A PRESIDENTIAL VIEW

Every year, the Presidential International Scholar is handpicked by the president of the college for research and study abroad. Josh Lipscomb ’24 has been chronicling the positive and negative effects of tourism through analog photography as he explores Mexico and Peru.
Over the past three years, the college community has spent time revisiting its history. Recently, Dr. Dwain Pruitt ’95, chief equity officer and vice president for community initiatives, has secured a grant to tell the college’s history of desegregation, culminating in a publication that will be ready in time for the milestone’s 60th anniversary in 2025. Excerpts from two of those stories are included in a feature on women who have made Wofford history in this edition of Wofford Today.

Homecoming, Family Weekend and A Day for Wofford — also featured in this issue — give us an opportunity to think about our history in terms of memory, tradition and gratitude. Over Family Weekend, the Tiffany family donated to the college rare master’s and bachelor’s degree diplomas from William S. Hall Jr. from 1891. Hall is the great-great-grandfather of Barron Tiffany ’27, who was inducted into the Order of 1854 legacy society during Family Weekend.

As we have discovered, researching our past has given us opportunities to gain new knowledge and a different lens for exploring current issues. Considering our history inspires our students to make history, building a foundation that will take them to their first destinations and beyond prepared for all that’s next.

Thank you for being a part of this incredible time at Wofford College. We appreciate your engagement and your impact.

Go Terriers!

Nayef H. Samhat
11TH PRESIDENT OF WOFFORD COLLEGE
Where thought leads.
Evan Bergman, visiting assistant professor of theatre, and a cast of 12 students and 14 crew members brought magical realism and the town of “Almost, Maine” to the Jerome Johnson Richardson stage in the Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts. The audience’s laughter didn’t mean that the play wasn’t thought-provoking or challenging for students. “There’s something fun about watching college students play characters who have more life experiences, perhaps in a marriage or having kids,” Bergman says. “It’s fun watching them use their imaginations and life experiences based on their families and what they think long-term relationships are about to try to access that and take that on. It’s a really enjoyable thing to watch.”
RICHARD JOHNSON ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT
After almost 40 years of service to Wofford College, the past 23 as director of athletics, Richard Johnson has announced his retirement. He will step down at the end of a successful search for his replacement. In 17 years as head basketball coach at Wofford (1985-2002), Johnson had a 100% graduation rate for all players who completed their athletic eligibility.

Read more online.

MAGGIE GENOBLE ’24 NAMED WHETSELL FELLOW
Maggie Genoble ’24 is going big with her upcoming solo exhibition in the Richardson Family Art Gallery, taking on the theme of technology and its connection to the human body and society. The 2023 Whetsell Fellow from Jonesville, S.C., spent her summer working on mixed media pieces, from etched computer screens to silicone molds of body parts.

Read more online.

FINDING ‘LOST TIME’
Maya Gentilin ’24 was hoping for a passing grade for the short film she helped create as a final project for a Spanish cinema course she took while studying abroad in Granada, Spain, during the 2022-23 academic year. She got that and much more. Gentilin’s film “Lost Time” was selected as one of three finalists in the IES Abroad Film Festival.

Read more online.

WOFFORD NOW OFFERS NIL MARKETPLACE
Wofford has partnered with Opendorse to create a Name, Image and Likeness platform for the Terriers. As part of the partnership, Wofford will receive a branded, compliant marketplace. Wofford fans, brands, sponsors and donors will be able to browse, book and pitch student-athletes for NIL activities on a platform built specifically with the needs of student-athletes in mind.

Read more online.
WHERE PAST MEETS FUTURE
Will Cox ’15 stood at the intersection of where Wofford College’s future will honor its past and soaked up the atmosphere. Cox, executive vice president of Cox Bros. Services in Spartanburg, recently made a gift to support the college’s Military Memorial project. He visited campus to see where the memorial will stand between Main Building and the Du Pré Administration Building.
Read more online.

SEEKING JUSTICE
New name, same mission. Wofford’s Law, Justice and Innocence Initiative has been rebranded as the South Carolina Innocence Initiative to reflect the statewide interest the year-old organization has generated. The initiative, led by Dr. Dawn McQuiston, aims to raise awareness about wrongful convictions through education, outreach and advocacy. It will host its inaugural South Carolina Innocence and Justice Conference in May 2024.
Read more online.

WINNING BATTLES
Wofford women’s volleyball coach Lynze Roos, right, has been honored with a U.S. Marine Corps/American Volleyball Coaches Association Battles Won Award. The award recognizes volleyball players and coaches who are overcoming obstacles, both on and off the court. In the summer of 2022, Roos’ 11-year-old son, Loren, was diagnosed with osteosarcoma, a rare bone cancer. He underwent eight months of chemotherapy and several surgeries.
Read more online.
Experience Wofford

Experiential learning is built into the physics curriculum at Wofford with a series of four advanced laboratory courses that develop the basic experimental skills a student majoring in physics should have. These include use of standard physics instrumentation, some familiarity with shop tools, laboratory record-keeping and report-writing, and knowledge of ways in which basic physical quantities are measured. Here, Dr. Mackay Salley ’95, professor of physics, works with Josh Harris ’25, a physics major from Myrtle Beach, S.C., and Davis Miller ’27, who has not yet declared his major, from Lexington, Ky.
**THE FIRST TO PLAY**

Starting the first women's athletics teams

Dr. Pam Parnell ’83 graduated from Wofford 40 years ago. She became a veterinarian and a pathologist, a successful entrepreneur in the field of veterinary pathology, a wife and a mother. Before she did all of that, however, she helped bring women's athletics to Wofford College.

“I was one of a group who said, ‘We want to play ball because we had always played ball,’” says Parnell. “To come here — the college I wanted to attend — and play basketball at any level was a dream.”

Like Parnell, Roberta Hurley ’81 and roommates Karen Weishuhn Harris ’83 and Karen Rhodes Cable ’82 came to the college on academic scholarships, but all jumped at the chance to compete again athletically.

“I was a Ruth Winn Wickware Scholar,” says Harris. “Someone during the admission process told me that they would start a women’s basketball team if I came.”

According to Cable, the women played intramurals with the men her first year. By the second year, they were enlisting other women who had played any sport to join a type of club team.

“Once I remember we played a bunch of DJs from a local radio station, and they showed up roaring drunk,” says Cable.

“I knew we were starting something, but I didn’t know how big it would be,” says Harris. “Some male students at the time let us know that this was supposed to be a school for men. That wasn’t unusual at the time, so starting new things and breaking barriers wasn’t unusual either.”

Cable and Harris also remember the support, namely from James Blair ’83, Kevin Childs ’82, Dirk Derrick ’82, Wade Lang ’83 and Tim Renfrow ’83.

“Some of the guys would come scrimmage us or invite us to their pick-up games,” says Cable. “I remember Wofford professors Deno Trakas, Lee Hagglund and Dennis Wiseman practicing with us, so we’d have enough to play.”

The college enrolled 30 women as residential students in 1978. By the time the first residential women graduated, there were just over 100 women on campus.

“Once we decided to pursue residential co-education, we knew we had to do it right,” says Dr. Joe Lesesne, Wofford president emeritus. “There was some discussion about women maybe preferring a different curriculum, but that’s not what the women wanted. We also learned that they wanted opportunities to participate in intercollegiate athletics.”

Adding women to the student body raised the profile.

According to Dr. B.G. Stephens ’56, who was the dean at the time, “Wofford had descended into mediocrity as an all-male college. I said in a presentation to the board of trustees, you must bring in women if you’re going to survive.” Stephens also copied the college’s charter from the archives and read it to the trustees. “The charter never said that Wofford was to be a college just for men.”

Admitting women brought up the grade point average and SAT scores. Women distinguished themselves from day one — winning election to Campus Union, starting clubs and organizations, and graduating Phi Beta Kappa, as was the case with most of the women who played on the first women’s athletics teams.

Trish Gainey was hired to lead the transition to intercollegiate athletics for women, recruiting student-athletes in the top half of the college’s profile and coaching those first teams. She was honored during Commencement 2023 for the role she played in establishing women’s athletics at the college.

Gainey recruited Meg Hunt ’84, offering the college’s first women’s athletics scholarship.
“Meg was a go-getter, a leader who understood her role and motivated others to do their best,” says Gainey. Hunt continues to be listed at the top of the all-time records lists, including career points.

With Gainey and three scholarships, the women’s volleyball and basketball teams became more competitive, but the women on those first teams still had to select their uniforms off the rack in the bookstore and sell programs to buy sweatpants. They often took the Andrews Field House floor at 5:30 or 6 a.m. to work around classes, labs and practice schedules of the men’s basketball and fencing teams.

“I’m sure the idea of practice space and access for women was foreign at the time,” says Nancy Barr ’84. “At times it’s hard even now for women to have equality, looking back it was mind-blowing to do it in the 1980s. What I remember most, though, was how much fun it was and the camaraderie and community I felt with my team.”

Others in the first group of women agree. The consensus was that the experience wasn’t easy, but those first women in athletics developed resilience, persistence and an appreciation for those who helped further their cause.

“Coach Gainey was amazing because she wasn’t just starting a program, she was also helping the college adjust to having women on campus and helping us adjust to Wofford,” says Hunt.

“I came a little later, but I still remember how grateful I was to Coach Gainey and the students, faculty, staff and donors who supported us,” says Missy Ellenberg Vess ’85.

Tori Quick ’87 continued to build on the legacy of the women who started the program. She was known for her vertical jump and continues to be listed among the most athletic to wear a Wofford uniform. She was a guard on the basketball team and a hitter for volleyball. One of her proudest moments was selection for induction in the Wofford Athletics Hall of Fame, following her father, Vernon Quick ’51, who was inducted in 1981, and Hunt, who was inducted in 1991.

“We talk a lot about highlights during that time, but this is probably the biggest one for me,” says Quick. “Being the first father-daughter pair in the Hall of Fame is the honor of a lifetime.”

Hunt says the women who were student-athletes at the time were compelled to excel.

“We felt like it was up to us to make it work,” she says. “We may not have fully realized the impact we would eventually have, but we did know that we had high expectations of ourselves. We wanted to create a program that we and the college could be proud of.”

Over the summer, many of those first women returned to the campus to talk with current women’s basketball player Indiya Clark ’26, have lunch, take a campus tour and watch a practice before the team left for France for a series of scrimmages and cultural experiences.

“Our jaws dropped when we saw the women’s locker room and the facilities in the Jerry Richardson Indoor Stadium,” says Sandy Martin ’85.

“The new facilities brought tears to my eyes,” says Parnell. “We were clueless as students. The realization of what we did didn’t sink in at the time.”

DR. JAMEICA BYERS HILL ’88

The first woman to teach in the sciences at Wofford

When Dr. Jameica Byers Hill ’88, professor of chemistry, was named associate provost, it could have meant a new office out of the busyness of the Roger Milliken Science Center, but she chose to stay put.

“Being a member of an underrepresented population in STEM, I wanted to stay in the building. I felt I needed to be seen in this space,” says Hill, who’s made Wofford history in several ways:

• The first woman to teach in the sciences at Wofford.
• The first Black woman to earn tenure at Wofford.
• The first woman to serve as faculty athletics representative.

“There weren’t any women teaching in the building when I started,” says Hill, who tops the list of loyal, engaged, active and productive Wofford graduates. “Wofford has always been my place, and I don’t have some of the overcoming stories that others do. That just wasn’t my experience, maybe because it wasn’t pointed out at the time, and definitely because of the example set by my mother and auntie.”

Hill has memories of her father preparing breakfast for her before elementary school while her mother studied.

“She was an educator who was in school,” says Hill. “After she spent the day teaching, she had to go to class. I remember wearing my Easter dress to her graduation in Clemson’s Littlejohn Auditorium.”

