



## ‘Knot Just Hair’



Fadzai Mushayamunda '22 and Dieran McGowan '22 led an independent study project focused on the role that hair has played in shaping the social and historical experiences of Black women.

An evening last year watching comedian Chris Rock's 2009 documentary "Good Hair" led Dieran McGowan '22 and Fadza Mushayamunda '22 to develop an independent study project focused on the ways hair has shaped the social and historical experiences of Black women.

Rock's joke about actress Jada Pinkett Smith's short hair during last Sunday's Oscars' ceremony also reflects what their research noted.

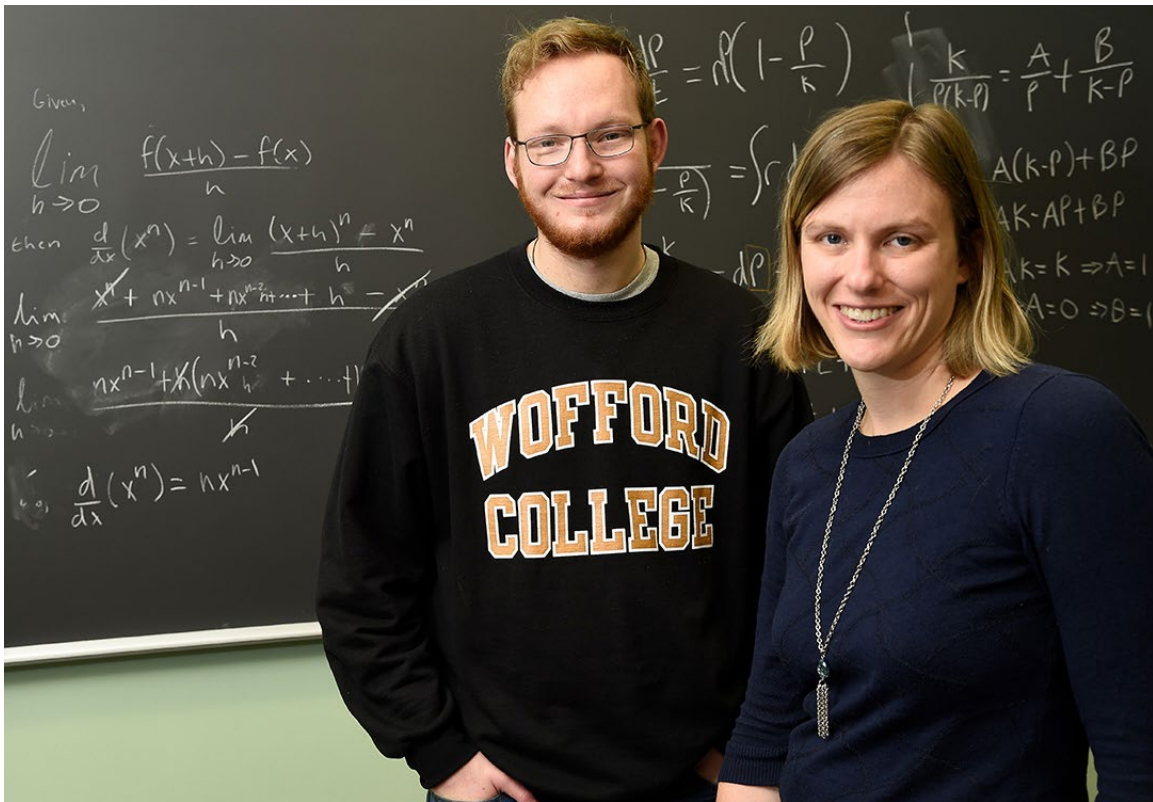
"Is hair just hair was our question going into this," says McGowan, a finance major from Taylors, South Carolina. "The answer is no."

Their project is titled “Knot Just Hair: Celebrating and exploring Black hair in a society where it is frequently misunderstood.” It’s a play on words to indicate that they are talking about more than hair.

They read the work of others focused on Black hair, visited the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C., and led campus roundtable discussions. They also challenged themselves to learn more about their hair and tested the reactions they would receive when experimenting with it.

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## Finding solutions



Chase Creamer '23, a mathematics major from Davidson, North Carolina, and Dr. Rachel Grotheer, assistant professor of mathematics, will present at the world's largest annual meeting of mathematicians.

Wofford College will be represented at the largest annual meeting of mathematicians in the world when Dr. Rachel Grotheer and Chase Creamer '23 present at the Joint Mathematics Meetings April 6-9. The conference will be virtual.

Grotheer, assistant professor of mathematics, is accustomed to seeing people grimace and hearing them moan when she mentions that she teaches calculus. She recognizes the subject can be difficult for many people and that students aren't always exposed to how calculus is applicable in the real world.

“We want to take a complicated problem and make it solvable,” says Grotheer, who is co-

organizing two special paper sessions at the meetings, including one on tensor modeling and optimization.

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## Welcoming Terriers



Students being accepted to attend Wofford aren't the only ones in their family gathering Wofford gear. Family pets are being notified that the students are heading to Wofford and they're receiving bandanas!

## Lesesne receiving humanitarian award

Dr. Joe Lesesne, president emeritus, has been named the South Carolina Football Hall of Fame's 2021 Humanitarian of the Year. He will be recognized April 29 in Greenville during the enshrinement ceremony for the hall's class of 2021.

Lesesne taught history and was an assistant football coach before becoming the college's ninth president in 1972. He retired as president in 2000 and returned to the gridiron to work with the Terriers' tight ends from 2001-2004. He then served as director of football operations on Coach Mike Ayers' staff until 2016.

## More athletics news

**Irvin, Krasinski named Big South Players of the Week**

**Rhadans recognized as SoCon Pitcher of the Week**

**Office of Marketing and Communications**

Wofford College · 429 N. Church Street, Spartanburg, S.C. 29303-3663

864-597-4183 | [woffordnews@wofford.edu](mailto:woffordnews@wofford.edu) | [wofford.edu](http://wofford.edu)

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