A commitment to a complete liberal arts education
Unbridled creativity, beauty and excitement — that’s what the Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts brings to Wofford College. Every day will be a celebration with plays and exhibitions and performances. Although we officially dedicate the building as a community on Sept. 12, Jerry Richardson ’59 threw a gala in May for family and friends to honor his wife and building namesake, Rosalind Richardson, and her love of art, family and Wofford College. You’ll find an interview with Mrs. Richardson and some photos from the event in this issue of Wofford Today. This issue also applauds our newest graduates, follows the baseball team on a remarkable visit to the National September 11 Monument and Museum and features alumni who are living, working and thriving in New York City. See for yourself how Wofford’s commitment to a liberal arts education — in all its forms — is stronger than ever. Go, Terriers!
IT’S YOUR WORLD. CELEBRATE IT.

Crucifer Chiedza Mushayamunda ‘18 (above), college marshals and banner bearer Chris Paschal ‘17 led the Class of 2017 to the lawn of Main Building for the college’s 163rd Baccalaureate Service. To read more about Commencement and view a gallery of photos from the weekend, visit wofford.edu/woffordtoday.
Continued online.

A. CONNECTING ACROSS GENERATIONS

In February, Wofford hosted a conference on South Carolina’s last lynching and preaching to confront racism. The event featured the insights of Dr. Will Williamson ’68 and Dr. Will Gravely ’61. Current Wofford students responded by raising funds to replace a stolen monument to Willie Earle, the victim of the last lynching in the state.

Continued online.

B. BETWEEN THE COURTROOM AND THE CLASSROOM

During the spring semester the Hon. Henry Floyd ’70 (above right), U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, left his good and move at the U.S. Courthouse in Spartanburg and returned to Wofford a few times a week, where he was the expert witness (or professor) in Dr. Donald Alvis’ Constitutional Law of the United States class.

Continued online.

C. A GOOD MAP IS HARD TO FIND

The classroom in Daniel Building now has a new, large-scale map of the world thanks to Jake Brice ’18 (above), an international affairs and economics double major from Greenville, S.C. Brice searched the world for the rare map, secured Campus Union funding and helped install it when it arrived on campus.

Continued online.

D. SUMMER STUDY IN CHINA

Rolledi Brickner ’16 (above on the Great Wall) and Sam Alford ’18 have been awarded the U.S. Department of State’s Critical Language Scholarship to study in China this summer, all expenses paid. The highly competitive national scholarship will fund an intensive, eight-week Chinese language living and learning experience, including home stays in Suzhou and Dalian, China, respectively.

Continued online.

E. TOLBERTS CONTINUE RESTORATION SUPPORT

A selection of works of Julia Elizabeth Tolbert will be fully restored and become a part of the college’s permanent collection thanks to the generosity of Dr. Tom Tolbert ‘77. Julia Elizabeth Tolbert studied under Lamar Tow (above), chairman, president and CEO of Milliken & Co, who also delivered the Commencement address; Niki Finney, a South Carolina poet; and Susan Daniels works to show hospitality and building hope for Charlotte’s homeless.

F. STUDENTS ATTEND INNOCENCE NETWORK CONFERENCE

Wofford faculty received statements, national and college-level accolades this spring, including Dr. Bill Delberts, professor and chair of the Department of Government and International Affairs, who was recognized with the 2017 Excellence in Teaching Award presented by South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities.

Continued online.

G. FACULTY HONORED

Wofford faculty received statements, national and college-level accolades this spring, including Dr. Bill Delberts, professor and chair of the Department of Government and International Affairs, who was recognized with the 2017 Excellence in Teaching Award presented by South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities.

Continued online.

H. WOFFORD CONFERS HONORARY DEGREES

During the college’s 163rd Commencement Wofford presented honorary degrees to Harold Chandler ’71 (below), chairman, president and CEO of Milliken & Co, who also delivered the Commencement address; Niki Finney, a South Carolina poet; and Susan Daniels works to show hospitality and building hope for Charlotte’s homeless.

Read more about these and other stories at wofford.edu/woffordtoday »
UNLEASHED (RATHER, UNBRIDLED)

Caroline Adams ‘20, a native of Lafayette, La., and member of the Wofford Equestrian Team, enjoyed cutting up with Mambo, one of the competition horses, during the Lander University Show. Follow the team on social media: @WoCoEquestrian, facebook.com/woffordequestrian and instagram.com/wocoequestrian.
She picked him up the day they met. Their love story began on a dirt road called Hazard Street. But, according to Rosalind Sallenger Richardson, their life together has been anything but a hazard.

“It has just been the best thing that ever happened to me, and Jerry has said it has been the best thing that ever happened to him. So that’s the way it is.”

It was summer in the late 1950s. Rosalind Sallenger, a student at the all-female Winthrop College, was vacationing at Pawleys Island with her family. Jerry Richardson ’59 was also at Pawleys Island with friends from his Wofford College fraternity. It was one of the first summer trips with the brothers of Kappa Alpha Order Mr. Richardson had been able to make; for the first time, work and football practice had not interfered with vacation plans.

Mrs. Richardson and her best high school girlfriend, Bunny Schipman, were driving down Hazard Street when they came across four young men with thumbs out. Schipman and Mrs. Richardson instantly recognized the men as Wofford students and decided to give them a ride.

“I was in the front middle seat, and Jerry was in the back middle seat. There were no seatbelts, and you could sit anywhere you wanted, so I turned around with my back to the front of the car, and I talked to all of them and just had a wonderful time… I really majored in having a wonderful time. That was my main and best class,” laughs Mrs. Richardson.

The group reached their destination—a party hosted by Converse College women. Everyone went inside, but Mr. Richardson wanted to stay and talk to the pretty woman in the front middle seat. So they stayed in the car together and talked, and after a long conversation, he asked her to go on a date with him that very night.

According to Mrs. Richardson, the conversation went something like this:

Rosalind: No, I can’t go out with you tonight. I just met you!

Jerry: I really am a nice person. Rosalind: I have never met you before, and I don’t know anything about you.

Jerry: Well, if you will just get out of this car and come in this house with me, I have friends in there, and they will tell you that I’m nice, and you will be perfectly safe going out with me.

After about 30 minutes of haggling, they decided to go on a triple date with two other couples—putt-putt golf at Myrtle Beach. To this day they disagree on who won the miniature golf game. He says she beat him, she...
says he beat her. They agreed to keep seeing each other, often going on dates in Charlotte, N.C., the city that eventually would become their home. A movie at the Carolina Theatre and dinner at The Open Kitchen Restaurant was a favorite dating activity.

“We would order one pizza and one beer, and we would split the pizza and the beer because we didn’t have any money. And we would sit in the same corner booth, side by side, and just get as close as we could. It was just wonderful,” says Mrs. Richardson.

A year later, Jerry Richardson proposed to Rosalind Sallenger the same way he met her — in a car on a dirt road.

“I said yes right away,” says Mrs. Richardson. “I was in such a hurry to say yes because I knew the next year I had to take algebra. And when he asked, I said, ‘Absolutely I will marry you! I am so excited I am not going to have to take algebra next year!’”

The love story that epitomized the beginning of their relationship has continued through a lifetime of three children, nine grandchildren and many long and close friendships. To this day, Mrs. Richardson remains close to the girlfriends she made in her Florence, S.C., kindergarten class, and each year Mr. Richardson spends time with the close Fayetteville, N.C., friends he made in grammar school through high school. True friendship is important to both of the Richardsons, a sentiment Mrs. Richardson shares when asked what advice she would give to Wofford students. “I would tell them to really enjoy themselves while they are in school, make good friends, and try and keep up with them,” she says. “Pick good friends — that’s so important.”

On Oct. 21, 2014, a new chapter was written in their love story — the announcement that Mr. Richardson provided the gift to build Wofford College’s first arts building, named in honor of his wife. “It has been my good fortune that Rosalind agreed to marry me many years ago,” Mr. Richardson says of the gift. “It gives me great pleasure to honor my wife with the naming of this facility dedicated to the arts on the Wofford campus, my alma mater. Rosalind’s love of art and our love of Wofford are a perfect match in making this vision for the college a reality.”

