



Home for the holidays



Shawn and Anita Watson are starting a new Wofford Christmas tradition. The Terriers' new football coach and his family are home for the holidays for the first time in 20 years.

Wofford head football coach Shawn Watson and his family are home for the holidays for the first time in 20 years. There's a tree surrounded by gifts. Festive lanterns and garland decorate the front porch. Gold trees frame the hearth, and Santas, lights and more greenery top the mantle.

"I might have gone a little overboard," says Anita Watson, who, along with her family, has spent Christmas and New Year's holidays on the road at bowl games for the past several decades.

The Watsons laugh about holiday meals purchased in convenience stores and eaten in hotel rooms. While Shawn was coaching with Georgia, Nebraska, Colorado, Louisville, Texas and

Pittsburgh, staying together for the holidays meant unconventional celebrations. This year, sitting in their cozy living room, there's no mistaking the joy they feel to be settled at Wofford and planning to host their two sons and their families, including a new 3-month-old grandson, for Christmas.

"I asked my oldest recently what he remembers most about Christmas, and he said, 'bowl games,'" says Shawn Watson. "Sometimes Santa left a note saying that he dropped gifts at home. Sometimes Santa left packages early. â€œ That was tougher to explain."

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OPE's Advent calendar

Are you up to date with the Office of Philanthropy and Engagement's Advent calendar? If not, view it [here](#). Each Sunday, a video message about Advent was uploaded to the calendar and emailed to the college community as well.

Gilman Scholars



Wofford College has seven Gilman Scholars for 2023 and one student selected as an alternate. (Front row) Kleo Young '25, Promise Henry '25, Ellis Greene '24 and Alexis Deloach '25; (back row) Angel Arellano '23, Marlen Ramirez-Alvarado '24. Margeaux Stapleton '26 and Kenzie Syiem '23 were absent when the photo was taken.

A record number of Wofford College students are receiving Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships to study abroad. Seven students were awarded scholarships that will be used for Interim 2023 and the spring 2023 semester.

The scholarships are given by the U.S. Department of State to support students studying and interning abroad while gaining skills that are critical to the United States' national security and economy. The scholarships are for up to \$5,000.

"I've been incredibly impressed by our applicants over the years, and these students are no exception," says Bence Bays, Wofford's study abroad advisor. "The college had a record number of students applying for Gilman Scholarships this year and once again is proud to have students selected for this prestigious scholarship."

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Total immersion



Valerie Soto '23 studied Chinese at Indiana University-Bloomington in the summer before spending the fall semester in Taiwan. Aidan Jenkins '24 spent two months studying Chinese in Taiwan this past summer.

Aidan Jenkins '24 and Valerie Soto '23 took their learning of the Chinese language to another level this past summer while immersing themselves in the language through renowned programs domestically and abroad.

Jenkins, a double major in Chinese and finance who is on the pre-med track, spent 10 weeks studying in Taiwan. Soto, a Chinese major, spent part of the summer at Indiana University-Bloomington before spending the fall semester studying in Taiwan.

“Learning a language through immersion is beneficial because learners can observe and practice language use in context, where meaning is created and understood,” says Dr. Yongfang Zhang, Wofford associate professor of Chinese. “Much can be learned in a classroom environment, but, ultimately, classroom learning is all scaffolding for language use *in situ*.”

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Art smart



Maceon Urueta '22, an art history major from Greenville, South Carolina, talks to elementary school students participating in an arts outreach program held twice weekly on Wofford's campus during the fall semester.

By Robert W. Dalton

Riley Jones '24 spent the fall semester teaching art and learning about herself.

Jones, an art history and psychology double major from Irmo, South Carolina, was one of three Wofford students who taught in an arts outreach program for elementary school students from Spartanburg County.

“Being able to teach something I’m passionate about and seeing them get passionate about it is very rewarding,” says Jones. “I want them to see that art can give them a sense of identity, and they can create something they can be proud of.”

Each Tuesday and Thursday throughout the semester, students from 12 elementary schools from Spartanburg districts 2, 3 and 7 who attend Kids Club of the Upstate (formerly Boys and Girls Club) came to campus for the program. The program started in 2017, and sessions were previously held once a month.

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Morrison discusses his career in athletics

Trustee Danny Morrison '75 was profiled by Street & Smith's Sports Business Journal and discussed the relationships that he's established over the years, including those with Wofford President Emeritus Joe Lesene and Carolina Panthers Founder Jerry Richardson '59, and how his career included opportunities that set him apart in the world of sports. [Read the story.](#)

Terriers on the court



Jackson Paveletzke handles the ball against North Greenville University earlier this season. In the Terriers' 67-62 win against Texas A&M, he made a 3-point shot with two minutes left in the game and was 6-for-6 from the free throw line in the game's final 19 seconds.

The men's basketball team had an exciting 67-62 win on the road against Texas A&M University on Dec. 20. [Read how the Terriers sealed the victory](#) with an 8-0 run and clutch free throws in the final minute.

The women's basketball team has a 9-3 record and will return to action at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 27 at the University of Tennessee. That game will air on the SEC Network+.

Wofford Choral Society: Invitation to sing in spring masterwork performance

Faculty, staff, alumni and friends of Wofford College are invited to join the student choirs for a spring choral/orchestral performance of Mozart's Coronation Mass and Beethoven's Choral Fantasy. Rehearsals will take place on Thursday evenings from 6-8 p.m. starting Feb. 9 and continue through the performance on May 9. This is an inaugural performance of the Wofford Choral Society. **Fill out this form if you're interested in participating.**

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