From heartbreak to championship

A photo cube sits on Coach Lynze Roos’s desk with snapshots from the Wofford volleyball team’s trip to Greece in June 2023. That’s where she said she knew the women had what it took to win a Southern Conference Tournament Championship.

The win on Nov. 19, surrounded by 1,000 supporters in the Jerry Richardson Indoor Stadium, clinched Wofford volleyball’s first tournament title and bid to the NCAA Tournament.

The story of the historic season for these remarkable student-athletes and coaches, however, started well before Greece.

Roos and her husband, Matt, have two children, a son, Loren, age 12, and a daughter, Lyle, age 10. With a young family and a demanding career, Roos often talks about the importance of being fully present — no matter which “family” she’s with — as a way of giving her best to
both. During the summer of 2022, that philosophy was put to the test when Loren was diagnosed with osteosarcoma, a rare bone cancer.

“Our lives truly turned upside down to fight for our son’s life,” says Roos. “The seniors who graduated in 2023 were so strong for me. They helped keep me grounded and focused when I was at practices and games. They’re not on the roster this year, but in so many ways they are in the fibers of that trophy.”

TERRIERS IN THE TOURNAMENT
Wofford takes on No. 2 Kentucky in the first round of the NCAA volleyball tournament at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Rupp Arena in Lexington, Kentucky. Click HERE to watch the match on ESPN+. Click HERE for more information on the tournament.

Benjamin B. Dunlap Chamber Music Series returns

Wofford College is preparing for the revival of a free chamber music series aiming to attract top performers from around the world to Spartanburg.

The Benjamin B. Dunlap Chamber Music Series will return at 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 11, in Main Building’s Leonard Auditorium, featuring The Tallis Scholars, a professional British early music vocal ensemble. The group will perform “While Shepherds Watched,” an exploration of the Biblical Christmas story as viewed through the eyes of the shepherds who journeyed to worship at the manger. It will offer the audience an immersive experience resonating with the essence of this timeless tale while delving into the rich musical tapestry of the Renaissance era.
Admission is free, but reservations are required. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

“As an admirer of The Tallis Scholars, I am thrilled to welcome them to Wofford College for the Benjamin B. Dunlap Chamber Music Series,” says Dr. Aaron Harp, assistant professor of music at Wofford College and the event’s planner.

“Their unparalleled expertise will deliver a transcendent musical experience for our audience, and I am eagerly anticipating the cultural enrichment this event will bring to our community,” he adds. “I can’t imagine a more fitting tribute to the series and its commitment to showcasing exceptional musical talent across the globe.”

Wofford last hosted the music series in 2019 before the COVID-19 pandemic. The series was founded in 2005. In 2014, it was named in honor of Dr. Benjamin B. “Bernie” Dunlap, president emeritus of Wofford, who retired in 2013.

December events

December will see a variety of events on campus as the fall semester wraps up before winter break, which starts on Dec. 18. The arts will be prominent during the month, with the Mirra Goldfrad exhibition, “When Observing the Observer,” viewable in the Richardson Family Art Gallery Café, and The Tallis Scholars presenting “While Shepherds Watched” in Leonard Auditorium. The traditional lighting of the menorah and Candlelight Carols will illuminate campus on Dec. 4 to celebrate the holiday season.
Remembering the fallen

The Southern Guards Battalion Army Reserve Officers Training Corps held its annual tribute on Saturday, Nov. 18, commemorating the 101 Wofford College students or alumni who have fallen in combat since World War I.

As the morning sun rose above the treetops, cadets gathered in front of the Charles E. Daniel Building and read aloud the names. Jason Kellinger ’24, an international affairs major from Calne, England, played “Taps” on a trumpet to conclude the brief but somber ceremony.

Maj. Nicole Dallocchio, professor of military science at Wofford and leader of the Southern Guards Battalion, says there’s one thing she hopes students will learn from the experience.

“The biggest thing for cadets to gain from a memorial service for those who, like them, served in this battalion and went off to the military just like they’re going to do soon is perspective,” Dallocchio says. “Some of them deploy and some of them don’t come back. That’s the reality of what they’ve committed to — to being part of something bigger than themselves. Sometimes it comes at a cost. And sometimes that cost is, unfortunately, human life.”

The roster of fallen students encompasses five wars and every branch of service.

“We look to these names for inspiration,” says Kellinger, who will soon be commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. “They volunteered to fight for their country and made the ultimate sacrifice. They did such a great thing for our nation, and we want to honor them. It is up to us to carry the torch. By reading the names, it instills in each of us a greater sense of what we are going to do for our country.”

READ MORE
Maggie Jackson ’25 wants to be an architect. During the Career Center’s trek to Charleston, South Carolina, she learned more about careers in real estate and development, met with alumni in the field and spent an hour with Wofford trustees James Meadors ’81 and Dr. Blanding Jones ’92 at Meadors Construction.

“I appreciate opportunities like this,” says Jackson, an art history and physics double major from Tallulah Falls, Georgia. “My professors, the staff in the Career Center and Wofford alumni have all been really supportive of my career aspirations and have worked to give me opportunities to learn more and develop a network in the field.”

Other students — with majors ranging from biology to accounting and finance to philosophy — had their reasons for signing up for the Career Center’s first overnight trek.

“I want to find a job in Charleston after I graduate.”

“I’ve never been to Charleston and thought this would be a cool way to see the city.”

“I want to work in sales and marketing, and I was intrigued by the opportunity.”

“Finding a job in Charleston could help me stay in the states after graduation.”

“I always thought I wanted to work in healthcare, but now I’m reconsidering, and I’m open to different options.”
Athletics updates

Women’s lacrosse adds 13 newcomers
Brandon Maina and David Powers named All-Southern Conference Second Team
Rachael Rose named SoCon Player of the Week