Student-athletes say THANK YOU for the Jerry Richardson Indoor Stadium
Tis the season of giving... but then that’s not unusual here at Wofford.

Prema and I constantly are humbled by the generosity of the Wofford community. We have met Wofford friends who have saved much of their lives so that they could establish an endowed scholarship for a deserving student… alumni who consider it their responsibility to make an annual gift to the Wofford Fund… faculty who contribute to internship funds so that their students have access to opportunities to learn year round. All gifts, regardless of size, make a huge impact on the success of Wofford College. Some of the stories of these gifts are highlighted in this issue. For example, look for stories on Betty and Billy Wood ’50, Gary Blount ’10 and Matt ‘10 and Kandi Bare Abee ’08.

In celebration of another game-changing gift, the Wofford community broke ground Oct. 20 on the Jerry Richardson Indoor Stadium. This follows the spring 2015 groundbreaking for the Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts.

Wofford also made another strategic move toward accomplishing its vision of preparing superior students for meaningful lives as citizens, leaders and scholars by announcing the allocation of $300,000 each year toward scholarships for first-generation college students from South Carolina and the Spartanburg community. The Office of Admission already is hard at work recruiting this first class of first-generation scholars.

These gifts, and the ones to follow during this last month of 2015, will continue to improve the lives of our students, their families and the communities in which they eventually will live. Your gifts also will continue to build Wofford’s reputation as a premier, innovative and distinctive national liberal arts college. Please join us as we continue to build this extraordinary Wofford College community based on excellence, engagement and transformation.

Go, Terriers!

Nayef
Whetsell Fellow Margherita Cole '16, an art history major and studio arts minor from Redlands, Calif., took her artwork in a comical direction this summer. Her collection of hand-drawn comic strips portrays scenes from art history. They will be on display in the Martha Cloud Chapman Gallery of the Campus Life Building through January.

Read more about Cole and her creative process at wofford.edu/woffordtoday »
A. WOFFORD BASEBALL SHARES THE DUGOUT
Wofford student-athletes spent some quality time as Miracle League buddies this fall. Alexs, Reed Massey ’19, an infelder from Marietta, Ga., enjoyed his first experience as a Miracle League volunteer. Wofford student-athletes say that spending time with the special athletes from the Carolinas Miracle League is a highlight of the semester.

B. COLLEGE LEADS REFUGEE RESSETLEMENT UNDERSTANDING
You fall Wofford professors Dr. Laura Barba (Modern Languages, history and culture), Dr. Philip Darrell (religion), Dr. Mark Byrnes (history) and Dr. Kim Roston (English) participated in the Refugee Resettlement Panel moderated by Dr. Byron McCane, Albert C. Guller Professor of Religion. The forum offered students and teachers and mentors an opportunity to hear from well-informed voices on the issue.

Read more and watch their moving acceptance speeches at wofford.edu/woffordtoday.

C. HALL OF FAME INDUCTS TERRIER STANDOUTS
Graduated Wofford student-athletes Anthony Jones ’03, Nick Schuermann ’10 and Brandon Waring ’08 were selected by the Terrier Club’s Hall of Fame Committee for induction into the Wofford College Athletics Hall of Fame. In addition, the Hall of Fame honored Wade and Mary Keiser as the Distinguished Service Award recipients and Todd Shneyer as an Honorary Letterman.

Read more about the McCalla professorships at wofford.edu/woffordtoday.

D. STUDENTS WHO ARE LEGALLY BLIND SHARE COMMON EXPERIENCE AT WOFFORD
Scholarship students Jacey Sohm ’19, of Holly Hill, S.C., and Holly Stevens ’18 of Hartton, N.C., have a few things in common—they’re both legally blind. The college offers accommodations, and they also use a variety of tools that help with the reading, study, testing and class participation necessary to excel in college.

Read more and watch their moving acceptance speeches at wofford.edu/woffordtoday.

E. MOSS AND SYKES NAMED TO ENDEDOWN PROFESSORSHIP
Dr. Robert E. Moss has been named as the college’s third Dr. and Mrs. Larry Hearn McCalla Professor of Biology, and Dr. David A., Spies has been named the Larry Hearn McCalla Professor of Computer Science. According to Dr. Dennis Wiseman, provost, they each offer similar examples of the extraordinary teachers and mentors who work with students at Wofford College.

Read more about the Terrier tailgating at wofford.edu/woffordtoday.

F. WOFFORD TAILGATE SCENE IN USA TODAY
“Smaller campuses host some of the best parties,” said Joe Cahn, who has attended about 1,000 tailgates since 1996 and runs Tailgating.com. In the Oct. 30 USA Today, he listed the Wofford tailgating scene among the “10Best: Small schools with big tailgating traditions” in the country. He raves about Wofford’s family-friendly atmosphere and the variety of food, including Krispy Kreme doughnuts.

Read more about the McCalla professorships at wofford.edu/woffordtoday.

G. PATEL STUDIES HEALTH CARE IN SOUTH AFRICA
Dhruv Patel ’16, a biology and mathematics major from Conway, S.C., returned to Wofford this fall after studying abroad in South Africa, where he observed health care professionals and worked in a variety of hospitals and clinics in the region. He calls the experience eye-opening and often uncomfortable, but vital to his growth and development as a future physician and global citizen.

Read more about the Terrier tailgating at wofford.edu/woffordtoday.

H. BENTLEY DEVELOPS FILM ON SNAKES
Alex Bentley ’17, a biology and environmental studies major from Salem, Va., spent the summer studying, tracking and even sleeping with snakes in the Francis Marion National Forest as part of a project with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and the Amphibian and Reptile Conservancy.

Read more about Bentley’s research and the documentary at wofford.edu/woffordtoday.

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UNLEASHED

Jessica Graham '16 (pink headband), a senior libero on the volleyball team, set a new college record for career digs. She broke the record set previously by Reagan Styles Breitenstein '13. Not only is Graham a standout student-athlete, she’s also a member of ROTC through the college’s Southern Guard Battalion.

Read more about Graham and her record-breaking year at wofford.edu/woffordtoday »
The ball is in play!

Wofford breaks ground for the Jerry Richardson Indoor Stadium with celebratory tip-off event

by Annie S. Mitchell
“Breaking ground today on the Jerry Richardson Indoor Stadium is the start of something very special that, along with the Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts, will be a game-changer for Wofford College.”

— Wofford President Nayef Samhat

Richmond, joined at the tip-off by his wife, Rosalind Sallenger Richardson, personally provided the gift to fund the facility. The indoor stadium, slated for completion in September 2017, promises to be one of the finest, most well-conceived and most advanced arenas in all of college sports. Richardson also provided a gift to build the Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts, future home to academic programs in theatre, visual arts and art history.

“When Wofford decided to make the move from Division II to Division I, there was fear that we would be tempted to recruit and enroll star athletes but not star students. If anything, our standards have increased, and this facility will show our unwavering commitment to excellence in every facet of the Wofford experience,” said head men’s basketball coach Mike Young.

Young continued his comments by presenting Richardson with one of the seats that make up the men’s basketball team bench. The seat was marked, “Reserved for #51,” Richardson’s Wofford football jersey number.

“As we break ground today on the Jerry Richardson Indoor Stadium, gratefulness just scratches the surface of how we feel,” said Young. “Mr. Richardson, we sure are glad that you’re on our team. You have a seat on our bench anytime—literally!”

Richardson immediately stood and had the chair he was sitting in replaced with his personalized bench seat, drawing laughter from an energized crowd.

Wofford’s newest member of the coaching staff, head volleyball coach Lynne Roos, followed Young at the podium. “When volleyball or basketball players lace up their shoes, step onto the arena floor and play in
the finest facility in the Southern Conference, they will think of Mr. Richardson—and his ability to grasp the opportunities given to him as a young man on this very same ground—where he competed, studied and gave back to the community he believed in,” said Roos.