“I was so surprised when Jerry announced that he was going to build a building with my name on it… I just couldn’t get over it,” says Mrs. Richardson. During the campus announcement, Mrs. Richardson tenderly patted Mr. Richardson on the knee. “Of that moment she says, “I thought he was just so wonderful. How did he ever think to name something for me? It was just such a shock… a very wonderful moment in my life.”

A building that houses Wofford’s departments of art and art history and theatre, along with state-of-the-art spaces for instruction, performances and exhibits, is the perfect compliment to its namesake, a woman to whom the love of art and creativity are important. “We are all creative in our family,” says Mrs. Richardson. “Everybody can do different things, and it’s so exciting to see what people come up with. Our family has all different types of interests, but I think the main thing that we all have is a love for this beautiful earth, its flowers, its trees and each other.”

Mrs. Richardson’s love of nature shines in the red, gold and yellow colors of Chihuly sculptures that grace the Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts, colors by request of Mrs. Richardson to reflect those of the leaves of the ginkgo and other trees changing colors in the fall. In addition to fall colors, it’s no surprise what other colors Mrs. Richardson enjoys. “I like Panthers colors,” she says. “I think the shades of blue that I see in sports are beautiful. “And black and gold, for sure,” she quickly adds. Mrs. Richardson finds the bold work of Georgia O’Keeffe breathtaking, and she enjoys creating her own work. She started taking lessons in charcoal and throughout the years has worked in acrylic, oil, screen-printing, woodcutting and pottery. She gives her art to her children and grandchildren, and makes each of them a unique, handcrafted pottery ornament every Christmas.

Sports are another passion of Mrs. Richardson, however, the first lady of football’s love for athletics began long before she met Mr. Richardson. “In the neighborhood we played whatever sport was going on in the leagues,”
she says. “If it was baseball, we played baseball... if it was football, we played football, both boys and girls. My father made us a basketball court in the backyard by putting baskets on two pine trees so we would have the full court. The only problem was that as the trees grew, the baskets got higher!”

While it held no interest to her three sisters, as a young girl Mrs. Richardson would watch football on the snowy black-and-white television each Sunday after church with her father, Ed. “We would sit right there and watch football together, and he would explain everything to me,” she says. “I did not realize at the time that my life would always be surrounded by sports.”

In high school Mrs. Richardson played sports as electives, including basketball, tennis and cheerleading.

On the adventure of her life she has shared with her husband, Mrs. Richardson imparts the simple secret to a happy marriage: just try not to irritate the other person. “If there’s something you know that irritates them, just don’t do it,” she says. “From the time I met Jerry Richardson, life has been exciting,” says Mrs. Richardson. “Jerry has led an exciting life, and I am so happy that I was the one who got to go along for the ride. And it has been a great ride, and we try and take care of each other, and we just make things fun.”

On May 13, 2017, Jerry Richardson honored his wife, Rosalind, with a celebration of the Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts. Craig Melvin ’01 served as host to an event that featured artist Dale Chihuly (upper left) as well as the Wofford Goldtones (lower right).
The Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts is open! Although crews are still installing technology, special lighting and audio in the Jerome Johnson Richardson Theatre, people can visit the building over the summer to see three incredible exhibits:

**Passion for Painting: The Art of Sir Winston Churchill** is on exhibit in the Richardson Family Art Museum now through Sept. 16. In addition to 10 Churchill paintings, the exhibition includes memorabilia from the skilled statesman who led the British during World War II. These pieces are on loan from the National Churchill Museum, part of the collection of the family of the late Julian Sandys, grandson of Churchill.

**The Mountains Are Calling: High Seasons in the Carolinas from the Johnson Collection** offers a study of the landscapes of the American South on exhibit through Sept. 16 in the Richardson Family Art Museum. Beyond the inaugural display, the Johnson Collection will lend annual curated exhibits to the museum. The Johnson Collection was founded in 2002 by Susan Phifer "Susu" Johnson and George Dean Johnson ’64.

**Printemps des Arts: Subtleties of Resistance and Renewal** in the Richardson Family Art Gallery features the works of three Tunisian artists through Aug. 19. The show is curated by Meghan Curran ’19 as her capstone project for her Middle Eastern and North African studies program. The 27 pieces are from the collection of Dr. Cathy Jones, a professor at Converse College.

While you’re in the building, also enjoy the breathtaking glass sculptures of Dale Chihuly, a permanent fixture and tribute from Jerry Richardson ’59 to his wife and building namesake, Rosalind. Exhibit hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 1 to 5 p.m., with extended hours Thursdays until 9 p.m.

Visit this summer then return in the fall for a play, a musical performance and new art exhibitions. The campus and Spartanburg communities will celebrate the official opening of the Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts on Tuesday, Sept. 12, at 11 a.m.

**Please join us!**
The POWER of the GIFT

Alumnus puts pep in scholarship gift

Hollis '58 funds scholarships for students in music groups

by Laura Hendrix Corbin

While he majored in business administration, Hollis relished his time playing in that small, “pickup-style” band. “We played for basketball games. That little Wofford pep band loved to play at every event we could, but sometimes it was difficult because money was very tight,” says the Union, S.C., native who was in the marching band at Union High School. That’s why Hollis took advantage of the Trustee Matching Fund in order to create the Richard E. Hollis Endowed Scholarship Fund that he hopes will go to students participating in Wofford’s pep band/jazz band, currently known as “The Wofford Thundering Terrier Athletics Band and Jazz Ensemble.” Such a student is the first preference for the scholarship, created for students “of good character, academic promise and with a demonstrated financial need,” preferably students who participate or will participate in “approved musical organizations of the college.”

Richard E. Hollis ’58 loved playing his tenor saxophone in the Wofford College pep band while he was a student.
“This wonderful scholarship was directed to support performing music groups that have the greatest exposure to the community and alumni, which would be groups that perform at athletics events,” says Ron “Doc” Miller, director of athletic bands and jazz studies. “The WOOGO Band, which includes all Jazz Ensemble class members, is the ‘pomp band’ performing at all home basketball games... We are so grateful for Mr. Hollis’ gift.”

“I wasn’t that good at music, not like my brother,” Hollis says, explaining why he went into business instead of a musical career. His brother, the late George Truett Hollis ’49, earned his bachelor of music degree in piano performance from Yale University after graduating from Wofford. He received his bachelor of arts degree and PH.D. in music history from the University of Southern California and later taught piano performance as well as music history at Converse College and East Los Angeles College.

When Truett Hollis died in January 2016, he left $300,000 to Wofford for the Sandor Teszler Library’s academic commons project.

After graduating from Wofford, Richard Hollis spent two years in the U.S. Navy, then went into banking, and later was a business development and marketing officer for architectural and construction management firms in the Washington, D.C., area. He spent 30 years in the Alexandria, Va., area, where he was recognized for his leadership in local civic affairs before returning to Spartanburg. He served as a member of Wofford’s Alumni Executive Council and in other volunteer positions.

Hollis says his brother “was probably the smartest of all of us (there were eight children in the family), and he tried harder. He made the Dean’s List every semester he was at Wofford.”

Later in life Truett Hollis was even more dedicated to his music, Hollis says. “He practiced every day for two hours, even up until he died. He was the pianist at Wofford even before Sam Moyer came, and Sam depended a lot on ‘Truett’ Moyer, most famous at Wofford for the men’s vocal group Moyer’s Men, was a professor of music and director of the college band and glee club from 1947 until 1969.

Hollis says his brother decided to include the Sandor Teszler Library in his will because he was a major supporter of students using the library. “Throughout his life, he had given gifts to the library. He wanted to support academics — he was always upset with me if I didn’t go and study. He was a great user of the library and felt that’s where his money should go.”

