture and says he’s “ready to sit still for a few minutes,” but if opportunity calls...
Alexander Smalls ’74 shared the lyric of his life and his secret sauce during his Commencement address to the Class of 2023.

Smalls, who attended Wofford in the early 1970s, is a Tony, Grammy and James Beard award winner. He encouraged graduates to, “Always start with the best ingredients.”

Then, he reassured them that they possessed what they need for life.

“You are your best recipe for your best life,” Smalls said.

“Discovering the wonder of your authentic truth is how you uncover your greatness. Hold on to your moral fabric and excite your humanity with generosity and kindness. Don’t be afraid to care about others. It is life changing. Never ever quit. ... Always finish what you start with the intention to win.”

Wofford’s Class of 2023 included 369 graduates who received 384 Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts degrees.

The college’s 169th Commencement included all the traditions that many alumni remember: Honors Convocation, Baccalaureate, ROTC Commissioning and the Phi Beta Kappa induction. Presidential International Scholar Paola Cruz ’23 gave a presentation on her research in Argentina and Honduras that involved her performing songs inspired by her research.

The Class of 1973 celebrated its 50th reunion, and the first two Black women to graduate from Wofford, Janice Means ’73 and Gwendolyn Prince-Lawrence ’73, were in attendance. Prince-Lawrence and Means received applause when introduced during Baccalaureate and Commencement.

Honorary degree recipients
Wofford conferred honorary degrees on three people who have made significant contributions to the college, Spartanburg and the culinary and performing arts fields.

(Continued on next page.)
Alexander Smalls is believed to be the only person to win James Beard, Grammy and Tony awards. His first career was as an opera singer before opening renowned restaurants celebrating the Lowcountry cuisine inspired by his childhood. He’s also the author of three — soon to be four — cookbooks. Over the past 30 years, he’s traveled the world studying the cooking techniques and foodways of the African diaspora. In 2021, Smalls opened the first contemporary modern African dining hall in Dubai, and he is working to secure similar dining experiences in the United States and Europe.

Patricia Gainey, the first woman to coach at Wofford, established the college’s first women’s athletics teams in the late 1970s and early 1980s. She started club basketball and volleyball teams for women at Wofford before starting varsity teams in those sports. After her time at Wofford, Gainey spent 32 years working in North Carolina’s Forsyth County Schools, where she held positions as a teacher, curriculum coordinator, assistant principal, principal and instructional superintendent. She was named the district’s principal of the year in 2015. She continues to volunteer in the community.

Brenda Lee Pryce is a former state legislator. In 1995, she became the first Black woman from Spartanburg elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives. She represented House District 31 for 10 years. As a legislator, she secured funding for breast cancer education for underserved women in the Upstate, introduced a resolution designating a stretch of South Church Street in honor of Martin Luther King Jr., served on the legislature’s Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee and managed a successful campaign for Congressman James E. Clyburn. She’s a former member of the college’s President’s Advisory Council.

Sullivan Award winners

The college presented the Mary Mildred Sullivan Award to Lilly Hatton ’23, a biology major from Georgetown, Ind. Isaiah Franco ’23, a double major in Spanish and international affairs from Newtown, Pa., received the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award.
Non-student recipients of the Sullivan Awards were Laura Ringo, executive director of PAL: Play. Advocate. Live Well., in Spartanburg, and Yossi Liebowitz, rabbi of Congregation B’nai Israel in Spartanburg.

Teaching awards

Dr. Kim Rostan, associate professor of English, is the college’s 17th recipient of the Philip Covington Award. She contributes to multiple academic programs on campus, including African and African-American Studies, Gender Studies, Intercultural Studies and Middle Eastern and North African Studies.

Dr. Aaron Garrett, associate professor and chair of the department of computer science, is the college’s 19th recipient of the Roger Milliken Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Science. He’s known for offering an astonishing number of office hours for his students and weekly board-game get-togethers for students and faculty to interact and practice problem solving.

Honor graduates

Six members of the Class of 2023 were recognized as Honor Graduates, all earning a perfect 4.0 GPA throughout their college careers. They are Logan Bradley, Nathan Faulstich, Lilly Hatton, Kennedy Smith, Jack Stomberger and Gray Whitener.

Commissioned officers

Five Wofford students were commissioned as second lieutenants in the U.S. Army: Brooke Bozarth (signal), Chardonnay Durrah (quarter master), Danika Muller (chemical), McKenzie Norman (transportation) and John Martin Reed (armor).
International study

**ISAIAH FRANCO ’23**, an international affairs and Spanish double major from Newtown, Pa., was the college’s first Frederick Douglass Global Fellow in 2021. More than 500 students from across the United States applied for the prestigious Council on International Education Exchange and Irish Department of Foreign Affairs experience. Franco was one of 14 selected.

Arts

**HAILIE GOLD ’23**, an English and theatre double major from Simpsonville, S.C., directed more theatre productions than any other student. She directed pulp theatre shows “Fairy Tale Lives of Russian Girls” and “The Rocky Horror Show,” which was the college’s first musical in seven years. Gold also directed the theatre department’s spring production in 2023, “Equus.”

**MEGAN SANTOS ’23**, a biology and studio art double major from Concord, N.C., left behind a stunning mural in the newly renovated Tony White Theater in the Mungo Student Center. She was supported by the Office of the President.

Change in Spartanburg

**DREW WILSON ’23** contributed to research in Spartanburg County’s Una, Saxon and Arcadia neighborhoods that Spartanburg County Council used to support a revitalization plan for those communities.
Nine graduates who took Anthropology 305-405 began projects to serve Spartanburg’s youth that will continue.

NATHAN FAULSTICH ’23, a biology major from Lake City, Fla., helped start the STEM Club at the Salvation Army Community Center.

ISAIAH FRANCO ’23, (Franco earlier in story) helped start Determined Minds, an after-school program based at Camp Croft Courts.

GEORGIA JENKINS ’23, a biology major from Boiling Springs, S.C., and ISABEL HARLOW ’23, a biology major from Summerville, S.C., pitched the STEM Club that serves fourth graders at Cleveland Academy of Leadership.

THOMAS CUTTINO ’23, a government major from Columbia, S.C., and DANIKA MULLER ’23, a psychology major from Denair, Calif., discussed Inspiring Youth Leadership at the Bethlehem Center, which reinforces the leadership qualities possessed by all people through exercises and discussions.

MORGAN RODDY ’23, a biology major from Pauline, S.C., helped start the Homework Club and Teen Outreach program based in the Highland community and Victoria Gardens.

Mock Trial

JORDAN WILLEY ’23, a government major from Moncks Corner, S.C., established the college’s first mock trial team and led efforts to make Wofford a host site for an American Mock Trial Association Regional Tournament in 2023.

Athletics

JACKIE CARMAN ’23, an international affairs and Spanish double major from Twinsburg, Ohio, and LILLY HATTON ’23, a biology major from Georgetown, Ind., were the graduating seniors from the women’s basketball team’s historic 2022-23 season that involved a record number of wins, 22, and the team’s first Southern Conference regular season championship. The team also made its second consecutive postseason appearance. Carman made 206 career three-point shots, which is the second most in the program’s history. She’s also the 17th woman to score 1,000 points. Hatton holds the program record for the number of games started with 113 and became the 12th Terrier to record at least 1,000 points and 500 rebounds.

The Wofford baseball team achieved its first top-25 ranking in 2022. Members of the Class of 2023 who were a part of that team were RYAN GALANIE ’23, CAMERON GILL ’23, SHANE LUSSIER ’23, MATTHEW MARCHAL ’23, BRICE MARTINEZ ’23, O’KELLY MCWILLIAMS IV ’23, BEN SCHULTE ’23, DEVON SHARTS ’23, LUKE STEPHENS ’23 and TREY YUNGER ’23.

Senior members of the first Wofford volleyball team to earn a spot in the Southern Conference Tournament Championship game in 2021 were ALEXA BERTSCH ’23, KAITLYN BROWN ’23, CHASIDY SHARPE ’23, KENNEDY SMITH ’23, EMBRY WYATT ’23, MEGHAN YAFFA ’23 and BELLA ZEMAN ’23.
Excellence in Teaching

Dr. Begoña Caballero-García earns recognition from SCICU

Dr. Begoña Caballero-García brings two core values to every class she teaches:

1. A commitment to building community and trust.
2. Dedication to raising awareness while advocating for equity and social change to students, the campus and the community.

“Diversity, equity, inclusion and what I do in the classroom is a reflection of me as a person because I have for many years been an advocate of different causes,” says Caballero-García, an associate professor of Spanish. “My passion is to just be the best person I can be and to make sure students understand they can learn from everyone they meet. They can try to do their very best, and they can change other people’s lives with their behavior.”

Because of her work in the classroom and the community, Caballero-García is Wofford College’s recipient of the 2023 South Carolina Independent Colleges & Universities’ Excellence in Teaching Award. The organization recognized faculty from each of its 21-member colleges and universities. This is the 16th year SCICU has recognized faculty with the awards, which have rigorous guidelines and come with a $3,000 professional development grant.

“Begoña is an exceptional teacher who is always trying new ways to improve student learning and create an inclusive classroom,” according to the letter nominating her for the award. “She’s the kind of teacher who leaves a discussion, presentation or workshop where she hears a new idea and tries it the next class.”

In addition to her classroom duties, Caballero-García served as Wofford’s first dean of diversity and inclusion. During her three years in the post, she helped bring the Teach. Equity.Now. program to campus, initiated LGBTQIA ally training for faculty and staff in collaboration with LGBTerriers, and brought in a variety
of speakers to discuss diversity and inclusion issues.