Not to be upstaged by her coaching colleague, Roos added, “Now, Mr. Richardson, Coach Young has offered you a seat on the men’s basketball bench any time, but we coaches are competitive, so I just can’t resist the opportunity to top that.” To the fans’ delight, two volleyball players immediately produced two chairs on the platform, marked with “Mr. Richardson our MVP” and “Mrs. Richardson our MVP.”

It was women’s basketball player Kentra Washington ’17, however, who offered the most poignant words.

“I am honored to represent past, present and future student-athletes here today,” Washington said to the crowd. “Mr. Richardson, we realize the significance of the gift you’ve given us, and we feel the weight of responsibility we have as student-athletes to use this facility and our gifts wisely—to become the best student-athletes, citizens and leaders we can be, and to leave Wofford College better than we found it. We all strive to follow your example.”

— Kentra Washington ’17

Board chair Harold Chandler ’71 summarized the spirit of the Richardsons by closing: “Along with genuine words of thanks, I suggest we consider committing ourselves to living a life as they have lived...unparalleled dedication, purposeful leadership in work and life, humility, compassion, generosity. Let’s allow the reflection of them to be seen in our lives, in what we do for others and in what we do for Wofford College.”

“Mr. Richardson, we realize the significance of the gift you’ve given us, and we feel the weight of responsibility we have as student-athletes to use this facility and our gifts wisely—to become the best student-athletes, citizens and leaders we can be, and to leave Wofford College better than we found it. We all strive to follow your example.”

— Kentra Washington ’17

WHY WOFFORD?

Alumni and friends of the college often ask how they can help Wofford. One way is to be ready and willing to share positive Wofford experiences; those are the best advertisement for the college, hands down. Another way to help is to be prepared with “Why Wofford” elevator speeches. Here are a few highlights of the Wofford experience that are definitely worth sharing.

1. BECAUSE WOFFORD EMPHASIZES GLOBAL LEARNING

The college is #6 in the nation among baccalaureate institutions for the percentage of students who study abroad for credit. Wofford students have studied in more than 70 countries and on all 7 continents.

2. BECAUSE STUDENTS LIKE IT HERE

94 percent of students live on campus all four years and enjoy a housing plan that supports students as they progress from first year through senior in a close-knit community that builds a sense of personal responsibility and ultimately independence.

3. BECAUSE TERRIERS ARE TOUGH... AND COOL

A century ago Wofford athletics teams chose the Boston Terrier as their mascot. The small but tenacious and fierce dog is full of intelligence and energy, making it an ideal mascot for the 1,650 undergraduates who call Wofford home.

4. BECAUSE WOFFORD PREPARES STUDENTS FOR WHAT’S NEXT

After taking advantage of four years of opportunities designed to help them engage and explore the world, Wofford Students are prepared for what’s next. This past summer more than 200 students completed internships or research experiences around the globe. Recent internship locations include: ABC News, the Aspen Institute, the Bonner Foundation, Citigroup Hong Kong, CNN, Manipal Technologies in India, Michelin North America, NASA, Oxford University in England, PricewaterhouseCoopers, the Smithsonian Institute and St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

5. BECAUSE WOFFORD BELIEVES IN EDUCATING THE WHOLE STUDENT

Every part of college life—academics, athletics, residence life and co-curricular programming—works in concert to produce an environment where students learn around the clock, on campus, in the community and around the globe. Because of this commitment, Wofford scores among the best in the country on the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), which measures high-impact, transformative learning experiences.

6. BECAUSE WOFFORD EMPHASIZES GLOBAL LEARNING

The college is #6 in the nation among baccalaureate institutions for the percentage of students who study abroad for credit. Wofford students have studied in more than 70 countries and on all 7 continents.
WOFFORD COLLEGE COMMITS $300,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

$20,000 renewable scholarships per year designed to encourage college
by Laura Hendrix Corbin and Jo Ann Mitchell Brasington ’89
My parents run their own heating and air-conditioning business. Having a college degree would have helped them, and I know from watching them that a college degree will be a great asset for me if I own my own business one day. I chose Wofford because the college offered me a great financial aid package, and I fell in love with the beautiful campus.

For Patricia Orozco ’18, the biggest influence on her decision to attend college came from her parents—who never made it past the sixth grade in their home country of Mexico. Now, the Wofford College sophomore—the first in her family to go to college—encourages other high school students to become college pioneers.

“My advice to them would be to move forward,” says Orozco, who says her parents always encouraged her in her lifelong dream of going to college. “If there’s something or someone holding them back, let it go and move forward. There’s always help available, and there should not be a reason for someone not to go to college and study what they want to study.”

Now, Wofford College is providing additional support for these students, announcing plans to commit $300,000 in scholarships for 15 first-generation college students from South Carolina to attend Wofford. Five of those scholarships will be designated for students coming from Spartanburg County.

“Every year a number of outstanding first-generation students enroll at Wofford. We want to continue that tradition and make attending Wofford more affordable,” Brand Stille ’86, vice president for enrollment, says. “To do this, we announced the addition of 15 merit scholarships, valued at $20,000 per year, to be awarded to South Carolina students who represent the first generation in their families to attend college. These scholarships will be awarded on a competitive basis using admission applications.”

“I believe these scholarships will be a great opportunity for first-generation students,” says Orozco, who is a Bonner Scholar and Wofford Ambassador. “Wofford is a great college, but many students are discouraged from applying because they do not know where or how to get more scholarships. A scholarship program for first-generation students will encourage them to apply here.”

According to Wofford President Nayef Samhat, nearly 15 percent of Wofford students are the first in their families to attend college.

“Wofford College is committed to providing transformative education experiences that are both accessible and affordable,” says Samhat. “First-generation college students go back and change the future of their family trees. They make their communities better places in which to live and raise families. This new scholarship program for first-generation students is intended to keep these outstanding students in our community for their college years and beyond. This scholarship is just one way that Wofford College is demonstrating its commitment to lifting our state and nation by educating the citizen-leaders of tomorrow.”

Last year the New York Times recognized Wofford as one of the most economically diverse colleges in the country and recently named Wofford among the “Top Colleges Doing the Most for Low-Income Students.” First-generation students at Wofford are similar academically to other students at the college, Stille says, but they are more likely to be underrepresented minority students.

“This initiative continues to build on our strength in economic diversity and may enhance other types of diversity, too,” says Stille. “We want first-generation students to know that financial aid is available at Wofford and that meeting the cost of a private liberal arts college may be possible for them.”

A significant number of first-generation students at Wofford come from Spartanburg County, Stille says, explaining why five of the merit scholarships have been set aside for students from Spartanburg: “This is our community, and we want to encourage and help students from our surrounding area to attend Wofford.”

Orozco, a biology major who plans to attend medical school, says she wants to come back to the Spartanburg community to serve the large Hispanic community here after she becomes a doctor.
Where I’m from, higher education is a rare thing. I apply myself at whatever I do so that I can take advantage of this opportunity. My environment motivated me to be successful. Teachers put me on an honors track in middle school, and since then I’ve always worked to be the best that I can be, whether in the classroom, on the football field or in society. I’m grateful that Wofford chose me. Coach Nathan Fuqua ’03 put his faith in me, and now I’m here getting a great education and playing football on a championship team.”

TERRANCE MORRIS ’16
a mathematics major from Chester, S.C., plays outside linebacker for the Terriers. He was sidelined in August after tearing his ACL, MCL and meniscus during the preseason.

