“The duty to learn AND TO EDUCATE”

Wofford College inaugurates Dr. Nayef H. Samhat as 11th president »
Incredible things are happening at Wofford College.

Since the spring issue of Wofford Today, our men’s basketball team traveled to Wisconsin to play in the NCAA tournament. Ten of our athletics teams received praise from the NCAA through the annual scoreboard of academic achievement. Two recent graduates—David Moore and Anna Le—received prestigious Fulbright appointments. Work continued on the strategic plan for Wofford’s bright future. Prema and I “officially” became members of the Wofford family following a very special inauguration ceremony and campus and community celebration. Most importantly, 360 of our students became alumni, armed with the education and skills they need to positively impact the world.

I’m pleased that the incredible things happening at Wofford College now will be told on the pages of this refreshed and rebranded Wofford Today magazine. The magazine style used by the college since 2002 has been replaced with what we believe will better tell our story through targeted articles, stunning pictures and streamlined design. This update also is reflected online at wofford.edu/woffordtoday, where you will find enhanced online content and the ability to share stories via social media platforms.

Over its next issues, Wofford Today will continue to chronicle both the world at Wofford and Wofford in the world, and we will have some important stories to tell.

In our fall issue, we will share highlights of the college’s strategic plan. When implemented, the plan promises to reaffirm our institutional mission by expanding and deepening the academic program; enriching community and inclusiveness; making more of our physical campus; and extending the college’s reach beyond its borders.

I am excited to have the opportunity to share in this journey with you, and I look forward to our incredible future.

Go, Terriers!

Nayef
AROUND CAMPUS

WOFFORD DEDICATES SCULPTURE OF PANTHERS FOUNDER/OWNER JERRY RICHARDSON ’59

Every summer since 1995, football fans from all over the country have staked their claim on a grassy hill above Wofford’s football practice fields in the hopes of Seeing stars. To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Carolina Panthers training camp at Wofford, the Wofford Board of Trustees honored Jerry Richardson ‘59 with the installation of a sculpture of his likeness. The sculpture, created by noted California artist Todd Andrews, stands on the patio of the Harley Room in the Richardson Physical Activities Building. The sculpture depicts Richardson ready to walk over to Gibbs Stadium to watch the Terriers in action. The Panthers return to Wofford this summer with an opening day back to Football celebration and practice on Saturday, July 26, from 4–9 p.m. The training camp runs through Aug. 13 with Panthers Pals kids programs on each practice and other promotions and Aug. 13 with Panthers Pals kids programs.

COBURN RETIRES AS DEAN OF THE LIBRARY, EMERITUS

Oakley Coburn retired from the college as dean of the library and was given the title of dean of the library, emeritus, during the college’s Commencement Exercises. Coburn has been responsible for the Sanders Tesler Library since 1984. He also has directed cultural events for the college and was a champion of the arts on campus and in the Spartanburg community. On a wider scale Coburn served as a mentor to newly appointed library directors at various colleges and universities in the Southeast. Read the full story at wofford.edu/woffordtoday »

SPARTANBURG HOSTS SOCON TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Wofford hosted the SoCon outdoor Track and Field Championships on April 26-27. The championships marked the 50th annual Outdoor Track and Field Championship for the men and the 28th annual championship for the women.

JERRY RICHARDSON ’59 OF PANTHERS FOUNDER/OWNER

WOFFORD DEDICATES SCULPTURE

HIGH IMPACT FELLOWS

Launched by a $300,000 grant awarded to Wofford in 2010 by the Arthur Vining Davis Foundation, the High Impact Fellows program continued this spring. The program brings faculty from area high schools together with Wofford faculty and students to collaborate in developing classroom-ready materials that reflect current research in multiple academic disciplines.

AYERS FACES WOFFORD SHARP-SHOOTER MCKELVEY IN SHOOTING COMPETITION

On April 25, head football coach Mike Ayers and Tommy McKelvey ’16, one of Wofford’s top shooters on the rifle team, squared off in a special shooting exhibition in the Benjamin Johnson Arena. They each shot two rounds (10 shots per round) from 33 feet. McKelvey, who holds the college record in rifle, remained the champion at the end of the evening. Visit wofford.edu/woffordtoday for the full gallery »

SPARTANBURG AREA ALUMNI GATHERING WELCOMES MUCH-LOVED PROFESSORS

In the spring, Rudy Mandle ’87 took Wofford’s senior environmental studies students on a voyage of natural history discovery at the Goodall Environmental Studies Center. “Mandle is a genius of place and like his mentor, John Harrington, advised, showed us how to see a world,” says John Lane ’77, professor and the college’s director of the Goodall Center.

MANCHESTER RETURNS TO WOFFORD TO SHOW STUDENTS THE WORLD

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INAUGURATION

...Wofford Style

Wofford inaugurates Dr. Nayef H. Samhat as the college’s 11th president

By Jo Ann Mitchell Brasington '89

Flash mobbed. Excitement over President Nayef Samhat’s inauguration spilled over during inauguration weekend events, culminating with a student-led flash mob.
In a moving inaugural address, punctuated by strategic rays of sunlight on the misty morning event on the lawn of Main Building, Samhat shared his story before telling stories of Wofford’s past and eventually giving the challenge to the entire Wofford community to help write the story of the college’s future.

“One does not enter into the academy necessarily to become an administrator or provost or president, but because one loves the act and duty to learn and to educate, one loves to engage students in intellectual explorations, and to participate in the extraordinary transformation of young lives that define the experience we teachers – all of us engaged in this enterprise, whether in the classroom, the residence hall, the fields or courts of play, the stages or the studios – the experience we teachers all feel and in which we find a deep and abiding personal and professional fulfillment. …

“My sisters, Diane and Sharon, and I, are first-generation college graduates, raised by a mother and father who grew up in the Depression-era in Detroit, Mich., and Windsor, Canada, and had little opportunity to attend college. But to be sure, in their lives and words, they have modeled all of those qualities that define a good life; true wisdom, love, family, understanding and the fulfillment derived from a dedicated work ethic and compassion and empathy for others. Whatever good I have become, I owe to them.”