Off campus, Caballero-García has served as an interpreter in schools and at medical fairs. For two years she was co-organizer of a new chapter of Together Women Rise in Greenville. She also volunteers with RESULTS, an anti-poverty advocate, and for several years led a chapter on campus.

Provost Dr. Tim Schmitz has first-hand knowledge of Caballero-García’s dedication to Wofford. Several years ago, Schmitz audited one of her 400-level courses to brush up on his Spanish.

“I was treated to a truly excellent course on Spanish literature. Begoña was clearly an expert in the subject matter, and she effortlessly drew me and the students into relaxed, well-organized conversations about the material. I am delighted for her to be recognized by SCICU for her excellent work.”

Caballero-García says she’s appreciative of the award.

“My passion is to just be the best person I can be and to make sure students understand they can learn from everyone they meet.”

“I love teaching, and I’m always learning how to improve. This is a wonderful recognition of the work I’ve been doing at Wofford for more than 16 years,” she says.
Chalk and talk. Those were the tools Dr. Rickey Madden had at his disposal when he began his teaching career 40 years ago. As technology evolved, so did Madden.

“Technology has changed education in general, but it has totally transformed marketing and business with e-commerce and information,” says Madden, associate professor of business and coordinator of the business program. “The changes kept me scrambling.”

Madden retired at the end of the semester after 14 years at Wofford. Wofford was the sixth and final stop of his career.

Madden was teaching at Presbyterian College in Clinton, S.C., in 2008. He was happy there, but one day he was reading the Chronicle of Higher Education and saw that Wofford was seeking a marketing professor. He decided to go for it.

“I always wanted to teach here,” he says. “This was my dream job. This is such a great place.”

Madden says he enjoys teaching and walked into class each day with the same enthusiasm he had when he started.

“I try to give it everything I can,” he says. “I can walk away every day and say I earned my paycheck.”

Madden has a short list of things he won’t miss — commuting 20 miles to work each day, meetings and grading. He’ll have a tough time saying goodbye to everything else. His colleagues and students are at the top of that list.

“The students keep me young,” he says. “I would tell them to be as good as you possibly can and work as hard as you can. And on the last day I told them that I wish for you what I have, a job that you love.”

Madden plans to spend his days reading — he especially enjoys Sherlock Holmes mysteries — gardening and volunteering. He also might make a new friend.

“Jenny Bem (associate professor of accounting) is bound and determined that I get a dog,” he says. “She’s fostering some goldendoodles, but I’ve told her those dogs are too active for me. I want a dog like me, old and arthritic, so we can both sit around and groan.”
It takes Dr. Sally Hitchmough 13 minutes to walk from her house to the home of her daughter Rachel Chalmers ‘16. It’s a walk she’ll make often this summer, when Rachel has a baby.

“It takes longer if you drive,” says Hitchmough.

Hitchmough, professor of English, will have plenty of time to make that walk. She retired after a 27-year association with Wofford.

Hitchmough and her husband, Dr. Alan Chalmers, a professor of English at Wofford, came to Spartanburg from Oregon in 1991 after he was offered a position by a nearby university. She taught a course at other area colleges until 1996, when she was recruited by Wofford as a one-year fill-in for Dr. George Martin ’59, professor emeritus (now deceased) and retired chair of the Department of English. She was offered a tenure-track position in 2001.

“I stayed because I loved Wofford. I loved the community and the focus on learning and service, which went together very nicely,” she says.

Teaching is all Hitchmough ever wanted to do, and she was at it for 43 years. She started as a high school English and drama teacher in her native England before coming to the United States to earn her Ph.D.

“I wanted to be an English teacher since I was 8,” she says. “I was reading all the time. I love reading, writing and the languages.”

Hitchmough says she’s looking forward to spending more time with Rachel and her other children, Amy ’11 and Ben ’14. She’s ready to read what she wants and travel when she wants. First up is a trip to the coast and then a trip to England to visit family.

She says she’ll miss things that others might find mundane: the start of the new semester, the start of each class, spontaneous conversations with colleagues and students.

“I’m going to miss the community very much,” she says. “I’m going to miss walking into a class not knowing where the discussion is going to go. The students are always so fun and hopeful.”

Hitchmough says there was one lesson she tried to teach in every class, and she hopes it stuck with her students.

“Read carefully, listen to other people, get out of your comfort zone and keep an open mind,” she says.
Dr. Eddie Richardson received many notes from former students who heard that he was retiring, including one that captured what he hopes to have imparted.

The letter writer expressed appreciation for the inclusive nature of his classes and his teaching ability before writing, “Your desire to improve yourself inspires me not to be afraid to take risks.”

Richardson, professor of accounting, business and finance, retired after the spring semester. He had 31 years of service to the college.

Richardson first came to Wofford in 1992 to serve as director of institutional research. He left in 2000 to lead a tech company that fell victim to the burst of the dot-com bubble a few months after he arrived. He returned to Wofford to teach in 2002.

“What I love most was being in the classroom,” Richardson says. “You gotta be a little bit of an actor to hold the attention of students. I have a little bit of drama, I suppose, and I like being around students.”

A personal finance course was one of Richardson’s favorites to teach. He restricted it to seniors who had never taken a business class.

“Do you know what it means to take out a mortgage on a house or buy a car, and do you need life insurance,” are questions that he liked asking students as many prepared to sign their first apartment leases.

That course stemmed from a desire that Richardson and his wife, Dee, had to not only get a better understanding of their personal finances but to help others, too.

Music is one of Richardson’s passions. He started playing the guitar as a teenager and played with a band consisting of Wofford faculty for a while.

He enjoys sailing on Lake Keowee and plans to take classes at Spartanburg Community College. He and Dee have already taken an American Sign Language class.

“I hope to learn how to work on HVAC systems,” Richardson says.
Dr. G.R. Davis plans to drive into retirement by taking “Vanna White” across the country and conquering a dragon one more time.

Davis, McCalla Professor of Biology, retired with 29 years of service at the end of the academic year. He has no intention of taking to a rocking chair.

“I have a whole list of things I want to do,” he says. “I want to restore my dad’s 1950 John Deere tractor, see someone restore a grand piano and learn to sail.”

He also wants to drive to California in the rusty white 1998 GMC Savannah van that he affectionately calls “Vanna White.” After that, or maybe before, he’ll hop on his 2004 Honda Shadow motorcycle and ride the Tail of the Dragon, a section of U.S. Highway 129 in North Carolina bordered by the Great Smoky Mountains and the Cherokee National Forest that features 318 curves in an 11-mile stretch.

Oh, he also plans to spend time with his grandchildren.

“My life is going to be a bunch of this, that and the other,” he says.

Davis came to Wofford after a stint at Wingate University. When Wingate’s enrollment dropped, he volunteered to do post-doctoral work to prevent anyone from being laid off, and he planned to return when another faculty member retired. In the interim, a position came open at Wofford.

“I thought it would be a warm-up interview,” Davis says, “but I fell in love with the place. This is home. It’s where I fit.”

Davis ended the spring semester the way he’s ended every other. He spent the last six minutes of class reciting a Garrison Keillor poem about the importance of chasing dreams.

“My dream came true,” Davis says. “I’ve been paid to do what I love.”

“My colleagues stepped in and covered my classes and labs for the rest of the semester,” Davis says. “I owe this place.”

Davis says he’ll miss seeing those colleagues every day. He’ll also miss taking students abroad during Interim.

“My world was vastly expanded by the January travel Interims,” he says. “I traveled to 25 countries and came to appreciate the cultural differences.”

Davis says he’ll be forever grateful for the way the Wofford community took care of him in 2014, when his wife, Tia, was diagnosed with cancer and died seven weeks later.
Dr. Dave Kusher, professor of biology, spent more than three weeks in California, arriving back in Spartanburg around midnight on April 24. Bright and early on April 26, he was off for a three-week tour of New England. In June, he’ll head to the Olympic Peninsula in Washington state, and then he’ll do three weeks in Maine in July. August is up in the air, but plans are locked in for the fall.

Kusher retired at the end of Interim after 27 years at Wofford.

“I miss being in a classroom, and I’ll miss it going forward,” says Kusher. “But I’m 70. It’s time to have more fun.”

For 25 of his years at Wofford, Kusher led a popular travel Interim, taking students scuba diving to explore coral reefs. During that time, 480 Wofford students earned their scuba certification. While the trips were fun, Kusher says they also taught students how fragile coral reefs are and how vital their existence is to the planet.

“There are three guys taking over that Interim. I had them all sign a document saying if Kusher wants to go on a trip, he gets to go as one of the adults,” Kusher says with a laugh.

In addition to teaching biology and the impact humans have on the environment, Kusher says he stressed the importance of critical thinking.

“I’d tell them to take in information, evaluate it and make up your own mind,” Kusher says. “It’s really important to apply what you learn toward your life, your career and society.”

Outside of the classroom, Kusher says he’s proud to have been part of the committee that worked to make Wofford a tobacco-free campus. He also played a role in the college designating 17 all-gender restrooms across campus.

“I’ve always been one that if I see an issue, I really go right at it,” says Kusher, who plans to stay involved with Wofford through the Lifelong Learning program.

“My just going to have fun since I don’t have to worry about a schedule,” he says.
Dr. Eun-Sun Lee has fielded the question that all new retirees are asked, “What are you going to do?”

“Music was a top priority in my life,” says Lee, who began playing the violin at 9. “It was an intense childhood. I didn’t get to play enough, and I don’t mean the violin. I want to travel. I want to enjoy life with colleagues and friends while I’m still able to run, dance, hop and skip.”

Lee, professor of music and director of string ensembles, retired after the 2022-23 academic year. She served Wofford College for 19 years, and she started the Wofford Chamber Players.