Carol Wilson ’81 serves as professor of English and coordinator of academic advising at Wofford College. She enjoys teaching all students but has a special place in her heart for first-generation college students. As an academic coach, she advises students about time management and study strategies, but she also understands that students need good partners across the campus community who will offer college resources that support academic success. When she meets with a student for the first time, she starts by asking lots of questions about the student’s hopes and goals. Wilson may also talk about football, basketball, video games, even Lilly Pulitzer... whatever it takes to build her credibility and to establish a relationship with the students who come to her for advice about academic success.

In academic coaching, she has learned a lot from Wofford’s athletics teams, for whom performance is the measure of academic as well as athletic success. “I love the idea of a ‘read step,’ a physical move that student-athletes use to give themselves mental space to evaluate choices before them on a court or field,” says Wilson. “A student-athlete on the football team explained the concept to me, and I often encourage students to examine their academic opportunities fully, evaluate what’s before them and use the resources that Wofford offers as well as all they know to decide how to proceed.” Wilson has surprised more than one Wofford football student-athlete by asking about their read step.

“Where I’m from, higher education is a rare thing. I apply myself at whatever I do so that I can take advantage of this opportunity. My environment motivated me to be successful. Teachers put me on an honors track in middle school, and since then I’ve always worked to be the best that I can be, whether in the classroom, on the football field or in society. I’m grateful that Wofford chose me. Coach Nathan Fuqua ’03 put his faith in me, and now I’m here getting a great education and playing football on a championship team.”

DR. CAROL WILSON: PROVIDING A BASE OF SUPPORT AND FOSTERING ACADEMIC COURAGE

WATCHING STUDENTS GROW IN CONFIDENCE

For many students, the chance to get an education at Wofford is the biggest opportunity that they’ve ever had. They want to establish their place at the college and perform well quickly. We talk a good bit about academic courage because a student who is fearless on the football field—catching a pass in the middle of the field knowing that he’s about to be hit—can use that same confidence when he raises his hand in class. Watching students grow in confidence and presence is the best part of my job.”
It was important to my parents and to me that I go to college. My dad is a truck driver. It’s hard, manual work, and he and my mom both want me to have a different life. I gravitated toward smaller liberal arts colleges and chose Wofford because I knew I would need as much support as I could get. Wofford welcomed me and has given me so many opportunities. Cost was definitely a factor for me. My Bonner Scholarship and the stipend I receive for summer service helped me secure an internship with the Smithsonian Institute this past summer.”

NEW YORK TIMES RANKS WOFFORD AMONG ‘TOP COLLEGES DOING MOST FOR LOW-INCOME STUDENTS’

The New York Times has ranked Wofford College among the “Top Colleges Doing the Most for Low-Income Students,” at #70, making it the top-ranked South Carolina institution on the listing of 179 colleges and universities.

To measure top colleges’ efforts on economic diversity, the newspaper’s David Leonhardt, in his The Upshot blog, created the College Access Index. He bases his ranking on the share of students who receive Pell grants (which typically go to families making less than $70,000 annually), the graduation rate of those students and the price that colleges charge for low- and middle-income students.

This is the second year the New York Times has put Wofford on its “most economically diverse” listing. Last year, Wofford also was the top South Carolina institution on the list. The 2014 listing was based on four-year graduation rates; this year’s colleges with a five-year graduation rate of 75 percent or higher are included, adding more colleges to this year’s rankings.

Wofford is one of only three South Carolina institutions on the list. The other two are Clemson University (71) and Furman University (161).

“Colleges obviously can’t solve all of the economy’s problems,” Leonhardt writes, “but there is a reason that nearly all families that can comfortably send their children to college do so. For families that aren’t as comfortable, some colleges are doing much more to help than others.”

Wofford President Nayef Samhat notes: “Wofford continues to be among the most prestigious colleges and universities in the country on the key issues that most concern families when it comes to higher education—access, diversity, quality and completion. Wofford’s extraordinary and transformational educational experience is accessible, socio-economically diverse, and we graduate superior students on time.”

Carolyn B. Sparks, director of financial aid at Wofford, says, “Wofford works to attract Pell-eligible students by offering institutional need-based and merit aid as well as other federal and state funds, which can make a student’s aid package more affordable and attractive. Our financial aid plan encompasses other areas of diversity as well, such as geographic, ethnic or racial, and international.”

For the full listing, go to: nytimes.com/interactive/2015/09/17/upshot/top-colleges-doing-the-most-for-low-income-students.html
Cracking passwords and opening back doors with Dr. X and the Wofford Hackers

Pictured left to right: Michelle Moss ’17, Dmitriy Kaplun ’18, Yukun Peng ’16, Dr. Polyxeni Mountrouidou, Danish Virani ’17 and Lening Ruan ’19.
“The students call her Dr. X—an appropriately mysterious nickname for Dr. Polyxeni Mountrouidou, Wofford’s own cybersecurity expert, hacker, assistant professor of computer science and mentor to women interested in the field.”

“I’m happy and honored to be here,” says Mountrouidou, who brings with her a three-year, $295,998 National Science Foundation (NSF) education and research grant to engage undergraduates in cybersecurity learning. “Wofford offers faculty the perfect balance between teaching and scholarship. They feed each other, and research is even more fun with undergraduate students.”

As part of the grant, Mountrouidou is working with Dr. Xiangyang Li of Johns Hopkins University to develop learning modules that can be embedded into the general education curriculum.

“What better place than a liberal arts college to help develop students who are aware of the importance of cybersecurity?” says Mountrouidou. “We need people in every discipline who are aware of the gravity and consequences of a network attack. These classes will create more knowledgeable citizens who will understand the importance of cybersecurity, but also energy and enthusiasm for teaching undergraduates,” says Wiseman. “I look forward to seeing how this will enhance the academic experience at Wofford.”

A native of Athens, Greece, Mountrouidou came to Wofford from Jacksonville University in Florida. She met Dr. Angela Shiflet, retired Larry Heam McCalla Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science, at a conference for computer science education.

“When Angela retired, she called me,” says Mountrouidou. “She knew I loved teaching, networking with other computer scientists and conducting research with students. Wofford was a perfect fit, and I applied immediately.”

Since coming to Wofford, Mountrouidou has started weekly meetings for students interested in learning more about cybersecurity, how to defend and how to attack. The group of fledgling hackers calls themselves “Revenge of the Terriers,” and they competed in the college’s first hackathon this semester.

“I’m amazed at the Wofford students,” says Mountrouidou. “They come after 5 o’clock and spend hours learning the basics of cybersecurity.”

According to Mountrouidou, preparing for and participating in hacking competitions helps students learn how to analyze and solve problems. They must be able to think like hackers, plan defense strategies, write code and, most importantly, make good, principled decisions.

“The first things we talk about are the ethical issues,” says Mountrouidou. “We want to win the hackathon, but we will follow the rules of the contest—no copying flags (awarded after successful completion of a challenge) and no stealing flags from other competitors.”

Mountrouidou says that it’s critical that students learn that cybertheft is a crime and that there are severe consequences for the offense. Students who can defend against cybersecurity threats will be able to write their ticket upon graduation.

In addition to her work with the hackers, Mountrouidou picked up Shiflet’s work mentoring women in computer science, and she has big plans for the women attending her monthly lunches.

“I’ve already given our women in computer science information about the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing,” says Mountrouidou. “It’s a conference that fosters the success of women in the field.”

The students must prepare an essay, request recommendations and complete an application. It’s a stretch, but Mountrouidou would love to take a group of 10 Wofford women to the next conference.

“This is something that women can be so successful at,” she says. “Mentoring women interested in the field is so dear to me. The profession is unbalanced. Only about 10 percent of the computer scientists in the field are women. That can be discouraging. I want women to see that they belong here.”