In front of a crowd of students, faculty, staff, alumni, delegates from other institutions, and members of the Spartanburg community who just wanted to be a part of the celebration, Samhat also thanked his wife and daughters as well as his mentors and the people who have welcomed him into the Wofford community.

“My wife, Prema, and daughters, Alia, Jehani and Leila, have given me a peace of heart and soul, a reason to be and to do, and have given worth to my life. Simply by their being, they make me a better person – and like the smart women they are, they are sure to let me know when they think otherwise!

“I stand here because of the support and mentorship of wonderful colleagues in my career. … In the course of life, one’s path crosses in most unexpected ways with others, individuals whose honest advice, encouragement and support can have the most profound impact on your imagination of life’s possibilities. These people, in particular, did precisely that – believing in me and offering me the opportunity to imagine a career and professional path that has led me and my family to this day, on this ground and this stage. To all of them I am forever grateful. And so we officially join the Wofford family. We know that institutions stand not as buildings but as stories, stories of the people who have shaped a history and informed a future, and I am proud and humbled to share in the extraordinary and transformative stories of so many before me.”

The stories of Wofford that Samhat shared during his inaugural address included tales of Dr. John Harrington, Dr. John Q. Hill, Dr. Gus Papadopoulos ’54, Roger Milliken, Dr. Michelle Phillips Hudspeth ’95, Dr. Doug Wood ’90 and Dr. Paige West ’91.

“… that is what the stories of Wofford College are all about. … They are about making a difference in the lives of young people so that they may, too, make a difference in the world around them – whether through...”
commerce, law, medicine, teaching, social work, public service or parenting and friendship. And in so doing, all of us, the Wofford family here today present and those to follow, will remain true to the trust handed down by the generations of this great family that preceded us.”

Samhat also referenced an essay, “Civilization’s Starter Kit,” from the New York Times by astrophysicist Lewis Dartnell as he challenged others to join Wofford in developing the successful graduates of the future. “And let us be clear on a crucial point and principle. For us, as educators and places of higher learning, whether public or private, large or small, no matter the type of institution, to fulfill our responsibility to nurture this starter kit we must commit to the preservation and defense of the principle of academic, intellectual and creative freedom in all that we do and practice. The classroom, the campus ground, and the individual, are the preserves of liberty and human progress if, and only if, the fetters of those who fear inquiry, debate and change are cast aside. We at Wofford, with institutions in our state and nation, will lead in word and deed in the defense of this most high principle. And to this end, I therefore assert that our kind of education, a liberal arts education, is the highest form of preparation for the breadth and depth of learning, the intimacy of pedagogy, and the formation of character and community, all contribute to the capacity to embrace challenge and change without fear or hesitation. …”

In his formal acceptance of the presidency of Wofford College, Samhat said: “I accept the charge of leading this great institution, founded on the principle of John Wesley to ‘take care of the rising generation;’ the vision of its first president, William Wightman, to promote ‘broad and liberal views;’ and in the spirit offered by Benjamin Wofford and that resonates and resounds to this day and beyond: Intaminatis fulget honoribus – shining with untarnished honor.”

By the end of the weekend, everyone felt like a part of the Samhat family, and the Samhats felt thoroughly welcomed into the Wofford family.

Here were some of the highlights:

1. **STUDENT EXPO**
   Students representing various campus groups such as the Student-Athlete Advisory Council, The Space, Bonner Scholars, StarTalk, etc., lined the sidewalks between the Roger Milliken Science Center and the Burwell Building, where the community picnic following the inauguration was held. They shared information about their projects with visitors from across the country.

2. **MOVING PHOTO BOOTHS**
   Giant Polaroid-type frames floated around the picnic so people could take commemorative photos. #welcomeNayef popped up on social media feeds for weeks. #welcomePrema also picked up speed. Check out the Wofford Facebook page for more #welcomeNayef photos »

3. **DOTTIE’S TOFFEE**
   Guests at the presidential reception and dinner left with a commemorative package of Dottie’s Toffee, specially made and labeled for the occasion by owner Nick Belmont ’02 and his staff.

4. **FLASH MOB, SAM HATS**
   Wofford students, wearing SAM hats, surprised Wofford President Nayef Samhat with a special gift – a flash mob to Pharrell Williams’ “Happy.” It was part of a celebration for the campus community attended by enthusiastic students, faculty, staff and their families.

5. **COLLEGIATE DELEGATES**
   Colleges and universities across the country sent delegates who processed in order of their year of founding. Schools also sent elaborate greetings, many of which were displayed in the Great Oaks Hall during the weekend.

6. **BOSS’S BREW TERRIER ALE**
   John Bauknight ’89 and RJ Rockers Brewing Co. repackaged its Pale Ale as Boss’s Brew Terrier Ale for the presidential inauguration. The “liberal arts libation” was served during the presidential reception and dinner before the inauguration and at the campus party after the inauguration.

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Partying through the night
The campus-wide Inauguration Party, held in the Michael S. Brown Village Center and lawn, featured food by Cribbs Kitchen and music by Back 9.

Inaugural procession
Processing with President Nayef Samhat to the installation ceremony were (left to right) R. Michael James ’73, a member of the Wofford Board of Trustees and chairman of the presidential search committee, who gave the charge; Laura Kate Gamble ’14, Wofford Presidential International Scholar, who read a passage from President William Wightman’s remarks at the laying of the cornerstone of Main Building; and the Rev. Dr. B. Mike Alexander ’73, a member of the Wofford Board of Trustees, who gave the benediction.
The 50 Year Club

Members of the Class of 1964 celebrated their 50th college reunion by processing with the Class of 2014 then congratulating them after Commencement.

CLASS of 2014

Shining with Untarnished Honor

Wofford celebrates its 160th Commencement Exercises

By Laura Hendrix Corbin
Degrees were conferred to 362 graduates, three honorary degrees were presented, and two teaching awards were given. Samhat became president in July 2013, and his inauguration was held April 25 of this year. Commencement was held in Benjamin Johnson Arena due to the weather.

