Dedicated to a communitywide culture of mentoring
One of my favorite things about Wofford College is the communitywide culture of mentoring. Trust, respect and a shared commitment to the transformational impact of a liberal arts education lie at the heart of these relationships, and Wofford people have mentored, guided, advised, coached and counseled each other for 162 years. This issue of Wofford Today looks at some of those relationships, both those inherent to the Wofford experience and others, such as the Whetsell Fellowship (see page 24), that have been developed intentionally to support student growth and transformation.

We celebrate those relationships and the addition of a new class of Terriers who already are making friends and finding the resources they need to navigate college. We also celebrate a record-breaking number of visitors to our campus this summer during training camp for the NFL’s Carolina Panthers; the dedication and opening of the Stewart H. Johnson Greek Village; and the topping out ceremonies for the Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts and the Jerry Richardson Indoor Stadium.

Wofford’s community becomes more dynamic with each new student and member of the faculty and staff. We welcome these new voices and new perspectives because they challenge us and keep us searching for ways to improve the Wofford experience for everyone. We especially extend a warm welcome to our new provost, Dr. Mike Sosulski (see page 8). Please introduce yourself to him next time you’re on campus. He’s eager to meet alumni and friends of the college and to learn more about this warm and vibrant place.

Go, Terriers!

President Samhat celebrates the start of Panthers Training Camp at Wofford with Panthers President Danny Morrison ’75 (right) and Spartanburg Mayor Junie White (left).

Nominate a Wofford unsung hero for Wofford Today. Email us at woffordtoday@wofford.edu.

Wofford College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation or any legally protected status. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Title IX and ADA coordinator, 864-597-4375, or assistant dean of students for student involvement, 864-597-4146.

* The face of a leader

Kathleen Barnes ’18, a psychology major from Hazel Green, Ala., spent her summer in Cadet Initial Entry Training with the U.S. Army. She and two other Wofford Southern Guards ROTC cadets wrote essays about their summer leadership experiences. Find them online at wofford.edu/woffordtoday >
Rosalind and Jerry Richardson ’59 were the first to sign ceremonial beams for the topping out celebrations for the Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts and the Jerry Richardson Indoor Stadium. Members of the Wofford community and Robins & Morton construction crews penned their names alongside those of the Richardsons during the September ceremonies.

Read more at wofford.edu/woffordtoday »

In keeping with their spirits of gratitude, Mr. and Mrs. Richardson added special messages to their signatures on the Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts beam.
THE WORLD @ WOFFORD

A. WOFFORD SENIORS MEET WORLD INFLUENCERS
The sea of influential people from around the world that Wofford seniors and Aspen Institute interns Brandon Goodson, Robert Todd and Sami Bernstein saw or met this summer is too full to begin to name. These summer internship experiences are made possible each year with the Aspen Institute in Colorado and many others.

B. WOFFORD ACQUIRES NEW ASIAN ART
Jutta Bauman believes that there’s something magical about handling authentic materials and letting them speak directly to us. “It allows students to take a quick journey into the past of a faraway place as well as develop an aesthetic awareness of objects completely foreign to them,” she says.

C. BIGGERS NAMED SCICU STUDENT OF THE YEAR
South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities Inc. named Victoria Biggers ’17 the first J. Larry McLean and Sterling L. Smith SCICU Student of the Year. She was selected by an independent committee from among 26 nominees, one each from the 26 SCICU member colleges. The award recognizes academic achievement and a commitment to public affairs, community service and leadership.

D. WATCH THE CAMPUS CHANGE AND THE BUILDINGS GROW
The campus changes each day as Robins & Morton construction crews make quick progress on the Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts (scheduled to open spring 2017) and the Jerry Richardson Indoor Stadium (scheduled to open fall 2017).

E. CLASS OF 2016 GIVES BACK BEFORE GRADUATION
Before they walked across the stage during Commencement, the Class of 2016 began building their Wofford legacy by making their first gifts to the college. Through the Benefactors-Senior Giving Campaign, 66 percent of the class made gifts that totaled more than $4,500.

F. MAGMUTUAL GRANT SUPPORTS PRE-MED STUDENTS
Dr. George Tyson ’72 and Dr. Bill James ’72, two physicians involved in mentoring current Wofford pre-med students, have secured a grant from the MagMutual Foundation to support success for Wofford’s future health care professionals. The grant will help fund MCAT preparation and practice materials as well as interview attire for students.

G. FOUR INDUCTED INTO 2016 ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME
The Hall of Fame Committee of the Wofford Terrier Club Board of Directors has selected Sarah Dabahman ’11 (below), Pat Illig ’81, Tom Johnson ’81 and Chad thanks ’84 as the 2016 inductees into the Athletics Hall of Fame. Betty and Billy Wood ’50 (Distinguished Service) and Wayne Nix (Honorary Letterman) also will be honored during halftime of the football game on Oct. 29.

H. JOINING THE COMFORT ANIMAL DEBATE
Facility dogs and comfort items remain credible resources in the courtroom thanks to researchers such as Dr. Dawn McQuiston, associate professor of psychology. McQuiston’s research demonstrates that facility dogs and comfort items in the courtroom are uncontrolled and judges no longer must rely on their instincts when weighing questions of fairness when it comes to their presence.

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When Ernesto Barquet-Arrambide ’19, a biology and theatre major from Aiken, S.C., rolled into Wofford on Aug. 3, he was all smiles. The 95-degree heat and more than 3,000 miles in the saddle couldn’t dim the joy he felt for his mission — to raise support and awareness for people with disabilities through the Pi Kappa Phi Ability Experience Journey of Hope.

Read more about Barquet-Arrambide’s ride at wofford.edu/woffordtoday »
It takes a liberal arts college

Wofford’s new provost leads conversation on mentoring

by Jo Ann Mitchell Brasington ’89

In grade school Wofford’s new provost, Dr. Mike Sosulski, was typical of the type of student who enrolls at Wofford. He did his homework, participated in class, was involved in drama and the band, and took a foreign language because he heard the teacher was cool. That teacher became a mentor, and Sosulski is now at Wofford shepherding that same wonder of the world and love of learning.

“Terry Strohm was one of the most influential people in my early development,” says Sosulski. “She was freshly out of a master’s program at Purdue — young and energetic — and comfortable owning what she didn’t know. She had been reading the newspaper and saw that there was going to be an exhibition of German expressionist art in downtown Chicago. She came into our class with the article and said, ‘I don’t know anything about expressionist art, but I think we could learn about this together.’ I found that incredibly brave.”

Sosulski relished the thoughts of an academic adventure. “The entire class, including Strohm, researched the topic and artists in the exhibit. They learned much and taught each other.”

“Watching the wonder in her eyes as we watched her learn was something I’ll never forget,” says Sosulski. “It’s the reason I became a teacher.”

Sosulski’s explicit mission in Sosulski’s life was to teach German, but she modeled behaviors, listened and fostered an intellectual curiosity that also placed her in the role of mentor, something that Sosulski has spent a lot of time thinking about during his academic career — as a teacher, curriculum innovator, associate provost and now in the top academic position at Wofford.

“One person cannot be a mentor in every way, so it’s more productive to develop a mentoring tree,” says Sosulski. “This jibes with what we’re learning in positive psychology; people who live happy and fulfilled lives have broad social networks, and they keep them active.”

According to Sosulski, really good mentoring requires sitting with someone during the “struggle.” It requires listening, sharing experiences and modeling effective behaviors. It’s also a hallmark of the Wofford experience and one of the things that brought him to the college.

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“We have a really wonderful faculty,” says Sosulski. “They are experts in their fields and dedicated teachers and scholars. I’ve heard this from everyone in the Wofford community — students, alumni, people on the board of trustees — the faculty is the foundation of the Wofford experience, and I see my role as strengthening and supporting the faculty as they grow in their disciplines and teaching practices.”

Sosulski values the contributions of college staff and student leaders in their roles as teachers and mentors in residence life and co-curricular areas as well.

“Our students have powerful and life-changing interactions with everyone in the Wofford community,” he says. “The old chestnut about the liberal arts educating the whole person holds true. Wofford does that well in all areas. I see students supported academically, personally and socially, and I’m excited to be a part of that.”

Sosulski also was attracted to Wofford’s global and international focus in the general education curriculum and the sense of community that pervades student programming, faculty and staff relationships, and the alumni network.

“This is a community that wants to be together and has found structured ways to ensure that,” says Sosulski, who is spending time listening to college stakeholders as a way to guide his priorities in the coming years. In a letter Sosulski sent out to campus, he lists the following as themes to drive planning:

• Investing in our faculty and fine academic programs.
• Enhancing the quality of a Wofford education through integration of curricular and co-curricular programs.
• Working together to create a diverse and inclusive community in which all of us feel a true sense of belonging.
• Building and strengthening our system of shared governance, the vital compact that keeps Wofford moving ever forward.

Sosulski continues to spend time getting to know Wofford and its people and will work with the president’s cabinet and board of trustees to determine implementation priorities from the Strategic Vision and Vision in Action plan.