Mountrouidou says that the next lunch will focus on successes and failures. She’s shared the story of her successful NSF cybersecurity application, and she plans to tell students about the embarrassment she felt at getting a C in her first computer science class.

Yukun Peng ’16, a computer science major from Beijing, China, is already inspired. She’s currently applying to graduate school in game design and says that being a Wofford hacker and involved in the women in computer science lunches has already been beneficial.

“Having a background in network security is one of things that gaming graduate schools look at,” says Peng. “And it’s fun!”

Mountrouidou couldn’t be happier.

“I always loved breaking things to see how they worked, solving puzzles and being a detective,” says Mountrouidou, who got into programming in high school because she wanted to be a hacker. “Now I’m teaching students about cryptography and network security, how to find back doors and crack passwords. This is important work, and the students who excel will be recruited by the NSA, DOD and tech companies around the world.”
Wofford College inducts 46 legacies into The Order of 1854: Wofford Heritage Society during 2015 Family Weekend.

by Ryann Kroske McCall ’13

Each year during Family Weekend first-year students who are legacies (another family member attended Wofford before them) are inducted into The Order of 1854: Wofford Heritage Society. This year the Alumni Office inducted the Class of 2019 during a special brunch. All members were recognized, took photos with Wofford President Nayef Samhat and received a lapel pin and certificate of membership.

The Order of 1854: Wofford Heritage Society recognizes and celebrates students and alumni who play a role in continuing a family legacy of enrolling in Wofford College. Like the stately oak tree that’s part of The Order of 1854’s logo, membership symbolizes the deep roots of strong family ties to the college.

“LEGACY” FACTS:

• Wofford College has 139 current students who are Wofford legacies.
• Out of these 139, 46 are first-year students in the Class of 2019.
1. Homecoming weekend set the stage for the second Black Alumni Summit. The series of events included a check presentation for the Multicultural House in the Greek Village, a tailgate, reunion of the Gospel Choir and a reception at the president’s home.

2. The weekend began with Classes without Quizzes. This no-quizzes, no-tuition program gives alumni a chance to take another class at Wofford.

3. The Terrier Ball brought a College Game Day theme to the silent auction and gala. The event raised funds for scholarships for Wofford student-athletes.

4. Graduates who have celebrated the 50th anniversary of their graduation were invited to the 50-Year Club Reunion. The dinner was held at Indigo Hall in downtown Spartanburg.

5. Moyer’s Men, members of the Glee Club during Sam Moyer’s tenure at Wofford, reunited and performed during the 50-Year Club Reunion.

6. Tailgating remains a highlight of Homecoming weekend. Next year sororities and fraternities will have new houses in the Greek Village to serve as tailgating hubs.

7. Winners from the 2015 Homecoming competition were (left to right): Annie Jones ’16, JaneAnn Laffitte ’16, Katherine Buchanan ’16 and Harry Alex ’16 (Mr. Wofford).
Ingram, winner of the 2014 “Jeopardy!” Tournament of Champions, is a business control specialist with the Bank of America in Charlotte, N.C. A native of Florence, S.C., he received his B.S. in mathematics, summa cum laude, from Wofford and his M.S. in mathematics from the University of South Carolina.

At Wofford, Ingram was captain of the College Bowl Team, which was the first Wofford team to compete at the College Bowl National Championship Tournament. There, he received the 2005 Pat Moonen Sportsperson Award and was the third highest individual scorer in the nation. At USC graduate school, he was a member of Pi Mu Epsilon and was a teaching assistant instructing undergraduate classes in mathematics.

In 2013, Florence City Council awarded Ingram a key to the city. He has been a volunteer math tutor and on-air newspaper broadcaster with the South Carolina Commission for the Blind’s radio reading program. He also volunteers with the National Academic Quiz Tournaments and the Pee Dee Academic Challenge Tournament. The School Foundation of Florence School District 1 honored Ingram this fall with the 2015 Distinguished Graduate Award.

During Ingram’s regular-season appearances on “Jeopardy!” he won eight games, tying him for the seventh-best performance in the 50-year history of the show and winning him $177,534 and a spot in the Tournament of Champions. The tournament win garnered him another $250,000. He holds the record for the most consecutively correct Final Jeopardy! responses and is the eighth biggest winner in “Jeopardy!” history.

The Northside Voyagers are composed of local Spartanburg citizens Wanda Cheeks, Sylvia Means, Anita “Phoenix” Miller, Deborah “Debby” Moore, Kelly Richard, Tony Thomas and Gail D. Wilkins. As part of the Northside Initiative, a major downtown Spartanburg redevelopment effort across North Church Street from Wofford’s campus, a group of residents came together in 2013 to serve as community leaders. This group, which came to be known as the Northside Voyagers, was created to help ensure that Northside residents are informed and have a voice in all discussions regarding the redevelopment efforts in their community. The Voyagers’ strategic goals include encouraging residents to live healthier, more active lives; identifying individuals who serve as community assets in an effort to empower them; finding opportunities through partnerships to educate community members; assisting the elderly; and fostering an atmosphere where residents take pride in the appearance of their community. Wofford is a major partner in this effort and is presenting this award in recognition of the Northside Voyagers’ successful efforts in fostering a community that can and will be a model for other communities—one that is dedicated to the prosperity and welfare of all of its residents through partnership.

Anderson is a decorated veteran of the U.S. Army, retiring in 2012 after having served as deputy commanding officer of the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C. After a 33-year military career, Anderson settled in Fayetteville, N.C., and started his own consulting business. He continues to mentor young soldiers and works with the community to help soldiers leaving the military settle and start small businesses. One of Wofford’s most distinguished military officers, Anderson grew up in the 1960s on a farm near Elloree, S.C. As an African American, he experienced desegregation and went on to earn a scholarship to attend Wofford. He joined the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps and went to Airborne School during his junior year, learning to parachute out of low-flying aircraft. During his career, Anderson served two years as the executive assistant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon. He spent 15 months in Afghanistan. Anderson has been a frequent visitor to campus and the Southern Guard Battalion of the ROTC based on campus.
Billy and Betty Wood establish endowed scholarship at Wofford with $100,000 gift.

Gifts to the Sandor Teszler Library special collections enrich educational experience for Wofford students.

Blount finds creative way to contribute to Wofford’s long-term growth.

by

Jo Ann Mitchell Brasington ’89
and Sarah Madden ’17
DOING RIGHT

Tuition was $350 per semester when Billy Wood ’50 attended Wofford. He fondly remembers chapel services and the way Dr. Walter K. Greene always began his address with “young gentlemen.” He also recalls his experiences in Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity (no longer chartered on campus) and the small scholarship he received from Spartan Mills that helped him meet expenses.

“Wofford was a good thing for me,” says Wood. “The college has always been about the development of the total person.”

Because Wood and his wife, Betty, believe in the college’s mission, they established the Billy W. and Betty T. Wood Endowed Scholarship for a deserving student with a $100,000 gift. The first Wood scholar will receive help with the cost of college in the fall of 2016, and the Woods look forward to meeting their scholarship recipient.

Billy Wood worked in sales for Duke Power. He retired in 1989. Betty Wood secured a job in accounts payable with Smith Wholesale Drugs two weeks after she graduated from high school. She was promoted to office manager, secretary/treasurer and finally treasurer for the entire company, which by that time had become J M Smith Corp. The scholarship gift to Wofford came from proceeds from stock dividends and other investments.

In retirement the Woods remain active in the community. They volunteer with Mobile Meals and support the Hope Center for Children and the Salvation Army through the Duke Energy Retiree Program. They also are active in their church, Southside Baptist in Spartanburg, where they first met.