Hill’s aunt graduated at the same time. After earning her doctoral degree in chemistry, Hill also commenced in Littlejohn, as did her daughter, Shelby, who earned her bachelor’s degree at Clemson and who is now completing her Ph.D. in chemistry at the University of Southern California.

“My responsibility now is to be that same sort of living example that I had in my mom and auntie,” says Hill, who took classes from and looked up to two other women who were Wofford firsts — Dr. Vivian Fisher and Dr. Susan Griswold. “There were not many women on the faculty then, and to this day, I’m proud of the A I made in Dr. Fisher’s D.H. Lawrence class. I worked my butt off for that A.”
MAJ. NICOLE DALLOCCHIO

Leading the Southern Guards

Everything starts with a plan.

And Maj. Nicole Dallocchio, the first woman to serve as professor of military science and leader of the Southern Guards Battalion, has planned, executed and achieved throughout her decorated career. Now she brings her focus and energy to Wofford College, USC Upstate and Converse University as leader of the U.S. Army ROTC’s Southern Guards Battalion, founded at Wofford in 1919.

“I feel honored to have this distinction at Wofford, and I’ve received an incredibly warm welcome from the community,” says Dallocchio.

She has already updated the cadre’s graphic identity and reenergized the social media presence to better communicate with students. She’s reworked the programs website, updated the office and signage, and revamped the physical fitness program and leadership development funnel.

“ROTC is one of the nation’s oldest — and I think best — leadership development programs,” says Dallocchio. “Our program is cadet led. The curriculum is designed to introduce practical leadership development opportunities that will improve planning and communication skills, and more importantly, build confidence.” Cadets are graded in leadership positions held and receive weekly evaluations and feedback from their instructors.

Dallocchio’s strategic plan focuses on recruitment, retention, training and leadership development. She intends to commission at least 12 second lieutenants each year and set the program up for a smooth transition and continued success at the end of her assignment, which is typically 36 months.

“It’s important to get the right person in these assignments, someone who understands both the role of ROTC and the mission of the college,” says Dr. Tim Schmitz, provost. “Beyond recruiting, Maj. Dallocchio has a plan to boost mentoring and coaching, and she’s a tireless advocate for our students and career aspirations.”

ROTC was Dallocchio’s commissioning source, and she still stays in touch with and is grateful for the people who helped her find her way.

“I feel a sense of gratitude and responsibility to give back to the Army and the ROTC community,” says Dallocchio, calling herself a “wayward youth,” who was athletic but lacked direction. “A teacher and coach who had been a sergeant in the Army pulled me aside one day and said, ‘You need to join the Army or life may not go well for you.’ She was right. The Army instilled in me purpose and discipline, and it’s opened the door to an incredible life of opportunity.”

Three weeks after graduation from high school, Dallocchio left for basic training to become a combat medic. Dallocchio served in Korea and Germany before applying for the U.S. Army’s Green-to-Gold program. She was awarded a three-year Army ROTC scholarship to Eastern Michigan University, where she studied K-12 physical education, following in the footsteps of the teacher and coach who changed her life. She was the top cadet in her class of 391. After she commissioned as a second lieutenant, she served in Afghanistan as an aerial operations officer. She also served in the United States consulate general in Basra, Iraq, as an operations officer with the Department of State.

It’s unusual for someone with the rank of major and someone who originates in the Medical Service branch to become a professor of military science and lead a college ROTC program, but Dallocchio rose above hundreds of applicants. She is a full, voting member of the college’s faculty.

“Women only make up 18% of the total Army,” says Dallocchio, “and I counted eight women in the room at a recent conference with military science department chairs representing 274 institutions across the country. It’s such an honor to be one of the few. We need to empower more women to serve in leadership positions to mentor the next generation.”
ANNE SPRINGS CLOSE

First woman to serve on and chair the Wofford College Board of Trustees

Anne Springs Close surprised her doctors one day when she showed up with an injury they normally only saw in professional athletes. Close did too many sit-ups and pulled a muscle in her abdomen. She was 86 at the time.

“My mother did not put up with the old-fashioned ideas of women,” says her daughter, Dr. Katy Close ’83, who has followed her mother’s footsteps in service on the Wofford College Board of Trustees. “She was a tough cookie. She once went on a backpacking trip in the middle of the wilderness at 90 years old, promising me it was her last one. She tripped over a root, cut her arm open and tied it up with a bandana.”

Anne Springs Close was not only a trailblazer but also a devoted mother to eight children, grandmother to 26 and great-grandmother to 26 at the time of her death on Aug. 20, 2021. She rarely missed a life event, enthusiastically attending more than 60 graduations.

Dr. Joe Lesesne, president emeritus, met Close when working on a statewide committee to celebrate the nation’s bicentennial. When the college was considering residential co-education, he called on Close, who had helped Winthrop College do the same thing. Once again, he was impressed with her, and she agreed to serve on the college’s board of trustees and help the college navigate the change. She was the first woman to serve on the board.

“Anne Close was the mother of co-education at Wofford,” says Lesesne. “She understood the landscape, the challenges and the benefits. She opened the college to new supporters and was really good at working with other board members. Anne was about as down to earth as it gets.”

According to Lesesne, when Close was asked to lead the board, “They wanted to call her chairperson. Anne said, ‘I've waited a long time to be a chairman, I don’t want to be a chairperson.’ So she became chairman (from 1984-86) of the board, and served well.” Close served two terms on the board, from 1974 to 1986 and again from 1988 to 1996.

“My mother loved Wofford. When my father died, the first people I saw at our house were Joe Lesesne and Wofford faculty, and they were the first people that made mama cry,” says Katy Close.

Close traveled to 60 countries during her lifetime, climbing Mount Kilimanjaro three times, the most recent at the age of 78. At 65 years old, she completed the New York marathon, persisting through an ankle sprain suffered at mile three. Close also was a pioneering force in conservation, land preservation and natural history throughout South Carolina, serving as the visionary founder of the Anne Springs Close Greenway, a 2,100-acre nature conservancy in Fort Mill, S.C.

MARIE GAGARINE

The first woman to teach at Wofford and the first to speak and teach Russian

The daughter of Russian aristocrats, Madame Marie Gagarine came to Spartanburg in 1959 to be near her son, Dmitri, who worked for Milliken & Co. She was appointed to the faculty at Wofford to teach French and Russian.

Gagarine grew up in the Tsarist court and married Prince Michael Gagarine, who served in the Russian military. She was working as a nurse in a small town north of Warsaw when she learned of her husband’s death. The Russian government was near collapse, so she took her children and fled the country. Eventually, she became an American citizen.

Gagarine was active into her 90s, appearing in Wofford Theatre plays and in plays for the Spartanburg Little Theater.
Janice Means ’73 and Gwendolyn Prince-Lawrence ’73 were the first two Black women to graduate from Wofford College. They attended before Wofford implemented residential co-education. Neither set out to be history makers. Instead, they were focused on creating a financially secure future for themselves and their families. Over the summer, both women were interviewed by Dr. Dwain Pruitt ’95, chief equity officer and vice president for community initiatives, and five student researchers as part of a project to share the college’s history of desegregation, funded by a Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education grant from the Council of Independent Colleges, supported by the Lily Endowment. Below are excerpts, written by Daniel Brasington ’25, from stories that will be published in a book in 2025.

GWENDOLYN PRINCE-LAWRENCE ’73:
A beacon of light

Prince-Lawrence did not know much about Wofford when she matriculated. In fact, despite growing up in the college’s shadow (in the Back of the College neighborhood), she and her siblings took lengths to avoid coming onto campus. When walking to Krispy Kreme to get donuts, for example, Prince-Lawrence and her siblings chose to walk around the campus to Memorial Drive. Knowing only Wofford’s reputation, Prince-Lawrence came to campus with trepidation. She expected rigorous academics and was initially worried that she would struggle compared to the “doctors’ kids, lawyers’ kids, the cream of the crop” that she had heard Wofford was known for. Once she got to campus, however, she found a different reality where she felt she could succeed academically.

She recalls that a male student held the door for her as she was walking into class on her first day on campus and that immediately relaxed her. That same day, Prince-Lawrence met Janice Means, who was the other Black woman who entered Wofford in 1971. The two became friends and would go to the library and study together when they could. Both were married and living off campus, so they found a sense of solidarity in their common experience of juggling life and school as the only Black women attending Wofford.

Prince-Lawrence’s schedule as a Wofford student was daunting. Her husband worked second shift, so she drove him to work, then reported to work herself on the third shift. When her shift ended, it was about time to go to campus for eight o’clock classes. She would come to class sometimes without having slept at all but pushed through. Prince-Lawrence remembers one time where Dr. Lewis Jones ’38 helped her. She had studied intensely for an upcoming history final, but when she got to class that morning, she was so tired after working all night and not getting any sleep that she failed the exam. Jones came to Prince-Lawrence afterwards and offered to ask her the questions orally because he knew that she grasped the information but was too sleep-deprived to perform well on the exam. She passed the oral exam and was thankful that a member of the faculty saw that she was struggling and decided to help.

Looking back at her time at Wofford, Prince-Lawrence has a great deal of pride in what she accomplished. When talking about her mindset, she said, “I got drive, perseverance. And I think that was the basis of my mindset. I can do anything that I try to do … I think Wofford did that for me.”
After her time at Wofford, Prince-Lawrence went on to work for the Dana Corp., which supplies axles and other automotive parts. Starting in accounting, Prince-Lawrence moved “everywhere except engineering” learning how the business worked throughout her 30-year career. Thanks to her work with Dana, she was able to travel the world doing trade shows. Now that she has retired, she works at the YMCA.

“I don’t travel much now, but I do like to travel,” she says. “I like to read. I like to sing, which I can’t sing, but I like to sing. And pretty much I’m just free. I’m just free because I’ve done so much in my life.”

JANICE MEANS ’73:
A woman on a mission

When her father died, Means was 13 and the oldest child in the household, requiring her to take on the role of the caretaker for her younger siblings when her mother was working. Means’ mother only had an eighth-grade education and her father had a third-grade education, but, according to Means, her mother “was determined that we were not going to have to work as hard as she had to work.” Means’ mother expected her children to go on to higher education and to succeed in life. They were told that being successful was their only option. ...

Means recalls a negative encounter with a professor: “I had one class, and I made the mistake that first year of asking a question. He was talking Greek as far as I was concerned. I asked a question, and I realized all eyes were on me. The teacher responded, ‘I’m sorry, that was something last year, and I can’t go back. I can’t hold up the rest of the class to answer that question.’” Means determined that she would not let anyone discourage her from excelling in the way her mother expected. She set out not only to learn the material she was being taught, but also to go back daily and study what she had missed.

Not all of Means’ experiences with professors were negative, but she never felt comfortable asking for help and had to find a way to reach her goals on her own. ...

Means credits her Wofford experience with her career successes. While attending Wofford, Means worked for Southern Bell, now AT&T. She continued with the company after graduating, receiving a promotion that required her family to return to Columbia. During her 28 years with the company, she “held about five or six different management positions.” After retiring, Means started her own consulting company and provided contract services to AT&T for another 18 years. ...

“I reached my goal. I got my degree. I got my promotion, and my career ended up being more than I ever envisioned. I do attribute that to the fact that Wofford allowed women to attend, and I was able to get my degree. I have to look past everything else and say, ‘Okay, I was able to accomplish my goal.’ I would do it over again if the options were the same.”

Now Fisher spends her time reading. She is rereading some of the Victorian authors that she taught such as Thackery, Dickens, Lawrence, and she’s rediscovering some of the books that have made their way onto banned books lists, like “The Color Purple.” Fisher also works on her historic home and garden in Hampton Heights and manages several historic rental properties.

DR. VIVIAN FISHER
First woman to hold a tenure-track position at Wofford


“The way I understand it, the English department decided it was time to hire a woman. English was the first department to do that at Wofford,” Fisher says. “What I remember from those early days was prep, prep, prep for those new courses.”