“The goal is to make music that fulfills the composer’s intent,” Lee says. “I hope that, in doing so, I’ve fulfilled the mission of the college as well, since ensembles are hands-on, applied learning that encourages players to communicate and respect everyone while setting aside differences to make music. We must respect each other to elevate the performance, and that’s a humbling experience.”

Lee’s father was a diplomat and an amateur violinist. He was her first teacher, and she’s grateful for her parents’ love for music and how they encouraged her.

She cherishes the opportunities that she received to share music with the community, including Wofford’s Dunlap Chamber Music Series, which lasted 15 years before the COVID-19 pandemic.

“It offered the highest levels of classical music performances for Spartanburg and the local area, and it was free,” Lee says. “It put Wofford College and the music program on the map for chamber music performances.”

She’s appreciative of the support that she received from the college’s presidents, Dr. Joe Lesesne, Dr. Bernie Dunlap and Dr. Nayef Samhat, and many others, including those who gifted the college with the three grand pianos she helped secure. One of those pianos is the seven-foot Steinway grand piano in Leonard Auditorium.

She studied at The Juilliard School in New York City with renowned violin pedagogue Dorothy DeLay and credits the late violinist Eudice Shapiro, a mentor from the University of Southern California, for opportunities early in her career that exposed her to the possibilities for a professor of music.

“I was in the unique position of having opportunities to do what I love to do by performing, teaching, raising my son and having a family life,” Lee says. “It’s more difficult if you’re a concert musician because you must leave your children while touring. I was able to have a balanced life.”
A HIGHER MISSION
Wofford alumni impact college and university administration

These Wofford alumni have taken their undergraduate experience and used its lessons to influence the greater world of college and university administration.

Kristin Zollinger Lacey ’05
Vice president for operations and strategic planning,
Converse University

Kristin Zollinger Lacey ’05 became vice president for operations and strategic planning at Converse University when the college was trying to reopen after COVID-19. The institution had just experienced a change of model and name.

“It was a good time for me because that’s the kind of leader I am,” says Lacey, who enjoys living in Spartanburg with her husband, Travis ’05, and their two children. “I know I have the ability to impact change and that my services make a difference.”

Lacey is responsible for non-academic areas: campus safety, technology, facilities and grounds, human resources, research and engagement, risk management, auxiliary services (bookstore and dining), event services, etc. The job also includes partnering with campus leaders to develop a strategic vision and policies and procedures.

“I’m constantly flip-flopping between making sure we are successful today and for future generations,” says Lacey, who was a chemistry major at Wofford. Thinking she wanted to go into the clinical side of healthcare, Lacey followed her sister — Dr. Pam Zollinger ’02 — to a student job at Spartanburg Regional Medical Center. She spent an interim doing a medical shadowing internship and discovered that she was drawn to administration.

“I did that for a few years but still had the itch for business,” she says. Lacey transferred into marketing with the company and earned an MBA. Her path took her from research and development to healthcare administration and into education and pipeline development for the Greenville Hospital System/Prisma Health. It was the ideal bridge to begin a career in higher education.

“It was a winding path, but it’s all rooted in what I enjoy doing, and that’s in being mission-centered and making an impact,” says Lacey. “I think because of my odd career path, I’m constantly inspired by things outside of higher education. I’m the voice at the table that’s challenging the norm to create growth and new opportunities of thought.”

Read more at wofford.edu/woffordtoday.
Anthony Wise ’90
President, Pellissippi State Community College

When Dr. Anthony Wise ’90 became president of Pellissippi State Community College in 2011, he was eager to work hard, learn, build relationships and settle into a new role. Twelve years later, he’s still doing all that but with new challenges.

“The community college sector was profoundly impacted by the pandemic,” says Wise. “Our priorities had to shift because of student need.”

Prior to COVID-19, the PSCC system was experiencing booming enrollment, facilities expansion, new programs and increased partnerships.

“One the pandemic hit, we had to find ways to support homeless students and students who could no longer pay for tuition,” says Wise. Staffing, equity, fund raising and access to technology for distance learning also became a greater challenge.

“It’s been an interesting couple of years, but things are beginning to look up,” says Wise. “My time is now focused on stabilizing enrollment, closing equity gaps, planning for the next generation of community college students and building pathways for graduates. It feels good to feel optimistic.”

Read more at wofford.edu/woffordtoday.

Dr. Tracy Harrell Dunn ’87
Dean, Tyrone Adam Burroughs School of Business and Entrepreneurship, Benedict College

After earning her Ph.D., Dr. Tracy Harrell Dunn’s first job was as an assistant professor of marketing at Benedict College.

“The college’s mission is what resonated with me, and I have simply never left,” says Dunn ’87, dean of the Tyrone Adam Burroughs School of Business and Entrepreneurship for the past five years and the first woman to hold that position. “Being an administrator in higher education requires audacity, tenacity and comfort with the unknown,” and Dunn says she developed those traits as the only German major in her cohort at Wofford.

Dunn worked with her advisor to develop a challenging program that included study abroad, classes at Converse and lots of persistence. The experience, as well as her support networks of family and Wofford advisors, including Kaiser Thomas, assistant dean of students, and Charlie Gray ’72, director of admission, gives her important perspective when she advises students today.

“I work with a lot of first-generation college students. Having been one myself allows me to approach my work with additional insights and an extra layer of understanding and empathy,” Dunn says. “It also reduces communication barriers. My students can trust that I understand the hurdles that accompany being the first in your immediate family to pursue a college education.”

Dunn has a reputation for being completely committed to her students and their career aspiration. She’s nurturing and encouraging while seeking ways to challenge the boundaries of their comfort zones.

“That is what my Wofford education did for me,” she says. “Those uncomfortable experiences can yield the greatest personal growth.”

Read more at wofford.edu/woffordtoday.
Dr. Holisa Coleman Wharton ’04
Dean, William Preston Turner School of Nursing
Lander University

Dr. Holisa Wharton ’04 would not be where she is today, serving as dean of the William Preston Turner School of Nursing at Lander University, had she been accepted into medical school.

A biology major at Wofford and a member of the volleyball team, she worked hard — harder when the material didn’t come easy.

“I was failing organic chemistry, but Dr. Charlie Bass (Dr. and Mrs. Larry Hearn McCalla Professor of Chemistry, emeritus) didn’t give up on me,” says Wharton. “He tutored me one-on-one. He told me, ‘Holisa, you can do this.’ He came into my life at a critical point and taught me not to give up.”

Now, when students walk into Wharton’s office and say they can’t learn something, she sits them down and helps them build the persistence and resilience they will need as students, nurses and citizens.

“I thrive on interacting with students. I thrive on encouraging faculty,” says Wharton, who worked in the Wofford Department of Athletics, at a plasma center and as a certified nursing assistant for a year while trying to figure out her next steps after being turned down for medical school. She applied to the Mary Black School of Nursing at USC Upstate, and again, received a rejection letter.

“This time, I asked to speak to the dean. I wanted to know what I was missing. I watched him review my application. When he looked up, he said, ‘I can’t tell you why you didn’t get in. Can you start class on Thursday?’ And I did.”

Wharton went on to earn a master’s degree and then a Ph.D. in healthcare genetics from Clemson University. She was in the first class to earn that degree in the state.

Read more at wofford.edu/woffordtoday.

Terriers at Spartanburg Methodist College

“Spartanburg Methodist College is proud to employ graduates from nearly every college in Spartanburg as well as from around the state and country,” says Jennifer Almond Dillenger ’07, vice president for institutional advancement and chief of staff at Spartanburg Methodist College. “It’s no surprise Terriers are attracted to our mission of serving students by providing a transformative liberal arts education.”

She’s joined at SMC by (from left): Michael Crocker ’07, vice president for business affairs and chief financial officer; Allen Lollis ’15, dean of students; Josh Holt ’14, director of arts enrichment; Dillenger; Jason Womick ’94, vice president for information technology and analytics; and W. Scott Cochran ’88, president of Spartanburg Methodist College.
When Dr. Anthony Leigh ’99 visited Huntingdon College in Montgomery, Ala., for the first time, he felt a tug. The small, private, liberal arts college is affiliated with the United Methodist Church and features beautiful architecture and lovely grounds. (Sound familiar?)

“When I left Wofford, I had political aspirations. I had no intention of working at a college or going back to school,” says Leigh.

Then life happened. After three years as a legislative assistant for a U.S. senator then six years as Alabama’s deputy state treasurer, Leigh and his wife, Wendy, were married. (They now have a daughter, Carey Mae.)

“I decided that I did not want my job security to be tied to the electoral wisdom of voters,” says Leigh, who applied and was chosen to be vice president of external affairs for Huntingdon College in 2009. Master’s and doctoral degrees were logical next steps.

“My master’s degree in philanthropy made me a far superior fundraiser, and the Ph.D. helped me put Wofford and Huntingdon in context,” says Leigh, whose doctoral research took him to Amsterdam and China to study higher education systems in Europe and Asia. Now the senior vice president for student and institutional development and dean of students, Leigh credits Wofford with starting his preparation for his current life and work.

“Wofford was my north star. When I started working in higher education, everything I knew was from being a student at Wofford,” he says. “When I was president of the student body, I looked at everything through the lens of a student. Now I have other lenses, but that experience as a student leader still helps me keep an eye on the needs of our students.”

Read more at wofford.edu/woffordtoday.

Dr. Todd Dorman ’80
Senior associate dean for education coordination, associate dean of continuing medical education, professor and vice chair for critical care, Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Dr. Todd Dorman’s first professional loves are teaching and patient care, and he appreciates the opportunity he has at Johns Hopkins to do both and lead in both areas.