“We try to get to as many Wofford events as we can,” says Billy Wood. “We’ve been fortunate in retirement to have a good relationship with Wofford.”

“We’re huge football fans,” says Betty Wood. The Woods make it to all of the home football games and most of the home men’s basketball contests. They attend Homecoming and the 50-year Club Reunion, Great Oaks Society events (for Wofford Fund donors of $2,500 or more annually), the President’s Club Holiday Party and soon the Student-Donor Scholarship Recognition Dinner held each spring. The Woods also have remembered Wofford in their wills.

Billy Wood’s Wofford rat cap sits proudly on a shelf in their den. The Wofford Bible presented to him at Commencement is worn and stuffed with verses and clippings. The names of Wofford’s faculty and staff from the 1949-50 academic year remain legible and a source of pride.

Billy Wood says that if he could share one message with future generations of Wofford students, it would be “Do right!” Betty and Billy Wood have done just that—in their professional and personal lives—and now through Wofford College.

“Through their scholarship, the names Betty and Billy Wood will remain a part of Wofford history,” says Susan Gray, director of donor services. “Thanks to their gift, Betty and Billy Wood Scholars will learn through the Wofford experience to ‘do right,’ just like the Woods. What a powerful legacy.”

ADDING ENLIGHTENMENT TO THE TEXTS

“Reading about the lives of soldiers in World War I can be enlightening, but seeing a WWI soldier’s scrapbook brings the study of the Great War to another level. Working directly with these kinds of resources is among the special characteristics of a Wofford education,” says dean of the Sandor Teszler Library Kevin Reynolds.

To provide as many of these hands-on learning opportunities to students as possible, Reynolds says that the library staff has been focused on building special collections, historical documents in the Archives, and works of art and objects in the permanent collection. Several recent gifts have boosted the library’s holdings and in turn enriched the educational experience for students.

David Robinson ’65 donated his mother’s collection of pottery dating from the Bronze Age (ca. 2500 BCE) to the Byzantine Period (ca. 500 CE). While some of the collection will one day be displayed in the new Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts, a portion of the collection has been on display this semester, and Reynolds says that the pedagogical value of the collection is apparent.

“At least five different courses have used the collection already this semester, as have other groups,” says Reynolds. “Other faculty members have plans to use it for teaching as well as in-depth student research.”

Another recent gift comes in the form of a 17th-century Dutch portrait, painted in 1620 by Jan Van Ravesteyn. Similar works by Ravesteyn are housed in collections at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Smithsonian, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Smithsonian.
Terriers. He still remembers looking at his tuition statement and seeing the zero balance at the bottom. “Even then I realized that someone paid that tuition bill for me,” says Blount. “I started giving back as soon as I could, but I’m now in a position to make a big difference one day.”

Blount, a financial adviser with Foresters Financial Services in Charlotte, N.C., decided to augment his annual gift to the college by making Wofford the owner and beneficiary of a life insurance policy. “I’m young and healthy, so I can get a big policy for a small premium,” says Blount. “I’ll make premium payments for 20 years, and Wofford is guaranteed a minimum of $250,000. If I live a normal life expectancy, then the benefit to Wofford would be closer to $890,000.”

According to Smith Patterson ’67, director of gift planning at Wofford, all of Blount’s premium payments will qualify as charitable tax deductions, and one day the proceeds from the policy will provide substantial scholarship support for Wofford students. “Gary has decided to use the proceeds of the variable whole life policy to create a named, endowed scholarship for a student-athlete on the college’s football team,” says Patterson. “If his Wofford interests change, the criteria for selecting scholarship recipients can change as well.”

Because of both his grades and his athletic ability, Blount was a heavily recruited linebacker from Camden County High School in southern Georgia when he signed with the Terriers. He still remembers looking at his tuition statement and seeing the zero balance at the bottom. “Even then I realized that someone paid that tuition bill for me,” says Blount. “I started giving back as soon as I could, but I’m now in a position to make a big difference one day.”

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Because of both his grades and his athletic ability, Blount was a heavily recruited linebacker from Camden County High School in southern Georgia when he signed with the Terriers. He turned down offers from Harvard, Georgetown and Vanderbilt, among others, to play for head coach Mike Ayers. “Wofford was the last college I visited, and it turned my search upside down,” says Blount. “I was involved in more than football, and Wofford became home. I benefited so much from my Wofford experience that I feel a sense of responsibility to give back.”

Blount and his wife, Stephanie Cloninger Blount, daughter of Rick Cloninger ’79, have three sons, Noah (3) and twins Levi and Luke (6 mos.).
Hitesh Tolani '04 and Virtudent won gold and $50,000 in MassChallenge Boston, the flagship program of the world’s largest start-up accelerator. Tolani designed Virtudent to increase access, lower costs and change the landscape of oral health delivery in the United States through teledentistry.

As a result, his story—from immigrant and first-generation college student to dentist, professor and entrepreneur—is attracting lots of attention. “The night of the Republican presidential debate, the debate was trending one and MassChallenge was trending two,” says Tolani. “MassChallenge asked me to share my story. They pushed it out on their blog, and FWD.us, an organization started by Mark Zuckerberg and Bill Gates to promote immigration reform, picked it up and will soon be meeting with me about Virtudent.”

According to Tolani, who is in private dental practice in Boston, Mass., and lectures at both Harvard and Tufts universities, “My company is targeted toward lowering the barriers to dental care. We set up pop-up dental clinics with a hygienist and Virtudent technology, which connects a dentist to the patient through the internet.”

The dental care delivery model has not changed in over 200 years, says Tolani, and Virtudent’s innovative approach is changing that. Tolani now has briefed Senate committees and met with governmental and corporate representatives across the country. More than 2,500 start-ups from around the world competed in the MassChallenge competition. A few years before, Tolani and Virtudent placed second from among 135 teams in the Harvard President’s Challenge, which calls for solutions from the Harvard community for some of the world’s most pressing issues. Virtudent was also a winner in the Tufts 100K New Ventures Competition in 2014.

“I wouldn’t be where I am today without Wofford College. Even when I first started Virtudent, I reached out to Wofford alumni on the board of trustees, who spent time mentoring me and answering my questions,” says Tolani.

Wofford College accepted Tolani for admission and gave him a scholarship even though his immigration status was in question. “I still remember Lisa Yebuah ’99 (who was an admission counselor at the time) calling and telling me that the Wofford Board of Trustees wanted to make sure that college happened for me,” says Tolani. “That one opportunity has carried me so far, and I know this may sound corny, but I will always be indebted to Wofford.”

When Tolani met the Hon. Dennis Shedd ’75 at a scholarship dinner, Tolani asked, “What can I do to thank Wofford?” Shedd told Tolani his own personal story of how President Joe Lesesne found the money for him to go to law school.

Shedd, who later helped Tolani resolve his immigration issues, encouraged him to look for opportunities to pay it forward. The dean of the college at the time, Dr. Dan Maultsby ’61, did the same. “My junior year I decided that I was no longer going into computer science. I wanted to be a doctor instead, so I loaded up on classes. Dean Maultsby called me into his office and told me I was taking too many courses. He suggested I take some over the summer. I said, ‘Dean Maultsby, I can’t afford summer school.’ He said, ‘Hitesh, since when have we made you pay for classes?’ When I moved into my room at the start of summer school, there was my organic chemistry book with a note that said, ‘Good luck. Do well. Dean Maultsby.’ How do I ever say thank you enough?” says Tolani.

Wofford folks who remember Tolani also know that there is so much more to the story, some of which he shares in “Deportation to Innovation: How Life’s Unchosen Paths Prepared CEO Hitesh Tolani for a Life of Entrepreneurship,” on the MassChallenge website.

To learn more about Virtudent, visit myvirtudent.com.

