Resilience Project featured on NPR

Since 2018, Wofford College’s Resilience Project has collected stories from students, faculty, staff and alumni focused on how individuals have faced adversity and responded with resilience.

Dr. John Lefebvre, professor of psychology and a faculty mentor to the Resilience Project student researchers, discussed the project and how it continues to evolve at Wofford during a recording of National Public Radio’s The Academic Minute.

The Academic Minute features researchers from colleges and universities around the world who discuss ways academic research contributes to solving the world’s toughest problems and public good.

Listen to Lefebvre discuss the Resilience Project with The Academic Minute.
Take a walk

Students in the “Take a Walk!” Interim course trekked to various places around Spartanburg, including a five-mile hike on the Southside Trail. They also spent time discussing historical, spiritual and cultural themes related to walking.

Students in the “Take a Walk!” Interim class walked throughout the month of January. Some walks were in silence while paying close attention to their surroundings. There were walks that included interviews with Spartanburg residents using a popular trail. Some were in city neighborhoods. Others were in the woods.

All walks provided time to reflect on an activity that can be taken for granted. While in the classroom, students discussed readings focused on historical, spiritual and cultural themes related to walking. There also were conversations about the walkability of communities.

“It seems so basic and so small, but it can really transform a community,” says Dr. Jeremy Morris, assistant professor of biology.

Read more.

CRT discussion
Dr. Ricky Jones, professor and chair of the University of Louisville’s Department of Pan-African Studies, will give a Feb. 16 virtual lecture titled “Black Studies and the Critical Race Theory Lie.”

Critical race theory.

Those three words can ignite a passionate discussion among both supporters and opponents of the concept. Dr. Ricky Jones, however, doesn’t think the debates are really about the intellectual and social movement despite it grabbing headlines for much of the past year as more than two dozen states have legislation proposed to ban the teaching of it.

Jones sees the controversy as following a pattern of attempts to reject the teaching of Black studies.

“Black studies has been a resistance movement to balance the scales of justice,” says Jones, professor and chair of the University of Louisville’s Department of Pan-African Studies. “Race and racism are foundational to how America was developed. If we can’t honestly discuss that, we have a problem.”

Jones is one of Wofford College’s guest speakers for Black History Month, and he’ll give a lecture titled “Black Studies and the Critical Race Theory Lie” at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 16 via Zoom. Register here.

Find more Black History Month events.

Richardsons named to Philanthropy 50 list
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Richardson ’59 with Richardson Scholars at the Topping Out Celebration of the Jerry Richardson Indoor Stadium. Richardson Scholars from left: Hawkins Shepard ’20, Matt Edwards ’17, Katie Beuerlein ’18 and Omar Elmore ’19.

The Chronicle of Philanthropy released its 22nd annual Philanthropy 50 list, which ranks the 50 Americans who gave the most to charity in the previous year. Jerry ’59 and Rosalind Sallenger Richardson are ranked No. 19 based on their $150 million gift to the Wofford College endowment in 2021.

Learn more about the gift.