HONORARY DEGREES
Dr. Charles Edward (Ed) Coffey ’74, vice president and CEO of Behavioral Health Sciences at Henry Ford Health System in Detroit, Mich., received the honorary doctorate of science degree; the Rev. Susan Thurston Henry-Crowe, the general secretary of the United Methodist General Board of Church and Society, received the honorary doctorate of divinity degree; and Dr. George D. Kuh, the Chancellor’s Professor of Higher Education Emeritus at Indiana University-Bloomington and adjunct professor of higher education policy at the University of Illinois, received the honorary doctorate of humanities degree.

TEACHING AWARDS
The Roger Milliken Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Science was presented to Dr. Anne J. Catlla, assistant professor of mathematics, and the Philip Covington Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Humanities and Social Sciences went to Dr. Carol Brasington Wilson ’81, associate professor of English and coordinator of academic advising.

ALGERNON SYDNEY SULLIVAN AWARDS
The college also presented the prestigious Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award to graduating senior Phillip Jervey Roper ’14, a biology major from Greenville, S.C., and Curt McPhail ’96, president of Greenlab Strategies in Spartanburg and project manager of the Northside Initiative.

MARY MILDRED SULLIVAN AWARDS
The student recipient of the Mary Mildred Sullivan Award was senior Laura Kate Gamble ’14 from Summerville, S.C., who is majoring in biology and Spanish with a concentration in Latin American and Caribbean Studies. She will graduate in December. The non-student recipient was Paula Black Baker, a Wofford trustee and a Spartanburg community leader.

HONOR GRADUATE
The honor graduate – the graduate with the highest GPA (3.99) – was Katherine Lee Kelly ’14 of Blythewood, S.C., an English major with a minor in history. She also was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa this year.

50 YEAR CLUB
Members of the Class of 1964 participated in the weekend’s activities, including a class reunion and participation in the processional and other events surrounding Commencement.

For a gallery of Baccalaureate and Commencement photos and biographies of honorary degree and award recipients visit wofford.edu/woffordtoday »
Going Places

What the future holds for the Class of 2014

Martha Tucker
Rome, Ga.
Psychology and Spanish
In August, Tucker will begin the doctor of physical therapy program at Mercer University (Atlanta campus).

Kayla Bethea
Lake Mary, Fla.
Mathematics and Philosophy
Commissioned as a second lieutenant during Commencement weekend, Bethea’s first assignment is Fort Sill, Okla., where she is stationed with the Air Defense Artillery Branch of the U.S. Army.

Shri Selvakumar
Ridgeland, S.C.
Business Economics and Government, concentration in World Politics, Finance minor
After interning over the summer with a boutique investment bank in Charlotte, N.C., Selvakumar has accepted a position with Deutsche Bank in Manhattan.

Katherine Kelly
Blythewood, S.C.
English, History minor
Kelly is working on the A Bar A Ranch in Wyoming this summer before interning with an environmental nonprofit organization in Washington, D.C. During her internship, she will be studying for the LSAT and applying to law schools. She eventually plans to practice environmental law.

Carlin Connelly
Decatur, Ga.
French and Finance
In October, Connelly will begin a seven-month teaching assistantship program in France. She will be teaching English to elementary school students in the Loire Valley.

Tyrell Jenison
North Charleston, S.C.
Humanities
Jenison will attend film school in the fall at the Savannah College of Art and Design.

Lindy Pence
Hoover, Ala.
Biology, Business minor
Pence has accepted an offer to attend medical school and graduate school in the combined M.D./Ph.D. program at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.

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Kane Sherrill
Mooresville, N.C.
Accounting and Finance
After working with KPMG in Greenville, S.C., during the summer, Sherrill will begin a master of accountancy program on the way to earning his CPA degree.

Chase Timmons
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Timmons is attending dental school at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston.

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Greyson Mann ’14 (left) spent four years looking forward to walking across the stage at Wofford’s recent graduation – “the single most important weekend in a college student’s career” – but he missed it.

He doesn’t regret it, though. Instead, the Chinese and government major from Laurel, Md., was attending a mandatory orientation session for his next big thing – a two-year teaching fellowship with Princeton in Asia (PiA), a Princeton University-affiliated program aimed at promoting the free interchange of the best ideals of the civilizations of both East and West.

“I had to tell myself I’ve already given up so much for my dreams, I just can’t stop now,” Mann says.

He immersed himself into his studies – especially Chinese language and culture – while at Wofford and wants to continue that focus.

“All four years of college have led to this appointment,” he says. “Whether it was my Chinese language and government studies, or my extracurricular activities here at Wofford, I always focused on fostering greater understanding for international issues.”

Mann got his first taste of Asia when, after graduating from Fork Union Military Academy, he and his best friend took a summer trip to Shanghai, where he will be going with PiA. “He introduced me to Chinese culture and helped spark the passion I have had the past four years for learning the language and understanding its culture.”

Since then, he has remained immersed, including studying abroad in China last spring with the Middlebury language program. “It was an amazing experience that pushed my academic abilities to their limit,” Mann says. “However, I began to immerse myself and study so much that I actually neglected my own health. If it wasn’t for the care of a Wofford friend’s father, who was a native of Beijing, I might not have recovered so quickly and continued to achieve all that I did.”

The experience demonstrated the sort of kindness Mann says he’s experienced in China and was part of the reason he always will be passionate about improving Chinese and U.S. relations, one person at a time.

“I don’t think I ever had just one moment when I realized that the Princeton in Asia program was an ideal opportunity for me to pursue,” he explains. “It honestly just always felt right, and the natural progression of my studies.”

Mann says PiA looks for “passionate and adventurous candidates” for its fellowships, and he believes his passion for influencing personal health and wellness issues in China was among the reasons he was selected.

“Throughout my travels in China I have been shown immeasurable courtesy, which has made my travels smoother and arguably even saved my life once or twice,” he says. “These experiences also have helped me gain a greater sense of self-understanding, because I have been forced to break my comfort barrier.”

At the end of their initial two-year tenure with PiA, every fellow is eligible to apply for a $10,000 grant.
with which Mann would like to open a Western-style health center.

“I have noticed that the physical, mental and emotional stress of Chinese students is taking an extremely negative toll on youth, and even leading to suicide in extreme cases,” he says, adding that he envisions a health center with a gym, counseling and other resources needed to relax and gain both mental and physical stability.