FROM
DEPORTATION
TO
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Opportunities, innovation and conviction paying off for Dr. Hitesh Tolani
by Jo Ann Mitchell Brasington ’89
The memoir of the Rev. Harold W. Syfrett. “The Life Story of a Country Boy from Orangeburg, South Carolina,” is now available from Amazon. The story follows Syfrett’s journey as a pastor, from service in the U.S. Navy to ministering to South Carolina Baptist congregations for more than 50 years. The memoir includes tales from the US Yankton to campus ministry to life as a husband and father of five.

Neil Bonds sent us a note sharing news of Mary Gall Jr. at Florence, S.C. Gall is a resident of Faith Nursing Home. Although confined to a wheelchair, Gall enjoys visiting a library at Faith. Affectionately known by the title of “Senator” as a Wofford student, Gall enjoys hearing about Wofford and from Wofford Friends. He is one of a handful of surviving members of the students who rechartered Pi Kappa Alpha’s Nu chapter at Wofford in 1953.

William Light “Bill” Kinney Jr. received the state’s highest honor, the Order of the Palmetto, on Oct. 31, 2015. Kinney is editor and publisher emeritus of the Marlboro Herald-Advocate, with a 57-year career as a journalist. A renowned philanthropist, Kinney helped create and fund the Marian Wright Edelman Public Library, the Marlboro Civic Center and the Pee Dee Coalition’s emergency safe shelter for abused women and children.

He has served as chairman and president of many boards, including the South Carolina Historical Society and the South Carolina Archives and History Commission at the state level and the Library of Congress American Folklife Center at the national level.

Dr. Don Fowler continues to serve as president of Fowler Communications in Columbia, S.C., and as an adjunct professor at the University of South Carolina.

We were sorry to hear about the death on July 22, 2015, of Sybil McElweth Farrow, wife of Billy Jones Farrow. They were married for 63 years. She was a nurse and an “Army wife” who followed her husband wherever he was assigned. They enjoyed spending time with their family and traveling in their motor home, which took them to all of the lower 48 states.

A retired educator, Denny Hammack is now working as a part-time fitness instructor with the Sidney YMCA in Matthews, N.C.

Tommy Young and his wife, Catherine, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary this fall.

Tom Blum ’14 was selected as a Fulbright scholar and now is working as an English teaching assistant at Said Najdeni Elementary School in Debar, Macedonia. Blum works with the school’s English teachers to provide assistance to the local English teachers. ETAs teach English language while serving as cultural ambassadors for the United States.

Dr. Charles C. Thomas II is working with the National Institutes of Health to develop the next generation of cancer therapies—MET inhibitors. Doan has a rare hereditary condition that causes cancerous tumors to continually grow in his kidneys. Since his first visit to the NIH in 1993, he has had one kidney and nearly 100 tumors removed.

Scott Heath has joined Wells Fargo Advisors Private Client Group in the Spartanburg office. He is a first vice president of investments and a portfolio manager.

Retired Maj. Gen. Rodney O. Anderson was named the new president and CEO of the Greater Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce. Anderson was honored at Wofford during Homecoming weekend with the college’s Distinguished Service Award, presented by the Wofford College Alumni Association.

“Being in discussion-based classes led to a lot of creative thinking as well as opening my mind to different ways of thinking,” says Robinson. “The children I’ve worked with have been kind and excited to learn. In Thailand, there are a lot of differences between the U.S. and Thailand’s educational systems. Thai students can’t fail. Because of this, students struggle with motivation and finding purpose in their studies,” says Robinson. “It’s not that these students don’t work, they just have a very different mindset, and we have to accommodate that. I’m learning to motivate the students with fun instead of grades and to focus on positive reinforcement to get them excited.”

“Robby has always been a very active student in his classes, and he has a drive to learn and to understand the material,” says Professor of English Peter Nelson in the department of Modern Languages and Cultures.

Brad Smith was named Teacher of the Year at Beaufort High School in Beaufort, S.C., for the 2015-16 academic year. He was one of five finalists for the county Teacher of the Year award. Smith teaches health science and biomedical science. He and his wife, Cindy, live on Lady’s Island with their son, Ellison, and niece, Samantha.

“Submit updates electronically by visiting woffordads/alumni and clicking “Share Your Story.”

Write to us at Wofford Today; 429 N. Church Street, Spartanburg, S.C. 29303

Call the Alumni Office at 864.597.4895

Submit updates electronically by visiting woffordads/alumni and clicking “Share Your Story.”

UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION! SUBMIT YOUR NEWS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF WOFFORD TODAY.

ROBINSON PURSUES NON-TRADITIONAL TEACHING

Recent Wofford grad is currently living in Thailand to teach English in local schools by Kelsey Aylor ’18

For Janie Robinson “I’m heading into a completely different career field but one that’s still related to my major, English,” she says. “I would like to be able to travel a decent amount at Wofford. I was certain I wanted to go abroad, but wasn’t sure how to make it happen,” says Robinson, who spent an intern in Peru and a semester in Vienna. “I looked into a pairing, but it can be difficult to acquire a visa, so I was researching other options.”

When she discovered the opportunity to teach English in Thailand, Robinson knew the experience would be a good fit. “I love kids, and through teaching I had a more secure way of receiving income,” she says. “Already I find my job extremely rewarding. I’ve been challenged in so many new ways.”

Robinson landed in Thailand on Sept. 27 and completed an on-site TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) course upon arrival. “There are a lot of differences between the U.S. and Thailand’s educational systems. Thai students can’t fail. Because of this, students struggle with motivation and finding purpose in their studies,” says Robinson. “It’s not that these students don’t work, they just have a very different mindset, and we have to accommodate that. I’m learning to motivate the students with fun instead of grades and to focus on positive reinforcement to get them excited.”

Robinson is currently contracted to teach for six months, but she hopes to extend her stay for up to a year. “Thailand is beautiful, and I want to follow this experience wherever it takes me,” she says. “The children I’ve worked with have been kind and excited to learn. In Thailand, learning English isn’t simply an elective, it’s an opportunity to change their lives and the lives of their family, so it’s rewarding to see them working hard and taking their studies seriously.”

“Being in discussion-based classes led to a lot of creative thinking as well as opening my mind about different ways of thinking,” says Robinson. “Wofford gave me the support and love that helped me make the decision to do this... and whatever comes next.”
Ava Thacker has joined Upstate Forever as a development associate. She will focus on maintaining and using the organization’s new membership database to cater to the individual interests of members.

1985
Tim Mucken, class chair

Three years ago Duffie Stone, 34th Judicial Circuit solicitor, created an externship program designed for law students who wish to devote themselves to public service in the field of criminal prosecution. This year, Stone extended the program to undergraduates and chose Collin Hayton ’17 for one of the five coveted spots in the Externship and Career Prosecutor Program. Hayton worked cases from arrest to deposition and had the opportunity to observe and assist with trials. To learn more, visit www.scsolicitor14.org.

1988
Lane Glenn, class chair

Donnie Cranfill is the chief vision officer of Camp Nana Paa, an online shopping and social media platform launched in 2015 designed to strengthen the bond between children and their grandparents. The platform allows customers to connect via Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and Instagram. It also offers the opportunity to observe and assist with trials.

1991
Leslie Houch Page, class chair

Nelson Lindsay, Richland County’s first eco-friendly mayor, joined the South Carolina Commerce Department as director of global trade and economic development. He is the chief vision officer of Camp Nana Paa, an online shopping and social media platform launched in 2015 designed to strengthen the bond between children and their grandparents. The platform allows customers to connect via Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and Instagram.