Fisher’s first office was on the first floor of Greene Hall, which remains a residence hall. She remembers a young man walking into her office and sitting on the corner of her desk.

“Whose secretary are you,” he asked. “Change has gotta start somewhere, so I enlightened him,” says Fisher. “Turns out he was a student in my class.”

Fisher made lifelong friends at Wofford with Dr. C.L. “Ab” Abercrombie, Dr. J.R. Gross, Dr. Harris Chewning, the Racines and the Maultsby’s. She enjoyed her department, and adored bright students, some with whom she still keeps in touch.

“I was friends with Constance Antonsen Armitage when she came to the college. I remember sneaking into one of her fencing Interims,” says Fisher. “I was also able to be in some plays. At the time, there were no women to take the women’s roles, so I volunteered.”

Like so many others who were “firsts,” Fisher didn’t think of herself in those terms. “Although it was obvious at faculty meetings,” she says. “Wofford was smart to begin admitting women and hiring more women to teach. By admitting women as students, they doubled the pool of outstanding students, and the college’s profile improved.”
The first woman to lead an academic department

Not long after arriving at Wofford College in 1980 to chair the Department of Foreign Languages, now the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures, “Dr. Griswold” — Susan Griswold — received an invitation from the president of the Faculty Wives Club. “The well-meaning note said to make sure to tell my wife to attend the next meeting,” says Griswold. “I was the first woman to lead an academic department, and some colleagues — and their spouses — didn’t know what to think.”

“Some people didn’t know how to behave.” Griswold remembers faculty in the department encouraging their students to leave crass and even mildly threatening comments regarding her position and leadership on course evaluations so she would see them.

“I didn’t do anything about most of it, but fighting for equality made me more war-like,” she says. “They didn’t even know what to call me at first. I didn’t want to be a chairwoman — or even worse a chair — so I think I just said let’s go with chairman.”

Griswold’s first teaching assignment was at Middlebury College in Vermont. She had spent two years in Spain as a Fulbright and was teaching Spanish at Indiana University Bloomington when Dr. B.G. Stephens ’57, who was dean at the time, recruited her to Wofford to lead the department.

After 29 years as chairman of the department, Griswold, who was called Grisly by some, is most proud of helping the college develop a culture of study abroad. “When I got there, there was maybe one student who was studying abroad in Europe,” she says. “I knew the best way to understand the world is to live with it. Our students were at a disadvantage until we began to develop relationships with study abroad partners and made that an important part of the educational experience.”

Traveling with students was one of her greatest pleasures. She took several trips to Mexico as well as to Spain, Honduras, Venezuela and Argentina. Griswold and colleague Dr. Camille Bethea ’92, who now leads the department, made history by taking a group of students, faculty, staff and alumni to Nicaragua as election observers when Daniel Ortega was voted out of office.

“It was called a lesson in democracy, and Roger Milliken financed it,” remembers Griswold.

Griswold remains grateful for the colleagues that taught her how to navigate Wofford in those early days. “Dan Maultsby, Vivian Fisher, J.R. Gross, Phil Racine, Lewis Jones, Vic Bilanchone, John Bullard, Jim Keller … they were all excellent colleagues, mentors and friends,” says Griswold.

After retirement, Griswold continued to travel the world with her husband, John Morton. Their Spartanburg home is filled with photos and art from a lifetime of study abroad.

“Getting to know the students was the best part. Then persuading them that they had to dig,” Griswold says. “Wofford was a wonderful place to teach and learn. My students taught me really well, and that was such a joy.”

Puella Littlejohn, May Wannamaker and Minnie Wannamaker were the first trailblazing women at Wofford, enrolling in 1897. Littlejohn and Wannamaker became the first two women to graduate from Wofford in 1901. Olive Chapman and Marie Tarboux graduated in 1904, bringing Wofford’s first generation of women students to a close. It would be 30 years before another woman, Caroline DuPré, daughter of Dean A. Mason DuPré, graduated. In 1947, Wofford conferred an honorary degree on a woman for the first time, honoring Wil Lou Gray.
Taylor Fuller ’24

Filling a void as founder of Minorities in STEM

Taylor Fuller ’24 saw a void and decided to fill it. In the process, the biology major from Roebuck, S.C., became the founder of Minorities in STEM and another woman to make Wofford history.

Fuller was a sophomore in spring 2022, serving as a teaching assistant for Dr. Lisa Cantwell, assistant professor of biology. They held weekly meetings, and one week the subject was the need for a space where minority STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) students could connect over a common thread.

“We talked about the need for a support system,” says Fuller. “We wanted to come up with a way to branch the minority community and stem students at Wofford and create a space for them.” From that conversation, Minorities in STEM was born.

“We talked about it one day, and Taylor texted me two days later saying that about 20 people had expressed an interest in joining,” says Cantwell.

Fuller says the organization’s mission is to create opportunities, a support system and a space to enhance networking. By the end of the first year, the group had grown to 35. Membership is now up to 61.

“The community support has been amazing,” Fuller says. “We’ve created a place where students of color, LGBTQ+ students and students from all socioeconomic backgrounds can come together and celebrate their love of STEM.”

Minorities in STEM has hosted a variety of panels and guest speakers, as well as mental health events such as skating and movie nights. It also has hosted a BIPOC mixer during Homecoming the past two years. Members have performed community service, raising funds to support Cleveland Elementary School’s STEM program and partnering with BirthMatters, an organization that provides doula services to young women.

“Taylor has literally knocked every ball thrown at her out of the park,” says Cantwell. “She’s pushed and pushed and made so many things happen.”

Fuller’s ultimate goal is to become a pediatric cardiologist. It’s something she’s wanted since taking a biomedical science course as a ninth grader at Dorman High School. Getting Minorities in STEM up and running made her realize she can get there.

“I learned from working with this organization that I do have the leadership skills necessary to go into the field I want,” Fuller says. “By overcoming challenges, I think I’ve grown tremendously as a person and a leader.”
2023 Family WEEKEND
SHARING THE TRADITION
During Family Weekend students, families and friends had the opportunity to enjoy a variety of events, including student research presentations, a study abroad reception, a family mixer, band party, a fun run/walk, the Order of 1854 ceremony, a choral concert, family trivia night, men’s soccer game and football.
When Pete and Katherine Tiffany came to visit their son, Barron Tiffany ’27, on Family Weekend, they brought a present for Wofford College.

Barron’s great-great-grandfather, William S. Hall Jr., an 1891 graduate, did something that few people have done. He earned a master’s degree from Wofford.

The Tiffany family presented Dr. Phillip Stone ’94, college archivist, with Hall’s master’s degree diploma. The gift also included Hall’s undergraduate diploma.

“It’s not that we didn’t want to keep them,” says Katherine, a Family Court judge in Greenville. “But we wanted them to go where they could truly be appreciated. We wanted them to be preserved and displayed in the way they should be. We didn’t want them to just be in a drawer somewhere.”

Wofford has awarded about 254 master’s degrees in its 169-year history, says Stone. Until the early 1900s, master’s degrees were awarded to graduates who applied and met certain qualifications. From 1904 to 1951, coursework was required to earn the master’s. Many of them were awarded to women, according to Stone.

Stone says Hall’s diplomas will make a nice addition to Wofford’s collection. The diplomas are made of sheepskin and are hand-written in Latin. They are signed by the president, faculty and trustees.

“This is probably the first time these diplomas have been back here since they were awarded,” Stone says. “They’re in really good condition and still have the wax seal. It will be nice to be able to exhibit them every now and then.”

William S. Hall Jr. was well thought of on campus, according to Pete, and was nicknamed Shakespeare.

His father, William S. Hall Sr., attended Wofford from 1858-60, but left without earning a degree because of the Civil War.

Katherine’s parents passed the diplomas to her when they learned that Barron would be attending Wofford. Barron, an undeclared major, says it’s nice to be a part of bringing them home.

“It’s like coming full circle in a way,” Barron says. “They left here with my great-great-grandfather, and now we’ve brought them back.”

Katherine, Barron ’27 and Pete Tiffany presented Wofford with the undergraduate and master’s degree diplomas earned by William S. Hall Jr. 1891, Barron’s great-great-grandfather, during Family Weekend on Oct. 7. Wofford has awarded about 254 master’s degrees in its 169-year history.
HOCO

Homecoming

2023

FOUR ALUMNI RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE TO COLLEGE AND COMMUNITY

BY ROBERT W. DALTON
Alumni, family and friends gathered for the Wofford community’s biggest celebration of the fall, Homecoming, Nov. 2-4. The college’s alumni association recognized four graduates for leadership and service.

Dr. Nicole Redmond ’96 received the Pride of Wofford Award, which is presented to a member of the Wofford College Alumni Association who has brought honor and distinction to the college through outstanding professional achievement. Redmond is chief of the Clinical Applications and Prevention Branch within the Division of Cardiovascular Sciences at the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) of the National Institutes of Health. As a medical officer in the branch since 2016, Redmond has developed an extensive portfolio in cardiovascular disease prevention and treatment, with interests in the importance of community engagement and addressing structural and social determinants of health to mitigate health disparities. She also has a strong commitment to mentoring and career development, particularly for clinician-scientists and groups underrepresented in biomedical research. Dr. Jameica Hill ’88 presented the award and accepted on Redmond’s behalf.

Jim Hackney ’77, P ’04 received the Charles H. Gray ’72 Distinguished Service Award for exhibiting dedicated service and commitment to the college. He graduated from Yale Divinity School in 1979 and served Wofford for eight years in the Office of Advancement. His fundraising career included stops at the Mint Museum and Alexander Haas, where he helped clients raise over $2 billion. The U.S. State Department appointed Hackney as an arts envoy to Greece in 2011. Hackney is currently on the Reynolds House National Advisory Council, a trustee of the Penland School of Craft and a member of Wofford’s President’s Advisory Council. Hackney and his husband, Scott Haight, sponsor the Hackney Haight Fellowship at Wofford for a studio art major to attend a summer workshop at Penland each year. Hackney has two children, John ’04 and Ann. The Hackneys have established the Hackney Family Endowed Scholarship Fund to increase diversity at Wofford. The award was presented by David Beacham ’77.
The Distinguished Citizen Award is presented to a member of the community who has served a distinguished career and has contributed extraordinary service to humanity, reflecting honor upon both the recipient and Wofford College. This year’s winner was Gary McCraw ’77, P ’09. McCraw received degrees from Spartanburg Methodist College, Wofford College and the University of South Carolina, where he earned a master’s of music in piano performance. He has been employed by Wofford College since 1982 and received full professorship in 2018. He teaches the history of American music, music appreciation, world music and music theory. McCraw conducts Men’s Glee Club, Concert Band and Wofford Singers. He has been affiliated with the Spartanburg Little Theater for 50 years, serving as pianist and director for 72 shows. He has been in church music ministries for 53 years, 37 of them at Westminster Presbyterian Church, where he serves as organist, pianist, choir director and handbell choir director. McCraw will retire at the end of the academic year. Brandi Lorenz ’95 presented the award.

Catherine Codispoti ’03 received the Rising Star Award, which is presented to members of the Wofford College Alumni Association who have demonstrated professional accomplishment and continued growth as emerging leaders in their communities. Codispoti assumed the role of senior vice president and chief people officer at Mercy in St. Louis, Missouri, on Dec. 1. Mercy is one of the largest health systems in the United States, with over 50 hospitals and 50,000 employees across a seven-state region. Previously, Codispoti served as executive vice president and chief people officer at Children’s National Hospital. Codispoti is active in many professional and leadership organizations, including CHIEF (a membership network focused on connecting and supporting women executive leaders) and CNBC Workforce Executive Council. She has been recognized on several lists, including Washington Business Journal’s “40 under 40,” and Women We Admire’s “Top 100 Women in Medicine” and “Outstanding Mothers of 2022.” Tori Swanson ’03 presented the award.