Mann says he likely will be teaching language arts in both English and Chinese, and perhaps coaching sports while at the YK Poa School in Shanghai.

“PiA will be an amazing two-year experience that will help me continue to improve my Chinese language ability and knowledge of the culture,” he says. “The PiA experience also should help me improve my resume and gain acceptance to a top-tier graduate school for international relations in two years.”

He praised Dr. Li Qing Kinnison, associate professor of Chinese studies; Dr. John Farrenkopf, professor of government; and Dr. William DeMars, professor and chair of the department of government, with contributing to his “pursuit, success and decision to participate in PiA.”

FULBRIGHT TEACHING ASSISTANT PROGRAM

David Moore ’13 and Anna Le ’13 have known each other for years — they were neighbors who met in the second grade and graduated from Paul M. Dorman High School in Spartanburg, S.C.

Now, they’ll be neighbors, of sorts, again as they both take 2014-15 English Teaching Assistant Program assignments this fall in Asia through the prestigious Fulbright U.S. Student Program.

Moore, a triple major in chemistry, mathematics and German and a Richardson Scholar, was the college’s 29th Presidential International Scholar. He will go to South Korea on the Fulbright.

At Wofford, Moore studied abroad in Germany, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Italy and South Korea. He conducted research in nuclear chemistry during an internship in Germany at the Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz and at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Currently, he is completing an internship in Chicago. Moore will attend Rice University following the completion of his Fulbright assignment.

Le, who will go to Vietnam under the program, was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa while at Wofford, where she majored in chemistry and was on the Dean’s List every semester. She was the recipient of the Arthur B. and Ida Maie S. Rivers Award at Wofford in 2013, and she studied abroad in Vietnam, Italy and Chile.

Le spent the past year attending Johnson and Wales University in Charlotte, N.C. She plans to attend medical school at Tulane University after her Fulbright assignment is completed.

BARRY GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP

Alissa Williams ’15 of Kentwood, Mich., a student-athlete who runs cross country, indoor track and outdoor track, was named a Goldwater Scholar by the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation. Justin Whitaker ’15, a student-athlete from Alpharetta, Ga., received an honorable mention.

Williams is majoring in biology and computer science with a minor in mathematics and an emphasis in computational science. She is a member of Beta Beta Beta, the biology honor society. She also is a 2014 Papadopoulos Scholar, earning her a research internship this summer at the European Bioinformatics Institute in Cambridge in the United Kingdom.

Williams says that receiving this scholarship “is a culmination of the work and effort of many people, without whom this would never have been possible. I’m grateful for all of the people who have helped me get to this point — my summer research mentors, my professors, my parents, my teammates and my friends.”

Williams also is a member of Wofford’s record-setting 4x800 meter relay and distance medley teams in outdoor track. For more on Alissa Williams and Justin Whitaker, visit wofford.edu/woffordtoday.”

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BARRY GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP

Alissa Williams ’15 of Kentwood, Mich., a student-athlete who runs cross country, indoor track and outdoor track, was named a Goldwater Scholar by the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation. Justin Whitaker ’15, a student-athlete from Alpharetta, Ga., received an honorable mention.

Williams is majoring in biology and computer science with a minor in mathematics and an emphasis in computational science. She is a member of Beta Beta Beta, the biology honor society. She also is a 2014 Papadopoulos Scholar, earning her a research internship this summer at the European Bioinformatics Institute in Cambridge in the United Kingdom.

Williams says that receiving this scholarship “is a culmination of the work and effort of many people, without whom this would never have been possible. I’m grateful for all of the people who have helped me get to this point — my summer research mentors, my professors, my parents, my teammates and my friends.”

Williams also is a member of Wofford’s record-setting 4x800 meter relay and distance medley teams in outdoor track. For more on Alissa Williams and Justin Whitaker, visit wofford.edu/woffordtoday.”

•
Dr. David Wood: CALLED TO SERVE

Wood is ready to hit the road as the new senior vice president for development.

Why did he decide to switch from serving the college as provost to a new role in the development office? The short answer... because the president asked.

By Jo Ann Mitchell Brasington ’89
“David Wood is the ultimate team player,” says President Nayef H. Samhat. “He has filled lots of roles at the college depending on the need at the time. Now we need his experience in the area of development and the relationships he has cultivated over the years to help continue Wofford’s upward momentum.”

Wood came to Wofford in 1997 to serve as vice president and director of athletics, leading the college into its first year of Southern Conference Division I intercollegiate athletics competition. In 2001, he became senior vice president, and in 2007, dean of the college. He was named provost in 2013.

“My approach in every job I’ve been asked to fill at the college has been rooted in the same philosophy — that we’re here to serve,” says Wood. “Working at Wofford is a calling.”

In his new role, Wood says he is most looking forward to reconnecting with alumni, friends and parents of the college. As provost, he says he enjoyed building relationships with students, faculty and staff. Now he turns outward.

“We have a great story to tell, and we’re telling it to people who already love Wofford,” says Wood. “My focus is on keeping our constituents connected, involved and interested in the important work we do at the college.”

Step one on Wood’s agenda will be visiting Wofford supporters, and he won’t be alone. According to Wood, the college’s newly inaugurated president will be with him as much as possible.

“Making sure people know what’s going on and engaged in the mission of educating the citizen leaders of tomorrow is first, second and last on the agenda,” says Wood. “Ultimately giving and volunteer service to the college will flow from that involvement.”

Wood firmly believes that now more than ever before our nation needs liberal arts colleges and the types of global citizens with the ability to think critically and communicate effectively that Wofford produces. The college’s new strategic planning process is designed to identify new initiatives and programs that will continue to strengthen Wofford’s mission and make the college even more distinctive. Although long-range funding priorities will come out of this plan, Wood says several needs are either ongoing or have pushed their way to the top of the list. Those include building participation in the Annual Fund, reconstruction of the Greek Row and significant renovation and expansion of the college’s Sandor Teszler Library.

“Private, higher education is costly, but worth it,” says Wood. “Wofford can only thrive with the help and generosity of those who love, care about us and understand the importance of what we do.”