1992
Niki Palmieri Chunn, class chair

On Sept. 27, 2015, John Critchfield completed his first Ironman triathlon in Chattanooga, Tenn. The Ironman consists of a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bike ride and a full 26.2-mile marathon. Chattanooga is a little different; the bike portion was 116 miles. Critchfield completed the race in 13:54:27, well below the 17 hours allowed for completion. He gives credit to his wife, Theresa, for helping him stay the course and complete the event.

1993
Sarah Copeland Savicki, class chair

Jenni Pearsall has served as the executive director of the Carolwood Language Academy in Charlotte, N.C. She had served as the executive director of CMS English Language Learner Services.

Donnie Cranfill is the chief vision officer of Camp Nana Paa, an online shopping and social media platform launched in 2015 designed to strengthen the bond between children and their grandparents. The platform allows customers to connect via Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and Instagram.

1999
Zach Ackinson, class chair

Stacey Kelley Bannister and Brooks Bannister announced the birth of their child, Brooks Bannister, born May 12, 2015. They have another son, Oliver Townes O’Quinn.

2000
Anthony Hoefer, class chair

Wait Gray has joined the North Carolina Department of Transportation as chief information officer of ITS. He previously served as director of the North Carolina Industrial Commission. Dr. Anastasia “Stacy” Wright Lind is the assistant dean of student research and assitant professor of English at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities. She also serves as the university’s nationally competitive scholarships office. She also teaches multi-ethnic literature.

2001
Jenna Sheehan Bridgers, class chair

The Florence Morning News featured Dr. James Smith for his work in treating cancer patients. Smith has worked with the University of South Carolina School of Medicine and Hematology Associates for the past nine years. He is the first intern recognized by the college as a breast cancer “hero,” ran in the Oct. 21, 2015 issue.

2002
Yorke Geraldt, class chair


2003
Terry Youse, class chair

Terriers share lessons learned at Wofford to help Belk.com grow by Jo Ann Mitchell Brasington ’89

John Boyd ’14 and his loss prevention team at the Belk.com Fulfillment Center in Jonesville, S.C., set the tone for the busy days that employees work in the 900,000-square-foot plant.

“We’re the friendly faces they see when they come in,” says Boyd. “We always ask how they’re doing, and if they say, ‘not good,’ I know we’ve got all day to make it better.”

Holly Tobias ’14 brings the employees she manages candy as an incentive. As a production supervisor she sometimes finds herself in the role of mother, counselor and friend as well as motivator.

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“They have great people skills, are flexible and determined, and have a strong work ethic... and they were all tied in some way to Wofford,” says Boyd.

“We would love five or six more frontline supervisors from Wofford right now.”

This fall, Wofford and Pam Massey, Belk.com’s Jonesville human resources manager, came to Wofford’s job recruiting fair for the first time in an effort to formalize the pipeline from Wofford to Belk.com and make the opportunities more accessible to more students. Until now Wheeler and Shelby Taylor, the athletics ticket manager, had provided the connection.

Wheeler came to Wofford from Spartanburg Community College at the encouragement of Dr. Henry Giles, 68, SCC president. Wheeler worked his way through college at Adidas, fell in love with Wofford football and became a Terrier after receiving a scholarship.

“My first after Wofford football game, I thought, ‘forget the big schools, why isn’t everybody watching this?’ It was so exciting,” says Wheeler.

Wofford works at Belk.com because he felt there was lots of room to help the company grow and build a successful and challenging career. Wheeler says he is grateful he has shared the same opportunities with other recent Wofford graduates.

“We’re Terriers, so we’re going to make a difference in this world,” says Wheeler.

ANCHORCHE 1770 TOASTS PAT CONROY AND GRAND SOUTHERN WORDS AND WAYS

Anchorage 1770 owners and operators Frank ’89 and Amy Barwick Lassena ’88 and Wofford professor of English and environmental studies John Lane ’77 helped celebrate the 70th birthday of Pat Conroy, author of “Prince of Tides,” “Beach Music,” “The Great Santini,” and other bestselling novels.

Anchorage 1770, on the Beaufort, S.C., coast, provided the setting for the special literary festival. Lane participated in the poetry panel and read aloud.

Read Lane’s journal entry about the experience at wofford.edu/woffordtoday
As an attorney general, Kinli Bare Abee '08 made legal history in October by securing the first human trafficking conviction in South Carolina.

"This is a big deal not only for the attorney general’s office but for the state of South Carolina," says her proud husband, Matt Abee '10. "This conviction is a huge step toward the end, it’s always about what’s best for us," says Abee. "We give our support of Wofford has to be a combination," says Matt. "We want to be active and engaged because the college is doing such great things."

According to Matt, he and Kinli both owe great things.”

According to Matt, he and Kinli both owe great things to the support of complete strangers who "joined" their Homecoming tailgate, and as an industry liaison with ECPI University. Amy Livingston is a business development officer for the town of Mount Pleasant, S.C. She previously worked as a program manager for the City of Charleston's Digital Corridor and as an industry liaison with ECPI University. "We believe our support of Wofford has to be a combination," says Matt. "We want to do what we can financially, but sometimes it takes boots on the ground." Kinli says she and Matt love being at the stage in Leonard Auditorium.

"My parents didn’t go to Wofford, but they haven’t missed a Homecoming since I was a freshman," says Matt. "Kinli’s family is the same—that’s a huge testament to the experience for all Wofford students. He advises Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and helped raise funds for the new Greek Village. Kinli is a national Zeta Tau Alpha officer and remains involved in Wofford’s chapter. She also helped with the Greek Village project. Both contribute annually to the college, making both unrestricted and Terrier Club gifts, and they also have included Wofford in their wills.

"We believe our support of Wofford has to be a combination," says Matt. "We want to do what we can financially, but sometimes it takes boots on the ground." Kinli says she and Matt love being at the point in their careers where they can give back.

"Staying involved at Wofford is important to us," she says. "We want to be active and engaged because the college is doing such great things."

According to Matt, he and Kinli both owe their Wofford experiences to family and the support of complete strangers who believed in providing life-changing experiences for all Wofford students. "We want future generations of Wofford students to have the same experiences we had, or better," says Abee. "We give it pay to forward and because it’s fun. In the end, it’s always about what’s best for the students.”

Legal eagles and true terrers team, taking the team to nationals for the first time in university history. Still, they took time out of their hectic schedules to carry on a most important tradition—their annual Homecoming tailgate, which also celebrates theirHomecoming weekend engagement on the stage in Leonard Auditorium.

"My parents didn’t go to Wofford, but they haven’t missed a Homecoming since I was a freshman," says Matt. "Kinli’s family is the same—that’s a huge testament to the effect that Wofford can have on people. That’s why we host this huge tailgate every year, and it’s definitely a family affair."

Kinli’s niece, Payton, wouldn’t miss it for the world. She has been attending Wofford’s Homecoming since Kinli was a first-year cheerleader for the Terrers. “When she was 4 or 5 she used to tell me, ‘Aunt KK, I want to go to Wofford because I already know everyone there,” says Kinli. “Now she’s a sophomore in high school, and Wofford is at the top of her list.”

For the Abees, the tailgate tells just part of the story. Matt, who served as Campus union president, still enjoys being a voice of support for Wofford students. He advises Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and helped raise funds for the new Greek Village. Kinli is a national Zeta Tau Alpha officer and remains involved in Wofford’s chapter. She also helped with the Greek Village project. Both contribute annually to the college, making both unrestricted and Terrier Club gifts, and they also have included Wofford in their wills.

"We believe our support of Wofford has to be a combination," says Matt. "We want to do what we can financially, but sometimes it takes boots on the ground." Kinli says she and Matt love being at the point in their careers where they can give back.

"Staying involved at Wofford is important to us," she says. "We want to be active and engaged because the college is doing such great things."