“Now that I’ve accrued leadership and administrative skills to complement the clinical and academic side of the equation, I’m not just helping the patients I touch. I can work with a bunch of physicians and touch all their patients as well. It’s very exciting,” says Dorman, who is responsible for more than 850 educational activities each year and is always looking for new things to support the mission. One of those new initiatives was the consolidation of an office of assessment and evaluation that works across the specialties and departments to ensure constant improvement.

“I enjoy what I do very much. The diversity of things can lead to craziness some days, but everything is exciting,” he says.

After Wofford, Dorman graduated from Tulane Medical School. He explored internal medicine in Charlotte, N.C., before joining the faculty at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He came to Johns Hopkins to do a second residency and never left.

“I always loved teaching. I was a teaching assistant at Wofford, and even taught before. I helped start the club team that became the intercollegiate soccer team at Wofford. From that experience, I learned about teamwork,” says Dorman. He has even made use of the background in tech that started with punch cards and IBM computing on the physics floor in the Milliken Science Building. “I understood digitizing on a different level when we were exploring more efficient ways to use technology at Hopkins.”

Read more at wofford.edu/woffordtoday.
Dr. Lucas McMillan '02  
Dean, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences and professor of political science, Lander University

This spring Dr. Lucas McMillan ’02 is teaching Introduction to World Politics. As dean of the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences and professor of political science at Lander University, teaching one course a semester is both required by the college and essential to McMillan.

“Keeping one foot in the classroom is good for me professionally — it keeps me in touch with students and faculty needs — and personally because it keeps me sane,” says McMillan, who loves introducing students to the world.

“Together we investigate why they think what they think and why they need to get more interested in what’s going on around them,” says McMillan. “We have a responsibility to create ethical, engaged citizens.”

In his 15th year at Lander, McMillan often reflects on his Wofford mentors and what they’ve meant to his career. In addition to four years as an undergraduate, McMillan returned to the campus as assistant to the vice president for planning and marketing. That meant he got an extra year with mentors such as Dr. Larry McGehee, Dr. Doyle Boggs ’70, Dr. Annemarie Wiseman and Dr. Dan Maultsby ’61.

“Because of my Wofford experience where people were so open and willing to explain things, I learned about academic affairs, fund raising, student development, institutional research and marketing,” he says. “My Lander journey would not have been the same without the people at Wofford who let me ask questions — lots of questions — and who asked me to think deep and wide. Wofford helped me understand that the liberal arts can be the start for an exciting and adventurous life as a person inspired to keep learning. I’m where I am because of the people at Wofford and their mentorship of me.”

McMillan is married to Lisa Cameron McMillan ’02 and they have two sons, Will and Henry. Lisa majored in art history and history and became an attorney. Now she’s executive director of human resources for Greenwood School District 50. They’re both heavily involved in the community, their church and in professional organizations.

Read more at wofford.edu/woffordtoday.

E. Jim Oree ’91  
Director of Student Support Services, Midlands Technical College

E. Jim Oree ’91 just received his 25-year service award from SC TRIO, the professional organization for TRIO staff members in South Carolina. After a quarter of a century working in the student success field, he’s still excited to go to work each day, partly because he understands what’s at stake.

Oree is the director of Student Support Services at Midlands Technical College. The department is included among the eight federal Department of Education TRIO programs that serve limited-income, first-generation students. He now works with college students, but his past TRIO work has included programs designed for middle and high school students.

“I was doing some of this work while at Wofford,” says Oree, who, while in high school, was a participant in TRIO’s Upward Bound program at the University of South Carolina. “At Wofford, I was a first-gen student with limited income. It was a great experience for me to continue my affiliation with TRIO by spending summers mentoring students at the same program that gave me support.”

Oree considered a career in teaching so he could stay involved in the program but decided to pursue a business degree at Wofford instead.

“First-gen students can’t ask mom and dad about financial aid forms, selecting books for classes or a challenging academic situation because they don’t have that experience,” says Oree. “That’s what we’re for.”

Oree’s work also involves providing financial literacy classes and other training while connecting students to workforce partners and other community organizations. Oree and other seasoned colleagues and TRIO alums produce a Yo TRIO! podcast to share professional development opportunities with others in the field.

Read more at wofford.edu/woffordtoday.
Dr. Michael Mikota ’98
President, Spartanburg Community College

Michael Mikota ’98 never missed a class at Wofford. The same thirst for knowledge and commitment to tradition that fueled his perfect attendance record continues to fuel his work at the intersection of higher education and economic development in the Upstate.

“I come to work every day knowing that I’m living a legacy,” says Mikota, president of Spartanburg Community College since July 2020. “Former generations of Terriers guided my decision to attend Wofford, and those individuals, as well as others from Spartanburg and Gaffney, drew me back home to build upon the legacy of others.”

After earning an MBA from Gardner-Webb University, Mikota launched a career in banking with Wachovia. He earned a Ph.D. in policy studies at Clemson University before joining the U.S. Government Accountability Office in Washington, D.C., during the 2008 Financial Crisis.

Read more at wofford.edu/woffordtoday.

Dr. Shelley Haddock Dempsey ’97
Director, On Your Time Initiatives, University of South Carolina

For some, Dr. Shelley Haddock Dempsey ’97 is a higher education translator, explaining what a bursar is or how to add a minor. For others, she’s a connector to services that help students catch up, graduate early or stay on track so they can graduate on time. For everyone, she’s someone with a grasp of the big picture and how to make strategic improvements so students succeed.

“Basically, I look at data and determine institutional hurdles,” says Dempsey. “Then, we establish programs or direct students toward programs designed to increase retention.”

Since she started as director of On Your Time Initiatives in 2017, transfer retention has improved, an increasing number of students have graduated in less than four years, and a wide variety of programs have been implemented to serve a growing student body.

As a Wofford student, Dempsey worked in the president’s office all four years.

“I learned that I wanted to be in college forever,” she says, “so I started researching what that would mean for me.”

She spent her senior Interim interning in different administrative offices on campus and attended the South Carolina Women in Higher Education conference with Lucy Quinn ’83, the registrar at the time.

“I remember sitting in that room and listening to those women. I don’t remember what they said, but I remember thinking, ‘One day I will speak to this group.’” And she has.

Read more at wofford.edu/woffordtoday.
Charleston School of Law President Ed Bell ’75 maintains an office in the school’s student center.

“I’ve intentionally located my office there, and I keep my door open,” says Bell, who enjoys chatting with the students who study at the conference table he can see from his desk. “It’s invigorating to me when they ask questions.”

Although heavily involved on the business end of running a law school, Bell appreciates every opportunity to keep the justice system vibrant by mentoring students and helping them understand the advocacy system. According to Bell, CSOL’s focus on advocacy continues to attract students as well as the college’s nationally ranked faculty and the opportunities it provides to give back to the community.

“Our students have given almost one million hours of free legal services in and around Charleston,” says Bell. “We prepare law students well for a life of public service.”

Bell says CSOL shares that commitment with Wofford, which is one reason Wofford students make such good law students.

“In addition to the academic piece of it, Wofford helps students grow personally. Wofford teaches students how to get along with and understand people,” says Bell, who takes great pride in the acceptance rates and success of Wofford graduates who enroll in CSOL. And he understands how hard that is.

“My first year at Wofford was ... well to say it was disastrous would be an understatement,” says Bell. “I needed to mature, so I took a year off.”

He went to work for UPS and took a business law class at the University of South Carolina at night. Bell wrote the proposal for UPS’s scholarship program and became the first recipient. Some still call it the Bell Scholarship.

After graduating from Wofford and USC’s School of Law, he became a top civil litigator, trying more than 300 major cases throughout the United States. In addition to serving as president, Bell continues to practice law. He’s also majority owner of Garden and Gun magazine, The Litchfield Co. and Charleston City Paper, and he’s an active member of TMS Global, a global missions organization.

The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Lee Walton ’95

The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Lee Walton ’95 is in his first year as president of Princeton Theological Seminary. He had been serving as dean of Wake Forest University’s School of Divinity and before that was on the faculty at Harvard University as the Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and the Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church of Harvard University.
When Jennifer Nodine Bell ’94 was chosen nationally as a winner of the NCAA Division II’s Cushman & Wakefield Athletics Director of the Year Award, Converse University leadership and athletics staff were thrilled ... but not surprised.

Since arriving at Converse in 2018, Bell has led an emphasis on developing a winning culture that extends beyond athletics to academics and community engagement. She led the department through a successful transition from single-gender athletics to a program that now fields six male sports, esports and a spirit squad.

“I am truly humbled,” says Bell. “The award recognizes what our entire Converse athletics community has accomplished throughout the last year. I am fortunate to be surrounded by colleagues who pursue excellence in every way possible.”

Converse now offers 21 athletics programs, and the number of student-athletes and staff has doubled under Bell’s leadership.

“Leadership for me means motivating, mentoring, advising and encouraging our coaches and staff to reach their full potential,” says Bell. Being director of athletics also means fundraising, strategic planning, problem-solving and game-day prep. “My entire career has been in college athletics. It isn’t easy, but thanks to my upbringing, I have never been one to shy away from hard work.”

At Wofford, Bell played volleyball then was asked to coach the Terriers upon graduation.

“I was fresh out of college and had no idea what I was doing, but I learned a lot those first four years. If I had not been given the opportunity at Wofford, I know I would not be where I am today,” Bell says.

Read more at wofford.edu/woffordtoday.

Joe Pickens ‘80 had his career path mapped out when he arrived at Wofford in the fall of 1976: 1. Graduate with honors. 2. Attend law school. 3. Become an attorney then a judge.

“That was easy for me to see,” says Pickens. “Then I served in the Florida legislature (2000-08), and my path changed.”

