

CONQUER & PREVAIL

WOFFORD COLLEGE



ISSUE #138 | MAY 18, 2023 | FROM THE OFFICE OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

'The story of resilience'



Paola Cruz '23 will use music to present her research as Wofford College's 2022-23 Presidential International Scholar.

Paola Cruz '23 already knew that her year as Wofford College's Presidential International Scholar was going to involve personal and emotional research. Then, four days before she was to leave Honduras and return home, another twist occurred.

Her father, Dennis Cruz, had a stroke. Cruz's research stems from a commitment to him, and she traveled to Argentina and Honduras to study how storytelling has impacted trajectories of trauma, activism and family.

"I know this obstacle that my family is experiencing will just be another part of our story," says Cruz, a double major in Spanish and sociology and anthropology from Charlotte, North Carolina. "I call it the story of resilience."

Cruz will discuss her research this Saturday, May 20 during the annual presentation by the college's Presidential International Scholar during Commencement Weekend. Her presentation will be at 11 a.m. in Room 115 of the Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts.

[READ MORE](#)

Commencement Weekend schedule



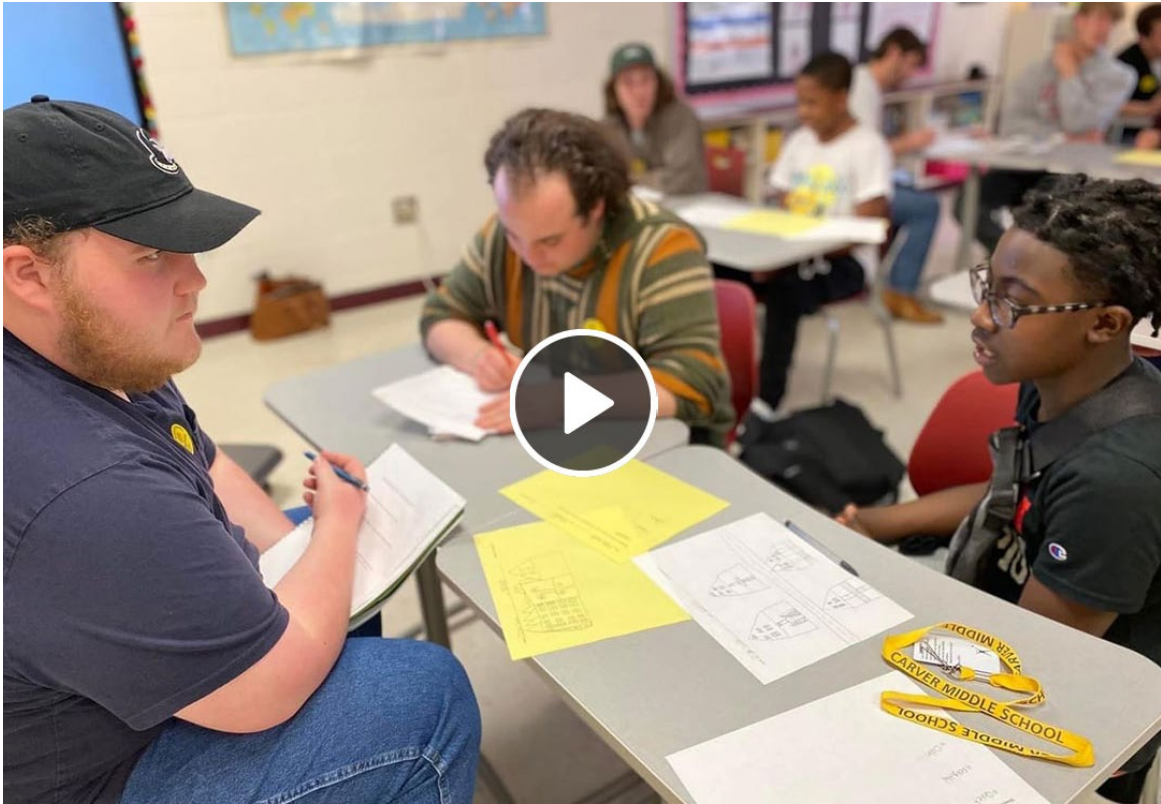
Wofford College will celebrate the Class of 2023 this weekend.