In addition to reunions for classes ending in 3 and 8, Homecoming weekend also included milestone reunions for Wofford’s chapters of Omega Psi Phi fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. There also was a reunion of show choir alumni, who performed the alma mater before the football game.
Wofford’s Office of Philanthropy + Engagement sponsored a friendly competition for reunion classes during Homecoming 2023. The Old Main Cup consisted of three challenges:

The **Bellringer Bucket** went to the Class of 1993 for having the highest reunion attendance percentage. The award was named in recognition of the college bell, housed in the left tower of Main Building. The bell tolls three times for every Wofford graduate: after Opening Convocation for each first-year student, at Commencement for each graduate, and on All Saints Day for each graduate in the year of their death.

The Class of 1983 won the **Papadopoulos Platter** for raising the most dollars. Dr. Gus Papadopoulos ’54 was the first Wofford graduate to give more than $1 million to the college. He was often quoted as saying, “Whatever I have, I owe to Wofford.”

The **Beneficent Bowl** was awarded to the Class of 2013 for having the highest participation percentage. As the tradition goes, students rub the “I” on the plaque in Main Building for luck, leaving their mark on Wofford. The award recognizes a class for leaving its mark on the college through collective giving.

Winners received a champagne treat in their reunion tent and a special visit from Nayef and Prema Samhat.
From artificial intelligence to zombies, there was a lot to talk about on Wofford’s campus during the fall semester.

Add on hip-hop, national security, the history of gay bars and nonfiction writing, and you’ve got a good sampling of the topics covered so far this year.

Guest speakers from across disciplines and perspectives have long played a key role in Wofford’s mission of providing a superior liberal arts education that prepares students for extraordinary and positive contributions to a global society. Bringing thought leaders to campus allows students to further their understanding of familiar topics, investigate new topics and expand their worldview.

“Talks give us an opportunity, outside of tests or class requirements, to be in the moment and think about an idea,” says Dr. Dwain Pruitt ’95, chief equity officer and vice president for community initiatives. “I intentionally invite speakers who will challenge assumptions and inspire students to think for themselves. Having an authentic human experience discussed onstage is more impactful and powerful than anything you’ll read in a book.”

That’s something Abigail Zagar ’27, a first-year student from Central, S.C., appreciates about the opportunities to listen to and engage with the variety of people who speak on campus.

“The more diverse streams of information you’ve been shown, the more paths that you can take,” she says. “Whether you agree or disagree, or if you’re even just figuring out why you disagree, it’s so good to research and know what your true core values are instead of just repeating what you’ve previously been told.”

In September, Pruitt invited Santa Clara University history professor Nancy C. Unger to talk on the history of gay bars in America and their impact on LGBTQ+ rights. Pruitt also invited Dr. Mark Anthony Neal, James B. Duke Distinguished Professor of African and African American Studies and chair of the department at Duke University, to present on the history of hip-hop, marking hip-hop’s 50th anniversary.

In November, Diana Gehlhaus, senior adviser for the Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Office, presented on the impact of artificial intelligence on college and work. The month before, Dr. Lucy Swanson of the University of Arizona lectured on the evolution of zombie narratives in the French-speaking Caribbean.

Through the Hipp Series on International Affairs and National Security, Van Hipp ’82 brought Ed McMullen, former U.S. Ambassador to Switzerland, and

Mark Anthony Neal spoke on Sept. 27 in Leonard Auditorium about the history of hip-hop.

Trustee Jodie McLean, chief executive officer of EDENS, presented in the Career Center on Oct. 12.

Presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy gave a talk and took questions on Oct. 9 as part of the Hipp Lecture Series.
Republican presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy to the campus.

“After attending Vivek Ramaswamy’s lecture, I can now see Wofford’s commitment to having a campus open to different thoughts and perspectives,” says Matt Myers ’27, a first-year student from Rock Hill, S.C. “While I may or may not agree with everything that was said at the lecture, I am glad that Wofford gives students the opportunity to hear from thought leaders and political figures, especially someone running for president, which for me reinforces the importance of civil participation and being an active and engaged citizen.”

Pulitzer-nominated author James M. Scott ’97 returned to campus on Oct. 24 to talk about the role of narrative in writing history. He was joined by resident experts John Lane ’77, professor emeritus and author; Dr. Jessica Tompkins, assistant professor of history; and Dr. Clayton Whisnant, professor of history, all of whom are also researchers and writers with a keen interest in the topic.

In addition, U.S. Sen. Cory Booker was on campus for the Spratt Issues Conference sponsored by U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn and the Democratic Party of South Carolina. The campus also regularly hosts artist talks for exhibit openings, lectures sponsored by academic departments and career-focused speakers through the Career Center.

“It’s important that colleges and universities such as Wofford remain committed to the free exchange of ideas,” says President Nayef Samhat. “This exchange of knowledge and perspective — with civility and respect for the views of all — is the foundation of a transformational liberal arts education. Sometimes the issues debated are those we care deeply about, which means the exchange of ideas can generate great passion, discomfort and even anger, but that’s all the more reason for Wofford to remain committed to academic freedom and the values articulated in the Chicago Principles as well as our own mission and core values.”
Historic speakers worth remembering

George Washington Carver 1923

One of the most prominent Black scientists, educators and inventors of the early 20th century, George Washington Carver spoke at Wofford in December 1923. In a letter exchange with then Wofford President Henry Nelson Snyder, Carver thanked the college for its “warm welcome,” and Snyder told Carver the audience “felt greatly instructed by the experience of the hour which you gave them.”

Nellie Tayloe Ross 1935

Former Wyoming Gov. Nellie Tayloe Ross was the first woman to serve as governor of a U.S. state and lectured at Wofford on Nov. 19, 1935. She gave a talk promoting peace, telling the audience, “to a much better purpose can you intelligent young men devote your valuable lives by engaging in struggles to solve and correct the causes of war.”

Gerald Ford 1980

On April 15, 1980, former President Gerald Ford gave lectures in Shipp Hall Lounge and Leonard Auditorium, being the first and only U.S. president to give a speech in the latter. He spoke about the dangers of government by nostalgia and government by ideological reflex as part of the Mayfair Lecture Series, established by former U.S. Secretary of Commerce Fred Dent.

Seamus Heaney 1984

Nobel Prize-winning Irish poet Seamus Heaney presented in the Campus Life Building on Feb. 23, 1984, as part of the Wofford Writers Series, founded by the late Dr. Dennis Dooley, professor of English emeritus. The talk took place the same year as the publication of Heaney’s sixth poetry collection, “Station Island.”
Frost-Sandburg 1950

Poet Robert Frost presented a speech titled “Politics and Poetry” on March 14, 1950. Perhaps the most memorable part of the evening was the moment Frost was heckled by an audience member, who was none other than Carl Sandburg. A photo of an exchange between the men made the front page of the Spartanburg Herald-Journal.

Karla LaVey 1973

Karla LaVey, daughter of Anton LaVey, high priest of the Church of Satan, gave a lecture in March 1973 to an 800-person audience full of intrigued listeners and impassioned protestors. A 20-year-old LaVey discussed her opposition to the Christian church and her belief in indulgence over abstinence in one of Wofford’s most controversial events.

John Hope Franklin 1997


Republican Presidential Debate 2011

Dr. Andrew H. Kang ’57 and Dr. Ellen Kang have established an endowed scholarship at the college and are now working toward the establishment of an endowed professorship in biology. These are gifts of gratitude they’ve always wanted to make, and now, in their retirement, with their family well established, they can enjoy what it means to share.

The story of why started long ago.

It was April 1954, less than a year after the end of the Korean War, and Col. Sid Crumpton ’32, a U.S. Army chaplain stationed with the 8th Army Headquarters in Seoul, South Korea, had just finished a large community ecumenical service.

One of the people in line to shake his hand after the service was Andy Kang, a first-year medical student at Seoul National University.

“‘A friend of mine said let’s go, so we went,’” says Kang. “‘When I thanked Col. Crumpton for the excellent service, he complemented my English and asked me to come to his office later that afternoon.’”

Kang agreed.

“The day was very hot, and his office was a tent. It was even hotter inside,” says Kang. “‘He offered me my first Coke, and I thought it had an odd taste. I didn’t really like it.’”

As the conversation progressed, Crumpton asked Kang if he would like to study in the United States. Kang said he would love to but couldn’t afford it.

“What if you were given a full scholarship?” Crumpton replied.

During the Korean War, Kang and his siblings lost their mother, who was killed by North Korean soldiers, and their father, who was captured and never heard from again. Kang sold cigarettes on the streets to help support his siblings until an uncle took them in and began to offer his support and guidance. According to Kang, the chance to leave war-torn Korea and study in the states was almost unbelievable.

Kang arrived on Wofford’s campus a year after that meeting with Crumpton. He was greeted at the airport by Frank Logan, who was the registrar at the time and who, along with his wife, Madeline, became Kang’s American parents.

Although only a month remained of spring semester classes, Kang audited courses and proved to be so proficient that he was allowed to take final exams, gaining credit for the courses. He threw himself into his classes and excelled across the board. He also began to learn more about why he was offered a scholarship to come to Wofford.

“I began to understand why everyone was so pleased with my English, which I considered marginal,” says Kang.

According to Kang, at the end of the Korean War, Wofford was planning to celebrate its centennial. In an act of patriotism and support of the nation’s South Korean allies, Wofford trustees raised the money to establish a scholarship for an international student from the country. Language and cultural barriers proved to be difficult to overcome for the first student to receive that scholarship, so the college asked the local Rotary Club to fund a second scholarship. Kang was offered that second scholarship, but the first student had already returned home before Kang arrived on campus.

When Wofford was not in session, Kang lived with the Logans in what is now the...
Dr. Ellen Kang and Dr. Andrew Kang were on campus in October and reunited with Wofford friends.

president’s home. He also received support from the Spartanburg community and several families at the Episcopal Church of the Advent, including the family of Dr. George Dean Johnson. They invited him to meals and organized clothing and supply drives to help him in college and later in medical school.

“I have fond memories of Spartanburg, Wofford’s campus, the president’s home and my time with the Logans,” says Kang, who applied for medical school from a desk near the top of the stairs, the same stairs Frank Logan was climbing when Kang told him he wanted to go to medical school at Harvard University.

“The look on his face when I said Harvard left an indelible impression on me,” says Kang. “He was completely taken aback and asked me why. I said, ‘I don’t know, but the school is reputed to offer the very best medical education.’ Then Mr. Logan shook his head, nodded, bid me good night and went to bed.”

At Harvard, Kang also excelled and was one of only three Asian students in the program at the time.

While at a Harvard mixer for students from Hawaii, Kang met Dr. Ellen Soo Sun Song, who was an intern at Boston Children’s Hospital Medical Center. They connected as the only two South Koreans at the event and began dating a few weeks later. Kang quickly fell in love.

“The next time I came back to Wofford, I came to tell Mr. Logan that I was in a serious relationship and to seek his advice,” says Kang. “We had a long discussion, and he felt like we should wait before taking the next step. But a young man’s passion is not something that lends itself to rational behavior.”

continued on p. 34
Just before the wedding, Kang was diagnosed with ankylosing spondylo-arthrits, yet another challenge he found a way to overcome. The experience led him to become one of the world’s foremost experts on connective tissue and rheumatic diseases, eventually retiring as Goodman Professor and Chairman Emeritus of the Department of Medicine at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis. At the time of his appointment, he was the first Asian to be appointed to chair any department of internal medicine at any medical school in the United States. In 2001, he was appointed the first director of the Center of Excellence for Diseases of Connective Tissue, which was established by the UT system because of Kang’s expertise. That year he also received the Samsung Ho-Am Prize in Medicine, presented by the Ho-Am Foundation for his contributions to science, and the Middleton Award of the Department of Veteran Affairs. The college conferred upon him an Honorary Doctor of Sciences in 2008.