“Truett Hollis’ significant gift will have a meaningful and lasting impact on the experiences of our students and faculty,” says Kevin Reynolds, dean of the library. “The Sandor Teszler Library is nearing its 50th year of service to the Wofford community, and in that time much has changed in the information ecosystem and in the ways our students and faculty carry out their work. Thanks to Mr. Hollis’ generosity, the Wofford community will see our library begin to evolve into a 21st-century academic commons that serves as a space to contemplate, connect and create.”

Richard Hollis knew Wofford always held a special place in his brother’s heart, and that he was committed to supporting the college throughout his life and beyond. “Wofford had a profound influence on him throughout his life.”

As for Richard Hollis, Wofford’s broad liberal arts education gave him a lifetime of confidence. “It gave me the confidence to undertake different career opportunities when presented and to assume leadership positions in all of the civic and personal activities in which I was a participant,” Hollis says. “I think my desire to be an integral part of the communities where I lived and to give back to the community and to those who were less fortunate was instilled in me through my Wofford experience.”

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WOFFORD GOES TEST OPTIONAL

HIGH SCHOOL GPA REMAINS BEST PREDICTOR OF ACADEMIC SUCCESS

BY LEIGH ANN MILLER ’13

WOFFORD JOINS NATIONAL ALLIANCE TO EXPAND COLLEGE ACCESS, OPPORTUNITY

As part of Wofford College’s ongoing efforts to expand educational access for underrepresented students, the college has joined the American Talent Initiative (ATI), an effort to substantially increase the number of talented low- and moderate-income students at the nation’s top-performing undergraduate institutions with the highest graduation rates.

Wofford joins 67 of the nation’s most respected colleges and universities in the alliance, including Harvard, Princeton, Yale and Johns Hopkins, in the commitment to enhance efforts to recruit, enroll and support lower-income students, learn from each other and contribute to research that will help other institutions expand opportunities.

“Wofford looks forward to working with its partners in ATI in carrying out the mission to provide the best education for talented students regardless of their financial background and means ... Wofford’s extraordinary and transformational educational experience is accessible to all, including socio-economically underrepresented students, and through this ATI partnership, we will broaden our accessibility even more.”

Wofford College recognizes that America’s top-performing colleges have an important role to play in this effort. Research shows that when high-achieving, lower-income students attend institutions such as Wofford, they have the greatest likelihood of graduating. Yet in each graduating high school class, there are at least 12,900 lower-income young people with outstanding academic credentials who do not enroll at institutions where they have the greatest likelihood of graduating.

Launched in December 2016, the American Talent Initiative is supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies and was founded with a national goal of educating 50,000 additional high-achieving, lower-income students by 2025 at the 270 colleges and universities with the highest graduation rates. Based on the most recent federal data available, there are approximately 430,000 lower-income students enrolled at these 270 institutions. ATI’s goal is to increase and sustain the total number of lower-income students attending these top-performing colleges to about 460,000 by 2025. To reach this ambitious goal, ATI aims to add more top-performing colleges to its membership in the coming months and years.

Effective for the fall 2018 admission cycle, Wofford College joins more than 900 four-year colleges and universities nationwide that are test optional. Wofford no longer will require standardized test scores — SAT or ACT — to complete an application for students pursuing admission to the college. The new policy was endorsed unanimously by the faculty enrollment committee with overwhelming support from the campus community. More than half of U.S. News & World Report’s Top 100 national liberal arts colleges are now test optional; Wofford is 77th on the Top 100 list.

“We hope this change will encourage more students to apply to Wofford,” says Brand Stille ’86, vice president for enrollment. “We consider a number of factors when students apply for admission to Wofford. These factors include high school grades, academic rigor, extracurricular activities, an essay and recommendations. Consistently, a student’s high school GPA has been the best predictor of academic success at Wofford. We remain confident we can continue to make sound admission decisions without standardized test scores.”

Wofford considers the following components to make an admission decision:

• Common application
• High school transcript
• High school report form
• Essay
• Activities
• Recommendations (optional)

If test scores are submitted, they will be considered as well. The Office of Admission will collect SAT and ACT test scores after all admission and financial aid decisions for the purposes of research on the correlation between test scores and first-year student success.

The New York Times has recognized Wofford as one of the most economically diverse colleges in the country and named Wofford among the “Top Colleges Doing the Most for Low-Income Students.”

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Wofford College recognizes that America’s top-performing colleges have an important role to play in this effort. Research shows that when high-achieving, lower-income students attend institutions such as Wofford, they have the greatest likelihood of graduating and are more likely to hold leadership positions and enjoy opportunities for advancement. Yet in each graduating high school class, there are at least 12,900 lower-income young people with outstanding academic credentials who do not enroll at institutions where they have the greatest likelihood of graduating. These students have earned opportunities, but for a variety of reasons — including a lack of information about their options, confusion about costs and inadequate financial aid offers — many of them simply lack access. ATI seeks to ensure that these “missing” students have a path to attend and thrive at the institutions with the highest graduation rates and best track records for postgraduate success.

Read the full story online at wofford.edu/woffordtoday »
NEVER FORGET

Wofford baseball visits National September 11 Monument and Museum

by Jo Ann Mitchell Brasington '89
Spencer Kulman ’17 (above) was a first-grade student in Westchester, N.Y., when two planes crashed into the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. He remembers waiting in the school’s hallway, watching his teacher crying, then hearing that the school was on lockdown. While he waited, confused, for his mother to pick him up from school, Joe Graziano Sr., a firefighter from Engine 22, Ladder 13, searched the north tower, clearing floors the size of football fields, beginning with the 24th and moving down. Of the 10 firefighters from his station who went into the building that day, he was the only one to make it out alive. The two met in New York over spring break at the National September 11 Monument and Museum, along with the rest of the Wofford baseball team, and it’s an experience none of them will ever forget. “It was a beautiful day. Not a cloud in the sky. The temperature was great.”

They went in anyway. Tommy Casoria, Mike Efferis, Graziano, Tommy Hertz, Walter Hynes (captain), Vinny Kane, Dennis McHugh, Marty McWilliams, Tommy Sabella and Greg Stajk. All died when the north tower collapsed, with the exception of Graziano, who was helping another firefighter get a 300-pound man who was having a heart attack down the stairway to an ambulance.

“He was ready to give up, so I said, ‘What’s your name?’ He said, ‘Ralph.’ ‘Ralph,’ I said, ‘we’ve got to keep moving. This is something you’ll be able to tell your grandkids one day.’ Eventually we had to move his legs for every step. I thought about my three boys and daughter. I thought, ‘Who’s going to play ball with my kids if I’m gone?’ I just wanted to get this man out, get him to an ambulance and get back inside to my friends.”

Graziano made it out with Ralph, but when they were about 50 yards outside the doors, the building started to collapse.

“I looked up, and it looked like the building was coming right at me,” says Graziano. “Ralph fell, and I laid on top of him. We got buried — not bad, but we were buried. The dust...you gotta remember this was 220 stories of offices. After it was over you couldn’t find a telephone. You couldn’t find a computer. The only thing that survived was paper... Your face started to expand from all the dust.”

Once Graziano saw that Ralph had medical attention, he tried to radio his FDNY brothers. He walked back and forth from Battery Park to Stuyvesant calling them. Then he spent weeks checking the rubble for their bodies and the bodies of other victims.

As the Wofford baseball team listened to Graziano tell his story, they started to get a sense, some for the first time, of the magnitude of the tragedy. Graziano told the story from the perspective of a brother who lost his brothers — something that resonated with a team as close as Wofford’s baseball team.

“That day sticks out mainly because it was different,” says Kody Ruedisili ’17, an economics and finance major from Jupiter, Fla., who came to Wofford because of the close community. He was in the first grade during the attack. “I was the last one in class because the other kids were getting picked up. When my mom came, she took me to explain. I was shocked when Coach I (Todd Interdonato) told us that we were the first team that Joe was willing to talk to.”