Under Wood’s umbrella as senior vice president of development are the offices of Alumni and Parents Programs, Annual Giving (including the Unrestricted Annual Fund, Terrier Club and Friends of the Library), Fund Development, Donor Relations, Foundation and Corporate Relations, Gift Planning, and Grant Writing. That means Wood and his wife, Judy, will be in the center of Homecoming, Family Weekend and regional alumni events. They’ll be cheering on the Terriers both at home and away and will be thanking constituents at volunteer leadership meetings and events. Wood will be the person to talk with about establishing endowed scholarships, building corporate partnerships or starting a fundraising or participation challenge, and he’s eager for all of it.

“We have so many people to thank and so many Wofford success stories to share,” says Wood. “I’m ready to get out there and get started.”

WISEMAN TO SERVE AS INTERIM PROVOST

Dr. Dennis M. Wiseman, previously dean of the Center for Innovation and Learning and the Reeves Family Professor of Foreign Languages, has been appointed interim provost, effective July 1.

Wiseman has taught French, advised students, chaired the department, led the college’s institutional effectiveness and accreditation initiatives and served as a dean — all roles that have allowed him to view the college through a variety of windows.

“There aren’t too many people who know all of the moving parts,” says Wiseman. “I don’t claim to know all of them, but I do know whom to ask. Serving as provost will be a voyage of discovery, and I was much surprised and gratified when President Samhat asked me to serve. I will... as well as possible.”

Wiseman came to Wofford in 1979. He and his colleagues in the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures have helped the college grow into one of the country’s top undergraduate institutions with a reputation for successful study abroad programs and the development of global citizens. Now internationally respected for his expertise in the field, Wiseman has been called to present at national and international conferences. His job as interim provost may keep him on campus a bit more, but he looks forward to the new challenge.

“I’d say the greatest challenge of this job will be the reasonable management of expectation and pace,” says Wiseman. “We have a really ambitious, young and interconnected faculty that wants to make the undergraduate experience the best that it can be for our students, but we can’t do it all today. We’re going to have to work to identify the major thematic learning outcomes that will make the greatest impact on our community and that we can support well over time.”

Interim Provost
Dr. Dennis Wiseman at an international Moodle conference held on Wofford’s campus.

(Left to right) Pam and Bill Mitchell ’75, David and Judy Wood, and Richard and Carol Johnson at the Spartanburg Area Alumni Oyster Roast.
Making an IMPACT

Jenny Bem Johnson, assistant professor and coordinator of the accounting program at Wofford, has a clear idea of what makes a good teacher.

By Doyle Boggs ‘70
That professional concept aligns well with that of the South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities (SCICU) consortium, which since 1953 has supported this kind of teaching on each of its 20 campuses.

“Teachers who come to our liberal arts institutions work one-on-one with students whom they also serve as advisers, mentors and friends... they are value-centered, passionate, creative and caring,” says SCICU President and CEO Mike LeFever.

This year during South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities Week, SCICU honored Johnson as one of 20 winners of an Excellence in Teaching Award. The award, which includes a $3,000 professional development stipend, goes to one nominee from each of the state’s independent colleges.

“The idea of being perceived as making an impact on students is exciting,” Johnson says. “Also, I have great respect for previous winners and to be included in their company is a tremendous honor.

“It meant a great deal to have my parents travel several hundred miles to attend the awards banquet,” she says. “My father hates to put on a suit as much as anyone I know.”

Johnson attended Appalachian State University to earn a bachelor’s and a master’s degree. After standing successfully for her C.P.A. credentials, she worked for eight years in large accounting firms in the Charlotte, N.C. area.

“I always loved the idea of preparing the next generation of accountants,” she says. She took elective courses in teacher education to be prepared, and she taught basic accounting as an adjunct professor on different campuses in the Charlotte area.

When a retirement opened a position in the Department of Accounting and Finance at Wofford, Johnson applied and was chosen.

“Jenny Johnson quickly became known as a wonderful teacher, campus citizen and colleague,” says Lillian Gonzalez ’91, head of the department.

“She’s extraordinarily dedicated to the idea of finding connections in accounting and finance to the liberal learning experience.”

For example, Johnson welcomes students from government and history into her courses, not only because of the value of basic accounting skills to almost any profession, but also because they help others in the class explore answers to the key background questions.

“The business model all good students can learn in accounting courses is applicable to personal finance and many other aspects of life,” Johnson says.

An example of Johnson’s approach is the United Way’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, where she is a site coordinator at Wofford. For several years now, Wofford students have prepared almost 300 individual tax returns for low and moderate-income visitors from the community at no charge.

“From the student perspective, it’s an incredibly valuable experience in dealing with unusual problems with care and sensitivity,” Johnson says. “Two years ago a client came in for help because the IRS had notified him that he had not filed a return in 10 years! He had to bring his status up to date. Our students often are better at such things than typical volunteers because they have actually completed tax courses and know some of the latest changes.

“Beyond that, of course, is the satisfaction we share in doing good for individuals, families and communities, such as the college’s neighbors on Spartanburg’s Northside,” Johnson says. “It means a lot to us when one of last year’s clients comes back and asks how the student who worked with her then is doing.”

After Johnson had been at Wofford for a year, another opening in the department attracted her husband,

Dr. Ryan Johnson, whose academic specialty is in auditing. Now they are both members of the Wofford faculty and are raising their children on the campus. Their annual Halloween Party, where they host Wofford students, is one of the highlights of the year for majors in their department.

“We strive to be a student-centered department anchored in the liberal arts,” Johnson says. “Ryan and I feel very lucky to be here.”

Jenny and Ryan Johnson, both student favorites, enjoy working together on campus.
Welborn tells similar stories about other first-generation college students like Orozco whose improved educational opportunities will change the trajectory of their lives and the lives of their families. “Test scores are only good to get students into the school that’s best for them by helping meet requirements and helping earn merit-based scholarships,” says Welborn. “Unfortunately, many students haven’t been taught how to demonstrate what they’re capable of doing on these standardized tests.”