Remembering and honoring
Family establishes Oscar and Peggy Smith Endowed Scholarship Fund

When Oscar Smith ’54 retired from the ministry, he continued to minister through his art and wood carvings. Nayef and Prema Samhat, Joe Lesesne and dozens of others have inlaid Terrier plaques that he made. Lisa Harrison DeFreitas ’88, associate vice president for philanthropy and engagement, has one of his Christmas ornaments. When Smith died on Sept. 19 in Charlotte, N.C., he left a legacy of good works, and now he will forever be remembered at Wofford College thanks to the establishment of the Oscar and Peggy Smith Endowed Scholarship Fund.

“When dad died, Phyllis (Dyches Smith ’82) and I, along with other members of the family (Steven and Shelly, Michael and Leslie Hintz Smith ’86, William, grandchildren and great-grands) asked mom about ways we could honor dad,” says Dr. Frank Smith ’80, professor of medicine at the University of Cincinnati and senior vice president at Medpace, a specialist in hematology/oncology. “Dad supported many great causes, but we wanted to honor him and mom in a way that would forever be tied to Wofford. Mom loved the idea but said she could never afford that. Phyllis, my brothers, their families and I said we would take care of it. We made her happy at a very difficult time. She said she could think of nothing that dad would love more.”

The Oscar and Peggy Smith Endowed Scholarship Fund will provide scholarships for deserving Wofford students.

“We discussed designating it for ministerial students but decided to leave it open. We trust Wofford to ensure that it goes to a worthy recipient,” says Smith.

After graduation from Wofford, Oscar Smith was ordained a deacon in 1955. He served honorably in the U.S. Army and graduated from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in 1959.

He served churches in Georgia and South Carolina and as director of the South Carolina Conference Council on Ministries and superintendent for the Columbia District. He retired from the ministry in 1994. Oscar Smith served on the Wofford College Board of Trustees at a time of change and realignment.

“Oscar understood the difference between a college and a church, and he understood that church-related colleges had an important role to play,” says Lesesne, president emeritus. “He never looked for the limelight but didn’t dodge an issue either. He was diplomatic, smart and dealt with things the right way.”

According to Lesesne, Smith, who served from 1980 to 1990, was on a committee to reorganize the board for accreditation purposes, something that would create more continuity on the board.

“For that to happen, someone had to rotate off early, and Oscar took himself off instead of someone else. I asked him why he did that, and he said, ‘Some people will continue to work with the college whether they’re on the board or not. I’m one of them. We’ve got to work this out, and this is how.’ That’s just who he was,” says Lesesne.

For his many acts of service to the college and the South Carolina United Methodist Church, the college conferred an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree upon Smith in 1995.

“It’s fitting that we honor dad and mom in this way,” says Frank Smith. “Wofford was beloved by him — when he was a student, parent, trustee and season football ticket holder. He came back and gave back to the college every chance he got.”

Memorials may be made to the Oscar and Peggy Smith Endowed Scholarship Fund at Wofford College, Office of Philanthropy + Engagement, 429 N. Church St., Spartanburg, S.C. 29303, or at wofford.edu/give.
Now enjoying their retirement, the Kangs have returned to Wofford several times, including for his 50th class reunion. Their daughters — Cynthia, Edith and Audrey — have followed in their footsteps and practice medicine, along with two sons-in-laws and one grandson. The Kangs have a total of six grandchildren and one great-grand child. Kang took his family and re-connected with his siblings in Seoul in 1980.

“Wofford was the saving grace for him,” says Ellen Kang. “The college provided him with a stepping-stone to America and a wonderful life. A college is not just a campus; it’s a people, and Wofford people were very good to him.”

“If not for Wofford College and the Logans, Johnsons, Col. Crumpton and others, I would not be what I am today,” says Andy Kang. “I do believe the whole of my life was arranged by divine intervention.”

Oscar Smith presented inlaid Terrier plaques to many loyal Terriers, including Nayef and Prema Samhat.

Oscar Smith left a legacy of generosity, which will continue by providing for Wofford students through the Oscar and Peggy Smith Endowed Scholarship Fund.
1960
The Greenville County Bar Association has honored Theron Cochran with the Tommy Thompson Award. The award recognizes the Greenville lawyer who best exemplifies compassion, integrity, strong personal values, dedication to the community, humility and diplomacy. Cochran has practiced law for 58 years.

1980
James Kimmell retired as vice president and general counsel of The E.W. Scripps Co.’s networks division, which owns and operates broadcast and multi-platform networks including ION, Bounce and Court TV.

1989
Kathryn Malone Lemon has been named the school counselor for Addlestone Hebrew Academy in Charleston, S.C.

1993
Aaron J. Allen published “The Sword of Jory (Meaning ‘Down Flowing’): Catching Fire,” a book about a boy conquering his fears and persevering through difficult circumstances, emphasizing the triumph of the human spirit.

Steven B. Martin joined the inaugural board of the Alliance for a Healthier South Carolina as secretary and treasurer. He is president and CEO of Constellation Quality Health in Cary, N.C.

Nestle USA selected Ray McGuire to be the director of operations startup to oversee the construction of the company’s new factory and distribution center in Glendale, Ariz.

1994
Jenn Nodine Bell was recognized as the NCAA Division II Nike Executive of the Year by Women Leaders in College Sports. She is the director of athletics at Converse University. In the past year, she also has been named NACDA Cushman & Wakefield Athletics Director of the Year for NCAA Division II and third vice president for the D2 Athletics Directors Association.

Trey Jarrard recently retired after almost 22 years as a special agent with the U.S. Secret Service. He now serves as a special agent with the Tennessee office of Homeland Security. He, his wife, Tracey, and their daughter, Savannah, live in Nashville.

1996
Frank A. Davis was named chairman of Commerce Holding Co. and subsidiary Commerce Bank in Corinth, Miss., following a 20-year career as president and CEO of Commerce Bank.

2001
Justin Powell was named chief operating officer of the South Carolina Department of Transportation after four years as its deputy secretary for finance and administration.

2003
Kristin Starnes Gray, a labor and employment attorney and partner at FordHarrison’s Spartanburg office, was named to the Profiles in Diversity Journal’s 22nd class of Women Worth Watching in Leadership. She also was selected by her peers for the 2024 Best Lawyers in America recognition for labor and employment litigation.

Dr. Caroline Laroche Turnage-Butterbaugh was awarded a CAREER grant from the National Science Foundation for her project “Research in and Pathways to Analytic Number Theory.” She is an assistant professor of mathematics at Carleton College in Northfield, Minn., and will begin a five-year research project focusing on long-standing open problems in analytic number theory and implement an educational program to work with Carleton students at the beginning of their college-level mathematical training.

2004
Kelly Harvey joined CLIMB Fund as the upstate community development commercial loan officer. CLIMB Fund provides access to capital for small businesses in South Carolina.

Dr. Hitesh Tolani was featured in an article by Backpacker magazine, highlighting his Instagram account, @gaysofnationalparks, which seeks to feature LGBTQ+ people who enjoy hiking and visiting national parks.

2006
Matt Flood carded a hole-in-one at Laurel Ridge Country Club in Waynesville, N.C. He is the operations manager at Milliken Chemical in Inman, S.C.

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

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

For more information, contact the Wofford College Alumni Association at alumni@wofford.edu.
2009

Brent Troxell and Elyse Toutant were married on June 24, 2023, in Westcliffe, Colo. They live in Denver, where he is senior vice president of Beta Health and director of strategic growth at Ensemble Innovation Ventures.

2010

Purpose Equity of West Columbia, S.C., has named Andrew Anderson vice president. He spent three years at Piper Sandler as an associate in diversified industrials and services investment banking.

Quincy Harbison and Joshua Kinsel were married on July 8, 2023, at the Sacajawea Hotel in Three Forks, Mont. She is the manager of Zephyr Cycling Studio in Bozeman, Mont.

Tax Credit Marketplace has promoted Corey Memmott to chief investment officer. He has been with the Greenville, S.C.-based company since 2021.

2012

Catherine “Callie” Thomas West and Jordan West ‘14 welcomed their second son, Marshall Edward West, on July 5, 2023. They live in Simpsonville, S.C., with their older son, Preston Daniel West. Callie works as a public defender in the 8th judicial circuit. Jordan is co-owner of West Environmental and works as an environmental consultant around the Upstate.

2013

Dr. Russell Baker has been named assistant professor of orthopedics at the University of Louisville Hospital in Louisville, Ky. Baker and Haley Howard were married June 3, 2023.

Matthew H. Decker and Hannah C. Williams were married on Sept. 9, 2023, in Tryon, N.C. The couple lives in Woodfin, N.C. He is the founder and owner of M.H. Decker Fine Art.

2014

Laura Stokes became a foster parent. She also started a new job as a child and adolescent psychotherapist at a private practice in Columbia, S.C.

2015

Rachel Cooley McEathron and Rory McEathron welcomed a son, Silas Foster McEathron, on June 21, 2023. They live in Winston-Salem, N.C., where she works as a physician assistant in burn surgery.

Mallory Hull and Matt Pelt celebrated their one-year anniversary on Oct. 15, 2023. They were married last year in Greenwood, S.C. He is a project lead in cash management at Chick-fil-A Corporate Support Center.

Erin McGaha Prevost and John Prevost announce the birth of their third daughter, Lucy Mae Prevost, who was born on August 22. He is a captain in the U.S. Army stationed at Fort Lee, Va.

2016

Jennifer Karl joined Silversmith Capital Partners in Boston, Mass., as vice president

IN THE CARDS

MAHAN TURNS CHILDHOOD HOBBY INTO SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS

By Maddie Brewer ’23

As a child, Cathy Green Mahan ’98 enjoyed collecting and trading sports cards. In 2020, she turned her hobby into a successful business.

Mahan and her husband, James Mahan, started Roadshow Cards as an online-only business during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic. They have since opened physical locations in Lexington, Ky.; Mansfield, Texas; Bronxville, N.Y.; and Sonoma, Calif. They sell sports collectibles and cards, as well as other cards, such as Pokémon.

“If you have something you like, I guarantee there’s a card for it,” she says. “There are cards for Disney characters, and there are cards for horses and jockeys.”

Pawn Stars Do America recently visited the Kentucky location and featured the business in an episode that aired on Nov. 10. The episode is now available to stream.

Mahan, who played on Wofford’s women’s soccer team, started the business by selling cards she had accumulated in her youth. From there, the business began purchasing cases of cards and selling some of the most sought-after cards individually.

Mahan says NBA cards are her top-sellers because basketball is such an international sport. Baseball and football cards, however, tend to sell better in the United States.

Mahan says she knew she wanted to be an entrepreneur while majoring in English at Wofford, but she never imagined opening a business selling sports cards. She spent several years in sales before branching out on her own.

Being a woman in a traditionally male-dominated industry is a point of pride for Mahan. She hopes to bring more of a face to the women involved in card collecting.

For now, Mahan is focused on Roadshow’s existing stores. She does, however, have an eye on the future.

“The opening of three new locations in a year was ambitious, and we want to get them all rolling before committing to new construction projects,” she says. “Not knowing the timeframe for future projects, it looks like our next Roadshow location will be Wilmington, N.C., and my husband has dreams of a shop in Europe — possibly London or Barcelona — but that is farther into the future.”
Philip LeRoy ‘16 likes both building communities and being a part of them. He recently got to share that passion in front of the camera while renovating a home.

LeRoy and his sister Elyse South hosted “Sibling Space Solvers” on the Lowe’s Home Improvement YouTube channel. The episode debuted in July, and it coincidentally allowed them to renovate the living room of people they knew, including one of LeRoy’s Wofford College classmates.

