



‘They done a very bad act’



Nora Williams '21 will be one of Wofford College's speakers during Women's History Month. She'll discuss her research on rape during the Civil War and Reconstruction.

The cruelty of war has been well documented.

And Nora Williams '21 has spent more than two years researching a specific aspect of it during the Civil War, the 30 years before the war (Antebellum) and the Reconstruction era following it—sexual assaults.

“Originally, I was only going to focus my research on the Civil War, but I didn't feel right leaving it there because it'd be naïve to think this sexual violence ended after the Civil War,” Williams says. “Women were seen as spoils of war or enemy civilians. During Reconstruction, there was a different war going on during the age of social rebuilding.”

Williams will discuss her research during a Women’s History Month event at Wofford College at 4 p.m. on March 30 in Olin Room 213. Her presentation is titled “‘They Done a Very Bad Act’: Rape in the Civil War and Reconstruction.” It’s one of six events being sponsored by the college’s Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and Wofford’s Women’s Leadership Group. [See the complete list of events.](#)

Williams conducted the research for her honors thesis. She scoured the 13-volume “Report of the Joint Select Committee on the Condition of Affairs into the Late Insurrectionary States,” which has testimonies from congressional hearings after congressmen traveled to former Confederate states to hear grievances. She also reviewed 450 military Judge Advocate General Corps (JAG) records.

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Commitment to first-gen students



Dr. James Stukes, assistant dean of student success and college access, talks to students during Wofford College’s First-Generation College Student Celebration in November.

First-generation students make up nearly 15% of the Wofford College student body. The college’s commitment to supporting first-gen students has led it to be named a member of the Center for First-generation Student Success’ First-gen Forward cohort for the 2022-23 academic year. The center is an initiative of NASPA-Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education and the Suder Foundation. Institutions selected for the cohort will receive professional development, community-building experiences and a first look at the center’s research and resources.

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A report from the board of trustees' February meeting

From President Nayef H. Samhat

The Wofford College Board of Trustees was on campus Feb. 17-18 for a productive meeting and opportunities to meet and talk with students and faculty, watch our women's basketball team in action and celebrate the grand re-opening of the Burwell Building.

The trustees approved the budget for the 2022-23 fiscal year. Operating budgets remain largely flat except for some line-item increases for the library, high-impact practices, athletics and scholarships. The additions to experiential learning and scholarships are the result of the initial impact of the \$150 million restricted gift to the endowment from Jerry Richardson '59.

This summer the college will complete the Marsh Hall renovation, which brings the college's housing stock to very good condition and our first-year housing stock to excellent condition. Other summer projects include paving and crosswalks on Evins and Cummings streets, a complete interior renovation of the Wellness Center (thanks to a wonderful gift), and work to improve Snyder Field and the track (thanks in part to generous gifts from Mike and Margaret Green Young '92, Ellen and Philip Asherman and members of the Parents' Leadership Council).

In addition, the board heard a report on Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion progress, goals and priorities from Dr. Dwain Pruitt '95, chief equity officer. The board will receive recommendations from the ad hoc committee on History, Memory and Commemoration during the May meeting. Finally, the board formed an ad hoc committee on athletics to examine significant strategic questions related to changes in the larger Division I landscape, particularly the impact of the new NCAA constitution and the Transformation Committee.

Enrollment remains on pace to reach the college's 490-student target for the Class of 2026. Four years ago, we set upon a five-year plan that targeted a stable enrollment of 1,775-1,800 students. We expect to reach that goal one year early thanks to the dedicated faculty, staff and coaches committed to student success; outstanding facilities; an endowment that has nearly doubled over the past year and a renewed commitment to fulfilling our mission and core values as a nationally ranked, residential liberal arts college.

We must think deliberately and creatively about our future, and we must do so with responsibility to that future. This is our distinctive and exciting task, and I appreciate your partnership.

SoCon venture pitch competition



Cassie Figueroa '24 and Alec Schrader '24 reached the finals of the inaugural Southern Conference Entrepreneurship challenge, where teams from each SoCon institution pitched ideas for businesses.

Cassie Figueroa '24 and Alec Schrader '24 reached the finals of the inaugural Southern Conference (SoCon) Entrepreneurship Challenge. The contest was held Feb. 25 and 26 at The Citadel. All 10 colleges and universities competing in the SoCon athletics conference had a team in the contest.

The duo pitched their concept for Campus Connections, a consolidated website where college students can offer services, including haircuts, photography, oil changes, rides, etc., to others on college campuses. They had the winning concept during Wofford's Terrier StartUp Challenge last November, and they placed fourth in the 60-team field for SC Innovates, a statewide venture pitch competition.

Figueroa is a business economics major from Charlotte, North Carolina. Schrader is a biology and finance major from Fredonia, New York.

Heavy lifting



Kriti Baral '25 and Will Hammontree '23 spent Interim reading multiple classics and they gained skills that can be used in other aspects of life.

By Brandi Wylie '24

The name of the class was “Classic Reads,” and Will Hammontree '23 and Kriti Baral '25 took the title to heart.

Hammontree, a biology major from Greer, South Carolina, took on “War and Peace” and “Crime and Punishment.” Baral, an undeclared major from Spartanburg, South Carolina, went after “Wuthering Heights,” “Anna Karenina” and “Jude the Obscure.”

They finished them off during the four-week Interim.

“I read ‘War and Peace’ simply because I wanted a challenge and thought it would be cool to say I had read ‘War and Peace,’” Hammontree says. “I also figured this was the perfect time to tackle such a long book given the time I had.”

Hammontree says that the biggest accomplishment that he takes away from the Interim is having an increased ability to focus for long periods of time. He hopes that will help him to be successful in other areas of his life as well.

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SoCon basketball tournaments



Jackie Carman '22 was a consensus selection to the All-SoCon First Team. She's averaged 12.3 points per game.

The women's basketball team is entering the Southern Conference (SoCon) tournament as a No. 2 seed, its highest in program history, as it plays No. 7 East Tennessee State University at 3:30 p.m. today (Thursday). Five members of the team were named to all-conference teams (Jackie Carman '22, Lilly Hatton '23, Niyah Lutz '22, Reagan Rapert '25 and Alexis Tomlin '22). **Learn more about the honorees.** The team finished the regular season 16-12 overall and 11-3 in the conference.

The men's team finished the regular season 18-12 overall and 10-8 in the conference. The Terriers are the No. 4 seed going into the SoCon tournament and will face No. 5 VMI at 2:30 p.m. Saturday. **B.J. Mack '23 and Max Klesmit '24 were named to all-conference teams.**

Both the women's and men's tournaments are being played in Asheville, North Carolina. **Find information for both tournaments.**

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