Welborn, communications director and educational consultant for SC Test Prep, and Executive Director Derrick Smith aren’t just teaching students “tricks” to help them boost their test scores. “The SAT and ACT remind me of logic games I played in my elementary school gifted and talented program. They reward critical thinking. That’s what we do at SC Test Prep, we teach students how to demonstrate their critical thinking skills within the limited application of standardized tests,” says Welborn.

In addition, SC Test Prep helps students navigate the college admission and financial aid process as well as develop a strong transcript and extracurricular resume. They are not the only group out there offering these services, but SC Test Prep is different because of its nonprofit status.

According to Welborn, whether real or perceived, the racial or socio-economic bias in standardized testing has become increasingly problematic with recent studies showing that only 5 percent of African-American test-takers met the ACT benchmark in all four subject areas.

“How must it feel to be a high school student, particularly a minority student, to hear this news and to know, before you ever submit an application, that you are statistically unlikely to be considered prepared for college or even capable of earning a score necessary for admission?” says Welborn.

In addition, Welborn is working with Wofford to offer service-learning opportunities for Wofford students to work with SC Test Prep to provide additional tutoring and mentoring to local middle and high school students.

Welborn majored in religion with a minor in philosophy at Wofford. He then earned a master of theological studies from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. His thesis was on the role of religious communities in improving higher education opportunities for youth.

Orozco says raising her SAT score was the first step toward college and eventually medical school. “My scores went up more than 100 points,” she says. “My parents are extremely proud of me. They see in me what they weren’t able to do. Going to Wofford is a great accomplishment for me and my family.”
Last spring, members of the Wofford community began a journey to prepare the college for its successful future. Since that time, hundreds of individuals, including students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents, friends and members of the Board of Trustees, have given input in the strategic planning process in four specific areas: the college’s 21st century learning agenda, leadership development, strengthening the campus and community, and expanding Wofford’s scope.

The plan promises to be aspirational, visionary, bold and characteristically Wofford. Recommendations will be made that expand and deepen the college’s academic program, connect professional development for students to the liberal arts core, enrich community and inclusiveness, increase internal communication and transparency, make more of Wofford’s physical campus and expand the college’s reach.

The journey began with a series of listening sessions with more than 160 members of the student body, faculty and staff. These sessions were designed to help the college learn more about the qualities and practices that make Wofford great, define features to make the college more powerful and discover new investments to help the college achieve its highest aspirations. Similar listening sessions were conducted with members of the Board of Trustees, Alumni Executive Council and Parents’ Advisory Council.

Following the listening sessions, an independent higher education consultant analyzed the feedback and worked with Wofford President Nayef Samhat and the board to create the focus for each of the four working groups. Over the course of many months, the working groups pursued their charges, including forming subgroups to explore questions, holding meetings to discuss topics in depth, consulting with colleagues and experts across campus, gathering information from peer institutions and developing promising ideas.

A dynamic open forum was held on campus in March, giving everyone at the college another opportunity to hear updates from each working group and share in idea formation. The working groups submitted their final recommendations in mid-April, followed by another on-campus open forum to give the Wofford community an opportunity for review, discussion and inclusion.

Over the summer, the overall plan will be drafted, reviewed with the Board of Trustees, and vetted on campus in the fall. The final plan will be submitted to the board for approval in October.

STRATEGIC PLAN WORKING GROUPS

Group 1: 21st Century Learning Agenda
The Charge: Explore and recommend the scope of the liberal arts mission that positions Wofford as a leading 21st century liberal arts college.

Group 2: Developing Leaders for the 21st Century
The Charge: Recommend the shape of a residential life program that positions Wofford as a leading 21st century liberal arts college.

Group 3: Strengthening Campus and Community
The Charge: Recommend ways to strengthen the campus and community including collaboration/interaction across campus, internal communication, transparency and governance, pluralism of all kinds including diversity and inclusiveness, and globalism and its capacity to enrich the campus culture.

Group 4: Expanding Wofford’s Scope
The Charge: Recommend ways to expand the college’s scope, incorporating the global dimension with study abroad, local and regional collaboration and partnerships, branding and marketing, and recruitment, admissions, financial aid and enrollment.
1946

50 Year Club Chair - Harry Williams '42

Walter Hammond shared news of the death of his wife, Carmen Hammond, on March 11, 2014. The Hamburds were married in 1946 and had six children. Those children then gave the Hamburds 14 grandchildren. Hammond writes that the family as a whole holds 34 college degrees plus several year-long special training courses. “We credit Wofford and Winthrop for giving us a good foundation to build upon,” writes Hammond.

1957

In April, the University of South Carolina honored Dr. Don Fowler, former chairman of the Democratic National Committee and former chairman of South Carolina’s Democratic Party. He has taught courses and former chairman of South Carolina’s Democratic Party. He has taught courses and

1958

Myles Whitlock Jr. was honored in April when the Spartanburg Water System officially renamed the Lake Blalock Water Treatment Plant in his honor. Whitlock served as a commissioner of public works and property. Harper also is known in the

1959

Bill Comer was the speaker during University of South Carolina Union’s spring commencement. A CPA and fellow in the Healthcare Financial Management Association, Comer spoke of the importance of his liberal arts and professional education.

Kaiser Permanente has named Dr. Frank M. Flowers Jr. as its area medical director for the Riverside, Calif., area.

In his role as Chattanooga River manager for the Nantahala Outdoor Center, Dave Perrin was interviewed for an article that was published in the Greenville News on May 11, 2014. Perrin, who has lived and raised his family on the river, encourages others to enjoy swimming, wading and rafting.

Class Chair - Armand de Loriente

Jerry Vevon has joined Life Cycle Engineer as vice president of the firm’s enterprise information technology solutions division. He has 35 years of federal government and private-sector experience.

Class Chair - Wade E. Ballard

As assistant treasurer for Oglethorpe Power Co. in Tucker, Ga., Lansing Patterson is responsible for cash, debt and investment management. OPG is the nation’s largest electrical cooperative with revenues in excess of $2.1 billion and assets of $9 billion.

Chuck Talbert and Diane Hurst Talbert live in Charleston, S.C., where Chuck is a partner with Webster Rogers LLP, a major CPA firm serving the Southeast. His professional experience includes specialized industry knowledge in manufacturing, distribution and utilities along with corporate governance consulting experience. Talbert also has extensive experience in the governmental and non-profit sectors providing audit and attest services.