LeRoy and South have a good working relationship and had renovated and sold homes together leading up to their involvement with the show.

While they were prepared to work and share a family’s story with Lowe’s, they didn’t know who the production team would find for them. Zane Vickery, a high school friend of LeRoy’s in Greenwood, S.C., and Vickery’s wife, Rebecca Willis Vickery ‘13, were selected.

“We were like, we know these people, intimately,” LeRoy says.

The episode shares that Zane Vickery was involved in a major automobile accident last year and has had multiple surgeries. Between physical and emotional recovery and the sheer surprise of the makeover, it was an emotional project.

2017

Molly McAlhany Pile and Quintin Pile announced the birth of their second child, Bennett Leland Pile, born Aug. 8, 2023. They live in Greenville, S.C., where he is a private client advisor at Greenwood Capital.

Nolan Tillman Auton and Kristin Michelle Schmidt were married on May 20, 2023, in Beaufort, S.C. He is a project manager at Scott Auton Painting Co. in Gaffney, S.C.

2018

Alexx Henley and Crawford Anderson celebrated their one-year anniversary on Oct. 29, 2023. They live in Columbia, S.C., where she is managing director of the master of accountancy program at the University of South Carolina and he is an audit senior at Elliott Davis.

Rylie McCrackin Sally and Palmer Sally welcomed their daughter, Lorelai Elisabeth Sally, on May 22, 2023. They live in Myrtle Beach, S.C., where she is a registered nurse at Tidelands Health and he is director of business operations at Scripta Insights.
HICKLE CREDITS WOFFORD FOR LIFTING AVIATION DREAM

By Robert W. Dalton

When he was 8 years old, Connor Hickle '19 watched the Blue Angels soar across the sky at an airshow near Pittsburgh, Pa. He remembers the day vividly, he says, because it was the first time he thought he'd someday like to be a pilot.

Today, Hickle is a first lieutenant in the South Carolina National Guard, where he is a Chinook helicopter pilot and a flight platoon leader. Without Wofford and its ROTC program, he says, he never would have gotten off the ground.

"I tell people all the time that I wouldn't be where I am without Wofford," he says. "I wouldn't have been in ROTC; I wouldn't be an aviator; I wouldn't have been put in the unit I'm in now, and I wouldn't have met the amazing friends that I have."

Hickle interviewed at another college and was told that getting into the flight training program was extremely competitive and that he should have a backup plan. He says he "pretty much wrote it off" and enrolled in a third school.

Three weeks before classes were to begin in 2015, Simon Stricklin, Wofford ROTC's enrollment and scholarship officer, called Hickle and offered him a scholarship.

"Without ROTC, I wouldn't have gone to Wofford," Hickle says.

While at Wofford, Hickle served in the National Guard. In 2017, he was transferred into the unit he remains in today.

"That's when I definitely decided I wanted to be a pilot," Hickle says. "I realized that was the environment I wanted to be in and the job I wanted to do, and I was going to do what I had to do to make it happen."

Hickle began flight school in 2021 and finished in about a year and a half. The program consisted of basic officer training, survival school, flying basic aircraft and moving to advanced aircraft.

"You spend the first three or four days learning how to hover," Hickle says. "It sounds simple, but it's harder than it sounds. You'll be wobbling all over the place, and the instructor will settle the aircraft and say let's do it again."

Hickle was scheduled to fly Wofford's current ROTC cadets to Fort Jackson in Columbia, S.C., for training over Homecoming Weekend. That mission got scrubbed because of mechanical issues with the helicopter.

"It was disappointing, but safety is the most important thing," Hickle says. "It would have been neat to come back to where I went to college for four years, bring in a helicopter and kind of pay Wofford back for what they gave me. That was important to me."

Hickle, who majored in finance and works as a private client specialist with TD Bank in Mauldin, S.C., will soon begin a new chapter. His fiancé is an active duty pilot who flies Blackhawk helicopters. She is returning from a year-and-a-half rotation in South Korea, and the couple will move to her new station in December.
Meredith Turner and Corey Cooper were married on June 10, 2023, at the Gassaway Mansion in Greenville, S.C. They live in Travelers Rest, where she is a marketing coordinator at the Association of Christian Schools International and he is an acquisitions and contracts professional at JCTM.

Annabelle Webb and Jackson Hill ’23 were married on Aug. 5, 2023, in Hendersonville, N.C. She is a graduate research assistant at the University of Georgia, and he is a real estate salesperson at Thomas Crane Realty in Watkinsville, Ga.

2022

Sarah Kate Levin and Grayson Loftis ’21 were married Oct. 14, 2023, in Cashiers, N.C. They live in Charlotte, N.C., where she is a senior account coordinator at Crafted and he is a consultant for state and local tax specialty at FORVIS.

2023

Blake Batten started a new job as the community engagement coordinator at the Johnson Collection in Spartanburg, S.C.

Jackson Barton and Josie Hinson were married on Aug. 4, 2023, in Albemarle, N.C. He is a data integrity specialist at Forest2Market in Charlotte.


FACULTY AND STAFF


Rebecca Forstater, assistant professor of studio art, opened her solo exhibition “Training Camp” at the Richardson Family Art Gallery in the Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts on Wofford’s campus. The exhibition will travel to galleries at James Madison University and the University of Montana later this year. Also, Forstater’s work was curated in the three-person exhibition “Flesh Machines” at Allegheny College Art Gallery. In conjunction with the exhibition, Forstater gave a public lecture on her research and participated in a panel discussion at Allegheny College. She is one of 24 artists selected to exhibit work in the 2023 South Carolina Biennial at 701 Center for Contemporary Art in Columbia. The exhibition be on view this winter.


Dr. Natalie Grinnell, Reeves Family Professor in Humanities, has been appointed as a section editor of The Palgrave Encyclopedia of Medieval Women’s Writing in the Global Middle Ages. Also, Grinnell and Willow Conley ’23 have an article, “The Queer Temporality of Gail Carriger’s Parasol Protectorate,” appearing in the Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts. The article is a result of a student-faculty summer research grant from Wofford in 2022. Additionally, Grinnell has been elected queen president of the Southeastern Medieval Association for a three-year term beginning Jan. 1, 2024.

Daniel Helman, visiting assistant professor of environmental studies, co-authored “Electrochemical cells from water ice? Preliminary methods and results,” for PLOS ONE.

Dr. Dane Hilton, assistant professor of psychology, and a colleague were awarded a three-year National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) grant to conduct a randomized controlled trial of a mindfulness meditation intervention for college students with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

Dr. Trina Janiec Jones, professor and chair of religion, spoke on a panel titled “Critical Pedagogies in the Interfaith/Interreligious Studies Classroom” at the 2023 Parliament of the World’s Religions in Chicago. Jones also was a panelist at “The Black Buddhism Faculty Project,” a workshop sponsored by Princeton’s Center for Culture, Society and Religion.

Eric Kocher, assistant professor of environmental studies, is publishing the poems “Sunsetting This” in issue 41 of 32 Poems, and “Sky Mall” in issue 9 of Oversound.


Dr. Kaye Savage, professor of environmental studies, recently exhibited photographs and mixed media works at the Circle Gallery in Athens, Georgia, in the juried show at the Spartanburg Public Library and at The Bascom Center for the Visual Arts in Highlands, N.C., where she taught a workshop on photo transfers on handmade paper.

Dr. Jessica Tomkins, assistant professor of history, presented the paper “Decolonizing the Early Egyptian State” at the 13th International Congress of Egyptologists in Leiden, The Netherlands.

Dr. Rachel Vanderhill, associate professor and chair of government and international affairs, was an invited speaker on the panel “U.S. Interagency and Multilateral Approaches to Peacebuilding and Democratic Resilience,” part of the Council on Foreign Relations International Affairs Fellows Roundtable Series.

Dr. Nancy Williams, professor of philosophy, published the article “Ethical Veganism as Quiet Resistance” in the Journal of Animal Ethics.

Dr. Gillian Young, assistant professor of art history, published “Beyond the Screen: Joan Jonas’s Television by Other Means” in the Oxford Art Journal.

Kendall Hinson ’19  
B.S. in psychology
Kendall Hinson is a doctoral candidate at Adler University in Chicago, Ill., studying clinical psychology with an emphasis in military psychology. She is currently completing a yearlong internship at the James A. Haley Veterans’ Hospital in Tampa, Fla. She wants to improve access to mental health services for veterans and credits Wofford’s ROTC program with expanding her interest in military psychology. “Dr. Cecile Nowatka and Dr. John Lefebvre were very influential,” she says. “I hope to spread the word to psychology students that a Psy.D. is a great option for postgraduate studies.”

Nathan Hoover ’20  
B.A. in business economics
Nathan Hoover has signed to play basketball for Instituto Atlético Central Córdoba, a sports club based in Córdoba, Spain, for the 2023-24 season. He finishes a 33-game career with Iraurgi Saski Baloia, a team based in Azpeitia, Spain. Hoover began his career overseas in the Belarusian Premier League, leaving after the beginning of the Russia-Ukraine war. “My (Wofford) coaches and I still communicate. They still reach out and ask me how I’m doing,” he says. “They told me while I was playing at Wofford that I could have a great career in basketball.”

Allyson Markiewicz Cochran ’17  
B.A. in business economics
After two years of service on the board of the Spartanburg Art Museum, Allyson Markiewicz Cochran was named board president. She is a senior marketing consultant at Wells Fargo. Cochran cites multiple classes at Wofford as especially helpful to her career path, including public speaking, Excel classes and a variety of other humanities classes. “The curriculum is so well-rounded at Wofford,” she says. “You can go into so many different fields after college, which is really cool. Dr. Carol Wilson particularly helped me with anything I needed. She was like my right-hand woman and my rock.”

Jennifer Karl ’16  
B.A. in finance, B.A. in government
Jennifer Karl is vice president of operations at Silversmith Capital Partners in Boston, Mass. She joined the team in September after six years heading the investment banking management team at Jefferies in New York City. She values the connections she made at Wofford, both with faculty and alumni, crediting them with helping her make her way into the industry. “Networking with these people, even just one, can make a difference in your career path,” she says. “The relationships I have built really helped propel me into the financial services industry.”

Judson Reaves ’23  
B.S. in accounting, B.S. in finance
Judson Reaves is as an accountant at D.R. Horton in Greenville, S.C. “Wofford helped me make connections and taught me how to network, which is how I found the person who told me about this position and my internships leading up to it,” Reaves says. “My professors at Wofford helped me to network and learn new skills. Dr. Benjamin Cartwright encouraged me to go to accounting events, where I was able to get internships and gain experience. Dr. Patrick Stanton taught me many useful skills in Excel, which I currently use at work daily.”

Mareli Sanchez-Julia ’16  
B.S. in biology, B.S. in environmental studies
Mareli Sanchez-Julia worked in field and forest ecology in Panama and in Puerto Rico before starting graduate school at Tulane University in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. She is currently pursuing her Ph.D., after which she plans to start a postdoc at Yale University. She hopes to one day be an environmental studies professor. “I feel like the environmental studies major made my biology interest more profound by giving so much richness to that major,” she says. “They complemented each other really well for what I’m doing now.”
IN MEMORIAM

1950

1951
James Horace Corn, Aug. 16, 2023, Winston-Salem, N.C. Corn was a U.S. Army veteran who served during the Korean War. He was a retired engineer with AT&T. Corn volunteered with a variety of organizations, including Meals on Wheels, Boy Scouts of America and South Little League.