“When I first came to the campus and interviewed, I was impressed with the college’s Strategic Vision. It’s one of the most elegant planning documents I’ve ever seen. It addresses the entire experience — from the students to the faculty and staff to future information technology needs and curricular plans — and how they all integrate with each other,” says Sosulski.

Sosulski comes to Wofford from 12 years at Kalamazoo College in Southwest Michigan. There he taught German and served as chair of the Department of German Studies, dean of the sophomore class and most recently as associate provost. His wife, Dr. Cori Crane, is assistant professor of German at the University of Texas at Austin, where she coordinates the first two years of undergraduate German study. Sosulski also has two teenage sons.

“I am standing on the shoulders of many fine leaders who have occupied this office — Dr. Dan Mauldove ’63, Dr. David Wood and most recently Dr. Dennis Wiseman,” says Sosulski. “Cori and I have experienced the unfailing warmth and generosity of spirit that are characteristic of Wofford College, and we are delighted to take up residence in the Kilgo-Clinkscales home on campus. … We are indeed proud to be new Terriers!”

“Dean Thomas and Dean Preston both valued my contributions to the Student Affairs Office, not just as a work study student but as a co-worker. … They were mentors and sounding boards for me as I learned life lessons going through Wofford.”

Heidi Kerns ’85 made a gift to The Wofford Fund during 2016 in memory of Kaiser Thomas, director of housing, and Mike Preston ’63, dean of students.
relationship of mutual responsibility, of reciprocity from the beginning,” says Wilson. “Mentoring is a willing supply of mentors for students so that they will one day offer the same support to others.

The complexities Coates refers to are no less intricate today, and still, his words ring just as true as they did then, or 100 years before that. Relationships have always shaped the Wofford experience, and the college is still finding ways to build trust and offer a willing supply of mentors for students so that they will one day offer the same support to others. According to Dr. Carol Wilson ’81, professor of English and coordinator of academic advising, the college is full of people who spend time thinking about building relationships with students. Wofford also has systems and processes to ensure that resources are available to everyone. For example, Wofford’s communitywide culture of mentoring starts before students even arrive on campus.

“We build trust by providing consistent messages from the beginning,” says Wilson. “Mentoring is a relationship of mutual responsibility, of reciprocity in action and care. We put the resources out there, then we do what we can to convince, educate and encourage students to take advantage of them.

Students find mentors in athletics, Greek life, diversity and inclusion, co-curricular programming, professional development, community-based learning, wellness initiatives, undergraduate research, entrepreneurship training, residence life and in the classroom.

“Wofford provides fertile ground for these types of relationships,” says Wilson. “Looking back I realize how many Wofford people I consider essential to my growth. Mentoring me may not have been their specific work, but it continues to shape my work with current students.”

GUIDING THE TRANSITION FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE

“There’s an old line in the faculty handbook that specifically says that faculty are to develop ‘friendships’ with students. It doesn’t seem like something we’d say any more, but I’d say we all have experiences with that very thing happening,” says Dr. Boyce Lawton, dean of student success. “We develop quality relationships that last.”

Lawton works with Wilson and Associate Dean of Students Beth Wallace ’82 to ensure that students have opportunities to connect with a variety of students, faculty and staff from the start.

“The first six weeks of the college experience are the most critical,” says Wallace. “That’s why the college puts programs and publications in place to help students learn how to find resources and their first guides. The college offers a special FYI (first-year interface) website and a Gold Guide that gives students everything they need to know to move in and prepare for their first day of classes. The college also offers summer and pre-session orientations; student success teams made up of faculty advisers, staff guides, student orientation leaders and personal librarians, six living and learning communities; and a required one-hour FYI class that each student takes during the first semester. “We think strategically and deliberately about helping our students find ways to get involved, and we’re always looking at how we can do this better,” says Wallace.

“Just wanted to thank you for the huge impact you made on my life at Wofford and beyond! Trakas says he and Howell are assisting one another throughout their writing process, guiding me through the creative progression of the plot, offering suggestions about grammar and character development, guiding me through the creative process and offering reassurance.”

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The relationships formed between mentors and mentees are strong, and I believe they not only help the mentees grow at Wofford, but also the mentors,” says Myer. “While the emphasis is placed on students of color, all students are encouraged and welcomed to participate in various workshops, seminars and programs that Transitions offers. It’s designed to enhance the experience of all students.”

MAINTAINING PERSPECTIVE

“When I think of how my character was shaped, obviously my parents had the biggest impact, but after them, my first thought is my coaches. That’s the job of a coach,” says Angie Ridgeway, head coach of the Wofford women’s golf team. “Not many people who prop you up and feed you with positivity will also tell you when you’re doing wrong, and that means on and off the course.”

Ridgeway works with her student-athletes on their time-management skills as well as their golf game.

“They know I expect them to give everything they have to golf, but it’s still more important that they give everything they have to their education,” she says. “I like to think that being a part of a team — being a student-athlete here at Wofford — shapes them as individuals and equips them with the tools they’ll need after college. As much as I want to have a successful and winning team, I never lose sight of what’s most important.”

Ridgeway has two graduates — Anne Marie Covar ’14 and Lauren Dunbar ’15 — now attending LPGA Q-School, their next step toward playing professionally. While she’s proud of that, she’s most proud that her student-athletes have gone on to mentor others in all professions and walks of life.

Wade Lang ’83, assistant head football coach and offensive coordinator, believes in the village approach to mentoring. Like any good mentor, he doesn’t claim to know everything, but he’s excellent at helping the student-athletes on the college’s football team make connections across campus. The success shows in top graduation rates and successful graduates.

“They’re 18- to 22-year-olds. Some of them need attention; some need to be left alone. All of them have left home and are here to create a new life. We want to help them prepare for their future, but we can’t do it for them,” says Lang.

“Therefore was she an incredible professor who loved tax and pigs, maybe a little too much, but she was also a role model to so many of her students. Her love for accounting made her a great professor, but her love for her students made her a great friend.”

Lauren Williamson ’15 made a gift to The Wofford Fund during 2016 in honor of Jenny Johnson, associate professor of accounting.
According to Lang, the football team does a lot of peer mentoring. Each incoming student is matched with another player who knows what it takes to succeed on the field and in the classroom.

“We handpick mentors who have been successful and who we can count on to show our recruits how to do things right,” says Lang. “They also know that their coaches are here for them 24/7.”

RAISING THE STAKES

A mentoring component is built into the new Robert D. Atkins Venture Capital Fund, much like the R. Michael James Student Managed Investment Fund, which has been providing Wofford students with real-world investment experience since it was founded in 2008.

The Atkins Fund, made possible by a $100,000 gift from Robbie Atkins ‘65, will allow students to participate in the assessment and development of new start-up businesses as part of Wofford College’s partnership with Concepts to Companies, a venture capital fund based in Greenville, S.C. Under the oversight of Dr. Philip Swicegood, R. Michael James Professor and Chair of the Department of Accounting, Business and Finance, and John Warren, managing partner of Concepts to Companies, students will learn to navigate the challenges of selecting new investment opportunities. They then get hands-on opportunities to work with the new start-ups as they develop new products and target new clients. It’s the ideal recipe for the development of mentoring relationships.

“When I was an undergrad, I would have loved to have this opportunity,” says Swicegood, who worked in banking and for the U.S. Treasury before coming to Wofford. “When students invest real money, they feel real pressure. Students need to feel butterflies in their stomachs. It builds character.”

REACHING BACK

Jodie W. McLean, CEO of EDENS, a national real estate development corporation, joins the Rev. Will Malambri ‘98, pastor at Central United Methodist Church in Florence, S.C., and James Meadors ’81, president of Meadors Inc. in Charleston, S.C., as newly elected members of the Wofford Board of Trustees (read more at wofford.edu/woffordtoday).

McLean says that Joe Edens, the founder of EDENS, was one of her earliest significant mentors. “When I was starting my career, I would often make a point to meet him at the coffee pot at 5:45 a.m. I usually had him to myself, and I would use that time to pepper him with questions about our business, projects I was working on and deals I was watching. He helped me learn our business inside and out, but more importantly he taught me the values of our company by how he approached our business. Intellect and hard work will create opportunities, but character will define success.”

Edens trusted and empowered McLean, something that helped her realize the value of other mentors.

“We cannot achieve our greatest personal or professional potential alone,” she says. “It’s important to have people in your inner circle who both cheer you on and push you to be better — trusted advisers who are willing to have tough conversations with you. Surrounding ourselves with people who can support us and teach us is the best step we can take to ensure your success — great opportunities for personal and career growth emerge from these networks.”

McLean also says that it’s a responsibility of those who have benefited from a mentor to “reach back and mentor those coming along with the same openness and confidence.”

“My pre-med science preparation was superior or on par with all the graduate school (MUSC) classes due to the skill and personal interest of my Wofford teachers and staff of the 1948 class.”