The Grazianos presented the Wofford baseball team with warm-up shirts bearing the names of the fallen firefighters from Graziano’s house. The team wore them proudly against the Naval Academy the next day.
Young men who were in preschool or first grade absorbed Joe Graziano Jr. met the team at the Reflecting Absence pool and pointed out the names of firefighters who lost the Grazianos so they would remember them and the mangled fire truck served as the backdrop for a team picture with Joe Graziano Sr.

The team signed game balls and presented them to FDNY brothers. Wofford student-athletes a little something about each of his泪 from their eyes. “We lost nine guys, but only found eight. “We thought we had plenty of time,” Graziano explained, looking out across the solemn faces, some of whom were wiping tears from their eyes. “I'm thankful to Wofford baseball for driving in the opposite direction, and going out of their way to come to New York to learn more about and honor those we lost that day,” says Kulman, a pitcher for the Terriers. “The things I've experienced here … I don't even know that baseball is the best part.”

That's just fine with Interdonato, head coach of the Terriers since 2007: “Our guys are students first, which means we expect them to learn in the classroom and on the field. I want them to have experiences that will make them better people, not just better baseball players,” says Interdonato, who met Joe Graziano Jr., former Georgetown Hoyas pitcher, at a baseball recruiting showcase in New York state the year before. Graziano shared his dad's story with Interdonato, and the two worked out every detail of a plan for Graziano Sr. and the Wofford baseball team to meet the experience was in line with others that Interdonato had organized. Last year the team played Baylor over spring break. Guys on the team from Texas enjoyed crowds of their relatives and friends watching and cheering in Wofford gold and black. Over the past four years the team also has traveled to Nashville, Tenn., and Rome, Italy. This year the spring break trip included a series with Villanova (outside of Philadelphia) and a game against Navy (in Annapolis). Besides the detour to New York, the team also spent a day in Washington, D.C.

“I'm thankful to Wofford baseball for driving in the opposite direction, and going out of their way to come to New York to learn more about and honor those we lost that day,” says Graziano Jr.

Before leaving, the Wofford baseball team gave signed game balls to the Grazianos. The Grazianos then presented the team with black T-shirts with the FDNY logo, the words “NEVER FORGET” and the names of the fallen from Engine 22, Ladder 13 on the back. The team wore them proudly in warm-ups against Navy.

“IT'S A WAY TO HONOR THEIR MEMORIES,” says Graziano Sr.
SMALL WORLD
NEW YORK

WOFFORD GRADUATES SHARE
THE ART OF LIVING
AND WORKING IN THE BIG APPLE

BY JO ANN MITCHELL BRASINGTON ’89
NBC’s Craig Melvin ’01 credits makeup and lighting with making him look good on TV, but from watching him since he made the jump to NBC (as co-anchor of “Weekend TODAY,” national correspondent for “TODAY” and MSNBC anchor), it’s about much more than the lack of shine on his nose.

Melvin is smart. He’s engaging, and he loves meeting people and telling their stories. Wofford proudly claims him, and he’s quick to claim Wofford and his South Carolina roots as well — using Main Building as the backdrop for MSNBC’s live broadcast of the state’s Republican primary, interviewing Wofford faculty and students about the election and even wearing a Wofford hat while on the air. He was the Commencement speaker for the Class of 2015 and helped Omar Elmore ’19 secure an internship this summer with MSNBC in New York. Melvin also serves on the college’s board of trustees.

“I was a scholarship kid. I had a lot of help going to college,” says Melvin, whose mother was a schoolteacher and father a postal clerk. “There wasn’t a lot of money lying around for college.”

When President Nayef Samhat approached him about serving on the board, Melvin knew that he didn’t have a surplus of time, but he still had a strong interest in the college and desire to give back.

“College is the great equalizer. I’m proof of that,” says Melvin. “Plus, it’s a great opportunity for me to spend time with Dean Roberta Bigger ’81. When you’re a student you don’t fully appreciate the role of the dean of students. Now I tell her, ‘God bless you!’ For 30 years she’s been a human piñata for students. Still, she shows up for work every day and surrounds herself with bright people, knowing she’s going to be vilified. I know, I was part of the machine that burned her in effigy for four years.”

Melvin considers his choice to attend Wofford one of the smartest decisions he’s ever made, right alongside marrying his wife, ESPN anchor Lindsay Czarniak, and their decision to have children, Delano “Del,” now 3, and Sybil Ann “Sibby,” born last fall. Melvin has shared some of the reasons he chose Wofford on a series for NBC.com geared toward helping parents and students through the college admission process.

“I spent some time talking about 429 North Church Street and why it was so special to me,” says Melvin. “I knew I wasn’t the kind of guy who could go to college with 15,000 people. I needed something smaller. Wofford’s reputation even back then was stellar. It was far enough away from home, and to me it just felt right.”

Melvin grew up in Columbia, S.C., and got his start with WIS-TV when he was in high school. Since then he’s covered the Olympics, presidential elections and inaugurations, Super Bowls, natural disasters and even Christmas miracles.

“I get to meet some cool people. Sometimes that’s glamorous, sometimes that’s not. When a news crew shows up it’s either a good day or a really bad day,” says Melvin. His favorite people to interview aren’t famous or political figures. “I love talking to ordinary people who have done something exceptional.”

One of those recent stories hit particularly close to home. The Rev. Lawrence Meadows ’99, Craig’s older brother and a minister at New Bethel Baptist Church in Woodruff, S.C., was diagnosed with early onset Stage IV colon cancer. He was only 39.

“It was his idea,” says Melvin. “He wanted to use the worst thing that’s happened to him to shine a light on the disease and provide hope for others.”

Now anyone with an internet connection can learn more about the disease and recommended screening by watching Melvin and Meadows. Melvin, a self-professed man of faith, also set an example for viewers by scheduling a colonoscopy for himself and posting social media updates on the procedure and results.

“No, Craig, it’s not the lights or the makeup that make you look good on TV. Just as you’re drawn to inspirational stories and stories of uncommon good, we’re drawn to you for the same reason.

CRAIG MELVIN ’01
THE ART OF SHARING TODAY’S STORIES
KATHERINE AUL ’07
LIVING THE ART AND SCIENCE OF LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Katherine Aul comes from a long line of master gardeners. So when Dr. Peter Schmunk, professor of art history, pulled up a slide on Versailles, she leaned just a little closer and slid forward in her seat.

“Landscape architecture hit something in my DNA,” says Aul, who now designs urban gardens in New York City — from rooftops in Manhattan to backyards in Brooklyn. “Dr. Schmunk and Dr. (Karen) Goodchild (professor of art history) were incredible. They became mentors. Dr. Schmunk would bring me clippings from incredible gardens in New York, and he encouraged me to take French so I could understand garden terms.”

After graduation Aul taught English in Japan while applying to master’s degree programs in landscape design. She was accepted into Columbia University and moved to New York equipped with her family influences, Wofford art history training and an admiration for Japanese natural spaces and architecture.

Four years ago, Aul founded Staghorn NYC. “I live and breathe it,” she says, referring to the nonstop demands of owning her business based in the Red Hook area of Brooklyn. “People say when you love what you do, it’s not work. That’s B.S. I absolutely love it, but it’s work — extremely hard work — but it’s exactly what I want to be doing, and I’m excited about the direction it’s all going.”

The work fulfills both Aul’s creative side and her affinity for organization. She loves the parts of the job that involve science and engineering just as much as the parts that involve art. Her favorite clients are families who want to use and enjoy the spaces she designs.

“We have several goals for each project: Is it sustainable? Is it beautiful? Is it functional? We really like working with people who want to bring out in their yard. They want to store toys in the furniture and invite friends over for barbecues,” she says. “I love to think about people making family memories in the spaces we’ve created for them.”

Aul and Staghorn NYC have been featured in several magazines — Elle Décor and Dwell, for example. She and her team of seven are booked solid, and the projects continue to get bigger and more involved. That’s just what Aul had in mind when she followed her dreams to New York.

“I’m really ambitious, and the people who come here are ambitious as well,” she says. “They move here because they want to be the best in their field and around the best in the field. There’s a world of opportunity and creative energy in New York, but you always have to be willing to raise your game. I love that challenge and being around that kind of energy. It keeps me growing.”