Pickens had developed a thriving legal practice specializing in education, specifically K-12. Once in the Florida legislature, he was eager to make an impact for school-aged children, but he knew he only had eight years because of Florida term limits. What he didn’t expect was the opportunity to chair a combined committee on education that allowed him to gain a global understanding of education in the state. As chair, he and his team co-authored a bill that created the Florida college system out of the community college system.

“We established the pilot so colleges could offer bachelor’s degrees, most for very specific workforce needs,” says Pickens, who joined St. Johns River State first as special counsel to the president after 17 years as the attorney for the Putnam County School Board. When the president retired after 36 years of service, Pickens was an obvious choice to succeed him.

“At first I was somewhat of a novelty,” says Pickens, a college president, practicing attorney and former legislator. “Now I’ve been in the role for 15 years.”

Pickens says Wofford prepared him to be a college president, even though that was not on the radar while he was a Wofford student.

“Wofford absolutely prepared me academically and as a person,” says Pickens. “I grew in maturity, and my ability to communicate — via spoken and written word — improved greatly because of the personal attention I received at Wofford.”

Read more at wofford.edu/woffordtoday.
1955

Theron Few has written a book titled “My Darling Darlene.” He lives in Raleigh, N.C.

1968

Dr. Dean Hartley III recently published a pair of new books, “Christian Visions: A Novel Perspective” and “Christian Visions: Marriage and Other Risks.” He lives in Oak Ridge, Tenn., where he is writing scientific works and now science fiction novels.

1978

The S.C. Department of Transportation Commission has named J. Barnwell Fishburne vice chairman. He is the owner of Fishburne & Co. Development Corp. in Walterboro, S.C., and has represented the 6th Congressional District on the commission since 2018.

1983

Dr. Ellis DeWayne Colvin received his Ph.D. from Capitol Technical University in Laurel, Md., in April at age 62. Colvin retired after serving 21 years in the U.S. Army and 40 total years of federal service. Colvin, who graduated from the Charleston School of Law at age 52, has launched his own national security company.

1984

S.C. Gov. Henry McMaster has nominated William H. Floyd to be the next executive director of the state Department of Employment and Workforce. Previously the agency’s chief of staff, Floyd has served as acting executive director since March 1. Prior to joining the department, Floyd practiced law for 35 years as a certified labor and employment law specialist and has been listed in the Best Lawyers in America since 2008.

1992

Beth Houck has retired as principal of Saxe Gotha Elementary School in Lexington, S.C., County School District One. She spent her entire 30-year career in Lexington One and became principal at Saxe Gotha in 2009.

1994

Gary C. Cooper of Pawleys Island, S.C., has been elected to the Waccamaw Community Foundation board of directors. He is the co-founder and executive chairman of Palmetto Infusion Services.

The Spartanburg School District 7 Board of Trustees appointed James A. Jones to fill a vacant board seat. Jones is a private immigration attorney.

1997

The Westchester Country Day School Board of Trustees announced that Mary Moore Keever will serve as interim head of school for the 2023-24 academic year. She joined the school, located in High Point, N.C., in 1999 as a language arts/literature teacher and became head of the middle school in 2012.

1999

Lexington County School District 2 has named Vance Jones principal of Brookland-Cayce High School. Jones comes to the post from Spartanburg High School, where he served as principal since 2019.

Amanda Jopling Wells has been named assistant principal at Tuscola High School in Waynesville, N.C. She served as the school’s lead teacher for the past year.

2000

Clemson University has hired Darrick Gibbs as an assistant women’s basketball coach. He has more than 15 years of coaching experience, including the past eight as head coach at the University of North Florida.

Bradley S. Talbert has been named CEO of Memorial Health in Savannah, Ga. He was previously CEO of HCA Florida Memorial Hospital.

2004

Jean Cecil Frick has been elected to the board of directors of the Girl Scouts of South Carolina — Mountains to Midlands chapter. She is senior vice president of NP Strategy in Columbia, S.C.

Santee Cooper has named Shawan Gillians director of sustainability and associate general counsel. In her new position, Gillians, a member of Wofford’s board of trustees, will enhance the utility’s efforts in sustainability through the development of a comprehensive corporate strategy and support structure.

2005

The Blair Cato Pickren Casterline law firm has hired Jaclynn Bower Goings as an associate attorney in its Lexington and Chapin, S.C., offices. Goings will assist clients in all transactional matters involving real estate contracts, purchases, sales and financing.

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.
More and more farmers are getting paid to practice low- or no-till techniques and plant cover crops that keep carbon in the soil instead of released into the air. The cover crops also limit the need for synthetic fertilizers.

The way Jim explains it, an airplane flying from Charleston to Charlotte emits carbon dioxide. The cover crops below act as straws, sucking carbon emissions from the air into the ground, which enriches the soil and eliminates greenhouse gases. Airlines then buy carbon credits from a collective of farmers practicing sustainable agriculture. The Traywicks are paid based on the carbon credits they store in the soil, and one carbon credit equals a metric ton of carbon dioxide gas (2,205 pounds) that is not emitted into the atmosphere.

“In May I have some sleepless nights wondering if the cotton seed will come up through the cover,” says Jim. “The cover crops don’t really boost yield. It’s more about being proud that you’re doing something the best way.”

Jim says he’s old enough to have quit farming a long time ago, and he has turned farm management over to Deaver, who commutes regularly from Asheville, N.C., to Cope. “He’s a great guy to work for — smart as the devil, a treasure and a pleasure.”

Farming in 2023 means operating multiple computers inside the cab of an air-conditioned tractor. It means sharing a completely automated cotton picker and baler with a neighboring farmer. It means walking out in the fields to see why the irrigation system quit moving during the night and considering a proposal to lease 400 acres for solar panels.

And Jim Traywick still does it all.
2006
Becca Monroe Mathis has completed the certified financial planner exam and was promoted to senior financial advisor at Jeter Hrubala Wealth Strategies in Spartanburg, S.C.

2007
Thread Bancorp in Brentwood, Tenn., has named Andrew Montgomery as its senior vice president and director of financial technology partnerships. Montgomery is responsible for identifying and building strategic partnerships with other financial technology companies and enhancing Thread Bank’s growing suite of digital products and services.

2009
The Baylor School in Chattanooga, Tenn., has named Garrison Conner head of the Upper School. He has served as assistant Upper School head since 2020.

2011
Anna Barber and Edward “Hood” Dawson III were married on Oct. 15, 2022. They reside in Greenville, S.C., with Caroline, 6. Anna is an attorney with Canal Insurance Co., and Hood is an attorney with Gallivan, White and Boyd.

2012
Warren B. Ritter II was the subject of a Black History Month feature article in the Montecito, Calif., Journal. He is executive director of the Common Table Foundation, a nonprofit that focuses on community unity.

2014
Holli Rebekah Branum Reynolds and Berry Mayfield Reynolds IV ’15 welcomed a son, Foster Crockett Reynolds, on Feb. 9, 2023. They live in Raleigh, N.C., where Holli works in executive support with Goetz Traction and Berry is a lead software engineer with ConnectWise.

2017
Alex Bentley has discovered a new species of dwarf boa constrictor. He is the research coordinator at Sumak Kawsay in Situ, located in the Pastaza province of Ecuador. The snake is one of 15 previously unknown species that Bentley and his colleagues have identified.

The Riker Danzig law firm in Morristown, N.J., has hired Ashley Duckworth to join its estate planning and administration group.

2018
Lauren Ford graduated from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School and will begin a psychiatry residency at UT Southwestern Medical Center this summer. She matched into the child psychiatry track and will complete a general psychiatry residency and a child and adolescent psychiatry fellowship over the next five years in Dallas, Texas.

Cole Gore has joined Hub International Limited (HUB), a leading full-service global insurance broker, as a commercial lines advisor in the Columbia, S.C., office.

2020
Meghan Daniel and Jacob Godwin ’13 were married on Dec. 10, 2022, in Georgetown, S.C. They live in Hartsville, S.C., where she is a marketing communications specialist at SPC Credit Union and a freelance writer for Columbia Metropolitan Magazine, and he is an attorney with Saleebey and Cox.

2021
The United Way of the Piedmont has named Sarah Keim to its board of directors. She is a regional director of revenue management for OTO Development in Spartanburg, S.C.

HONORED FOR ORIGINAL RESEARCH
JULIENNE ELECTED TO MEMBERSHIP IN THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Dr. Paul Julienne ’65, an emeritus fellow at the Joint Quantum Institute and an adjunct professor of physics at the University of Maryland, was elected as a member of the National Academy of Sciences in May.

He joins 142 others from around the globe for exceptional and ongoing achievements in original research.

“I am both gratified and humbled by this honor, which is only possible because of the many excellent colleagues and students with whom I have worked with over the years,” Julienne said in a publication of the University of Maryland. “I owe them a debt of gratitude, for it is by working together that science advances.”

Julienne helped establish the research field of ultracold matter, which investigates atoms and molecules near absolute zero. His theoretical research includes developing models that describe how cold trapped molecules and atoms can be precisely controlled using magnetic fields or lasers. This research topic has revealed details of atomic states and chemical reactions of ultracold molecules.

After earning his Ph.D. in chemical physics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1969, Julienne worked as a postdoctoral researcher at the National Bureau of Standards and Technology and as a staff researcher at the Naval Research Laboratory before beginning a career of nearly 40 years at NIST.
Robert Mitchell ’26 sang in a choir with his parents, Beth Grant Mitchell ’91 and Robert Mitchell ’82, for the first time. The masterworks concert featured Wofford students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the college.