Vernon Jeffords ’48 made a gift to The Wofford Fund during 2016 in memory of The Wofford faculty and staff of 1948.
CREATING A CLASS

WHO IS THE CLASS OF 2020?

by Leigh Ann Miller ’13

When the 440 members of the Class of 2020 arrived on campus on Aug. 31, representatives from the entire college community were lining Campus Drive to greet them. “Move-in Day is our second favorite day of the year, right behind Commencement,” says Brand Stille ’86, vice president for enrollment. “Building a first-year class at Wofford is a long, carefully planned process that can take several years.”
Admission counselors send emails, letters, postcards and even texts inviting prospective students to visit Wofford’s campus. They attend college fairs and visit high schools across the country. They give tours, answer questions and spend time on social media sharing Wofford information and learning more about the students considering Wofford.

“Wofford values academic achievement and wants to attract the brightest and most talented students possible, but there is more to the admission process than just grades and scores,” says Stille. “The essay matters; letters of recommendation matter; leadership and community engagement matter. The overall goal is to admit students who are enthusiastic about embracing all of the opportunities at Wofford inside and out of the classroom.”

In building the Class of 2020, Wofford received more than 2,900 applications; 43 percent of first-year students were in the top 10 percent of their graduating class, and 68 are first-generation college students. Legacies account for 104 students, and 93 students will be starting their careers as Division I student-athletes. The percentage of minority students increased to 20 percent with the Class of 2020, and 45 percent of students are from out of state. Also joining the college community in the fall were 19 transfer students.

These new Terriers include authors, athletes, adventurers, writers, musicians and volunteers. Also among the class are:

- A student who rode a motorcycle through the German Alps.
- A surf instructor.
- A boat builder.
- A PGA Junior Series Champion.
- A student who has served as class president from 8th through 12th grade.
- A student who has toured with a band in the United States and France.
- A writer of four 50,000-word novels, who also performed with her choir at Carnegie Hall.
- A Civil War re-enactor.
- The former president of the South Carolina Quarter Horse Youth Association.
- A certified nursing assistant.
- A member of the junior board of the Ronald McDonald House.
- A windsurfing instructor.
Carol Morel ‘17 felt like a “real scientist” this summer. While gathering research for her Wofford environmental studies capstone project, she was in Arizona modeling impacts of sulfuric acid heap leach solutions on groundwater in the Cienega Creek watershed. “I chose this topic for its immediate relevance to the community,” says Morel. “Hubday Minerals is proposing to build a copper mine in the Santa Rita Mountains. Some are opposed to its development (Save the Santa Ritas, for example) ... others are proponents of independence (from the reliance on other countries for copper) and the jobs it will bring.”

Morel sees her role in the drama unfolding as that of “objective scientist” working to understand the impact the mine could have. She conducted fieldwork, collected and tested samples from wells and precipitation buckets, spoke with land owners about her research, educated herself on the hydrogeology of the area and used a computer program to model a variety of scenarios.

Morel, a major in chemistry and environmental studies from Fort Mill, S.C., will present her findings at the University of Arizona’s undergraduate research conference. “The experience affirmed my plan to go to grad school. I also got to experience the beauty of Tucson and meet some amazing people,” she says. “I gained invaluable experience in conducting and presenting research, and my mentor was incredibly helpful in finding professors at other colleges and universities who are doing similar research.”

Morel’s experience is just one example of why Wofford’s Environmental Studies Department requires a capstone project. This semester 13 other students will share similar experiences as part of their major in environmental studies.

“One of the things I love about our capstone project is the way that students can focus deeply on something that they may have encountered only briefly in a class or while studying abroad,” says Dr. Kaye Savage, department chair. “As their mentors, we faculty also get to learn a great deal while helping students navigate the research process and project execution.”

For Andrew Fowler ‘17, the capstone experience is personal. “I chose my capstone because water makes me happy. My best memories are always the ones that involve water — whether it’s going fishing with my granddad, learning to surf with my dad or putting the boat in the river and cruising around with family meeting up with various aunts, uncles, cousins, half cousins and friends along the ride,” says Fowler, a Spanish and environmental studies major from Bluffton, S.C. “Because of my respect and love for our waters and coast, I felt it a duty to do something to protect them.”

Fowler is focusing his capstone efforts on storm-water management through the use of rain gardens. The project has the benefit of addressing issues of water quality, flooding, pollution and erosion. “Much of the surface of our community is composed of impermeable surfaces, meaning buildings, parking lots and concrete or asphalt roads that rain cannot penetrate,” says Fowler. “The basic idea of a rain garden is to give this excess water a place to naturally gather and seep into the soil to support plants that thrive in wet environments.”

Fowler has been collecting native plants all summer and researching different areas for the installation of his rain garden. He’s also excited because the rain garden has the added benefit of beautification.
ALEX HOOTS ’17, a member of the Wofford women’s soccer team, selected a project that incorporates both athletics and sustainability, particularly in the area of waste management. “Water and fertilizers are both often required to maintain playing fields,” says Hoots, an environmental studies major from Winston-Salem, N.C. “Runoff generated from this can affect local watersheds. What would happen if we switched to using reclaimed water from treatment facilities for irrigation purposes? It’s something to consider.”

Hoots also is studying actual waste — from student-athletes (for example, cups, medical tapes, headbands) and from spectators (concession waste). “I’m doing a financial analysis that compares the costs of the current system to the costs associated with replacing disposable products with more sustainable products. I understand that these suggestions have an economic impact as well,” she says.

MATT AUREDNIK ’17, a student-athlete on the men’s soccer team and an environmental studies major from Lexington, S.C., has built a tiny house as his environmental studies capstone project. The plan is to have Wofford students take turns living in the 77-square-foot house, a space much smaller than the typical Wofford residence hall room. “I’m hoping to add to the tiny-house conversation by allowing people to experience it for themselves,” says Aurednik. “I’ll ask students who live in the house to share their impressions, both positive and negative. Whatever the outcome, I hope to inspire college students to consider the benefits of a smaller footprint.”

Aurednik has done the construction work himself, with some help from his friends and 11-year-old brother. “I’ve become a YouTube and Google expert,” he says.

Ben Thomas and his mentor, Dr. Terry Ferguson ’75, are revising a 75-year-old survey forgotten since World War II. Savage notes that she is “amazed and inspired each year” by the diversity, creativity, personal meaning and ambitious goals of the projects. “It’s a way for students to bump up against limits, and then push as hard as they can to meet their goals. When they’re finished, they’ve usually earned the pride they feel.”

BEN THOMAS ’16, an environmental studies and sociology major from Roebuck, S.C., says that the environmental studies capstones also offer an opportunity to connect the past, present and future of the community — one of the things that drew him to the major in the first place.

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Thomas came to Wofford planning to become a doctor, but after one environmental studies class he changed his mind and his major. His project involves revising a geomorphic study of Spartanburg County originally completed by the Soil Conversation Service in the 1930s. “My project mentor, Dr. Terry Ferguson ’75, and I are studying how erosion and deposition are taking place in the watershed, and that’s important because it’s an indication of how dynamic the land is. For example, how has agriculture affected erosion,” explains Thomas. “World War II happened and the study was lost. We’re filling in the blanks.”

According to Thomas, the section of Ferguson Creek that they are studying has shifted eight feet east and deepened by two feet since the 1940s. Along the way Thomas says he learned how to design and conduct an experiment, think critically, work in 100-degree heat and prepare research for publishing.

Environmental studies students propose their capstone projects as juniors, complete them as seniors in the fall and present the results publicly during the spring semester as part of the ENVS senior seminar. According to Savage, “It’s a great opportunity for others to learn about the interesting work that these students have accomplished, and for the students to get feedback about the process that they have engaged in so deeply.”
The POWER of the GIFT

Finding the artist within

Whetsell Fellowship celebrates 10 years of mentoring, creating and exploring

by Jo Ann Mitchell Brasington ’89

* Dan Whetsell ’66, the woodcarver at work

“At Wofford Dan began to explore and develop his interests in the visual arts, especially painting, drawing and wood sculpture,” says Whetsell. “Funding a visual arts fellowship to provide other Wofford students an opportunity to explore and expand their interests in visual arts during their college years seemed a fitting way to honor Dan’s memory.”

“Being a part of the fellowship changed my life and created in me a really powerful voice,” says Josh Holt (2013 Whetsell Fellow), who used his summer of studies in charcoal on wood and Bristol board paper to advocate for victims of human trafficking. “Art was something that I did just for fun, but the Whetsell Fellowship launched in me a passion. I still create artistic, often painful-to-view works of art to burden people to move on behalf of victims.” Holt now works in the admission office at Spartanburg Methodist College and directs a nonprofit called Project4One that raises awareness and funding for victims of human trafficking.

The Whetsell Fellowship helped Amy Powers Makali (2009 Whetsell Fellow) find the inner confidence to travel the developing world as Wofford’s Presidential International Scholar a year later. Makali, who speaks French and Chinese as well as English, now lives in Toronto, Canada, with her husband, Victor Makali ’12, and almost 2-year-old daughter, Hallie. Amy worked in international college admissions for the Savannah College of Art and Design for a few years, and now tutors local students in English while refocusing on a professional art career.