New York is home now for Paul Vecchione, but first he had to jump from a life of suits and security to one where nothing is guaranteed.

“Right out of college I was a program analyst for the federal government in Washington, D.C., I thought that’s what I wanted to do,” says Vecchione, who majored in business economics and Spanish at Wofford. “The whole time, though, I was filming stuff on the side — almost every weekend, even using sick days to film.”

His brother, Zach, started Starr Media, a full-service production company in New York, and when the business was big enough to support both of them, Vecchione made the jump as well.

“The first year was rough,” says Vecchione. “I basically lived on Armitrak trains going from shoot to shoot.” Now the company supports seven full-time employees and has relationships with the best contract talent in the industry. “It’s been a grind, but we’ve always learning. Always building clients. Always working.”

After 12 years in the business, the brothers have an office in New York with an enviable view overlooking Times Square as well as offices in Seattle and Copenhagen.

“We work 24 hours a day so clients and projects get passed across time zones. Tommy’s in the headquarters in Amsterdam. When I get up, my brother is finishing his day. At 6 p.m. I pass things off to Jason in Seattle, so someone is taking care of business for our clients around the clock.”

says Vecchione. “The clients like the attention. It’s a saturated market, and anyone feels like they can get a camera and shoot video. We knew we needed to get a leg up on the competition. We knew if we weren’t editing through the night, someone else would. I consider us a customer service company that happens to make films.”

It’s working. Starr Media does commercials, documentaries and videos for clients such as Tommy Hilfiger, Nike, Disney, Universal Sports, Red Bull, Gatorade, Adidas and World Marathon Majors, among others.

Vecchione, who has lived in California, Texas, Nevada, Oregon, D.C. and South Carolina, says New York is where he’s always wanted to be.

“I feed off the energy. There’s constantly something to do. It really is the epicenter of the world. All of our clients have offices here even if they’re not based here,” says Vecchione. Wofford Theatre audiences may remember Vecchione as the lawn chair man from “Flight of the Lawn Chair Man” or Rocky from “The Rocky Horror Picture Show.” He also performed with Wofford’s Chamber Music Players and played soccer and ran cross country for the Terriers.

“I’m ADD, so I need that,” says Vecchione. “The challenge helps me stay engaged.”

It worked at Wofford, and it’s certainly working with Starr Media in New York.
AMBRE KELLY ’00

ALL FOR FUN AND ALL FOR ART

AMBRE KELLY went to law school for a day.

“The professor called on me and asked what the meaning of law was. I gave this long explanation about art, and when I sat down I thought, ‘What am I doing here? I should be doing art.’”

She packed her bags and spent two years in Italy earning an MFA through American University. Her path then led her to New York, where she worked for Vera Wang, then Condé Nast, before landing a job designing art fairs. It’s about the art, but it’s also about developing relationships, managing logistics and thinking far outside the box.

Six years ago she founded and still organizes New York’s annual SPRING/BREAK Art Show, an internationally recognized exhibition platform using underused, historic and atypical New York City spaces to activate and challenge the traditional cultural landscape of the art market. The first exhibit was held at St. Patrick’s Old School, the following at the James A. Farley Post Office. During March 2017, more than 160 curators premiered new artworks created by more than 400 artists. The show was held at 4 Times Square in the former Condé Nast offices.

“I studied painting and am still a painter. Oil. Mostly related to the art market and professionals in the art world,” says Kelly, “but I’m also a collaborator. You meet someone in a café, and all the sudden you’re planning something together. There’s such a great collaborative arts community in New York, and I love being a part of that.”

Along with her husband, Andrew Gori, Kelly founded The They Co. Together they since have organized, curated, facilitated and produced events with the New Museum, Brooklyn College, Art Hamptons, The Underground Library, the San Gennaro Festival and many other organizations.

Art isn’t just a job for Kelly; it’s who she is, and she’s not afraid to put herself out there if it means raising awareness for art, artists, arts programming and uncommon gallery spaces. For example, although already married, she and Gori turned their wedding into an artistic and political statement during the 2015 SPRING/BREAK Art Show.

“Our first wedding was in Italy in 2014. That was our real, spiritual wedding,” says Kelly. She enjoyed their “big fun Italian wedding” surrounded by family and friends but chose not to complete the paperwork because of her personal beliefs regarding marriage and the state. “For the next SPRING/BREAK Art Show, the theme was TRANSACTION. Andrew and I thought we should do a piece for the show, so we said, “What if we get married, but legally this time so the transaction happens?” We held the wedding during the press preview and called out in the crowd: ‘Who wants to be a witness?’ Because we already had the spiritual wedding, we kept this one robotic and unemotional.”

Kelly, who admittedly loves getting married, says that she and Gori are thinking about doing the performance wedding in every state. Although they’re legally married in New York now, they think it could be interesting to find art spaces throughout the country and marry repeatedly — all for fun and all for art.

COURTNEY WALLS ’12

A HEART FOR THE arts WITH A HEAD FOR BUSINESS

COURTNEY WALLS loves living and working in New York.

“You can casually see a Vermeer at 10 a.m. on a Tuesday morning. No big deal,” she says from her Aspen Institute office overlooking St. Patrick’s Cathedral. Walls, who holds a master’s degree in art business from Sotheby’s Institute of Art, NYC, works as the program coordinator for the Aspen Arts Program, a public program within the institute’s broad and diverse system.

“I do a little bit of everything, which is fun,” she says. “I do a lot of event planning, especially fundraising events, and I’m involved in the Ideas Festival.”

Walls also writes grants and does the necessary reporting that goes along with that. She’s the budget person for all arts programming, and her claim to fame, in the New York office at least, is that she’s read the employee handbook from cover to cover.

Walls says her experience in the Wofford Presidential Seminar, an Aspen-like seminar, helped her land the job, especially when combined with her campus leadership positions, internships experience and postgraduate study. It also didn’t hurt that she had a recommendation from a past employer, Nikki Haley, former South Carolina governor and current U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

Now Walls is connecting arts innovators and arts funders in an effort to bring arts programming to rural and underserved areas and to address society’s arts-related concerns. Walls, who loves crunching numbers and fiscal planning as much as she loves the arts, majored in art history and business economics at Wofford. She’s particularly excited about the opening of the Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts.

“The arts have become such a presence on campus,” she says. “This building further distinguishes Wofford as an exceptional place.”
JEFF ASHWORTH ’04

THE ART OF TURNING WEIRD JOB EXPERIENCES INTO A CAREER IN WRITING

To produce a 100-page magazine on the Broadway musical Hamilton, it helps to have backstage passes.

“What’s the closest to the stage I’ve ever been, and that includes plays I’ve acted in,” says Jeff Ashworth ’04, editor-in-chief of Topix Media Lab. Ashworth was an actor at Wofford during the transition from Dr. J.R. Gross to Dr. Mark Ferguson ’94, and he remains a fan of the type of theatre he studied there: work that’s as challenging as it is entertaining.

“What J.R. brought to Wofford, and really Upstate South Carolina — what he dared to do — took courage,” says Ashworth. “He created a space for the communication and exploration of radical ideas in a region of the country where radical ideas are often not well received. And Mark has done an incredible job carrying that mantle forward.”

After graduation, Ashworth worked at the Warehouse Theater in Greenville, S.C., where he met a group of actors who decided to move to New York together. They shared a small apartment and worked odd jobs between gigs — “Pretty cliché, actor stuff,” says Ashworth. “I was working freelance revising emails for Harvard Business review, I was working freelance revising emails for Harvard Business review, I was working freelance revising emails for Harvard Business review, I was working freelance revising emails for Harvard Business review.”

Ashworth began pursuing stand-up comedy, which in turn helped him discover a skill he’d never considered using to pay his bills: writing. “I was working freelance revising emails for Harvard Business review, I was working freelance revising emails for Harvard Business review, I was working freelance revising emails for Harvard Business review.”