Class Chair - C. Lane Glaze

Walt Bazeof writes that he enjoyed seeing fraternity brothers and friends at his 25th class reunion in 2013. “It’s hard to believe it has been that long since we graduated,” he writes. Bazeof is an attorney with MGM Law in Florence, S.C.

Class Chair - Richard Robinson

Hendersonvillelightening.com has featured Don Jones in the May 20 online issue. Jones, who is retiring after 14 years as executive director of the Henderson County Education Foundation, loves to tell stories of the children who the foundation has helped as well as stories from his college days playing Wofford football with Jerry Richardson ’59.

Class Chair - Hayne Callier

The Beaufort Gazette featured Stiles Harper Jr. and his famous collection of orchids in the May 23 issue. More than 1,000 attended an event that showcased Harper’s flowers, home and riverside property. Harper also is known in the Bluffton community for his gourmet cooking, farming and music.

Class Chair - John O. Moore

John Riddick has joined CrestCom Bank as vice president and commercial loan officer. He is based in the downtown Charleston, S.C., branch.

Class Chair - John Gandy

Greenville business leader Jackson Hughes Jr. has been elected president of the Carolinas Golf Association. Hughes was a student-athlete on the men’s golf team at Wofford. He earned co-medalist honors at the 2004 U.S. Mid-Amateur in Fort Worth, Texas. Hughes is the president of Hughes Commercial Properties Inc.

1960

In April, the Salvation Army recognized Spartanburg oncologists, Dr. Julian Josey and James Bearden, at its annual Toast of the Town event. Josey and Bearden spearheaded a campaign that led to the creation of the Cancer Care Committee and the Gibbs Cancer Center. Josey also helped establish a dedicated oncology floor at Spartanburg Medical Center. In May, the University of South Carolina Upstate awarded Josey an honorary degree.

Class Chair - Richard Robinson

After 46 years of service to Spartanburg District 3, Tommy Stokes retired in May. Stokes spent the past six years as principal at Houston Elementary School. Before that, he spent 25 years as principal of Pine Street Elementary School. He will continue to work with young people in the district.

Class Chair - Ronnie Bruce

The Rev. Dr. Bert Blomquist, interim pastor at Morningstar United Methodist Church in Canton, N.C., offered the sermon during the Canton Community Lenten Service in April.

Class Chair - John D. Moore

Attorney and partner with Smith Moore Leatherwood in Greenville, S.C., William Dennis was named by South Carolina Super Lawyers magazine as a top attorney in 2014. Fewer than 5 percent of attorneys in each state are selected for the list.

Class Chair - Richard Robinson

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Class Chair - Michael R. Sullivan

As an education specialist with the Delaware Department of Education, Lynn Fulton-ARCHER coordinates and supports the implementation of 20 elementary immersion programs in Spanish and Chinese as part of the Governor’s World Language Expansion Initiative.

Johnson-Ross inducted into Phi Beta Kappa

Wofford’s chapter of Phi Beta Kappa this year inducted Dr. Deborah Johnson-Ross ’81 (above right) as an alumna member based on her character and scholarly achievements since graduation. She joins Dr. Paige West ’81 of Barnard College-Columbia University and Dr. David Pittman ’94 of the Wofford faculty as recent winners of this distinction.

Johnson-Ross earned her doctorate in international relations at the University of South Carolina. She is currently a member of the faculty at McDaniel College in Westminster, Md., where she also has served as associate dean of academic affairs since 2009. She has been a Fulbright Scholar and Ambassador and has been honored as Most Valued Professor by the college’s Multicultural Student Leaders.

There are today 283 chapters of Phi Beta Kappa, representing a small fraction of the 3,000 four-year colleges and universities across the United States. In addition to undergraduate members in course, a chapter may initiate one honorary member and three alumni in each triennium.
Mike Gentry has been chosen as the new director of athletics at Landrum (S.C.) High School. He has been serving the school as a mathematics teacher and offensive coordinator for the football team as well as assistant boys’ basketball coach at Chapman High School.

The Clinton Chronicle featured Dr. Stanley Walsh Jr. in its Feb. 26, 2014, edition. He enjoys life as a doctor in a small town; no two days are the same, and he is able to spend quality time with his family. Walsh also enjoys participating in community activities, including local Laurens County Community Theatre productions. He played the apple seller in a recent production of “Anne.” According to the paper, Walsh’s line, “Get yer apples! Any apple a day keeps the doctor away!” got a chuckle from the audience.

1992
Class Chair - Nikhil Palmieri Chana

Karen Rush and Nathan Whaley were married March 8, 2014, in an intimate ceremony with family and a few close friends, including Karen’s Wofford roommate, Lori Bartel Child. Karen is a teacher with Greenville (S.C.) County Schools, and Nathan is an engineer with General Electric.

The chief financial officer of North American Rescue, a company that specializes in rescue and first aid equipment, Stephanie Brown Coates lives in Rolling Stone, S.C., with her husband, Michael, and daughter, Gracie.

1993
Class Chair - Sarah C. Sauerch

Rich Williams has been named senior vice president of the State Farmers Market, at Colonial Life & Accident Insurance Co. in Columbia, S.C. He is responsible for leading the company’s brokerage, direct, large-account and public-sector marketing programs and services.

1996
Class Chair - Curt L. Nicholas Jr.

Mark Alexander is CEO of Innovative Therapy Concepts in Hawkinsville, Ga. The company provides health therapy staffing and management. He lives in Greensboro, Ga.

Remembering Dean of Students Emeritus Mike Preston

J. Michael “Mike” Preston ’63, died on June 15, 2014, in Breward, N.C. Students from the 1970s, ’80s and early ’90s remember Preston for his unflappable approach to student problems. He once likened his philosophy on managing student life to teaching a child to bake cookies.

“It’s easier to say ‘get out of my way;’ but it’s better for them if they do it for themselves,” he explained. “I made sure the important stuff got done, and that they didn’t get hurt, but I stayed out of their way.”