“The Whetsell Fellowship has stayed with me,” says Makali. “I keep coming back to it and know that I will for the rest of my life.”

According to Whetsell, that’s exactly what happened with his brother, Dan. “Dan loved to carve, even as a little boy, but he had other interests as well. He did some drawing at Wofford, but majored in English and French, then went on to a graduate program at the University of Washington. He spent several summers on fishing boats in Alaska, and he would bring back a trove of intricate wood carvings.”

“Finally he decided to devote himself full time to wood sculpture,” says Whetsell. “In the mid-1970s he opened a studio in the Chelsea area of London. It was in a famous old building called the Glass House, where a number of other artists worked. Dan loved that environment and was very productive during that time, creating pieces that were exhibited and sold in England, Scotland, France, Germany, Japan and the United States.”

Whetsell says that during this time his brother also recognized the need for a mentor. Dan spent time learning from and befriending the master carvers in Mechelen, Belgium. That’s where the Whetsell Fellowship takes its insistence on a mentor.

“Mentorship is two pronged,” says Whetsell. “A mentor is someone who recognizes your talent and your potential, but then the mentor has to make a conscientious effort to be a willing and giving guide.”

The 2016 Whetsell Fellow is Meagan Burns ’17. Her mentor, Jennifer Leigh Bonner, an adjunct at Wofford, is a working artist who has a particular interest in staging and photographing outdoor installations.

“Part of the reason artists become teachers is because of bright, creative students like Meagan,” says Bonner. “Her ideas are not like mine, so talking through the artistic process with Meagan informs and inspires both of us.”

Burns and Bonner spent the summer working on both visual and installation art — drawings made with smoke and portable sculptures of plastic wrap and packing tape.

“My pieces encompass a perspective on the human body and form,” says Burns. “I focus on portraying movement and environment. I love nature and like the juxtaposition between the plastic that I’m working with and the natural surroundings where they are exhibited.”

Ten YEARS ago

Current Whetsell Fellow Meagan Burns (right) with her mentor, Jennifer Leigh Bonner.

Burns installs her art at the Goodall Environmental Studies Center so she can consider the juxtaposition between the plastic and the environment.
Burns, an English major with a studio art minor from Walterboro, S.C., is moving to New York following graduation to pursue a career in design. The Whetsell Fellowship confirmed her desire to live and work as an artist.

"Dan fostered his love of art at Wofford, though he did not intend to make it his primary career," says Whetsell. "But he did begin to find that part of himself in those years, which certainly enriched his life. The whole idea of the fellowship is exactly that: to give students an opportunity to find something within themselves that can grow because of the experience."

Akilah Bostick (2010 Whetsell Fellow) spent several years after graduation “painting, soul searching and traveling.” Now she’s studying to become a nurse but still uses art as a way to relieve stress. “I look back at the extraordinary experience of being a Whetsell Fellow, and I realize how it not only released my untapped imagination, but also how it boosted my confidence and ability to express myself through art and life.”

Dan did eventually embrace an artist’s life and devoted himself completely to his art. Several Whetsell Fellows have done the same. Amy Chalmers (the 2008 Whetsell Fellow) lives in Columbus, Ohio, and is the program assistant for the Billy Ireland Cartoon Museum. She also teaches courses at the Columbus College of Art and Design. Her Whetsell Fellowship summer inspired her to remain active in the arts, completing an M.A. in illustration in 2014 and continuing to accept illustration commissions while working at the museum.

“I will never forget my opening reception,” says Chalmers, referring to the exhibition that each Whetsell Fellow stages once they have a collection of works ready to show. “Eight years later I’m reminded of what a unique, encouraging and formative experience the Whetsell Fellowship was. It felt important at the time, and it certainly gave me skills and confidence for future creative pursuits.”

Sarah Baldwin (2014 Whetsell Fellow) used recycled textiles to explore the blurred lines between fine art and fashion. She now teaches advanced placement art history and studio art at Christ School in Asheville, N.C.

“The fellowship shaped my confidence as an artist and gave me experience creating a cohesive body of work. It also was significant in that the themes and materials explored in the project have continued to find their way into my current work,” says Baldwin. “I never considered myself a true artist until my experience as a Whetsell Fellow.”

Callum Easter (2007 Whetsell Fellow) used his Whetsell experience as a foundation for a career in music.

“I don’t paint much any more, but I’m an artist. I’ve always been an artist,” says Easter, who is putting the final touches on his debut solo album, “Livelong Day,” written and recorded in his hometown of Edinburgh, Scotland. “I have some ideas for using sound and light and sculpture that I would like to incorporate into my live performance.”

Whetsell enjoys talking about his brother’s one-man exhibition at a gallery in Paris in November 1989. “Dan’s friends and patrons from around the world (including my wife, Anne, and me) were there. Dan was on top of the world. It was a true highlight of his career and his life … To make the day even more unforgettable, the opening of the exhibition was on the very day that the Berlin Wall came down.”

Whetsell was there to see the culmination of Dan’s passion and enthusiasm. Knowing that Wofford students may one day experience that same satisfaction and sense of purpose is exactly what Whetsell intended.

“The college sent us one of the watercolor paintings of 2006 Whetsell Fellow Leland Wood,” says Whetsell. “We were so impressed and still cherish it. Dan would have appreciated the transformative kind of experiences that the Whetsell Fellowship allows.”

Wood says that in addition to transforming each student recipient, the Whetsell Fellowship planted the seeds for the transformation of the arts at Wofford.

"Look no further than the construction of the Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts,” says Wood. “The Whetsell Fellowship provided my first realization that the Terriers who came after me would be a part of a concerted effort by the college to enhance the artistic elements of Wofford’s classic liberal arts curriculum.”

1. Sarah Baldwin 2014 Fellow
2. Josh Holt 2013 Fellow
3. Meagan Burns 2016 Fellow
4. Amy Chalmers 2008 Fellow
5. Margherita Cole 2015 Fellow
6. Amy Powers Makali 2009 Fellow
7. Callum Easter 2007 Fellow
8. Trey Parker 2012 Fellow
Not pictured: Amy Horton 2011 Fellow
Akilah Bostick 2010 Fellow
Leland Wood 2006 Fellow
Dr. Dan Olds started serving Wofford College in 1963, and 53 years later he’s still discovering new ways to mentor and improve the college experience for students. During the spring Scholarship Recognition Dinner, Olds and his wife, Betty, met Wesley Duckett ’16, recipient of the Dan W. and Betty Poteat Olds Endowed Scholarship and a computer science major with minors in economics and mathematics from Charleston, S.C. Duckett loved hearing about the college’s first computers and comparing the data storage in his mobile phone to the memory in a computer that required several rooms of space.

“It’s crazy to me that this little thing can store more than 3,000 times the amount that Wofford’s first computer could,” said Duckett during the scholarship dinner as he whipped out his phone.

“We all chuckled, but the significance of it was not lost on me,” he says. “Dr. Olds paved the path for the digital age on campus, and everyone, not just computer science majors, should be grateful for his efforts.”

Shay Ellison ’09 was also a recipient of the Olds Endowed Scholarship and the first to receive the Dan W. Olds Computer Science Departmental Award, funded through a separate endowed fund at the college established by Betty and their children, Linda and John, in honor of Dan’s retirement.

“Funding for scholarships and academic awards is extremely important to help students focus on studying and learning during school rather than worrying about paying for education,” says Ellison, who majored in history and mathematics as well as computer science at Wofford. He went on to earn an advanced degree from Florida State University and a scholarship and employment from the U.S. government. He now lives in Austin, Texas, where he works with the dealer portal and application programming interface for TRUECar Inc.

The Dan W. and Betty Poteat Olds Endowed Scholarship Fund at Wofford was established in 1995 and funded in 2006 by John Poteat, Betty’s father.

“My dad didn’t get to finish college because of the Great Depression,” says Betty, “but he was always interested in education.”

Poteat, who became a successful businessman and philanthropist, ensured that Betty had educational opportunities. She earned advanced degrees from the University of Tennessee and Duke University, where she met Olds, a Ph.D. candidate soon to become the chair of the Department of Physics at Wofford College.
When Olds came to Wofford, he had taken only two computer classes during his undergraduate and graduate career, but he knew that the computer age was coming and began researching ways to bring computer technology to the college. In 1967 he proposed a computer time-sharing service. The first computer terminal arrived on campus in 1968, and the college shared a computer with other organizations via long-distance telephone lines until 1975 and the arrival of the Wofford WITCH. Olds helped write the grant that brought the WITCH (Wofford’s Instructional Timesharing Computer from Hoechst) to Wofford. He developed and managed the college’s first computer systems while teaching and administering physics. He then started the college’s Computer Science Department and served as its first chairman before directing Wofford Computer Services.

“It was an emerging field. None of us knew much about it,” says Olds, who taught himself then taught others, something that became a hallmark of his career. Although the college did not offer a computer science major until much later, several of those first computer students went on to pursue careers in the field.