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“Twitter had just become a thing, and most businesses didn’t understand it,” says Ashworth, who went to a pitch meeting to propose using the social media platform to enhance storylines. “WWE is a live soap opera. So my job became connecting characters on television to their social media accounts in real time.” Things escalated quickly. “I learned from composing a few random tweets to traveling the globe producing TMZ-style ambush videos for WWE.com and orchestrating stunts at Comic-Con. It was a weird job.”

A few years later Ashworth was recruited by his former boss at “WWE Magazine,” the founder of Topix Media Lab, to become the company’s editor-in-chief, where he oversees the production of upwards of 100 magazines and books per year for Disney, Marvel, Hasbro and several other brands — “Newsweek and WWE included. ‘I’ve edited stories about John Wayne, marijuana and My Little Pony — often in the same day. It’s another weird job.’”

Ashworth credits his experiences at Wofford with preparing him for the multidisciplinary nature of his current career. “The greatest takeaway from my liberal arts education was learning the value of pursuing knowledge for its own sake,” he says. “It just took me a while to learn how to turn that into a marketable skill.”

When they aren’t enjoying New York’s “unrivaled arts and cultural scene,” Ashworth and his wife, Lindsey, enjoy taking their dog, Zelda, to Prospect Park (“So she can experience the culture, the city, the ambiance”) or spending time with their dog, Zelda, to Prospect Park (“So she can experience the culture, the city, the ambiance”).

“We have a great support system here,” says Ashworth. “It’s the closest to the stage I’ve ever been, and that includes plays I’ve acted in.”
Amber Heintzberger made her first trip to New York with Dr. Vic Blanchone and the Wofford women’s ensemble. They sang at Carnegie Hall.

Her husband, Juergen Grosserhode, proposed to her on the top of the Empire State Building, and they lived in the city until a few years ago.

Now she commutes to the city to visit friends, eat and wander the eclectic neighborhoods and, of course, to work the Central Park Horse Show.

“I like the energy and all the people,” says Heintzberger, who is an equestrian journalist and photographer as well as a media and public relations consultant for world-class eventing and dressage clients. She’s also the co-author of two books: “Beyond the Track” (with Anna Ford) and “Modern Eventing” (with Phillip Dutton). Her byline and photo credits appear in Chronicle of the Horse, (with Anna Ford) and “Modern Eventing” (with Phillip Dutton). She’s written for Dressage Today, Practical Horseman, Warmbloods Today and other national and international equine magazines. She’s written about the controversy surrounding legislating carriage horses, the best way to avoid being kicked by your horse and major competitions, including the Pan American and World Equestrian Games.

Heintzberger completely understands the inspiration that New York offers for writers, artists, musicians and other creative people. She still enjoys coming and soaking it in, but she also appreciates the space and ease of living in the historic suburb of South Orange, N.J., just a short train ride from Manhattan.

“I read this book not too long ago called ‘Goodbye to All That: The Philosophy major with a sociology minor found her way back right after graduation, and now she’s writing about millennials like herself and enjoying every second of her new life.

“I love just walking around. There’s so much to see … two years and I haven’t even half of Manhattan,” says Weber. She appreciates both the respite of reading a good book in the sunshine near the water as the boats go by and going out with friends, soaking in the lights and crowds. Probably most of all she loves New Yorkers.

“In New York no one pretends to be someone they’re not,” explains Weber. “I love that. There are lots of misconceptions about New York. New Yorkers have a commuter face that says leave me alone, don’t talk to me, but if someone asks a question, of course they’re helpful. New Yorkers are real. They’re not on the surface.”

Weber blends life and work as an associate editor for Business Insider magazine and as senior editor for an online magazine called Badass Living. It covers a little bit of everything, but is primarily geared toward women in business.

“I love writing about millennials and career. One of my first pieces — it’s still one of my favorites — is how to do sales over the phone when you don’t love talking on the phone. I come up with a lot of the content myself. If something’s frustrating to me, I want to figure it out, and I do that by researching a topic and writing about it.”

Weber considers herself a badass about 90 percent of the time. “A badass is someone who’s unapologetically themselves,” she says. “This is who I am. Sometimes I’m having a bad day, sometimes it’s a good day, but regardless, that’s me, and I just go with it.”

The summer before her senior year Hattie Weber did an internship with an event planner in New York City. At the end of the summer, Weber was ready to return to the Wofford community, but she didn’t want to leave New York.

The philosophy major with a sociology minor found her way back right after graduation, and now she’s writing about millennials like herself and enjoying every second of her new life.

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When Maddi Eberhardt studied abroad through the Moscow Art Theatre semester in Russia, she knew New York was the next step if she was going to pursue a career in acting.

“I knew that if I didn’t go for it, I’d regret it, and I’m not the kind of person who lives in the ‘what if’s,’” says Eberhardt. She found a job as a live-in nanny, signed up for acting classes, hired a vocal coach and found a weekend job teaching musical theatre to children through the Creatively Wild Art Studio in Brooklyn. She’s figuring out how to live cheaply in the city, taking in everything she can about the business, auditioning and building a resume.

“It’s a little intimidating, the city itself and the process of auditioning, but I trust my training,” says Eberhardt. “Wofford Theatre prepared me to face it all. No matter who I’m auditioning with, I feel prepared.”

According to Eberhardt, Wofford gave her the confidence to move to New York as a 22-year-old. “Wofford Theatre demanded so much of me, but I got so much because I gave so much,” she says. “Theatre represents real life, and real life isn’t simple. It’s complicated. Wofford Theatre taught me that. It taught me to be open and say yes. That’s the beauty of the craft. If you’re open to learning, you’re allowed so many more opportunities.”

A year into her experience, Eberhardt continues to work on her craft, audition and support herself. “Acting is all. I can’t picture myself doing anything else.”
1949  Dr. Marion Peter Holt was interviewed extensively for an article in the Spartanburg Herald-Journal on the renovation of Spartanburg's historic Montgomery Building and the revival of the Carolina Theatre, which has sat abandoned for more than 40 years. Holt, a Spartanburg native who now lives in New York, remembers watching his first vaudeville performance at the theater and ushering there during high school and college. Holt is professor emeritus of theater at CUNY.

1955  After retiring as associate professor of mathematics and vice president for administration from Columbia College, Dr. Joe Mitchell has formed a diverse group that meets each weekday at Trenholm Plaza Starbucks in Columbia, S.C., for support, friendship and laughter while discussing current issues. To see the group in action, visit “The Mayor of Starbucks” on YouTube.

1960  The South Carolina Football Hall of Fame inducted Fisher DeBerry during an enshrinement ceremony on April 20. DeBerry played college football for the Force Academy football team for 23 years. As of March 2017, Hunter Marshall, chair of the board, president and CEO of Milliken & Co., wants to “make the company a more visible partner in the Spartanburg community,” according to a Feb. 23 article in the Spartanburg Herald-Journal. Chandler took the reins at Milliken in October 2016 and has been actively re-engaging the community with the Milliken story since. He was the 2017 commencement speaker at Wofford and received an honorary doctor of humanities degree.

1964  Retired South Carolina Supreme Court Chief Justice Costa N. Pleicones spoke at The Space in the Mungo Center.

1965  Ronald G. Bruce, class chair

1968  Neal W. Dickert was honored in February by the State Bar of Georgia during the annual Jackson Robert Benham Awards for Community Service in Atlanta. The Augusta attorney received the Lifetime Achievement Award for work beyond the courtroom as a champion of at-risk youth.

1970  Buzz Rich, class chair

1971  Kenneth Smith, class chair

1974  Jerry Calvert, class chair

After serving as a circuit judge and subsequently general counsel at Santee Cooper, Jim Brogdon has returned to the practice of law. He is a certified circuit court mediator and focuses on arbitration and mediation.

Woody Willard of Spartanburg began his term as the new chairman of the South Carolina Department of Transportation in January 2017. He has been representing the 4th Congressional District on the SCDOT Commission since 2014.