1953
The Rev. Dr. Thomas Copeland Jones, Sept. 2, 2023, West Columbia, S.C. Jones served in the pastoral ministry in the South Carolina United Methodist Conference for 45 years and as the director of creative arts in worship for the United Methodist Church Worldwide in Nashville, Tenn. He also was a chaplain at Lexington Medical Center for 41 years and in 2021 was named emeritus chaplain. Jones performed in local theater productions and served as president of the Columbia Music Festival Association for seven years. He danced with the Carolina Ballet, the Columbia City Ballet and served on the University of South Carolina board of dance. He sang with the Palmetto Mastersingers and served on the organization’s board for many years, including two terms as president. While earning a master’s degree at

REMEMBERING WALTER MONTGOMERY JR.

Walter Montgomery Jr. traveled around the world for business and pleasure. Of all the exotic locations he visited, one of his favorite places was just up the road at Lake Summit near Hendersonville, N.C., where he spent summers for most of his life.

Montgomery, the former president of Spartan Mills, died Oct. 4 at his home. He was 93.

Montgomery and his family were heavily involved in the Spartanburg community, and Wofford shared in their generosity. The Montgomery Music Building was named for them after a gift from Montgomery and his wife, Betty, and his sister, Rose Montgomery Johnston, and their families funded the renovation of the building. A room in Burwell Building also bears the Montgomery name, and in 2017 they established the Betty and Walter Montgomery Jr. Endowed Scholarship Fund.

“Walter Montgomery was a giant in the textile industry,” says Wofford President Nayef Samhat. “He was a tremendous friend not just to Wofford College, but to Spartanburg as well. Generations of Wofford students have benefited and will continue to benefit from the generosity of Walter Montgomery and his family.”

Montgomery grew up in a home on Main Street in Spartanburg that eventually became the Piedmont Club. On rainy days, he enjoyed roller skating in the third-floor ballroom.

He graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1951, then enrolled in the Harvard Business School. After graduating from Harvard, Montgomery served in the U.S. Army.

Montgomery began his 50-year career with Spartan Mills, the family business, in 1955. He headed the sales office in New York City for 14 years, and he returned to Spartanburg as well. Generations of Wofford students have benefited and will continue to benefit from the generosity of Walter Montgomery and his family.

Montgomery was a member and chairman of the South Carolina Textile Manufacturers Association, and he served on the boards of Barclays American Bank, South Carolina National Bank, Allendale Insurance and Piedmont Natural Gas.

On March 4, 1984, a helicopter carrying Montgomery, Roger Milliken, George Dean Johnson, Dick Pennell and John Hamrick crashed on a return trip from the Palmetto Business Forum in Columbia. Everyone aboard survived, and the experience led Montgomery to take his young family on an annual adventure to a far-off place.

Montgomery enjoyed sailing the waters of Greece, a summer tradition he shared with his family and friends until 2022. During his later years he also enjoyed traveling to rural parts of China, Mongolia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea and India.
the Juilliard School, Jones modeled in New York, danced on Broadway and performed on the Perry Como Show. He was a member of the North American Academy of Liturgy and was installed in the Societas Liturgica in Paris. He was a Boy Scout and attained the rank of Eagle Scout.

1956

Dr. Charles Major Bauknight, Sept. 9, 2023, Columbia, S.C. Bauknight was a U.S. Army veteran who served two years as a dentist at Fort Campbell, Ky. He practiced dentistry in Columbia until his retirement at age 64. He enjoyed traveling. Bauknight was an avid hunter, beekeeper and fisherman, and he was skilled in the hobby of duck carving.

Charles Myers Hollis, Nov. 30, 2021, Spartanburg, S.C. Myers was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force who served during the Korean War. He spent most of his professional life as an agent for New York Life Insurance Co. He was a member of Skynlyd Drive Presbyterian Church, where he served as a trustee and elder.

1957

William Carlyle Small Sr., Dec. 6, 2017, Sugar Hill, Ga. Small was a veteran of the U.S. Army. He worked for the American Red Cross for more than 30 years. He was an elder at Toccoa Presbyterian Church. Small enjoyed sports, with football being his favorite.

Milton Dale Warner, Aug. 25, 2023, Kinston, N.C. Warner was a veteran of the U.S. Navy. He started his career as a sales representative for Schering before moving to Interstate Securities and opening an office in Goldsboro, N.C. He returned to Kinston upon his retirement in 2000 and volunteered at Mary's Kitchen, Meals on Wheels and the Salvation Army, where he served on the board for more than 20 years. He also spent time reading to the children of Northwest Elementary. Warner enjoyed spending time at Atlantic Beach as well as playing golf and badminton.

1959

Samuel Akin Soulé, Sept. 13, 2023, Rock Springs, Wyo. Soulé's love of the West and cowboying took him to work on Hyde Merritt Ranch in Cheyenne, Wyo. After a series of various jobs across the state, he enrolled in the University of Wyoming College of Law. He entered private practice in 1972. In 1975, he was appointed chief administrative attorney on the attorney general's staff. In 1981, Soulé was appointed as the first county court judge for the Rock Springs Division of the Sweetwater County Court system. He became a circuit court judge in 2000, and retired in 2006. He then worked as a deputy attorney in the Sweetwater County Attorney's Office for six years, fully retiring in 2013. Soulé served on a variety of boards, including Sweetwater County Big Brothers/Big Sisters and as chairman of the state Welfare Department Advisory Council. He was a past exalted ruler and trustee of Rock Springs Elks Lodge #624, a 32nd degree Mason and a member of the Rock Springs Rotary Club. He also was a cast member in the Western Wyoming Community College productions of Chicago and The Who's Tommy. Soulé enjoyed tennis, team roping, officiating at rodeos and playing guitar. He was a member of a local music group called Los Amigos.

1960

Carol Earl “C.E.” Scoggins, Sept. 24, 2023, Spartanburg, S.C. Scoggins had a 37-year career in the banking and finance industry. He retired as assistant vice president of Wachovia.

1961

Dr. Thomas Cole “Thom” Bristow Jr., Oct. 19, 2023, Columbia, S.C. Bristow served as a mental health specialist in the U.S. Army Reserve for six years. He was director of admissions at William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute in Columbia. He also was an adjunct professor at the University of South Carolina, University of South Carolina Medical School, Columbia College and Limestone College. He had a private practice as a marriage and family counselor. Bristow was a professional storyteller who went by the name The Carolina Talespinner. He used storytelling as a therapeutic and teaching tool. He also traveled to Ireland, Scotland and England telling stories. He incorporated his love for music into his stories, often playing his tenor guitar.

1962

Gerald Ray “Jerry” Etheredge, Dec. 31, 2022, Anaheim, Calif. Etheredge was a veteran of the U.S. Navy who served during the Vietnam War. After leaving active duty, he served as the comptroller of Long Beach Naval Shipyard for 27 years. He continued with Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity at Camp Pendleton until his retirement. He was known for his sense of humor, and he would periodically burst into song and dance around.

1964

William Robert “Ted” Cunningham, Sept. 5, 2023, Wells, Maine. Cunningham served in the U.S. Army for 24 years, doing two tours of duty in Vietnam and one assignment with the 7th Army Training Command in Grafenwoehr, Germany. After retiring, he worked as director of public safety at Fitzburg State College in Fitzburg, Mass.

Dr. John Carver Edwards, Sept. 4, 2023, Cleveland, Ga. Edwards was the archivist at the University of Georgia libraries until his retirement in 2000. He was a charter member of the Academy of Certified Archivists. Edwards was the author of five books, 25 journal articles and 180 book reviews. He also had two award-winning National Public Radio programs based upon two of his books.

Donald Baxter Gibson, July 15, 2023, Spartanburg, S.C. Gibson served in the U.S. Army National Guard. He started his career with U.S. Plywood and spent more than 40 years in the building products industry in research and development. Gibson jointly held two U.S. patents, one Canadian patent and one Swedish patent. He was one of five family members to graduate from Wofford, taking special pride and joy in his grandson's enrollment. He loved gardening and was an avid birder. Gibson was a member of First Baptist Spartanburg, where he served on the media ministry team, was a deacon and a Sunday school teacher.

1965

Dr. James Grady Locklear, Sept. 30, 2023, Sumter, S.C. Locklear was a retired advanced placement English teacher and curriculum consultant from Sumter School District 17. He chaired the English department at Sumter High School for 32 years and was named the South Carolina Teacher of the Year in 1977. He was the consummate mentor, and many of his former students attributed their successful careers to the work ethic and values he instilled in them. He would often rise at 3 a.m. to embrace the opportunities day and the opportunities it held — baking, editing college applications, writing letters of recommendations or evaluating scholastic literary-art magazines. Locklear was heavily involved in community service, especially embracing the elderly. To honor them and to support palliative care for the ill, he spearheaded fundraisers for local Hospice. He became an avid gardener and nature photographer in his retirement. Because of his accomplishments in community service and academia, Wofford awarded him an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree in 1986. He was a former Alumni Association board member and a winner of the association's Rising Star award. In 1996, former students established the J. Grady Locklear ’65 Endowed Scholarship Fund at Wofford. Awards are made to juniors or seniors who will become public school teachers and who have been accepted and assigned to a school for student teaching. Memorials may be made to that fund.
IN MEMORIAM

1970
The Rev. John Ashmore Brown Jr., Sept. 23, 2023, Columbia, S.C. Brown was a retired Episcopal priest and mental health professional. He was assistant director of the Alston Wilkes Society for 12 years before seminary, helping men and women in prison reenter society and helping children in trouble. Brown served as vicar of St Luke’s Episcopal Church in Newberry, S.C., from 1986-89, taught at Newberry College and was an addictions counselor at the Care Center. He served as a Sunday assistant priest at St Mary’s Episcopal Church in Columbia from 1990-95. He was a supply priest in the Diocese of Upper South Carolina, routinely giving sermons on a Christian response to suicide. Brown was director of crisis and forensic services at Columbia Area Mental Health Center from 1990-2013. He also was president of the state Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention from 2008-11. He was an avid fisherman, chess player and reader.

Ronald Lee Roberson, Aug. 22, 2023, Inman, S.C. Roberson taught sixth grade at New Prospect Elementary School for many years. Robert Eugene “Bobby” Wright, Oct. 11, 2023, Conover, N.C. Wright was a U.S. Army veteran who served in Vietnam. He taught math for 30 years at Statesville High School. Wright was active in the Boy Scouts of America and received numerous awards, including the Silver Beaver, Wood Badge and the Lamb award.

1972
Robert A. “Bob” Brannon, Sept. 30, 2023, Spartanburg, S.C. Brannon began his career as a certified public accountant in Spartanburg with several local and national firms. He later served as CFO of WJB video and American Storage before becoming vice president of finance at Blockbuster Video. He ended his career as president and chief operating officer of Extended Stay America. Brannon enjoyed traveling, playing golf and spending time in the mountains and at the beach.

1974
Gregory Fulton Bitting, June 30, 2023, Winston-Salem, N.C. Bitting taught in North Carolina public schools until his retirement in 2005. In his younger years, Bitting enjoyed rock climbing in the mountains. In later years he played guitar and enjoyed Irish music. He also was an avid basketball fan.

Frank Harper Wiles Jr., Sept. 22, 2023, Columbia, S.C. Wiles had a variety of careers throughout his life, starting with oil jobbing at Barnett Oil Co. Eventually he owned and operated his own business, Congaree Delivery Service. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, boating, hiking, cooking and woodworking. Wiles was a fan of all sports, especially baseball and college football.

1975
Jack Edward Henderson Jr., Sept. 15, 2023, Spartanburg, S.C. Henderson was a detective with the Spartanburg Public Safety Department. He also collaborated with the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division on special assignments. He escorted two U.S. presidents on Air Force One from Charlotte, N.C., to Spartanburg during their re-election visits to the region. He enjoyed music, and for 15 years was part of the gospel duo 2 For 1.

1980
Alan Brent Collins, Sept. 7, 2023, Beaufort, S.C. Collins was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, where he flew KC-10 refueling planes. He spent his 20-year civilian career as a pilot for American Airlines. He returned to Beaufort after retiring, where he enjoyed boating and working in his yard and camellia gardens.