Robert ’82 and Beth Grant Mitchell ’91 attended Wofford College a decade apart, but the college’s music department brought them together.

In 1996, Robert performed “Handel’s Messiah” with a choir organized by the late Dr. Vic Bilanchone, Wofford College professor of music emeritus. Beth attended both performances in Main Building, and they talked after the second performance.

“We tell our kids that they owe their lives to Vic,” says Robert, a tenor, who occasionally performs the national anthem at Wofford athletics events.

Robert, Beth and their son, Jonathan Mitchell ’26, were among 52 students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the college who filled the Leonard Auditorium’s stage while performing a masterworks concert on May 9.

A 20-piece orchestra, including members of the Spartanburg Philharmonic, accompanied the choir, which performed Mozart’s “Coronation Mass” and Beethoven’s “Choral Fantasy.”

It’s been at least eight years since the college has hosted such a performance.

The Mitchells are credited with recruiting a few alumni and people from choirs around Spartanburg to participate. Thirty-four Wofford students performed with the choir, including Jonathan, who sang in a choir with his parents for the first time.

“It’s so much fun,” says Dr. Benjamin Griffeth ’91, who was recruited by Beth. “Music always brings energy and enthusiasm, and to be with 19- and 20-year-olds excited about 250-year-old pieces of music is so much fun.”

Dr. Aaron Harp, assistant professor of music and the choir’s conductor, wanted to give students an opportunity to perform choral masterworks alongside musically talented people from the larger community.

“It was life-changing and an incredible experience to be part of a larger choir and perform with an orchestra,” Harp says. “It’s enriching for the students to get experience with community members who’ve been singing most of their lives, and it allows alumni, faculty and staff to be on campus and interact with students.

For the students to see them with so much joy and excitement about singing is contagious.”

The choir began rehearsals in February, and Beth enjoyed meeting students.

“They’ve been friendly, fun and chatty,” says Beth, a soprano, who sang with the Wofford Singers.

Robert, who had a short solo, has never been far from Wofford since graduation, and he finds every opportunity to return to campus special. Dr. Trina Janiec Jones is one of three Wofford faculty members who sang with the choir. Robert learned the first opera he performed from her late father, Dr. Henry Janiec, longtime dean of music at Converse University.

“It was like coming back home,” Robert says. “It was great to sing with Wofford professors Dr. Harp, Dr. Swicegood and Gary McCraw. The feeling is very special and brings back memories of Vic and many other friends too.”
The workshop “Now Stream-ing! Course-based Undergraduate Research Experiences in Aquatic Ecology” was presented by Dr. Jonathan Davis, assistant professor of biology, at the National Association of Biology Teaching conference in Indianapolis, Ind.


Dr. Courtney Dorroll, associate professor of religion and interim co-director of Wofford’s Center for Innovation, Teaching and Learning, published the chapter “Between Memory and Forgetting and Purity and Danger: The Case of the Ulucanlar Prison Museum” in the book “Neo-Ottoman Imaginaries in Contemporary Turkey.”


Rebecca Forstater, assistant professor of studio art, and collaborators have been approved for a $10,000 National Endowment for the Arts grant in the 2023 Media Arts Category on behalf of the New Media Caucus for their project “New Rules: Conversations with New Media Artists.” Additionally, her artwork, “All the Winners,” is on view at the Hangaram Design Museum in Seoul, South Korea. Her work will be exhibited by Paradise Palase Gallery at Future Fair during New York Art Week.

Dr. Kimberly Hall, associate professor of English, participated in the online panel discussion “Nonlinear Career Trajectories in Academia.”

Dr. Ingrid Lilly, assistant professor of religion, published the essay, “The Critical Potential of Spirits: Hebrew Philology, the Poetics of Relation, and Unfamiliar Selves” in the journal Ancient Jew Review.

“One Click at a Time

HOFFMASTER SERVES U.S. INTERESTS THROUGH CYBERSECURITY

By Brandi Wylie '24

Kristi Farmer Hoffmaster '02 was often the only woman in the room when she entered the cybersecurity world about seven years ago.

That has changed rapidly, says Hoffmaster, a senior security analyst with third-party risk management at Okta. Women make up about 25% of those working in cybersecurity, according to the World Economic Forum. Okta’s cybersecurity department houses 100 of the company’s 4,000 employees.

“I wish people knew how exciting of a career this is, especially for women,” Hoffmaster says. “This space is migrating to a fully remote career in a lot of companies, which allows me to easily juggle domestic duties and parenting duties without having to get in my car and go to an office.”

A sociology major at Wofford, Hoffmaster began her information technology career in 2007. She worked as a web, front-end, project and application developer and in strategy and systems governance before moving into cybersecurity and earning a master of legal studies with a focus on cyberlaw.

“The whole world is going digital. Everything about that has to be kept safe and secure, causing a spike in the demand for cybersecurity individuals,” says Hoffmaster, who became fascinated with digital privacy after DNA testing and a desire to make contact with her birth family. The path has been eye-opening and rewarding, and Hoffmaster enjoys the opportunity to share her experience and the importance of cybersecurity.

“I don’t think people really understand how closely related cyber and national security are. They go hand in hand,” says Hoffmaster. “The company I work for, our product serves the military and the government. If our product is not working, it immediately affects them. I am indirectly protecting our country, and that’s exciting and motivating.”
Lucas Cerbelli ’20  
**B.A. in finance**  
Cerbelli is an investment banking senior analyst at 7 Mile Advisors in Charlotte, N.C. An international student from Spain and a member of the men’s tennis team, he says his Wofford experience helped him gain independence and confidence. “It really helped me to figure out what I wanted without any influence from someone else. I was by myself, and it helped me to realize who I am and what I wanted to achieve,” he says.

Bali Channa ’20  
**B.S. in biology, B.A. in Spanish**  
Channa earned a master’s degree in biomedical sciences from the University of South Carolina and has been working as product development technologist at Charles River Laboratories. In June, she begins dental school at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. “Wofford helped to open doors,” Channa says. “It’s has given me the opportunity to make connections with alumni and mentors who encouraged me to take every opportunity that came to me.”

Gracen Collier ’20  
**B.S. in biology, B.A. in Chinese**  
Collier works as a research technician in an ophthalmology research lab. She will begin pursuing a Ph.D. in environmental science at Baylor University in the fall. “Wofford has given me motivation. I know if I put my mind into something, I can accomplish it,” she says. “Wofford has really helped me in the lab and with getting into graduate school because it’s been instilled in me that if I work really hard, it’ll all work out.”

Jason Hill ’19  
**B.A. in accounting**  
Hill was named vice president of finance in February at OneSpartanburg Inc. He earned a master’s degree from Gardner-Webb University and expects to become a CPA this year. Hill says Wofford prepared him for an early opportunity working with Bill Robinson ’94 at the accounting firm of Gosnell Menard Robinson Infante. “I started working with them during my sophomore year in college and worked for them until February,” Hill says. “They really put me on my feet and got me started.”

Maggie Royce ’22  
**B.A. in English**  
Royce has worked with Prophet Brand Strategy Consulting since July 2022 and in January was promoted to strategy and verbal associate. She is working with companies such as Ugg and Hoka on rebranding campaigns. Royce says Wofford gave her the people skills she needs to be successful. “At Wofford, you learn quickly how to connect with people, whether that’s students, professors or people in the community. The experience then gave me the confidence to make business connections now.”

James “Tye” Tindal III ’08  
**B.S. in psychology, B.S. in sociology**  
Tindal joined Wofford as a mental health counselor in April. He earned a master’s degree in clinical mental health counseling from Clemson University. Tindal says returning to Wofford was a longtime goal. “I told myself that wherever I was, if a position opened up at Wofford in therapy or counseling, I would at least send in my resume,” he says. “Being familiar with the dynamics helps me to understand the overall student experience.”
IN MEMORIAM

1950

The Rev. Kenneth Arthur Horn, Feb. 23, 2023, Charlotte, N.C. Horn served as pastor at churches throughout North Carolina. In 1973, he was appointed to the Council of Ministries staff of the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church as coordinator of interpretation. He served for 24 years on the conference staff in various positions. He received the Bishop's Medal of Achievement in Christian Communication in 1996 and the Communicator of the Decade award in 1997. The next year, he was inducted into the United Methodist Association of Communicators' Hall of Fame. He was twice awarded the association's Excellence in Electronic Media award. He retired in 1997 but worked part time as the WNCC webmaster until 2000. At the 2001 session of the annual communications awards banquet at Lake Junaluska, N.C., he was honored with the Kenneth A. Horn Director's Certificate of Merit, given annually in recognition of outstanding local church websites. In retirement, he also worked as a part-time soda jerk at Pike's Old Fashioned Soda Shop in Charlotte.

1951

Carl Hicks Todd, Dec. 3, 2022, Columbia, S.C. Todd was a U.S. Army veteran who served for nearly 30 years. He was a platoon leader during the Korean War and rose to the rank of colonel. He also was a member of the sales team at Hancock Buick. Todd was an active member of Forest Lake Presbyterian Church for 56 years, where he was a deacon, elder and Sunday school teacher. He was a 51-year member of the Lions Club, serving as chapter president, board member and Leo club advisor. He enjoyed traveling abroad and developed a fondness for cruises.

1955

The Rev. Clyde Major Aiken, May 3, 2023, Waco, Texas. Aiken served two stints in the U.S. Army, retiring as a colonel. In the Chaplain Corps from 1962 until his retirement in 1986, he was stationed in Germany, Korea, Dominican Republic and Vietnam, as well as stateside on numerous assignments including as division chaplain for the 82nd Airborne Division. Aiken was awarded the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star and the Senior Parachutist Badge. After retiring from the Army, he settled in Columbia, S.C., where he served two communities as a Methodist minister and pursued his hobby as a skilled woodworker. He also enjoyed traveling, camping, gardening and reading.

