King Day speaker highlights January events

Dr. Luther Ivory, retired associate professor of religion at Rhodes College, will give his talk, “The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King as Prophetic Dreamer,” at 11 a.m. on Jan. 15 in Olin Theater.

Dr. Luther Ivory was there when the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his final speech on April 3, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee. Ivory was a 15-year-old gang member who came to the speech that night to steal from the cars of other attendees. The night, however, became a turning point for Ivory, who went on to become a King scholar.

Ivory, retired associate professor of religion at Rhodes College, will provide his unique perspective on King’s dream during Wofford’s King Day observance on Monday, Jan. 15. He will give his talk, “The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King as Prophetic Dreamer,” at 11 a.m., Olin Theater, Franklin W. Olin Building.

The college opens its “Defining or Dividing?: Contemporary Issues in American Culture and History” series with a discussion of critical race theory by Christopher Rufo, a senior fellow and director of the initiative on critical race theory at the Manhattan Institute.
The community also is invited to the opening of a new exhibition by 2023-24 Whetsell Fellow Maggie Genoble ’24 in the Richardson Family Art Gallery of the Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts.

Interim begins Jan. 8

Interim, the January term between fall and spring semesters, opens on Jan. 8. During Interim, students have the opportunity to experience and embrace topics not included in the regular curriculum. Interim also is known as a time for study abroad, internship and research opportunities, community-based learning and leadership development. A complete list of Interim offerings can be found HERE.
Nathan Patnam ’19 creates nonprofit to support Wofford computer science students

Nathan Patnam ’19 established the nonprofit foundation Beyond the Lecture to assist Wofford computer science students with financial and mentoring support.

Nathan Patnam ’19 arrived at Wofford College intent on following his father’s career path. He was going to major in chemistry, go to medical school and become a physician.

During the second semester of his first year, Patnam took his first computer science class. More classes followed his sophomore year. He added computer science as a second major.

“My sophomore year was kind of a breaking point,” says Patnam. “I was a computer science and chemistry double major on the pre-med track. I worked in the IT help center. I was a chemistry TA and a computer science tutor. I basically treated school like it was an 8 to 6 job a lot of days.”

An internship in Chicago writing code for United Healthcare after his sophomore year proved to be the turning point.

“I learned a lot, and when I came back to Wofford I thought about whether pre-med was really right for me,” he says. “I enjoy helping people, but you can help people in a lot of different careers.”
In 1999, Dr. G.R. Davis, professor emeritus of biology, led an Interim class to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands with Dr. George Shiflet. In celebration of the trip’s 25th anniversary this month, Davis is sharing his journal from the experience. “I hope this travel journal serves as proof of the often intangible, yet invaluable, benefits gained from exploring the world … alongside members of that same community,” says Davis, who retired in 2023. The website will be live on Jan. 8. Read along [HERE](#).
A childhood love for performance art led Audrey Buffington ’24, a theatre major and business and film and digital media minor from Greenville, South Carolina, to make a short film about her experience. The film, “Love Letter to SCNPF,” recently earned first place in the AWE College Student Film Competition at the Tryon International Film Festival.

“My dream, as long as I can remember, has been to perform, and I’ve pursued that in every possible way,” Buffington says. “I’ve always been told I have to leave and go somewhere else. Then this festival showed up and said we have opportunities right here.”

Buffington, who has primarily engaged in acting in Wofford Theatre and various fringe productions, decided to step behind the camera and try her hand at telling her own story. Her film, largely inspired by her own life and artistic vision, included many videos from her childhood.
Athletics updates

Rachael Rose again named Student-Athlete of the Week
Wofford football announces 12 early signings
Seven Terriers named to All-District team