A more complete history

Carl Hall '87 participated in an interview with students collecting stories from Black alumni through a research project with the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

Five Wofford College students are spending the summer filling a void in the college’s recorded history, and their research will contribute to ongoing campus conversations.

The students will collect stories from Black alumni, primarily from the late 1960s through the late 1980s, as the first part of a research project organized by the college’s Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

Alumni interested in participating in the project are invited to contact Pruitt by email at pruittdc@wofford.edu or by calling 864-597-4046 to schedule an interview with student researchers.
The Wofford project is one of 18 receiving “Reframing Institutional Saga” funding through the Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE), which is supported by the Lily Endowment.

Projects funded through the NetVUE grants are charged with updating the history and missions of institutions based on today’s context.

“This is the first of what we hope will be several projects to fill gaps in our institutional history,” says Dr. Dwain Pruitt ‘95, the college’s chief equity officer. “We want to bring more people into the college’s narrative.”

Pruitt, a historian, says the college’s archives document the arrival and graduation of Wofford’s first Black students, Al Gray ’71 and Doug Jones ’69, but there’s little else offering insight on the historical Black experience on campus.

New Wofford Trustees

Monique McDowell of Atlanta, Georgia; Murrell Smith Jr. of Sumter, South Carolina; and James Switzer of Spartanburg were elected to the Wofford College Board of Trustees by the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

The South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church elected three new trustees to the Wofford College Board of Trustees on Monday, June 5, in Florence.
The new trustees are Monique McDowell of Atlanta, Georgia; Murrell Smith Jr. of Sumter, South Carolina; and James Switzer of Spartanburg.

The board’s officers will continue to be Chairman Christopher A. P. Carpenter, Vice Chair Ashley Richardson Allen and Secretary the Rev. William F. Malambri III.

“The board of trustees looks forward to working alongside Monique, Murrell and James to ensure Wofford thrives as a superior national liberal arts college,” Carpenter says. “Each of them has valuable experience in their respective fields, leadership skills and a demonstrated passion for the college.”

Appreciated support

In early May, 18 Wofford College students discussed their work in the Spartanburg community with hopes of winning funding to continue supporting the growth and development of 10 community-based programs.

Each of the 10 projects discussed walked away with at least $250. The grand prize winner, Determined Minds, which serves Camp Croft Courts and Prince Hall Apartments, earned $1,250.
“Having these funds next year will help our program be sustainable,” says Margaret Chandler ’24, a sociology and anthropology major from Montgomery, Alabama, who volunteered at Prince Hall Apartments. “It is my hope that we will have more students who are excited to come and attend the program each day and that they talk about how fun it is with their peers at both Camp Croft and Prince Hall apartment complexes.”

The United Way of the Piedmont, Spartanburg Academic Movement, ReGenesis Health Care, Northside Development Group and the Northside Voyagers made donations to support the students’ programs. Three anonymous donors also stepped in to ensure that each project received funding. In all, $6,785 was given to support the students’ work.

Reclaiming Spartanburg’s Black History

Wofford College will host the “Reclaiming Spartanburg’s Black History Educational Panel” from 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, June 15, in the Olin Teaching Theater. Community leaders Alma Byrd and Brenda Lee Pryce will participate in a discussion with Brad Steinecke, assistant director of local history at Spartanburg County Public Libraries. Dr. Dwain Pruitt, the college’s chief equity officer, will moderate the discussion. This free event is being organized by the City of Spartanburg.

Tenure and promotions

Wofford’s trustees typically award tenure and promote faculty during the last board meeting of the academic year.
Wofford College's Board of Trustees recently approved tenure for three faculty members and voted to promote nine.

"Wofford College’s faculty are experts in their fields of study and always committed to our students," says Dr. Timothy Schmitz, provost. "It’s a privilege to celebrate those who have been granted tenure or promoted. Tenure and promotion serve to recognize their pedagogical and scholarly contributions; the college and our community are made far better by their presence."

READ MORE

Remembering Bishop Marshall Meadors Jr. ’55

Every time he walks into his office, the Rev. Dr. Ron Robinson ’78 gets a reminder from Bishop Marshall L. “Jack” Meadors Jr. ’55.

The room was renovated in memory of Meadors’ late wife, Hannah, and a plaque outside the office door bears their names.

"Each time I am reminded that the chaplain’s office has to be a place where everyone is welcomed, because that is who the Meadors family is," says Robinson, Perkins-Prothro Chaplain and Professor of Religion.

Meadors, a retired United Methodist bishop and a former member of the Wofford College Board of Trustees (2001-13) died May 25 in Anderson, South Carolina. He was the father of current trustee James C. Meadors ’81.

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Athletics updates

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Here’s why Wofford’s Eric Breitenstein is on ballot for College Football Hall of Fame