1957

David LeRoy Lane, March 3, 2023, Monterey, Calif. Lane was a U.S. Army veteran, retiring as a lieutenant colonel. He fought in the Korean and Vietnam wars, and he served in Italy and Thailand. After retiring from the Army, he worked for the Metropolitan Transport Authority in Monterey.

Lewis Patrick Bullington, April 19, 2023, Columbia, S.C. Bullington served in the U.S. Air Force for 31 years. As a senior master sergeant, he served on McEntire Air National Guard Base in Hopkins, S.C., as an aircraft technician and civil service worker. He enjoyed being outside, making things with his hands and working in the yard and on automobiles.

1958

Cecil Medley Burns, March 31, 2023, Greer, S.C. Burns was a U.S. Army veteran. He started his career with Milliken & Co. and worked for several other companies in the textile industry. He enjoyed boating, fishing, reading, music and car shows. He was a longtime member of the Greer Kiwanis Club.

John Wilson Jenrette Jr., March 17, 2023, Murrells Inlet, S.C. Jenrette was a U.S. Army veteran. In 1962, he founded a law firm in North Myrtle Beach. He served as a city judge before being elected to the state House of Representatives in 1964. In 1974, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. After leaving Congress, he embarked on a series of local and international business ventures, including importing wine from Hungary and antique furniture from Eastern Europe. He also became a developer of major coastal property in North Myrtle Beach.

1959

Charles Jackson “Charlie” Bradshaw Sr., May 4, 2023, Spartanburg, S.C. Bradshaw and Jerry Richardson '59 co-founded Spartan Food Systems, which opened its first Hardee’s on Kennedy Street in Spartanburg in 1961. After many years of growth with Hardee’s and Quincy’s Steakhouse, Spartan Foods sold to Trans World Corp., where Bradshaw served as president and chief operating officer overseeing TWA Airlines, Hilton International Hotels, Canteen Corp., Century 21 Real Estate and Spartan Food Systems. After retirement, he founded Bradshaw Investments and served on numerous corporate and charitable boards. He also was inducted into the South Carolina Business Hall of Fame. A native of Lake City, Florida, he graduated from high school in Dublin, Georgia, where he excelled at baseball and football. He earned a football scholarship to the University of Georgia but transferred to Wofford after suffering an injury. He set several Wofford records on his way to earning All-America honors. He was later inducted into the Wofford and South Carolina Athletic halls of fame. Bradshaw served the college as student body president, and in 1977 he was named Alumnus of the Year by the Wofford Alumni Association. He was awarded an honorary doctorate by the college in 1980. An award named in his honor — the Charles J. Bradshaw Award — is still presented to a senior varsity Wofford student-athlete whose academic, leadership and citizenship contributions exemplify Bradshaw’s ideals and contributions. Bradshaw and his wife, Judy, who died on April 17, 2023, were founding members of Westminster Presbyterian Church, where they worshiped and served in many capacities. After retirement, they enjoyed summers in Linville, N.C., and winters in South Florida, where Charlie pursued his love for golf.

William Bryan Tyson Jr., Feb. 7, 2023, Greer, S.C. Tyson was a U.S. Army veteran. He spent his entire career in the textile industry. He founded his own company, Bryer Knitting in Greer, and he also became a partner and owner of Aberdeen Tricot in Aberdeen, N.C. He had a lifelong love of the water, boating and fishing. He also enjoyed traveling, golfing and dancing.

1962

Charles Carter Graham, April 17, 2023, Mt. Pleasant, S.C. Graham was a U.S. Navy veteran. He had an extensive career in banking in South Carolina and Georgia. In the early 1980s, he started First Trident Savings and Loan in Charleston, S.C., where he served as president and CEO. He was a member of several civic organizations and clubs, including the Sertoma Club and the Mt. Pleasant Rotary Club. He was an avid dancer and active member of the East Cooper Shag Club.

Dr. Randall Rich Kincaid Jr., March 11, 2023, Davidson, N.C. Kincaid taught economics at Davidson College and Queens University. He also worked at Farm House Gardeners, the plant nursery he co-founded in Statesville, N.C. He worked for two years for the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C. For 18 years, he was an elected commissioner of the Town of Davidson, and he was mayor from 1997
until his retirement in 2007. The town honored his service as mayor by naming the area greenway the Randall R. Kincaid Trail. He was one of the founders of the local Habitat for Humanity, and he oversaw the construction of 16 homes. He enjoyed the theatre and participated both on stage and backstage in several Davidson Community Players productions. He sang in the choir and chaired the property committee at Davidson College Presbyterian Church. He enjoyed playing the piano and singing. He also played the tuba in the North Mecklenburg Moravian band.

The Hon. Osborne Eugene “Gene” Powell Jr., March 18, 2023, Columbia, S.C. Powell served in the U.S. Navy Reserve and U.S. Army Reserve for 35 years with active duty during the Vietnam and Gulf Wars. He received diplomas from the U.S. Army War College and U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare School. He retired at the rank of colonel and past commander. He was a federal administrative law judge for 29 years. He was a life member of the National Eagle Scout Association, where he served on the Indian Waters Council, Eagle Scout Board of Review and as a law merit badge counselor. He was awarded the Order of the Palmetto, the state’s highest civilian honor. Powell was an avid sports fan and enjoyed gardening, skiing, biking, running, hiking and traveling. He was a former Wofford Alumni Association Board member.

Kenneth Campbell Burr Sr., Feb. 23, 2023, Bluffton, S.C. After graduating from Wofford, Burr earned a law degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law. He also was a PGA golf professional and owned a landscape company. After retiring, he pursued a degree from Duke University Divinity School and for the past 12 years served as a pastor. He was an Eagle Scout and enjoyed golf, fishing and boating. Burr would challenge anyone to try and outdance him in the Shag.

Robert Lewis Joyner Sr., April 30, 2023, Lake City, S.C. Joyner worked for the state Department of Natural Resources for 41 years, including 30 years as resident biologist and manager of the Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center in Georgetown, S.C. After retiring, he worked on the advisory board as an adjunct professor for Horry-Georgetown Technical College, developing a wildlife management curriculum to add to the existing forestry program. He was actively involved with the Boy Scouts of America, becoming an Eagle Scout at age 16. He served as Eagle Scout candidate counselor for the Black River District for 20 years. He was a member of Lake City First Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon and a Sunday school teacher.

Alice Smith Turner, Feb. 12, 2023, Campobello, S.C. Turner taught for more than 30 years in Greenville and Spartanburg county schools. She also owned and ran the Clothes Hangar at Lake Bowen. An active member throughout her life at Motlow Creek Baptist Church, she served in a variety of capacities, including Sunday school teacher, WMU director, church clerk, recording secretary and after-school ministry volunteer. She spent her retirement years in constant care and service to the elderly and those suffering from illnesses.

James Franklin Sloan Jr., Feb. 17, 2023, Spartanburg, S.C. Sloan was an administrator in Spartanburg School District 6 for 29 years, including 24 years as principal of Pauline Glenn Springs Elementary School. He served on the board of directors for the first charter school program and mentored students with academic potential through the Citizen Scholars Program of Spartanburg County. After retiring, he enjoyed traveling, playing golf and volunteering with Mobile Meals. He always looked forward to downtime with his dogs, Buddy and Henry.

Ralph Denniston “Denny” West, March 5, 2023, Pinopolis, S.C. West began his career at the Department of Social Services and then began teaching at Macedonia High School. He was the former owner of Mitten Plantation Mobile Home Sales and the Moncks Corner Red & White. He also was a former insurance agent for Life of Georgia. He spent the last 25 years of his career in the funeral profession, working at both Dial-Murray Funeral Home and Carolina Memorial Funeral Home before joining the Petty-Bobo Funeral Chapel. He was a member of Moncks Corner United Methodist Church, a former member of Trinity Episcopal Church in Pinopolis, and formerly attended St. Christopher’s Episcopal Church in Spartanburg. He enjoyed boating, the beach and working in his yard.

Dr. David Franklin Edwards, March 30, 2023, Mount Gilead, N.C. Edwards was a dentist in Raleigh and Kannapolis, N.C., for more than 40 years. He was a history buff who enjoyed learning about the Civil War, World War I and World War II. He enjoyed boating, gardening, music, Shag dancing and coin collecting.
IN MEMORIAM

1968
Austin Gray Abercrombie, March 3, 2023, Fort Mill, S.C. Abercrombie served a tour of duty in Vietnam with the U.S. Army. After returning, he transitioned to the U.S. Navy. Over a 23-year career, he was an accomplished naval aviator, retiring at the rank of commander. After his military career, he flew with United Airlines until his retirement in 2011. He was a longtime member of First Baptist Church in Fort Mill, where he served as a deacon and a member of the security team. He taught Sunday school, led numerous Journey groups and went on several mission trips to Nicaragua. He enjoyed bicycling, camping, reading and tinkering in his workshop.

Arthur M. “Art” Fowler III, April 5, 2023, Johnson City, Tenn. Fowler was a U.S. Army veteran who fought in the Vietnam War. After returning from the war, he earned his law degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law and began practicing in Memphis then Johnson City. For the past 20 years, he practiced with his son. When he was in high school, Fowler spent two summers working in an iron foundry in Solingen, Germany, where he developed a love for international travel. He enjoyed traveling the world with his family. He was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church of Johnson City, serving as a deacon, elder and in any capacity he was needed.