Wofford College will hold its 169th Commencement exercises this weekend to celebrate the Class of 2023.

The weekend will include a variety of events for graduates and their families, including the senior picnic, Baccalaureate service, receptions, parties and research presentations.

[See the weekend's schedule, livestream links and where to find parking.](#)

Imagining Spartanburg



Tyler Edwards '24, an environmental studies major from Englewood, Florida, works on exercises with Elijah Smith, a seventh-grade student at Carver Middle School during a geography class.

Regan Hood '20 read stories about Wofford College students and faculty conducting research in Spartanburg County's Una, Saxon and Arcadia neighborhoods last summer and thought a visit from the professors would be helpful for her seventh-grade geography students at Carver Middle School.

Dr. Jennifer Bradham, assistant professor of environmental studies, and Dr. Alysa Handelsman, assistant professor of sociology and anthropology, received the invitation and asked if they could do more. Now, Bradham, Handelsman and Hood have spent most of the academic year working together to teach both Wofford and Carver students about mixed-methods research and conducting research alongside them.

"Every day the students ask if Wofford can come today," says Hood, who is in her third year teaching at Carver. "It's given me a lot of insight, and I plan to take these lessons into next year."

[READ MORE](#)

Excellence in Teaching



Dr. Begoña Caballero-García and President Nayef Samhat show off the plaque she received after being named Wofford's recipient of the 2023 South Carolina Independent Colleges & Universities' Excellence in Teaching Award.

Dr. Begoña Caballero-García brings two core values to every class she teaches: a commitment to building community and trust and dedication to raising awareness while advocating for equity and social change to students, the campus and the community.

"Diversity, equity and inclusion, and what I do in the classroom, is a reflection of me as a person because I have for many years been an advocate of different causes," says Caballero-García, an associate professor of Spanish. "My passion is to just be the best person I can be and to make sure students understand they can learn from everyone they meet. They can try to do their very best, and they can change other people's lives with their behavior."

Because of her work in the classroom and the community, Caballero-García is Wofford College's recipient of the 2023 South Carolina Independent Colleges & Universities' Excellence in Teaching Award. The organization recognized faculty from each of its 21-member colleges and universities. This is the 16th year SCICU has recognized faculty with the awards, which have rigorous guidelines and come with a \$3,000 professional development grant.

[READ MORE](#)

Additional support



Jou Chou, a Wofford teaching assistant through the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program, participates in a Chinese cooking class on campus.

By Brandi Wylie '24

Joshua Todd '26 met with Jou Chou, a Wofford College teaching assistant from Taiwan, at least once a week during the 2022-23 academic year to improve his Chinese language skills.

According to Todd, Chou's ability to relate to students makes the time fly and the experience productive.

"She learns specific facts about you then pulls them out in conversation," says Todd, an undeclared major from Greensboro, North Carolina. "She wants to know students on a personal level."

Wofford's Department of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures hosts teaching assistants each year through the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program. The department also brings international visiting faculty to the college through its study abroad partners, the Institute for the International Education of Students and the Council on International Educational Exchange. These scholars from around the globe enrich the student experience.

[READ MORE](#)

Wofford Choral Society



More than 50 students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the college performed Mozart's "Coronation Mass" and Beethoven's "Choral Fantasy" as part of the Wofford Chorale Society on May 9. The choir was joined by a 20-piece orchestra, including members of the Spartanburg Philharmonic.

Athletics updates

Jorgensen, Rendle awarded SoCon postgraduate fellowships

Five Terriers earn CSC Academic All-District

Kerrington Johnson, Johnny Bomar earn SoCon track honors

Galanie, Gill ranked Top 50 in D1Baseball's positional rankings

Wofford Athletics holds 2023 Bosscars Awards

Kerrington Johnson named SoCon Student-Athlete of the Week

Wofford claims 5 titles at SoCon Outdoor Track & Field Championships

Women's tennis has 4 honored as CSC Academic All-District

Men's tennis has 4 named Academic All-District

Office of Marketing and Communications

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

864-597-4183 | woffordnews@wofford.edu | wofford.edu

Follow us @woffordcollege