Ashley Carder ’80 was one of those students. Carder became fascinated with the Wofford WITCH in 1977. He took the three computer classes that Wofford offered at the time and worked in the college’s computer center.

“I was a sociology major, but immediately found a computer programming job after graduating from Wofford,” says Carder, who has seen remarkable changes in the field over the past 35 years and has developed insurance processing websites for companies including Ford, Charles Schwab Investments, Kemper Insurance, Sears, Empire Insurance Co. and Insurance Co. of the West. Carder currently serves as the chief information officer at the South Carolina Wind and Hail Underwriting Association in Columbia, S.C. “I would not be where I am today without the guidance of Dr. Olds and the experiences in the Wofford College Computer Center in the late 1970s.”

Even after retirement Olds continued to find ways to support the Wofford student experience. In 2009 he and Betty established a $100,000 charitable gift annuity to support the Wofford student experience. In 2009 he and Betty established a $100,000 charitable gift annuity to support the Wofford student experience. In 2009 he and Betty established a $100,000 charitable gift annuity to support the Wofford student experience. In 2009 he and Betty established a $100,000 charitable gift annuity to support the Wofford student experience.

The charitable gift annuity offered Olds life income and tax benefits that made the planned gift more attractive than an outright gift. “Charitable gift annuities are easy because they’re simple contracts with the college. Donors don’t have to go through an attorney unless that’s their preference,” says Lisa De Freitas ’88, director of gift planning.

Olds continues to enjoy receiving updates from former students. He and Betty have found places to volunteer in the community, and both enjoy traveling.

“We’ve traveled to China, the Caribbean, Europe and all 50 states,” says Betty. “Dan’s interest in genealogy began when he was around 12 years old, and we use that as an excuse to travel when we can.”

“I can make a pretty good case that I’m a descendant of Charlemagne or his great-grandparents,” says Olds. “I thought when I retired I’d be going to lots of courthouses and graveyards, but there’s enough on the internet — images of real records — to keep me busy.”

Olds, who taught the first genealogy Intern at Wofford (but only after doing research and planning to ensure it had sufficient academic merit), now has moved into DNA ancestry testing. He’s tested himself, Betty, his son, his grandson and his brother.

“So far, I’ve gotten no unexpected results,” says Olds, “but I’ve got another DNA kit on the way.”

According to De Freitas, the charitable gift annuity is a win-win for Olds and Wofford. “Dr. Olds receives the extra income he needs to pursue his interests, and deserving students receive additional scholarship assistance. We are grateful that Dan and Betty Olds continue to put Wofford students first.”

Olds taught and directed the college’s computer center during the time of punch cards, now obsolete. According to Olds, they offered lots of educational value at the time for students learning computer science.
WOFFORD’S “CHIEF hospitality officer”

Getting comfortable with Prema Samhat

by Jo Ann Mitchell Brasington ’89

» (Left to right) Ava, Prema and Zoe are often out walking and greeting students, faculty and staff.
Prema Samhat spent the afternoon of Aug. 10 shopping for a dinner party. She and President Nayef Samhat donated a home-cooked meal at the Wofford President’s Home as an auction item at the Terrier Ball. They did it to raise money for scholarships for Wofford student-athletes and to show another group of friends the type of hospitality that they’ve become famous for over the past three years.

That’s Prema in a nutshell, Wofford’s “chief hospitality officer,” promoting Wofford and making people feel comfortable.

“Both Nayef and I come from cultures that are very hospitable. Having people in your home and overfeeding them is how we’re wired,” says Prema. “I love all aspects of entertaining. It’s not so much about everything being perfect, but about making people feel comfortable. If it’s comfortable, then I think it’s perfect.”

In a sense Prema hasn’t known anything else. Her father was a college president in India, so her family entertained often. After graduating from Bradford College in Massachusetts, where she met Nayef, Prema took a job in the hospitality industry and found her niche.

“I absolutely loved the hospitality industry — enhancing the guest experience, the pace, the variation in daily activities. I had a chance to meet people from all over the world,” she says. “The industry also gave her the opportunity to work in New York while Nayef was in graduate school at Columbia University.

People often ask Prema to tell the story of how she and Nayef met. As a student from India, she was working as an ambassador to international students for the Office of Admission at Bradford and was charged with connecting with incoming students from other countries.

“I had scratched every name off my list but some guy named Nayef Samhat.” She laughs as she describes wandering around asking other international students whether they knew Nayef with no luck. Later she was venting with a friend about this impossible-to-find guy, when her friend said, “Oh, Nayef, he’s right here.”

“There he was sitting on the steps,” says Prema, who expected to find him hanging out with the international students. When she asked him why he wasn’t, he said, “I’m not an international student. I’m from Detroit.” The rest is history.

The Samhats’ oldest daughter, Alia, was born in 1987, Jehan in 1989 (the year Nayef entered a Ph.D. program in political science at Northwestern) and Leila in 1994. Prema also switched from the hospitality industry to marketing and development in the health care field. Parenting and family life remained the priority.

“Our daughters will tell you I was on them 24/7,” says Prema. “I wanted them to put their best foot forward, no matter what career path they chose. Nayef and I both stressed the importance of having a good work ethic and becoming responsible, appreciative, independent and kind individuals.”

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Nayef was a college professor while the girls were young. “He was a very hands-on father,” says Prema. “Diapers, feeding — all the good stuff. Our daughters definitely saw a two-parent system.”

The Samhats created boundaries for their daughters then expanded them as the young women grew more mature. Alia, Jehan and Leila each began volunteering at the age of 12. Now they are living and working in Chicago; Washington, D.C.; and Germany (respectively), with scattered holidays and vacations on Wofford’s campus.

On May 2, 2014, Prema Samhat passed her citizenship exam. The Hon. Dennis Shedd ‘75, a judge on the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, presided over the ceremony. Lots of family and Wofford friends were there to celebrate.

The Samhats in front of the President’s Home: (left to right) Leila, Prema, Nayef, Alia and Jehan.
“We encouraged them to speak their mind, but politely and respectfully,” says Prema. “As parents we think we have all this control. Looking back I realize how little control we actually had. We’re lucky to have three smart, independent and kind daughters, and they’re a lot of fun. The best part is how much we all enjoy getting together.”

Although Prema says she does not shop for entertainment or as a hobby, she passed on her appreciation of a good bargain to her daughters — that and a love of shoes.

“Back in the 1960s, my mother would wear a sari with Italian sling-backs. She passed her love of shoes to me, and I passed it on to my daughters,” says Prema, smiling and shaking her head at the memory.

For Prema, the past three years living and entertaining in the President’s Home on Wofford’s campus have flown, which is probably a factor of her tireless commitment to the college community.

“When Nayef chose to move into higher education administration and long before being a college president became a reality, we both knew that our partnership and the energy we brought to this role were very important,” says Prema. “I chose not to work once I came here because I wanted to be available to either host or attend as many Wofford events as possible, both on campus and away.”

“Thanking people is very important. No one does it alone, so it’s essential to recognize the contributions that we all make.”

Regardless of the event, Prema believes in making it special and improving each year. “There’s such a culture of community here,” she says. “Growing that is a priority.”

In the spring, the college held an employee recognition dinner for faculty and staff celebrating five-year employment anniversaries. Prema orchestrated the event as the college’s unofficial “chief hospitality officer.”
1955
Charlie Bradshaw celebrated his 80th birthday in July 2016, and the celebration continued on Aug. 4 when The First Tee of Spartanburg and Cherokee County hosted Charlie’s Challenge, a junior adult golf tournament at the Country Club of Spartanburg. The event was funded through the Judy Bradshaw Children’s Foundation.

1968
Ronald G. Bruce, class chair
Dr. Craig Burnettte delivered the commencement address in the 2016 graduating class at Presbyterian College in Clinton, S.C. He is a U.S. Army veteran and has spent more than 28 years with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The South Carolina Arts Commission
in Columbia, S.C., with his wife, Polly.

The 17th annual fundraising event. Presented by the

Jerry Richardson ’59 Community MVP Award
Dr. George Tyson with the

Bluffton, S.C., with his wife of 35 years, Shirley.

Rotary Club, Ansley Kiwanis Club and the

Distributors International, Peachtree Corners

Mingledorff Inc. and has served as president
ees. Mingledorff is chairman of the board of

than 28 years with the U.S. Department of

the Judy Bradshaw Children’s Foundation.

by visiting wofford.edu/alumni and

Submit updates electronically
to its board of trust-

Ronald G. Bruce, class chair
1968

1972
Allen S. Mugward, class chair
On June 26, Mike Ayers, Wofford football coach, presided over the Class of 1968’s 50-year reunion with the Jerry Richardson ’59 Class of the Year and the Class of 1969’s 10-year reunion. The event was part of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce’s 2016 annual fundraising event. Presented by the

Fisher Debbert. The event raises awareness and financial support for charitable organizations.