According to Dean of Students Roberta Bigger ’81, one of the first women to live on campus, Preston was instrumental in assuring the success of co-ed education at Wofford. He hired the first female assistant dean of students and maintained an open-door policy with Wofford women. He handled judicial matters swiftly and empowered students to lead. He attended most college events and never sat down at a Wofford football game.

“As a student I always wondered why,” says Bigger. “Now as dean of students I realize that standing on the fence during football games became something that allowed him to be open to students in an non-oversive way.”

After retirement Preston suffered from heart problems, but that did not keep him from working the farm in Breward that he and his wife, Jane, considered their home and sanctuary. He spent his days mending fences, hauling hay and remodeling the split-log cabin originally built in the 1800s. He and Jane continued to care for legions of cats as well as several dogs and horses.

Memorials may be made to Wofford College.

Mike Gentry has been chosen as the new director of athletics at Landrum (S.C.) High School. He has been serving the school as a mathematics teacher and offensive coordinator for the football team as well as assistant boys’ basketball coach at Chapman High School.

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In 2006, Aubrey Senn Sowell ’98 was promoted to commercial finance manager with Johns Manville. She leads a finance team responsible for monthly, year-end and long-term sales planning and reporting for the insulation systems division. She lives in Spartanburg.

In 2007, Wilson Grandy and Tippins Crosby-Grandy ’09 announce the birth of John Wilson “Wils” III, born Aug. 25, 2013, joins big sister Eloise Tippins Grandy. Playing the role of Jean Valjean in “Les Miserables,” Matias Mariani wowed audiences in the Greenville (S.C.) Little Theatre’s production of the musical. According to an article in the Greenville News from May 15, more than 20 actors auditioned for the role. On the show, Mariani, a graduate of the Boston Conservatory and now a music recruiter for Contemporary College, says the role of Valjean is one of the toughest he’s ever faced, but he has enjoyed this opportunity to step outside of his comfort zone.

In 2008, Austin Michael Baker married Lauren Patricia Robbins on March 8, 2014. He is a teacher at Dorman High School in Spartanburg. She is a teacher at Sara Collins Elementary School in Greer, S.C. They live in Duncan, S.C. Living in Gaineville, Ga., Joshua Collier works as an air traffic control specialist for the Federal Aviation Administration.

Randolph Chapman Revercomb Jr. and Melissa Anderson Williams ’10 were married on April 5, 2014, in Columbia, S.C. She is employed by The McCammon Group in Richmond, Va. He works with Wurth Revoir, also in Richmond.

Whitney Steelman earned a doctor of pharmacy degree from the University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy in Lexington. He now works with Walgreens.

Andrew and Laura Lynn Williams Stubbs welcomed Anna Kate Stubbs, born Feb. 12, 2014. The family lives in Rock Hill, S.C.

A physician with Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, Pa., Dr. Elizabeth Steadman married Michael Andrew Tally on March 9, 2014. They live in Cherry Hill, N.J.

Michael Gault lives in Gainesville, Va., as a full elder by the South Carolina divinity in 2012. Blackwelder was ordained in Florence, S.C. He graduated from Duke University College of Law in 2013. She is employed by The McCammon Group in Richmond, Va. He works with Wurth Revoir, also in Richmond.

Dr. Leandra Parris of the Conservatory and now a music recruiter for Contemporary College, says the role of Valjean is one of the toughest he’s ever faced, but he has enjoyed this opportunity to step outside of his comfort zone.

A logistics officer with the U.S. Army in Fort Hood, Texas, Rosadora “Ro” Rogers lives in Killeen with her husband, Stephen, and their 1-year-old daughter, Julianna.

A history graduate of the University of Kentucky College of Law in 2013, Emily is finishing her third year of law school at the University of Kentucky. She now assists current law students in acquiring jobs and internships in the legal field.

To submit a Class Notes update: 1. Visit wofford.edu/alumni and click “Share Your Story,” or 2. Call the Alumni Office at 864.327.2375, or 3. Write to us at: Wofford Today Office of Marketing & Communications 429 North Church Street Spartanburg, SC 29307

Ad Boyle is a benefits broker handling insurance sales and employee benefits with KarenBroggs BowersEkins in Columbus, S.C.


Samantha Jenaye Hall lives in Charlotte, N.C., and works as a commodity manager for Electronix. Thomas Michael Weber lives in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he is a sales analyst with Pepperidge Farm Inc. He earned his MBA from Xavier University in 2013.

Concetta Wilson has taken a position as a career services adviser with Belmont University College of Pharmacy in Nashville, Tenn. She now assists current law students in acquiring jobs and internships in the legal field.

To submit a Class Notes update: 1. Visit wofford.edu/alumni and click “Share Your Story,” or 2. Call the Alumni Office at 864.577.4185, or 3. Write to us at: Wofford Today Office of Marketing & Communications 429 North Church Street Spartanburg, SC 29307

Michael Gault recently joined the Spartanburg-based law firm of Harrison, White, Smith & Goggins, P.C. He graduated from the Charleston School of Law in 2013. He will practice in the areas of criminal defense, personal injury and general civil litigation.

A physician assistant with Southeast Lung Associates in Savannah, Ga., Nancy Ellenbe Halligan graduated in March with a Master of Science degree from the University of Kentucky.

Concetta Wilson has taken a position as a career services adviser with Belmont University College of Pharmacy in Nashville, Tenn. She now assists current law students in acquiring jobs and internships in the legal field.

A physician assistant with Southeast Lung Associates in Savannah, Ga., Nancy Ellenbe Halligan graduated in March with a Master of Science degree from the University of Kentucky.

At the age of 14, Emily is finishing her third year of pharmacy school at the Medical University of South Carolina. Daniel is a third-year dental student at the Medical University of South Carolina. They live in Charleston.

For efforts he has made that have enhanced and implemented diversity programs and activities that have resulted in a significant change in the campus climate. Starks also has accepted a tenure-track position in the criminology department at Lynchburg College in Lynchburg, Va.

Alumni receive medical degrees from USC School of Medicine

Mark your calendars:

FAMILY WEEKEND
October 3-5, 2014

HOMECOMING
October 24-25, 2014