Ann Payne Howard, Aug. 27, 2023, Fort Mill, S.C. After a career in nursing, Howard worked at Wofford College and then at the Spartanburg Area Mental Health Center. After retiring three times, she ended her career providing mental health assessments at the Spartanburg County jail. Howard was devoted to creating an Upstate homeless coalition, and she received multiple awards for her work and had a street named for her in the first housing development for the homeless in Spartanburg. She was active in Leadership Spartanburg, Healthy Spartanburg, Seeds of Primary Prevention and Share the Vision. She also was involved in disaster response, participating in relief efforts after hurricanes Hugo, Andrew and Katrina, as well as after a flood in Washington State. She volunteered at many events, including the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta.

1990
Dr. Bennie Martin “Marty” Fulbright, Aug. 23, 2023, New Concord, Ky. Fulbright was an orthopedic surgeon at Marshall County Hospital in Benton, Ky. He practiced for more than 20 years. He enjoyed doing research of any kind, writing, telling stories and teaching.

1991
Dr. Lawton Harris Salley Jr., Oct. 31, 2023, Anderson, S.C. Salley completed his residency in otolaryngology at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Va., and practiced at AnMed Medicus ENT in Anderson for 23 years. He enjoyed fishing, scuba diving, skiing, hunting, whitewater kayaking and traveling. He was known ride the wildest rapids, ski the steepest slopes and catch the biggest fish. He was the brother of Dr. Mackay Salley, professor of physics, and the father of Harris Salley ’26. Memorial contributions may be made to The Lawton H. Salley Jr. ’91 Memorial Fund. Contributions can be directed to Wofford College’s Office of Philanthropy + Engagement, 429 N. Church Street, Spartanburg, SC 29303.

1996
Dr. Michael Wallace Bassett, Oct. 9, 2023, Ladson, S.C. Bassett taught English and creative writing for 25 years at various institutions, including LaGrange Academy, North Broward Preparatory School, Hilton Head Preparatory School (his alma mater) and Timberland High School. He was an accomplished poet and a previous winner of the Fugue Poetry Contest and the Joan Johnson Award. His poems have appeared in numerous journals and anthologies, and he published three chapbooks: “Karma Puppets,” “A Train Dreams of When it was a Killer Whale and More Exhibits from the Museum of Other” and “Waiting for Love to Make My Phone Explode.” He also published the full-length book of poetry “Hatchery of Tongues,” and a children’s book, “Batrocks and Greenie.”
When he retired in 2015 as associate vice president of communications at Wofford, Dr. Doyle W. Boggs ’70 was asked how he wanted to be remembered. “I want to be remembered for joining Wofford, as a student, Old Gold and Black editor and student sports information director, then as a member of the alumni association and employee. I worked side-by-side with great people through the years, and I am especially fond of the student workers who I jokingly called Boggs Scholars. I still treasure those relationships.”

Boggs died on Nov. 4 in Spartanburg.

One of those “Boggs Scholars” was Josh Whitley ’05, who now serves on the Wofford College Board of Trustees and was the student chair of the public policy committee Boggs established to engage students with communications, especially in thanking and making requests of legislators.

“I am grateful that I had the opportunity to work for Dr. Boggs all four of my student years at Wofford,” says Whitley. “He was a mentor, endlessly kind and absolutely devoted to Wofford College.”

Boggs served most of his professional career at Wofford College, editing Wofford Today, which he likened to cutting the grass, for more than 32 years. Even after retirement, he would read it cover to cover and call the Office of Marketing and Communications with praise. Boggs was forever chasing mistakes, or “gremlins” as he called them, when he edited the publication, but he never pointed them out after retirement.

Boggs edited the college’s sesquicentennial history, writing much of it. He always said yes to opportunities to share Wofford’s history as well as the history of Spartanburg and the state, contributing to books and articles as well as taking over the Leadership Spartanburg roving history tours, following in the footsteps of his mentor Dr. Lewis P. Jones ’38.

Boggs edited with a green felt-tip marker because he felt it was kinder. He introduced students to the importance of sharing their gratitude for South Carolina Tuition Grants. He held a special place in his heart for Newman Club (Catholic) students.

In his Historic Spartanburg County book documenting the county’s first 225 years, Boggs wrote: “Living the life of the mind with colleagues, friends and fellow alumni at Wofford College has been a source of inspiration and great pleasure. My wife, Sara Nell, is an excellent teacher and historian in her own right, and she, my children, and my grandchildren are all beloved fellow travelers in my personal journey through South Carolina history” ... and, of course, Wofford history.
IN MEMORIAM

2011

Mary Elizabeth Thompson-Smith, Sept. 30, 2023, Vidalia, Ga. Thompson-Smith was a universal banker with SunTrust Bank. She also was the owner/operator of Prescribed Passé, a home decor business. She was passionate about art, design, her family, her dogs, the ocean and making everything around her more beautiful.

FRIENDS

Donald Eugene Green, Sept. 15, 2023, Spartanburg, S.C. Green worked in facilities at Wofford for 19 years. He was employed with Beaumont Mills and T&S Mills before joining the Wofford community. He was a member of Davis Memorial Baptist Church.

REMEMBERING ELIZABETH “HAYDEN” BLACKWELL QUATTLEBAUM

Elizabeth “Hayden” Blackwell Quattlebaum made a lot of high-profile charitable contributions during her lifetime. The ones that gave her the most joy, however, were the ones no one ever knew about.

She paid college tuition, stopped foreclosures, covered medical expenses and paid off loans, all to make life easier for people in need.

Quattlebaum died on Sept. 20. She was 65.

Wofford College was the recipient of one of her final major gifts, a $1.25 million contribution in honor of her only child, Andy Quattlebaum, who died in 2019 at age 22. The gift helped fund the renovation of the Hugh R. Black House, which is home to the Blackwell-Quattlebaum Center for Wellness and Counseling Services. A dedication was held on Feb. 24.

“Hayden Quattlebaum is a person who gave generously of herself, her time and her resources,” says Beth Wallace ’82, dean of students and vice president of campus life and student development. “In attending her memorial service, it was deeply inspiring to hear her dear friends throughout her lifetime speak of her gift of giving. Gifts of love, time and intentional acts of kindness were recalled and celebrated. Her incredible generosity resulted in the Blackwell-Quattlebaum Center for Wellness and Counseling Services in the Hugh R. Black House. Services that assist, enhance and support students through their college years are rooted in this beautiful, historical renovation.”

Quattlebaum graduated from the University of South Carolina with a bachelor’s degree in elementary education. She was teaching in Mount Pleasant, S.C., when she learned that her passion was in sales and marketing. She began a successful career with Clairol before joining her family’s business, the Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co. of Conway-Myrtle Beach, in 1988. She eventually became president and CEO, following in her mother’s footsteps.

She also joined her husband, Don, in his business, New Castle Imports, and saw it flourish.

Quattlebaum served on a variety of boards, including Junior Achievement, The Wall School of Business and the Grand Strand Humane Society. She established the Cotton Endowment Fund to benefit the Humane Society in memory of her cocker spaniel, Cotton. At St. Frances Animal Center in Georgetown, she established the Cotton Memorial Veterinary Clinic, offering low-cost medical care for those who cannot afford regular costs, as well as serving abandoned animals.

In addition to being an animal lover, Quattlebaum also enjoyed reading, traveling and spending days on the beach eating freshly boiled peanuts with family and friends.

MAKE A MEMORIAL GIFT

Call the Alumni Office at 864-597-4185.
Visit wofford.edu/makeagift.

Mail a check made payable to WOFFORD COLLEGE
429 N. Church St. Spartanburg, S.C. 29303
Remember to include the name of the person you are honoring with your gift.
What’s something that every person who has attended Wofford since 1854 has in common? We’ve all studied on the same campus. Not many American colleges or universities as old as we are can claim that they are on their original grounds and have original buildings in daily use. Those of us who walk the grounds today are sharing this campus with Wofford students from multiple generations. Each of those individuals and groups lived in a very different time than we do today. Our society has evolved quite a lot over the past 170 years, as has the college. We have opportunities today that the first generations of students could not have imagined. And yet, despite those differences, we have this college and this campus, where people still gather to learn and to grow, in common.

As the college’s archivist, I regularly receive requests to give campus history tours to friends, alumni and new colleagues. When I walk around the campus with a group, I talk about the layers of history that surround us. I can point to buildings and landmarks that a student 50 or 100 years ago would have seen or studied in every day. I can show my tour group how each generation has affected the way the campus looks today and how the contributions of people from long ago are still having an impact on current students. Not only has each generation of students, faculty and staff lived and worked in this space, they also played a role in shaping the college’s history, its landmarks and its reputation.

That gets to some deeper questions about history and what it means. To me, Wofford’s history is about its people and the stories that these people share. It’s more than the date that a building was constructed, or the date that this person became president, it’s the stories that Wofford people share when they gather. I know that each generation experiences Wofford in different ways, but common themes emerge from those stories, no matter the age of the person sharing their memories. At All Saints Day each year, we toll the bell for each member of our community who has died in the past year. As I hear those names read aloud, I think about what Wofford was like for them and the value they must have placed on the relationships they built here.

Just as we share this space with people who lived in a time that is different from our own, I remind people on campus tours that we also are sharing this space with people in the future, who will live in a time that might be hard to imagine. Teaching will evolve, technology will change and some landmarks will pass into history. What I hope will never change are the connections that people build while they are here. Those of us who are here every day and those of us who support the college, do this with the belief that there will always be a Wofford College, no matter what it looks like.
CHOOSING TO GIVE

Elena Pulanco ’22

Pulanco is an assistant coach and director of basketball operations for the Saint Peter’s University women’s basketball team. She’s also pursuing a master’s degree in sports industry management from Georgetown University.

Q: You live and work in New Jersey, but you remain engaged at Wofford. What’s your secret?
A: I stay updated by following the college on Instagram, reading the latest issue of Conquer & Prevail, or catching a women’s basketball game on live stream. I still stay in touch with Wofford friends and have even reached out to a few of my past professors.

Q: What influenced you to make a gift on A Day for Wofford?
A: Giving back to Wofford has always been an easy decision for me. When I think back to my time there, I am always so grateful for the people, resources and enriching experiences that the college was able to provide. I want to pay that forward to the next generation of students.

Q: Our academic excellence funds were introduced on A Day for Wofford, and you designated part of your gift to the Sociology and Anthropology Excellence Fund? Why?
A: Sociology and anthropology was one of my undergrad majors, and the professors in that department specifically have made an everlasting impact on the way I work, learn and interact with the world. A big shout-out goes to Dr. Handelsman, Dr. Leebrick, Dr. Fowler and Dr. Lackey. It is incredible to see the community sustainability seminar grow! From the course launch while I was at Wofford to seeing it now as a well-established program with multiple rooted projects, partnerships and sustainable efforts ... there is a level of pride and amazement in seeing the ongoing positive impact made within the Spartanburg community.

Q: You also made a gift to the Women’s Basketball Excellence Fund. Why?
A: Wofford women’s basketball granted me many amazing opportunities, like traveling abroad. Being a student-athlete can be a great experience with the right support, and my gift to this team is a way of showing thanks to the program and contributing to a positive, memorable experience for current student-athletes.
If you missed the big day, it’s never too late to make a difference in the lives of our students.

Make yours now at wofford.edu/give.
Coach Lynze Roos and the Wofford College volleyball team won the 2023 Southern Conference Tournament Championship, Nov. 19, in the Jerry Richardson Indoor Stadium. They made history as the first Wofford women’s team to win a conference tournament title. The team advances to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in program history. Read more about their historic season at wofford.edu/volleyballchampionship, and read more about the legacy of women’s athletics at Wofford inside this edition of Wofford Today.