1974
Jerry Calvert, class chair
Det Bowers has been named managing director over the statewide offices of the commercial real estate firm of Newmark Grubb Wilson. He lives in Columbia, S.C., with his wife, Tonya. The South Carolina Arts Commission has launched a new initiative, “The Art of Community: Rural S.C.,” as part of its work with the South Carolina Promise Zone. Bob Reeder has been named co-chair of the advisory council that will champion this initiative. Reeder serves as a program director and field program manager for Rural LINC, the state component of the Local Initiatives Support Corp.

1980
Paul Komri, Jr., class chair
The Delaware State University board of trustees unanimously approved Dr. Valerieca “Lynn” Reaves as vice president for human resources. She also serves as the college’s assistant vice president for civil rights and Title IX coordinator.

Dorram is a professor and vice chair for the Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He also is an associate dean for continuing medical education, the senior associate dean for education, and serves as the pres-

Scott W. Castron, class chair
Dawn Samuels Rockey is the coordinator of case management services with the University of South Carolina in Columbia, S.C. She lives in Pensacola with her two daughters.

1992
Nikki Palminteri, class chair
The Huffington Post recently published an inter-

Weyte is a senior partner and
tax specialist in the Washington, D.C., office of

David and his wife, Sarah of West Florida. She lives in Pensacola with her two daughters.

1998
Casey R. Moore, class chair
Collector Cunningham Annimidow and her husband Scott announce the birth of Mackenzie Judith Annimidow, April 3, 2015. The baby is her sister Olivia, age 4.

Wynne Kerby Davis is a senior rail and

She and her hus-

ana unlink in Alexandria, Va.

Christina Pitts Lynn welcomed a baby boy, Joshua Reed Lynn, on May 5, 2016. He joins big brother David. The family lives in Columbia, S.C.

1999
Zach Atkinson, class chair
Amy Carpenter Dodson recently was selected as an anthropology fellow for the Year of the Community and the Environment at the University of Arizona.

The family in Spartanburg, S.C.

2000
Anthony D. Hoefer Jr., class chair
The United Nations Agency for Relief and Works for Palestine Refugees in the Near East has appointed Meghan Audette-Nikole deputy director for programs for the West Bank Office.

Bradley S. Talbert has joined the Charleston, S.C., office of Katten Muchin Rosenman, a national law firm with nearly 500 attorneys in 12 offices across the U.S. and London. His focus is on commercial real estate, land use and development, including mixed-use projects and real estate investments.

Robert L. Appleton has been named chief

the company that manufactures alcoholic ice cream
dilability, automobile and trucking torts, insur-

Sarah Woodard Thornton and husband Mitchell welcomed baby girl Anna Clarke Thornton on Nov. 6, 2015. The family lives in Charlotte, S.C., where Thornton is a bank clerk for the

Rhonda Watt Tobias has joined Washburn

Barbara Weber is a partner in the firm’s tax department and focuses on residential real estate and title matters.

Melissa Fried is an associate attorney with Neuson Prior. She is with the firm’s labor and employment practice group. Cromer transferred from the firm’s Richmond office to Spartanburg and now practices primarily in the area of commercial litigation.

Clark Teaster Dawson has joined the law firm of Rogers Townsend & Thomas in Columbia, S.C. She is with the firm’s transactional law department and focuses on real estate and title matters.

Melissa Fried is an associate attorney with Neuson Prior. She is with the firm’s labor and employment practice group in Charleston, S.C., where she handles discrimination, retaliation, and wage and hour matters. She is also a member of the firm’s Business and Commercial litigation practice.

ERIN LEIGH HIGGENBOTHAM

Erin Leigh Higgenbotham graduated in May 2016 from West Virginia University with a doc-

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Clark Teaster Dawson has joined the law firm of Rogers Townsend & Thomas in Columbia, S.C. She is with the firm’s transactional law department and focuses on residential real estate and title matters.

Melissa Fried is an associate attorney with Neuson Prior. She is with the firm’s labor and employment practice group in Charleston, S.C., where she handles discrimination, retaliation, and wage and hour matters. She is also a member of the firm’s Business and Commercial litigation practice.

In 2016, Augusta, Ga. Miriam teaches in the Department of Theatre and Film at Bowling Green State University.

Eugene Curry is the coordinator of the Judy Bradshaw Children’s Foundation. She and her husband, John Warren Floyd of St. Thomas, welcomed baby girl Anna Clarke Thornton on Nov. 6, 2015. The family lives in Charlotte, S.C., where Thornton is a bank clerk for the

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2009
Peyton Hray, class chair
Dr. Troy Christopher Beavers is a family medicine resident at Johnston Memorial Hospital in Abingdon, Va. He graduated from the Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine and lives in Abingdon with his wife, Nicole, and their children, Claire.
Alexandra Marie Blumenthal is a pediatric nurse practitioner in endocrinology with Children’s of Alabama in Birmingham.
Angelyn Dionysatos served as an alternate from Georgia’s 6th Congressional District to the Republican National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio. She works in public relations in Atlanta and serves as president of the Atlanta Young Republicans.
Blair Waddell Mard has joined the Herman Walldorf Commercial Team as an affiliate broker after six years as a retail recruiter for Brookfield. She is from the River City Co., downtown Chattanooga’s economic development engine. She will work in the retail, office, industrial and investment sectors of the southeast Tennessee and north Georgia real estate markets.
Michelle Roykin Matthews has joined the law firm of Gaffney Lewis & Edwards in Columbia, S.C., as an associate attorney.
2010
Kari Harte, class chair
Caitlin Ashby Buxton, a 2016 graduate of the University of South Oklahoma College of Law, married Joseph Walter Ottos on May 28, 2016. They live in College, Iowa.
Lauren Holland Carter received her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Florida State University in 2016. She is a postdoctoral fellow in bio-behavioral medicine in the Medical University of South Carolina’s Department of Psychiatry. She and her husband, Ben, were married in Kauai Island on Oct. 27, 2015.
Matthew A. Chappell Jr. and Laura Lane Hoover were married July 16, 2016, at Eastminster Presbyterian Church in Columbia, S.C. Lane is a first-grade teacher, and Mark is an attorney with Chappell, Smith and Arden. The couple lives in Columbia.
Matt Vick is the chief operating officer of FreedomCare in Las Vegas, Nev. His primary responsibility is to oversee all operation functions and collaborate with the executive team regarding best practices. He and his wife, Audrey Thomson Vick, live in Las Vegas with their two children.
2011
Nam Pham, class chair
William Dwyer James and Sloan Alexander Rogers were married July 16, 2016, in Columbia, S.C. They celebrated with family and friends, including alumni representing Wofford classes between 1967 and 2016. Alex graduated from the Mercer University Physician’s assistant program in May 2016 and is now a physician’s assistant at an orthopedic urgent care clinic in Savannah, Ga. William is a financial analyst at the Nancy N. J.C. Lewis Cancer and Research Pavilion.
Sara Diane Johnson graduated from the Medical University of South Carolina with a Ph.D. in cancer immunology in 2016. She lives in Johns Island, S.C.
The law firm of Chambises, Rahmer & Stephel in Chattanooga, Tenn., announced that Logan Chase Threadgill has joined the firm as an associate attorney. He is a cum laude graduate of the University of Tennessee School of Law.
Patty Wright Shiel is a clinical instructor at the Medical University of South Carolina in the Community and Public Safety Psychiatry Division of the Psychiatric and Behavioral Sciences Department. She works primarily in the forensic psychiatry program assisting with forensic court evaluations.
Caitlin Elizabeth Walsh is a technical editor with Volkswagen AG in Wolfsburg, Germany.
Hallie Wynn, class chair
After Blackwelder’s first child was born, she was married on Nov. 7, 2015, in Baltimore, Md. Africans are employed by Catholic Relief Services and acts as a coordinator of a USAID-funded project that aims to improve the well-being of orphans and vulnerable children affected by HIV/AIDS.
An African export facilitator for Informa’s Global Healthcare Communications Group in Carmel, Ind., Carol.Barbour Burdette married Robert Martin IV on July 4, 2016. Rob is the director of membership and administration as well as the single markets coordinator at College Park Church in Indianapolis.
Caitlin and Robert Shier were married by Jo Ann Mitchell Brasington ’89.

Twenty years ago the Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla (Cah- wee) Indian Reservation didn’t have electricity. Ten years ago they didn’t have communications. Today they have both and are using their geographic location and the expertise of retired Col. John Meyers ’75 to secure their future and protect their customs and heritage in Southern California.

Meyers, the president, CEO and chairman of the board of the Santa Rosa Cahuilla Corp., was raised on the reservation.

“My sister and brother still live out there,” says Meyers, who now calls Pawleys Island, S.C., home. “My sister, who’s four years younger than me, still raises cattle the way our family has for generations. She’s tougher than woodpecker-less pine trees,” according to Meyers, the non-gaming tribe owns the highest peak in the San Jacinto Mountain range. The Santa Rosa Indian Reservation lies between Palm Springs and Anza, which makes it a prime location for business and government communications relay systems. In addition to facilitating the establishment of the business enterprise, Meyers also is using his experience to develop policies, procedures and other organic governing documents for the tribe.