1977  The Columbia Star featured Emily deQuincey-Newman, a descendant of American patriots and civil rights leaders, and her interest in history and genealogy in its Feb. 10 edition. She is the managing partner of Harbin Hill-Asisted Living.

“The Rev. Dr. Albert R. Hayes is the vicar for Christ Church Florence. He lives in Dillon, S.C.

1978  Armande Lorena, class chair

Barnwell Fishburne has been elected vice chair of the Colleton Medical Center Board of Trustees. An active member of the board since 2014, he is pres- ident of Fishburne and Co. Development Corp. Fishburne lives in Walterboro, S.C.

1979  Wade Ballard, class chair

Florence, S.C., dentist Dr. James A. Richardson recently was appointed to the Medical University of South Carolina Board of Visitors. Richardson has been practicing dentistry for 32 years and currently works at Lunn Cosmetic and Family Dentistry. He and his wife, Wendy Caldwell, have two children.

1980  Robert McVay, class chair

1982  Madison Dye, class chair

Caldwell Banker Caine recently welcomed Anne Robinson Polkoff as its residential sales agent in the firm’s Spartanburg office.

by Jo Ann Mitchell Brasington ’89

Scott Neely ’00 and Gervais Hollowell ’85 are back in class at Wofford, but this time teaching people who prove each day that learning never stops.

Neely, the chief strategist and facilitator, and Marlanda DeKine, the executive director, of Speaking Down Barriers brought quiet, thoughtful, laughter and shared insight to Lifelong Learning at Wofford participants during a two-part series this spring. The event, “Transforming Our Stories with Speaking Down Barriers,” included discussion and storytelling focused on rethinking and retelling stories of race and racism to reshape the world.

“Our stories seem so small, but what we find is that they carry great weight in our lives,” says Neely. “When we deal with race, we are dealing with something that is full of pain and full of disagreement. There’s very little shared perspective and much more conflict.”

Jack Lawrence ’65, who has attended several Lifelong Learning classes and seminars, attended the session because he believes it’s important to make his days count. Considering the power in his story and the stories of others fills that need. “It’s incumbent upon us to speak up,” he says.

A few weeks later, Lifelong Learning at Wofford visited Hollowell at Little River Roasting Co., in Spartanburg for “From Farm to Cup: Exploring and Tasting the World of Coffee.” Hollowell, owner of Little River Roasting, discussed ideal soil composition, climate and sun exposure for coffee growing as well as harvesting, processing and screening on the production end. “Everything fascinates me about coffee,” he says. “It’s amazing how many times coffee beans are touched by human hands.” While Hollowell talked, lifelong learners sipped different coffees.

Hollowell, owner of Little River Roasting, discussed ideal soil composition, climate and sun exposure for coffee growing as well as harvesting, processing and screening on the production end. “Everything fascinates me about coffee,” he says. “It’s amazing how many times coffee beans are touched by human hands.” While Hollowell talked, lifelong learners sipped different coffees.

Carol McCulloch was one of the participants in Hollowell’s coffee seminar.

“Lifelong Learning at Wofford is the most interesting thing in Spartanburg as far as I’m concerned,” she says. “It’s an undiscovered secret; I can’t rave about it enough.”

McCulloch is now a program regular. During the spring session she took Dr. Philip Stone’s “Southern Politics” class on Tuesdays from 1 to 4:50 p.m. in the Studentmiller Library. Stone, the college archivist and a 1994 Wofford graduate, kept McCulloch engaged with tales of the South’s interesting political characters. She also enjoys the field trips, extra speakers and movie-viewing events that are all a part of the program.

“I love learning new stuff and meeting new people,” she says. “Learning makes you a more perceptive and receptive person. I hate to think that as we get older we can’t be open to new ideas and new people.”

Lifelong Learning at Wofford started in 2015 under the leadership of Charlie Gray ’72. Morgan Jordan took over after Gray retired and has watched the program jump from 90 participants to 342 in less than a year.

“The world is such a big place, and a lot of people crave the opportunity to see and experience it,” says Jordan. “Lifelong Learning at Wofford is a way to bring the world to our community.”

The spring 2017 program allowed participants to study Appalachian culture, learn to play bridge, take a watercolor class, debate foreign policy or write a short story, and that’s just the beginning. In addition to the diverse listing of eight-week courses, Lifelong Learning at Wofford also offers a slate of cultural explorations, roundtable discussions and other special events for members.

Membership is growing, new instructors (including a number of Wofford faculty and staff) have joined the program and community partnerships continue to expand.

“We have participants from every profession, and ages range from 35 to 88, although most participants are 50 years and older,” Jordan says. “Lifelong Learning at Wofford is a great service for Spartanburg residents, and it showcases Wofford in a new and wonderful way.”

To learn more, visit wofford.edu/lifelonglearning. The fall ses- sion begins in September.
Dylan Young
Memphis, Tenn.
Major: economics
Wofford’s Student Government Management training program as a sales associate at Papa John’s in Columbia, S.C. He says he will miss playing football for the Terriers because of the relationships he built with his teammates, but he’s excited about the upcoming season and the chance to compete for the championship. Wofford has new buildings and the school has a chance to show off their improvements in the area of diversity and inclusion.

Jay Peat
Clinton, Ill.
Majors: accounting, finance
Minor: economics
Peat, who has declared a major in economics, interned as a business analyst for a business intelligence firm that offers data assessments and consulting, business analytics and cognitive solutions, web and mobile application development and asset management and asset analytics in Whitehall, Ohio. He and his fiancee, Corinna, are getting married this fall.

Sarah Copeland Sawicki
North Charleston, S.C.
Class Chair
1983
Sarah Copeland Sawicki, class chair

Carroll Kelly Smith
Majors: accounting, finance
Ralph Montague Laffitte III ‘00 is the regional president for South State Bank. He is a Wofford trustee and is a current term chairman, and William Wood and Jeb, have relocated from Ashburn, Va., to Columbus, Ga.

Curt Nichols
Danville, Va.
Class Chair
1999
Curt Nichols, class chair

Brandon Benedict
Savannah, Ga.
Senior, B.A.
Brandon Benedict, B.A. ‘17, is the director of the Wofford College Caravan. The program provides students with an opportunity to tour college campuses across the country and meet with Wofford alumni and students along the way.

Ashley Duckworth
Greenville, Tenn.
Major: government
Wofford Terrier golf fans paired their gold, black and tartan colors with a red carpet, tossed their umbrellas and welcomed everyone for the 49th annual BRC Heritage event.

Wofford Terrier golf fans paired their gold, black and tartan colors with a red carpet, tossed their umbrellas and welcomed everyone for the 49th annual BRC Heritage event.

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2010

Kari Harris, class chair

Garput.com featured Janey Alvesron for his development of a website called "Campus Space" or place for people to collaborate, innovate and communicate with each other.

2011

Nam Pham, class chair

While working as a reimbursement analyst with the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, Paul Gores Jr. is pursuing a master's degree in health administration, also at MUSC.

Margaret Elizabeth "Maggie" Heil and William Frank Bressen were married March 4. She is the manager of TCU Bears in Eagle, S.C. Her husband works at The Gordian Group in Greenville.

Anna Barber Marsh has joined the insurance defense firm of McAngus Goudelock and Courie in Charleston, S.C. Her practice focuses on general liability defense. She's married to Richard "08.

2012

Halle Webb, class chair

John Thomas Gannon and Kimberlee Allen Lockwood were married on March 18, 2017. They live in Summerville, S.C. The bride is employed with the Lexington Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council in Columbia. The groom works with First Community Bank in Lexington.

Stephanie Jean Leno and Gerry Jacob George were married at Saint Philip's Church in Charleston, S.C.

2013

Victoria Annick, class chair

Cory Heimburger was promoted to the rank of captain on May 1. He is a U.S. Army pararescueman assigned to the 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment stationed in Anchorage, Alaska. He serves as a unit response force for the Pacific theater.

Dr. Branttiee Tinsley received her doctor of dental medicine degree in 2017 from the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. She now lives in Greenwood, S.C.