Harvey Craig Hayes, Feb. 5, 2023, Fairview, Tenn. Hayes was a road manager for Neil Young and helped create the character Vito Toledo for Young’s tour with the Shocking Pinks. He was a partner with the music and entertainment law firm of Zumwalt, Almon and Hayes and represented many country music stars. He also was a musician.

John Thomas “Tommy” Nunn, Feb. 13, 2023, Spartanburg, S.C. Nunn spent his career with Liberty Mutual Insurance Co., retiring as a claims supervisor. He served in the U.S. Army Reserve and was a member of Spartan Masonic Lodge 70. He played guitar with the Brite Lites, a local Spartanburg band. He enjoyed fishing, and one of his greatest pleasures was a Coke and a Little Debbie cake.

Peter Andrew Rowe, March 19, 2023, Baton Rouge, La. Rowe was a teacher for more than 20 years in Louisiana and Alaska. He served in the Army National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserve. He enjoyed reading books on politics, government and history, and he collected political campaign buttons of presidents and senators. He traveled to all 50 U.S. state capitals and often visited the Louisiana State Legislature just to observe.

1970
Robert Calhoun “Cal” Sims, Feb. 14, 2023, Orangeburg, S.C. Sims was a U.S. Army veteran. He founded Sims Realty in Orangeburg. He coached youth soccer, and he served in leadership roles for the Orangeburg Chamber of Commerce and the Kiwanis Club. Sims was a lifelong member of St. Andrews United Methodist Church and the Omni Class Sunday school group. He enjoyed friendly competition, and if something could be made into a game he would create it ... and probably win. He was a lifelong grill master whose sense of hospitality extended from the backyard to the church to the Kiwanis steakhouse booth at the county fair.

1971
John Thomas “Tommy” Nunn, Feb. 13, 2023, Spartanburg, S.C. Nunn spent his career with Liberty Mutual Insurance Co., retiring as a claims supervisor. He served in the U.S. Army Reserve and was a member of Spartan Masonic Lodge 70. He played guitar with the Brite Lites, a local Spartanburg band. He enjoyed fishing, and one of his greatest pleasures was a Coke and a Little Debbie cake.

Peter Andrew Rowe, March 19, 2023, Baton Rouge, La. Rowe was a teacher for more than 20 years in Louisiana and Alaska. He served in the Army National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserve. He enjoyed reading books on politics, government and history, and he collected political campaign buttons of presidents and senators. He traveled to all 50 U.S. state capitals and often visited the Louisiana State Legislature just to observe.

REMEMBERING DOROTHY BEADLES “DOT” HALLIGAN

Beth Wallace ’82 knew she had some big shoes to fill when she agreed to return to Wofford as the college nurse in 1990. The owner of those shoes, Dorothy Beadles “Dot” Halligan, quickly put her at ease.

“Knowing I was taking the place of a nurse who had been doing this work for decades, I was quite nervous,” says Wallace, vice president for campus life and dean of students. “I was six months pregnant at the time with my third child. Mrs. Halligan was most gracious and generous with her time and attention.”

Halligan, who served as the Wofford College nurse from 1959 to 1990, died April 2. She was 93.

Halligan was a Virginia native who earned her nursing degree from the University of Virginia. She and her family moved to Spartanburg in 1956. She worked in area hospitals before coming to Wofford, where she lived in the campus infirmary with her husband, Bill, and their four children.

After retiring, Halligan moved to Pawleys Island, S.C., where she enjoyed almost daily walks on the beach. She was an active member of Pawleys Island Presbyterian Church, volunteering with the Presbyterian Women and in many church outreach programs.

After 19 years of beach life, she moved to the Columbia Presbyterian Community in Lexington, S.C.

Halligan’s family gave a substantial gift to have the first floor of the Blackwell-Quattlebaum Center for Wellness and Counseling Services named in her honor. Halligan attended the dedication of the newly renovated building on Feb. 24.

“Mrs. Halligan served the college well for many years, setting the stage for the care we are able to provide for our community today,” says Wallace. “I am most grateful for her service and legacy.”
1972
Andrew Delano Delaplaine, May 1, 2023, Miami Beach, Fla. Delaplaine founded the Warsaw Ballroom, a South Beach nightclub where celebrities such as Madonna, Elton John and Sylvester Stallone came to party. He also published tourist guides; opened Scratch restaurant and its black box nightclub, Backscratch; and founded Wire, a weekly newspaper covering South Beach’s gay community. Delaplaine made a failed bid for mayor of Miami Beach. He wrote the 2011 film “Meeting Spencer,” and created a Broadway-bound musical about Louis Armstrong.

Lawrence Keith “Larry” Lackey, Feb. 11, 2023, Julian, N.C. After retiring from BellSouth Services in 1995, Lackey spent a great deal of time in the Murrells Inlet, S.C., area enjoying the famous boiled peanuts from his favorite local farmers. He enjoyed guns, photography, cars and American history. He was a member of Tabernacle United Methodist Church and Moose Lodge 685 in Greensboro, N.C.

1977
Jasper Warren “Bill” Gamble Jr., Feb. 5, 2023, Shelby, N.C. Gamble was the longtime owner and operator of Gamble’s Gulf and Gamble’s Amoco in Shelby.

1978

1980
Murray Clifton “Cliff” Hedgepath Jr., April 28, 2023, Columbia, S.C. Hedgepath was an audit manager with the state Department of Health and Environmental Control. He worked with several CPA firms before beginning his career in state government. He enjoyed politics, sports and history, and he had a good sense of humor and loved to laugh.

Karen Albiez Brooks, Feb. 16, 2023, Columbia, S.C. After earning a master’s in genetic counseling, Brooks began her career at the Greenwood Genetics Center in Greenwood, S.C. She spent two years at the Duke University Medical Center, then went to work at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine. She retired after 28 years. After retiring, she continued working with South Carolina Oncology Associates. She enjoyed reading, both in English and French. She also enjoyed traveling and skiing, and she was a member of the Columbia Sailing Club. She was a former Wofford Alumni Association board member.

1988
Connie Janiece Key, Feb. 4, 2023, Spartanburg, S.C. Key was inpatient physical therapy director at Spartanburg Regional Medical Center for 15 years. Sports were her passion, and she served as scorekeeper for the Wofford basketball teams. She enjoyed the outdoors, gardening and traveling, especially to the beach. She was a longtime member of Hammett Grove Baptist Church.

2001
Steward Lucius Williams, Feb. 9, 2023, Cary, N.C. Williams was a virtualization consultant/integrator at Plan B Government Systems in Annapolis, Md. He began his career as an IT support team lead with IBM in Greenville, S.C. He was a member of the football team at Wofford, earning three varsity letters. He was a friend to many and known for his good humor, compassion and wide smile.

FRIENDS
Marjorie Gault Halford, Feb. 27, 2023, Anderson, S.C. Halford was a retired nurse. She was a hospice volunteer and a member of the Anderson Women’s Club and St. John’s United Methodist Church. She was the widow of former trustee James G. Halford ’45.

Marcus Keith “Cotton” Ledford, April 14, 2023, Wellford, S.C. Ledford worked in facilities and in the campus post office until his retirement in 2017. He was a member of Arcadia Methodist Church. He was an avid fisherman.

Steven Mack Satterfield, February 18, 2023, Spartanburg, S.C. Satterfield coached the Wofford football team from 1974-76, compiling an 18-14-1 record. He also served as director of athletics.

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Call the Alumni Office at 864-597-4185.
Visit wofford.edu/makegift.
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Remember to include the name of the person you are honoring with your gift.
PHILANTHROPY + ENGAGEMENT PROFILE

CHOOSING TO GIVE

Rusty Johnson ’84

While Rusty Johnson was in high school, his grandmother helped him secure a summer job on the third shift at Spartan Mill. That experience was pivotal in his decision to further his education and give himself an opportunity to find a career path doing something he enjoyed and that could provide a comfortable living. He is now a realtor with Keller Williams Realty in Columbia, S.C., and he remains grateful to Wofford and that experience for leading him on his path.

Q: What stands out as highlights of your Wofford experience?

A: I feel the biggest highlight of my Wofford experience was the quality of talent in the teaching staff. I was privileged to learn from some of the brightest minds in various disciplines.

Q: What other experiences influenced your success?

A: My mother was a major influence in my desire to succeed. She raised me and my brother alone after my father left when I was only 6 years old. I saw how hard my mother worked and how much she sacrificed to provide a better life for her sons. I wanted to ensure that her efforts weren’t in vain.

Q: How has your Wofford education served you in your career?

A: There’s such a diversity in the education that Wofford College offers that once I graduated and got into the working world, I could speak to anyone about anything. Science, physics, calculus, religion, humanities, art, history — there was virtually no subject I didn’t have at least some familiarity with when speaking to people. Wofford also gave me an appreciation for how hard work pays off. At Wofford I learned that if I applied myself to my number one goal of getting that college degree, I’d achieve that, and it would pay off for me in the end. And it has, in spades.

Q: What influenced you to include Wofford in your estate plan?

A: Quite simply, I feel I owe Wofford College (to some degree) for the life my education has afforded me. I know in my heart that I wouldn’t be half the man I am today had it not been for all the lessons I learned during my tenure at Wofford. I want to give back, not only as a form of gratitude, but also so other promising individuals will have the same opportunities I’ve had. I’m certain my contribution to Wofford College will be small in comparison to others, but it’s definitely heartfelt.
NEW FRIENDS.
OLD FRIENDS. GOOD TIMES.

HOMECOMING

2023

NOVEMBER 3–4


WOFFORD.EDU/HOMECOMING
Gwendolyn Prince-Lawrence and Janice Means joined other members of the Class of 1973 for their 50th reunion during Commencement weekend. Prince-Lawrence and Means are the first Black women to graduate from Wofford.