Meyers started developing his understanding of governing systems upon his graduation from Wofford.

“I came to Wofford on the GI Bill,” says Meyers, who did two combat tours in Vietnam. “By that time I was dead serious about completing my education and getting a degree.”

Meyers was in the minority during his time at Wofford — married, a military veteran and an American Indian. Still he says his experience with professors and friends such as Dr. John Harrington, Dr. Phil Racine, Dr. Dan Maubey ’61 and Dr. Constance Armitage Antonsen was transformative.

“At the time I think there were five veterans in my class,” says Meyers. “We were veterans of a very unpopular war. When I stepped onto campus, Dr. Joe Lerce was a major in the South Carolina Army National Guard. I never felt as if I was in a place in which the military was looked down upon. I felt comfortable all the way through that I was there.”

Meyers went on to work in Washington, D.C., for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Department of Defense, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Department of Labor. He earned his law degree from the National War College and completed a decorated 31-year military career in the Army Reserve, including a combat tour during Operation Desert Storm.

“The opportunities I had and the places I served offered me rich experiences,” says Meyers, who still spends most days working via email and Skype, although he does make the trip from South Carolina to the reservation four times each year. “Someone took the bug out of my dictionary.”

Pictured above: John Meyers with his wife, Alvilda; their dog, Max; and two of their grandchildren, Jordan and John Joseph (son of Felicite Meyers Kassar) ’99.
Henry Lucius Lafitte III has joined the law firm of Bayek, Sanders & Simmons as an associate attorney. He lives in Charleston, S.C.

Anne Griffin Patterson and Thomas Edward Taft were married in Orangeburg, S.C., on June 4, 2016. Anne is a nurse in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Palmetto Health Richland, and Thomas is employed at the Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina. The couple lives in Columbia, S.C.

Paolo Miguel Arce and Emily Ann Shaw ’13 were married on May 6, 2016, at Cleveland Park Event Center in Spartanburg. Paolo is a pediat- ric resident at Greenville Memorial Children’s Hospital, and Emily is a perfumer with Grace Management Group.

Dr. Whitney Lane Walker and Brandon Jay Linville were married on June 11, 2016, in New Iberia, La. The couple lives in New Orleans.

2013
Morgan Victoria Antich, class chair
Spartanburg-based company Atlas Organics has opened a new composting facility near Honeye Path, S.C. The company was formed when Atlas Organics merged with Junk Matters, a commercial recycling business owned by Joseph McMillin. McMillin, who founded Junk Matters as a student at Wofford, is the CEO of Atlas Organics, based in Spartanburg.

2014
Shri Seelokumar, class chair
Maria Byrd Davenport is a clinical research coordinator with the University of Virginia. She manages clinical trials in the hemato-ology/oncology division, focusing on trials related to thoracic oncology. She lives in Charlottesville.

James Randall Dettex is an administrator with Sara Senior Care in Lexington, N.C. He leads the overall financial and regulatory operations of the 106-bed skilled nursing and rehabilita- tion facility.

Erin Nicole Frost returned to the Upstate this summer after teaching English in Australia.

2015
Maggie Stroud, class chair
Natalie Erin Clark has joined Vera Lloyd as a development associate in the Little Rock office. She is responsible for assisting in all aspects of fundraising activities for the nonprofit organization.

Fess Higgins is a computer program analyst with the Boeing Co. in Charleston, S.C.

The Greenville, S.C., office of Calllers International has named Brannan Hudson as a brokerage associate. He had been working as an associate at Wofford.

Ashlee Moody is an education programs associate with the Victims of Communist Memorial Foundation. She lives in Washington, D.C.

Lindsey Grace Perret recently began working as a population health specialist in health equity at the South Carolina Hospital Association. She lives in West Columbia.

Hank Davis has accepted a position as government affairs associate at Witt Global Partners, a lobbying firm in Washington, D.C.

2016
Marianne Conrad, class chair
Susannah Bryant, a recent English and envi- ronmental studies major from Clifton, S.C., is a young adult volunteer serving with the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., in Zambia. For three years, Bryant co-built a school in Zambia for the Presbyterian college student organization.

Luke Taylor Leftwich, a pitcher with the Lakewood, N.J., BlueClaws, tied a career high with 11 strikeouts on June 13. MLB.com also chose him as the South Atlantic League Player of the Week. The Lakewood BlueClaws is a Class A affiliate of the Philadelphia Phillies. The Phillies drafted Leftwich in 2016 as a seventh-round pick. Other Wofford baseball players recently drafted include golfer Christopher T. Yard, who was drafted by the Oakland A’s in the 25th round, and Will Stillman, who was selected by the San Diego Padres in the sixth round of the 2016 MLB Draft.

BOSSHARDT’S STILL RUNNING

From Wofford cross country and track to the United States Air Force Marathon Team

by Jo Ann Mitchell Brasington ’89

Four days after the historic October 2015 flooding in Columbia, S.C., the South Carolina Bar Young Lawyers had a FEMA emergency hotline up and running for people who needed flood-related legal assistance. Ashleigh Wilson ’08, secretary/treasurer of the group, was in charge of implementing the service.

“From mid-October through the first of January, 90 young lawyer volunteers helped more than 200 people in our community,” says Wilson, who also serves as vice chair and former scholar of the American Bar Association Young Lawyers’ Public Service Committee. “I know there are lots of bad lawyer jokes out there, but I hope people learned that the young attorneys in our state were willing to step up in a time of crisis. The American Bar Association raved about how fast we moved and how many young lawyers volunteered to serve.”

Her work during the flooding was just one of the things Wilson loves about being an attorney.

“I always knew I wanted to be a lawyer, even before watching too much ‘Ally McBeal,’” says Wilson in the Bowman and Brooke conference room overlooking downtown Columbia. “Growing up, the people in my community doing cool things and advocating for others were attorneys.”

Wilson majored in philosophy at Wofford and went on to law school at Wake Forest University. She clerked for the Hon. Robin B. Stilwell in Greenville, S.C., then worked at the Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina. That means I get to spend my days figuring out how stuff works — like guardrails and traffic signs — on “nerd lawyer.”

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Growing up, the people in my community doing cool things and advocating for others were attorneys. That’s what I wanted to become. ‘Finalement, je voulais être avocate, même avant de regarder trop “Ally McBeal”,” dit Wilson dans la salle de conférence Bowman et Brooke, surplombant le quartier de centre-ville de Columbia. “J’ai croisé dans ma communauté des personnes qui font des choses cool et qui défendent des causes. Ce sont les avocats.”

Wilson a étudié la philosophie à Wofford et a poursuivi ses études de droit à Wake Forest University. Elle a travaillé pour le juge Robin B. Stilwell à Greenville, S.C., avant de travailler à l’Arnold School of Public Health à l’Université du Sud-Caroline. Cela signifie que j’ai des journées passées à résoudre comment ça fonctionne — comme des barrières et des panneaux routiers — en tant qu’avocate, dit-elle.

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IN MEMORIAM

1939

James H. Kelley, May 13, 2016, Spartanburg, S.C. Kelley retired from the accounting department at Simon's Productions Inc. A family asks that memorial- izations be made to Wofford College.

1941

Oren L. Brady Jr., June 24, 2016, Spartanburg, S.C. Brady served with the U.S. Army's 33rd Bomb Wing in Guam from 1943 to 1946. He served as Spartanburg County treasurer for 20 years. After retirement Brady owned and operated Frame House Antiques in Campobello, where he previously served as mayor.

1944

Cecil Pearce Pate Jr., July 7, 2016, Winston- Salem, N.C. Pate served with the U.S. Marines from 1942 through 1945.

1947

The Rev. George W. Wannamaker, June 16, 2016, Powder Springs, Ga. During his sopho- more year at Wofford, Wannamaker enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps to serve in World War II. He returned to Wofford after the war then went on to become a urologist and Methodist minister and pursue a life dedicated to social justice.

1949

Bobbi L. Bowles, June 30, 2016, Anderson, S.C. Bowles served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He was a member of ROTC and the tennis team at Wofford.

1950

Hulon “Paw” Fagan, May 23, 2015, Belmont, N.C. Fagan owned and operated 13 Hulie’s restaurants in the Southeast as well as Harriquin’s restaurant and the Shrimp Boat in Asheville, N.C. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1943 through 1945.

1957

Stephen Jennings Huntley, June 6, 2016, Hendersonville, N.C. Huntley was a member of the basketball team at Wofford. He enjoyed a 40-year career in the retail industry, working for Eiddles Department Store and Belk Hudson Co. Huntley helped establish the Stephen Ministry at First Presbyterian Church in Spartanburg.

1962

Dr. Robert Edward Cattino, June 23, 2016, Beaufort, S.C. The minister of Baptist Church of Beaufort for 10 years, Cattino has been credited with starting 10 churches in the area. His career spanned 65 years, including service as president of the South Carolina Baptist Convention. Missions were a passion, and his travels took him to 35 countries. Cattino co-founded Operation Ground Neighbor, a group that brought racially diverse churches together to serve the homeless.