Rebecca Willis Vickerly and her husband, Zane, welcomed baby girl Nelle on Feb. 3, 2017. Rebecca just completed her doctor of pharmacy degree on May 5. The family lives in Greenwood, S.C.

Hampton Lake Williams and Julia Lake Gauthen were married on March 17, 2017. Hamilton is a real estate consultant with Franklin Real People, International of Greenville. The couple is attending the University of South Carolina School of Medicine in Greenville.

2014

Shelby Stulbamar, class chair

Brecken Harper Cornely is a behavior analyst with the Project Hope Foundation. She and her husband, John Corney '11, a sales representative with Physicians Pharmacy Alliance, live in Charleston, S.C. The two will celebrate their first wedding anniversary in November.

2015

Maggie Stroud, class chair

TERRIER BUDDIES CONVERGE ON MIRACLE PARK: BERSIN AND OTHERS MAKE APPEARANCES AT CAROLINA MIRACLE LEAGUE 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The Carolina Miracle League held a celebrity game on April 20 to celebrate a decade of providing baseball to kids with special needs. Wolford was well represented with current student-athletes, coaches and a notable former student-athlete, Brenton Bersin '12.

Bersin, who signed a new contract with the Carolina Panthers in the offseason, made the drive from Charlotte to take part as one of more than 30 celebrity buddies. He helped the kids run the bases and field balls on defense during the two games played as part of the event at Miracle Park in Boiling Springs.

"I somehow never made it out here when I was at Wofford," says Bersin. "It means a lot to come back to Spartanburg and participate in this event. One of my friends in Charlotte works for an organization called Rainbow Express that helps children with disabilities, so I have helped out with them in the past. I grew up playing baseball, and it is one of my favorite sports, so it is great to give these children that same opportunity."

Other members of the Wolford family taking part in the event were Wolford’s football coach Mike Young, running backs coach Dane Romero ’99, members of the 2016 football team, David Marvin ’17 and Nick Colvin ’17, Ross the Terrier and the voice of the Terriers, Mark Hausar.

"It is awesome just to be able to give back to the community that has given me so much in my four short years here at Wofford," says Nick Colvin ’17. "It is rewarding to see the smile on a kid’s face rounding third base and coming towards home plate."
IN MEMORIAM

1941 John William Gore Jr. Jan. 10, 2017, Taylors, S.C. Gore served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He was a captain, a Wofford alumnus and a member of the class of 1965. Gore was also a member of the Marine Officers Association. He was active in his church and community.

1950 George Kilgo Livingston Jr. April 26, 2017, Charleston, S.C. Kilgo spent his career in the South Carolina United Methodist Conference for 38 years, serving as a ordained minister and first assistant pastor. He was active in his church and community.

1958 The Rev. Carl Nicholas Harris. March 29, 2017, Upstate, S.C. Harris served in the South Carolina United Methodist Conference for 50 years, serving in numerous congregations and holding national and international positions in the church. He was a member of the United Methodist Church of the Advent, and the United Methodist Church of the Advent.

1965 Daniel Edward King. March 6, 2017, Awendaw, S.C. King died as the result of an automobile accident. He was a member of the United Methodist Church of Forest City.


1967 The Rev. Dennis Karl Reid. April 9, 2017, Summerville, S.C. A retired United Church of God minister and pastoral counselor. He was active in churches in South Carolina during his past 50-year ministry.


1973 Dr. William L. Patterson. March 13, 1917, Jacksonville, Fla. Patterson continued the dental tradition started by his father, maintaining loyalty to the clients and staff for more than 40 years. He retired in 1985.

1987 Dr. Stephen Hinton Bell. April 17, 2017, Kenesaw, Ga. Bell was a mathematics professor at Kenesaw State University until 2016.

1987 Duane Austin “Doc” Stover. March 25, 2017, Spartanburg, S.C. Stover retired from the Wofford Department of Athletics after a long and successful career as the college’s athletics trainer. He started the training program at USC-Uptown in 1999, then worked at the University of South Carolina and the University of South Carolina at Charleston. The Stovers were faithful members of St. James United Methodist Church and enjoyed community and local sports athletics and events with old friends.

Gary Mitchell “Mike” McGinnis, In 1964, McGinnis was a member of the Marine Corps, and received his football scholarship to play for the Terriers. He was a successful coach and athlete for the Terriers.

Friends

For more information and to apply, visit www.wofford.edu/AAApplicant.
MAKING ROOM IN THE INN
Daniels works to show hospitality and build hope for Charlotte’s homeless population

About 200 people line up outside the old train depot in Charlotte, N.C. There’s music, laughter and conversation. Some sit quietly, the thoughts of not having a home weighing heavily. Others celebrate the warm, safe place to sleep and the home-cooked meals that are a bus ride away.

Children do their homework on the sidewalk. A woman rolls her bag down the hill from her car. Two men debate their NCAA tournament brackets.

At the center of it all — answering questions, reassuring, organizing, smiling and, above all, welcoming — is Matt Daniels ’98, innkeeper at Room In The Inn (RITI), a program of Urban Ministry Center (UMC).

“We match people who are homeless with different organizations that shelter them for the night,” says Daniels, referring to the Christian churches, Jewish synagogues, Muslim mosques, nonprofit organizations, YMCA and even schools that come to the UMC late each afternoon from December through March to welcome and provide comfort to their “neighbors.”

In total, these organizations provide about 18,000 beds on a rotating basis. “So many people have taken on this different way of sheltering people during the winter.”

RITI offers short-term housing for people who are transitionally or chronically homeless. They’ve lost a job or have a job but can’t afford housing. They’ve been evicted. They don’t have other family and friends as a backup. They’re mentally ill. During the season, Daniels will work to house about 1,500 individuals.

“Chronic homelessness is on the decline, but transitional homelessness is on the rise because of the market,” says Daniels. “As a city we found that the cost is about $40,000 per year to support someone who’s homeless and living on the streets.” Part of the reason for the price tag is the high cost of emergency room services for minor ailments and expenses associated with jail time for victimless crimes, such as littering.

“At Room In The Inn, the cost is closer to $14,000 per year. We’re less expensive, and the people who we house are healthier because we connect them to other social services.”

The UMC started as a soup kitchen in downtown Charlotte. With the banking boom, the business community bought land nearby and built a facility. Now the center includes counseling services, a nurse, showers and a laundry. The center serves as a post office each day to more than 1,000 people who lack stable housing.

“You can’t deliver a disability check to the third bridge on the right,” says Daniels. We make sure checks get into the right hands.

Daniels, a computer science major who served as president of both Campus Union and Kappa Sigma fraternity while at Wofford, went to work after graduation for Milliken & Co. He then worked in benefits administration for several companies. When he and his family moved to Charlotte, they joined Myers Park United Methodist Church and began volunteering for UMC. That’s where he found his passion.

“This job speaks to my compassionate, quirky, nerdy side. It’s been an interesting and cool fit.” Daniels brings a strategic thinking and technical expertise to the position that’s uncommon. He’s added an ID card system that also is used to identify people who need special accommodations for their evening stays. He rerouted the entrance and exits and has streamlined the registration and departure system. He’s now working on a short documentary about the program to show at potential housing sites so they better understand how RITI works.

“Matt has been like a breath of fresh air for this program,” says Patsy Sheppard, who, along with her husband, Ron, volunteers during registration and check-in. “He’s easy to talk to. He listens. He’s so tech savvy. He’s a calming force. It can be chaotic here, but he doesn’t get rattled. It’s not just a job for him. It’s a ministry — a passion — and you can tell it. He’s living out his faith.”

Read the full story online at wofford.edu/woffordtoday »
The Arts at Wofford

“The Mountains Are Calling: High Seasons in the Carolinas from the Johnson Collection” (on the cover), “Passion for Painting: The Art of Sir Winston Churchill” and “Printemps des Arts: Subtleties of Resistance and Renewal” are the first exhibits in the new Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts. Come see them this summer at Wofford College!