



## JEDI Working Group I Update: History, Memory, Place



This message is from Dr. Ramón Galiñanes Jr. (lead), director of undergraduate research and post-graduate fellowships; the Hon. Costa Pleicones '65, retired chief justice of the South Carolina Supreme Court; and the Rev. Dr. Ron Robinson '78, Perkins-Prothro Chaplain and Professor of Religion

During these past few weeks, the working group has been engaged in conducting listening sessions and reviewing Wofford's campus landscape and history. Considering a petition to change the names of three residence halls named for presidents William M. Wightman, Albert M. Shipp and James H. Carlisle, all of whom owned enslaved people, is one of several important topics of discussion and debate. Our group is also considering the college's cultural/historic symbols and the way we tell the story of our past in authentic ways. We are asking two primary questions: How do we, as a community, more thoughtfully engage and reckon with Wofford's past, especially its ties to slavery? And, how do we, at the same time, re-imagine our changing campus landscape not only to reckon with this past but also highlight the stories of women, people of color and other historically unrepresented groups that have made Wofford what it is today?

These are complex questions that require serious deliberation as well as engagement with a variety of experts and different stakeholders. JEDI has convened several sessions to listen to students and alumni and will continue these sessions as well as others adding faculty, staff and community partners through the winter and into the spring. In addition, our working group has met separately with Dr. Phillip Stone '94, Wofford's archivist; Dr. Kim Rostan, associate professor of English, coordinator of the college's intercultural studies major and co-coordinator of the African and African-American Studies Program; Robert Mickle '85, leader in the Black Alumni Association; Vickie Muller '83, leader in the Black Alumni

Association; and Dr. Steve O'Neil, a professor at Furman University and the lead historian of the "Seeking Abraham Project." We also have plans to talk with Janice Means '73 and Gwendolyn Lawrence '73, two of the college's first African-American women graduates; Dr. Dwain Pruitt '95, professor and an assistant dean at the University of Louisville, who did research as a student on college and Spartanburg history; and Wofford presidents emeritus Dr. Joe Lesesne and Dr. Bernie Dunlap.

All of these people and perspectives will help inform our research and recommendations as we prepare to present to the Wofford College Board of Trustees during the February and May 2021 meetings.

For more information about the Strategic Vision for Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, visit [Wofford.edu/strategicvision](https://www.wofford.edu/strategicvision).

## Wofford's James-Atkins Fund



Wofford College has a student-managed investment fund that allows undergraduates to learn about investing in the real world while witnessing real-time results. The college's James-Atkins Fund is one of approximately 40 student-managed funds associated with a U.S. college or university.

Maggie Adcock '21, a finance major from Vestavia, Alabama, is the James-Atkins Fund's managing partner. She discussed the fund with South Carolina Business Review. The interview describes the experience the fund's 22 members receive and how profits are distributed through microloans to entrepreneurs in the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

**Listen to the interview.**

The 13-year-old fund was established by and later enhanced by R. Michael James '73 and Robert D. (Robby) Atkins '65.

## Rex Maynard Award



The South Carolina Tennis Association recently named an award presented to the state's top junior player after Wofford alum Rex Maynard '69, a dedicated United States Tennis Association volunteer and a member of the Southern Tennis Hall of Fame and the S.C. Tennis Hall of Fame.

The inaugural recipient of the award is Wofford men's tennis player Ashe Ray '24 from Spartanburg. The video above has Ray accepting the award.

## Holiday Blues and Unexpected Gifts



By Kellie N. Buckner, Ed.S., LMFT  
Wellness Center Counselor

The holiday season often conjures up images of smiling faces, cozy settings and all the

makings of a Hallmark movie. The reality, however, can be quite different. Part of what sets the holidays apart are the expectations that go along with these special days — warm gatherings of family or friends and holiday miracles. But those high expectations often can set people up for disappointments.

The holidays can be just as imperfect and challenging as any other day – sometimes more. This year, after all the hardships of 2020, we want the holidays to be great – or at least I do. We may yearn for Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Christmas, or New Year's to provide a break from thinking about all the hard things going on in the world. The reality is that as much as we want the holidays to be the salve to our aching selves, those days can bring pain, too. If you think about it, many of those holidays have struggle built into their origin stories.

[Read more.](#)

## Wofford Advent Calendar

Wofford's Alumni Association has an Advent calendar just for Terriers! Each Sunday, the Rev. Dr. Ron Robinson '78, Wofford's Perkins-Prothro Chaplain and Professor of Religion, will have a new message throughout the season. The calendar is being updated daily with activities for families and opportunities to win Wofford Christmas ornaments. [View the Wofford Advent Calendar.](#)

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