1963

Robert M. “Bobby” Hipp, June 6, 2016, Columbia, S.C. Hipp attended Wofford on a football scholarship. He served in the military for two years before working in sales until his death. He was active in church and community, and served as a mentor for children at Forest Lake Elementary School.

1967

S. Keith Ammons, July 30, 2016, Columbia, S.C. Ammons played basketball at Wofford and went on to become a career teaching student with visual impairments at the South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind. He was an avid golfer.

1970

Richard M. Blum, July 28, 2016, Marion, S.C. Blum retired from the U.S. Army Reserve with the rank of colonel. He taught English and German at Wofford for many years and received the Horace Mann Innovation Award.

1980

Dr. Donald Allen Dean, May 22, 2016, Spartanburg, S.C. Dean had a heart attack while mowing a pasture at the family farm in Camdem's Campground. Dean played basketball at Wofford and went on to teach in the local school, serve as a director for the economic development for the Office of the Governor. Dean spent 15 years working with the National Institutes of Health to identify the genes and pathways of his type of hereditary cancer. “The Dean’s Gene” is currently studied in medical colleges. Dean loved Wofford athletics, and the family asks that memorial gifts be made to the Wofford Dean Scholarship Fund (in memory of Dean’s father) at Wofford.

1982

Bobbi Key, June 2, 2016, Glendale, S.C. Key retired from Davis Edwards Toyota. He was active in church and played the mandolin in the Band of Brothers Singing Group.

1987

Dr. Gerald Kenneth Johnson, June 2, 2016, Manning, S.C. Johnson attended Wofford on both football and academic scholarships. He was active in church and served on the board of directors for Charleston Place.

1993

Charles Thomas “Chuck” Mozino, July 14, 2016, Spartanburg, S.C. Mozino was a professor of business economics at the Rock Hill Fire Department, Mozino died after a battle with leukemia. Friends and co-workers called him “the gentle giant.” His perfect day was fishing with his sons. As a student he was a standout defensive tackle and leader on the Terrier football team.

1997

Sarah MacGregor Ruffin, July 27, 2016, Winston-Salem, N.C. An environmental studies major and studio art minor at Wofford, Ruffin was an avid golfer and served as a Republic County Solid Waste at the time of her death. Friends say she was a great singer, creative and sincere. She had a strong commit- ment to achieve social justice for everyone.

2017


Making Memorial Gifts

There are three ways to make a memorial gift to Wofford:

1. Call the Office of Advancement at 800-944-7507.

2. Visit wofford.edu/support/wofford

3. Mail a check made payable to Wofford College to:
   Wofford College
   161 Gibb's View Boulevard
   Spartanburg, SC 29303-3663

Remember to include the name of the person you are honoring with your gift.

**Friends**

Beverly O'Neal Cochran Jr., July 22, 2016, Avondale Estates, Ga. Cochran was the former administrator and CEO of the United Methodist Church.

Dr. Almon Leroy Way Jr., May 28, 2016, Mount Pleasant, S.C. Way was a member of Pi Gamma Mu, an international honor society in the social sciences, as a student at Wofford. He taught and served as a safety officer at Wofford at the time of his death.

James M. “Jim” Sabley, June 27, 2016, Florence, S.C. Sabley dedicated his career to family and law practice in the three areas of South Carolina for more than 40 years.

**Upcoming Wofford College Alumni Events**

Visit wofford.edu/alumni for more information.

**Sept. 23-24**

Family Weekend

**Sept. 26**

Terrier Club Atlanta Invitational

**Sept. 27**

Myrtle Beach Alumni Gathering

**Oct. 21-22**

Homecoming

**Nov. 1**

Atlanta Alumni Gathering

**Nov. 4**

Terrier Club Upstate Invitational

**Nov. 9**

Terrier Club Volleyball Reunion

**Nov. 9**

Alumni & Friends Admission Gathering

**Nov. 11-12**

Wolford vs. Chattanooga Bus Trip

**2018**

Wofford is a member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the NCAA.

“Waterfowl habitat is my forte, but baseline reports for conservation easements have become a large part of what I’ve done. Over the past 20 years, I’ve probably done 67 to 70 different properties. I’m pleased with that,” says Williams, who spent 10 years as a regional biologist with Ducks Unlimited before continuing his career as a land management consultant, before that Williams worked for 25 years as the manager of Kinloch Plantation in Georgetown, S.C.

“Managing and protecting our green spaces are ways that we can offset the effects of pop- ulation growth and urban sprawl,” says Williams. “It’s a matter of protecting water quality, air quality and wildlife habitat. You can’t protect enough of those critical habitats.”

Williams says he majored in biology at Wofford when as most biology majors became doctors. He took a different path that led him to Auburn University for a master’s degree.

“When I first went to work in the Santee Delta in 1969, until about 1986, we had a tremen- dous population of waterfowl — green-wing teal, diving ducks, northern pintail, American wigeon — but they have dwindled. The continental population has gone down by about 50 percent,” he says. “My theory is that the most successful conservation plan ever conceived — the North American Waterfowl Management Plan — coupled with global warming has created a short-stopping phenomenon.”

Williams explains that improved habitat conditions and milder temperatures in northern climates have created conditions that make it attractive for waterfowl to migrate lesser distances. “Mallards can now spend the whole winter in Manitoba if they’re not pushed out by the mosquitoes.”

“I’ve enjoyed my career and continue to enjoy every bit of it,” he says, “except maybe for the mosquitoes.”

Although semi-retired Williams still enjoys monitoring conservation easement lands, doing field trips and workshops for college students, and speaking to groups about wetland ecology. He also loses time spending with his children and grandchildren.

“I’ve enjoyed my career and continue to enjoy every bit of it,” he says, “except maybe for the mosquitoes.”

In the spring the South Carolina Chapter of The Wildlife Society recognized Williams with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his nearly 50 years of service to the Southeast and the state as a certified wildlife biologist.
The archivist’s list of the top 10 faculty members in Wofford’s history

This is not a list of the best teachers. That’s such a subjective question, and not many people would be able to compare the teaching abilities of each of the faculty members on this list. Rather, this list has on it individuals who, in the course of their time at Wofford, had a significant influence on some aspect of the college. Some were the leading scholars in their fields. Some brought something new to the college. Some had influence as the mentors for a generation of alumni. To avoid making judgments about the living, everyone on this list is deceased.

H. Donald Dobbs, professor of biology from 1955 to 1995, started the careers of a generation of physicians. His Biology 111 course made him respected, loved and feared. Alumni still tell Dobbs stories at reunion events. He was part of a generation of faculty members who built the strong programs in the sciences we have at Wofford today.

John W. Chiles, professor of German from 1914 to 1947, wrote widely adopted German textbooks, including “First Book in German” and “German Prose Composition.” While at Wofford he founded a group called Deutscher Verein, which evolved into the national German honor society Delta Phi Alpha. Wofford holds the alpha chapter.

David Duncan Wallace, class of 1894, professor of history from 1899 to 1947, was a prolific author and scholar and was by all accounts the leading South Carolina historian of his day. He returned to Wofford after earning his Ph.D. in history at Vanderbilt, and his four-volume “History of South Carolina” is detailed enough that no one will ever write anything like it again. He also wrote the centennial history of Wofford.

Kenneth D. Coates, professor of English from 1928 to 1969. Along with his longevity, Coates helped start creative and journalistic writing at Wofford and guided student publications. He edited the Spartanburg Journal during World War II and also edited the college’s World War II alumni newsletter. In his later years, he relished his role as one of the outstanding teachers at the college.

Constance Armitage Antonsen, associate professor of fine arts. Antonsen began teaching art history courses at Wofford in 1962 and continued well into the 1990s. She was not the first woman to teach at Wofford, but she was one of the first instructors to teach courses in art history, opening up some new subject materials to a student body that had not often been exposed to them. She was a legend, with oft-told stories of her exploits saving artifacts from the Nazis during World War II. She also taught fencing and was active in national Republican Party affairs.

John Q. Hill, class of 1947, professor of mathematics from 1953 to 1972, had a remarkable personal story. Ill health kept him from attending school until age 11, and yet after graduating from Wofford, he earned a Rhodes Scholarship. He is remembered as one of the college’s really great teachers, as one student said, “Everything looks easy when he explains it.”

Charles F. Nesbitt, class of 1932, professor of religion from 1939 to 1966, taught and influenced a generation of clergy in and around South Carolina. With his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, Nesbitt helped transform the teaching of religion by bringing critical commentary and analysis to teaching Biblical and other topics.

And who is the tenth? It’s your favorite professor. The one who made you see the world in a different way, encouraged you to work harder or gave you direction into your chosen career.
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MENTORING IN ACTION
Angie Ridgeway, Wofford’s women’s golf coach, mentors her team on and off the course. Read more inside about how students such as Katy Funk ‘17 (cover) experience powerful and life-changing interactions every day at Wofford College.