FROM THE ARCHIVES: ANDREWS FIELD HOUSE AND BENJO Looking back at past athletics construction projects — by Dr. Phillip Stone ’04

The groundbreaking of the new Jerry Richardson Indoor Stadium gives us a chance to recall the construction of two earlier athletics facilities, the Andrews Field House and the current Campus Life Building.

The first of those two, Andrews Field House, opened in 1929. It was the gift of Spartanburg businessman Isaac Andrews, and it was designed to serve as a basketball, volleyball and even handball court. It also was to serve as a space for instruction in all indoor sports, and it could seat large crowds for significant events at the college. Soon after it opened, it hosted some of the college’s 75th anniversary events. As was said at its opening, “There is no more adequate building anywhere, and it will contribute much to the physical training and athletic activities of Wofford students.”

Andrews Field House replaced an earlier gym, but the previous building was not large enough to hold athletics events. Andrews was expanded twice, once in the late 1940s for racquetball courts, and later in the 1960s for locker rooms. By the late 1970s, however, it was becoming inadequate for the college’s athletics needs.

In the late 1970s, the college moved to construct the Campus Life Building, and on Jan. 22, 1981, the Benjamin Johnson Arena was dedicated. The women’s basketball team played the first game in the new arena prior to the dedication, and the men’s basketball team played its first game against The Citadel following the dedication. The new arena had a seating capacity of 2,832 when it opened.

The Campus Life Building, dedicated in November 1980, was a much-needed addition to the college’s facilities, bringing a number of different student life offices and spaces together in one area. The building has seen countless theater productions, community events and student lunches in the canteen, Zach’s, since it opened.

In 2014, the South Carolina School of Law Mock Trial volunteer as coaches on the University of South Carolina School of Law. Dr. John Matthew Ferguson has relocated his family medicine practice to Mount Pleasant, S.C. Through Palmetto Primary Care Physicians, he offers comprehensive primary care to infants, children, adults, women and geriatric patients. Ferguson and his wife, Lisa Ackerman Ferguson, have two children, Jack Harris Ferguson (2) and Charles O’Neal Ferguson, born June 22, 2015.

Dr. Jennifer Clyburn McMaster was married on Oct. 22, 2015. They have two children, Jack Harris Ferguson (2) and Charles O’Neal Ferguson, born June 22, 2015.

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went on to earn his doctoral degree in 2015, Auburn, Ala. Powers attended Dr. Roderick Wilbert Powers as a neurosurgeon for 25 years, and was named elder emeritus.

Marion Graham Drayton, Oct. 9, 2015, Bishopville, S.C. Drayton’s military service included assignments in Fort Benning, Ga., Korea; Germany; Vietnam; Washington; the Presidio Language School of Monterey, Calif.; and Panama. After retirement he became vice president of City Nursery Farms, serving as a member of the South Carolina Nursery and Landscape Association, among his other civic and faith-based volunteer activities.

Austin Dean “Skipper” Shoneke, Nov. 21, 2015, Cowpens, S.C. Shoneke taught mathematics and science at Cowpens High School and Broome High School.

The Rev. William Joseph Vines, Oct. 12, 2015, Laurens, S.C. Vines was a member of the Tennessee Dew Drops, Marching Band. A Vietnam veteran, Vines served as a Wofford College groundskeeper and worked as a transcriptionist for the local TB hospital. He was active in his church and a former Boy Scout leader, golfer and Wofford Terrier football player.


John David Wilson Sr. was named elder emeritus. He was a huge college football fan. He served five terms as a member of the Spartanburg, S.C. Board. He was the former owner of two Mountain Properties. He was a reader, public affairs commentator and golfer.

Dr. Harold DeForest McAbee, Sept. 11, 2015, Gainsville, Ga. McAbee served in the U.S. Army Air Corps as a pilot during World War II. He served in Milikin Textiles in 1961 following 35 years of service. He was a long-time member of First Baptist Church of Gainesville, Ga., avid golfer, woodworker and gardener.

Dr. Ewart John “Jack” Edgerton Jr., Sept. 22, 2015, Linville, N.C. Friedman was a reader, public affairs commentator and golfer.

Max Ivan Moser Jr., Sept. 13, 2015, Clifftside, N.C. Moser retired from Duke Power Co. as steam station manager. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II, serving in the South-Pacific from 1943 to 1945. He was active in his church and a former Boy Scout leader, golfer and Wofford Terrier football player.

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Ryann McCall '13 in the Office of Advancement, provide input on alumni activities and chapter functions to complement and support related programming, and honor the achievements of fellow alumni and friends of the college. To accomplish this, we instituted four initiatives that our primary goals were to serve as the Alumni Association Board determined to reorganize our revamped Alumni Association.

The Alumni Association is poised to be a tremendous resource to Wofford and you. Please keep an eye out for it in 2016.

The Alumni Association is here to help. Enjoy it, and Wofford will benefit from your participation. Always know it. I urge you to remain an active part of the Wofford community. You’ll enjoy it, and Wofford will benefit from your participation. Always know that the Alumni Association is here to help.

Go, Terriers!

Andy Beeson ’90
President, Wofford College Alumni Association

A LETTER FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

GIVING

Homecoming draws us back to Wofford so we can revisit a familiar place, enjoy venerable traditions and reconnect with old friends. Often, the experience also leaves us struck by the substantial progress in the 25 years since I graduated. Equally important but less visible is the substantial growth of the college’s financial resources, which help foster a diverse, talented student body and enable new academic, cultural and athletic opportunities.

Those great changes—and the increase in the value of your diploma—did not happen by accident. They occurred gradually and deliberately, the realization of long-term planning. None would have been possible without the generous support of Wofford’s alumni and friends. Both large and small, our gifts collectively transformed Wofford for the better.

Looking ahead, the success of the Strategic Vision for Wofford College, announced by the college last year, requires the continued support of all alumni. This vision will help Wofford keep pace with our peer institutions in the competitive world of higher education and will ensure the vitality of Wofford for future generations of Terriers. Our Office of Advancement offers a wide range of opportunities for supporting Wofford, and all support is welcome and appreciated. Everyone can find a way to contribute!

To support the Strategic Vision for Wofford College, the Alumni Association has instituted an “Advancement Initiative” led by Michael Anzelmo ’00. To find out more about the Advancement Initiative, please contact me at andybeeson@aol.com, Anzelmo at michael.anelmo@gmail.com or Debbi Thompson ’88 at thompsondb@wofford.edu.

It has been a great privilege to serve as president of the Wofford College Alumni Association for 2015. The experience provided many opportunities to interact with the folks at Wofford, and has left me confident that our alma mater could not be in better hands. Wofford is a special place, and Wofford alumni can take great pride in being a part of it. I urge you to remain an active part of the Wofford community. You’ll enjoy it, and Wofford will benefit from your participation. Always know that the Alumni Association is here to help.

Go, Terriers!

Andy Beeson ’90
President, Wofford College Alumni Association

UPCOMING WOFFORD COLLEGE ALUMNI EVENTS:

Visit wofford.edu/alumni for more information.

DEC. 10 Greenville Alumni Holiday Gathering
DEC. 31 Wofford vs. Harvard Basketball Pregame
JAN. 14 Wofford vs. The Citadel Basketball Pregame
FEB. 12 Alpha Phi Omega reunion
FEB. 15 Wofford vs. UNCG Basketball Pregame
MAR. 25 Senior 50-Days Party
APR. 2 Cooper River Bridge Run Finish Festival
APR. 11-17 RBC Heritage Classic, 15th Green Skybox

Ways to #SupportWofford

Return the enclosed envelope or make a gift online at wofford.edu/supportwofford. Wofford’s gift year ends December 31.