Carving pumpkins and celebrating community
The college’s admission materials often refer to Wofford’s close-knit community. I’m not sure we can emphasize that enough. I see it every day — students enjoying the bonds forged through service learning, Greek life, athletic participation or a shared academic interest. It permeates campus research labs, coffee shops and residence halls. The commitment to community is one of the things that Prema and I have valued most about Wofford.

This issue of Wofford Today highlights community. We celebrated it this fall during the naming and dedication of the Stewart H. Johnson Greek Village, as well as the Marsha Gibbs Tri Delta House and the Meadors Multicultural House. We enjoyed gathering our extended community back on campus for another successful Family Weekend and Homecoming, and traveled to Atlanta to celebrate the Terriers there. It’s impressive how the Wofford-Atlanta community has rallied around a golf tournament and each other to remain connected to Wofford from afar.

Graduates such as Will Willimon ’68, Mallory Womble ’11, Troy Gamble ’76, Lisa Morris ’12 and Leonard Rowe ’75 continue to live out commitments to their communities as well. We celebrate their stories and many others that demonstrate the power of community and remaining connected to Wofford.

If you haven’t spent time on campus or contacted Wofford friends in a while, I encourage you to do so. Our community is stronger when we’re all informed, engaged and involved. Go, Terriers!
The Wofford volleyball team answered a call for “tall volunteers” in September to help with one of the Seeing Spartanburg in a New Light art installations in the Denny’s Plaza. Our other athletics teams have been busy serving and learning as well. The women’s tennis team helped repair a home in Inman during the Christmas in Action Fall ReBuild Day, and student-athletes from all sports have been tutoring, mentoring and serving as Miracle League volunteers. This is one of the reasons that Wofford was just named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction.

Read more at wofford.edu/woffordtoday »
THE WORLD @ WOFFORD

A. THE SUMMER OF THE EXTRAORDINARY INTERNSHIP

Virginia McCully ’17 always has meant her work published in a well-known magazine. She crossed that off her bucket list this summer and hopes the experience will be her big break in the field. She interned for Modern Luxury in Atlanta to learn the copyediting process and the hard work that goes into magazine production.

B. WOFFORD PARTICIPATES IN SOCON VOTES CHALLENGE

This fall the Southern Conference became the first NCAA Division athletics conference to initiate a voter-engagement competition among its member colleges and universities. Wofford Votes, a part of the SoCon Votes Challenge, engaged Terriers in the democratic process with a voter registration drive and debate-watch events. The competition sought to build citizenship and stewardship of our communities and nation.

C. COLLEGE TOPS OUT NEW INDOOR STADIUM

On Sept. 27 the Wofford community topped out the Jerry Richardson Indoor Stadium at the construction site, ceremonially marking the laying of the building’s highest beam and acknowledging the work of construction crews. The project employed more than 700 skilled workers, with 70 percent coming from the Spartanburg and Greenville area; 60 percent of the subcontractors are from the Carolinas.

D. MAJOR GRANT TO BOOST MENA PROGRAM

Wofford has received a $153,487 grant through the Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program for a two-year project designed to strengthen the college’s Middle Eastern and North African Program. The grant will better equip Wofford to prepare students to study, work and live in the MENA region and will extend the college’s global reach and alumni profile in international programs.

E. IMPROVING THE MENTAL HEALTH OF COLLEGE STUDENTS

The Wofford College Wellness Center brought therapy dogs to campus several times during the semester as stress relievers. The college also recently joined the Jed Foundation’s Initiative of The JED Campus Program, a nationwide initiative of The JED Foundation to enhance student well-being and prevent suicide.

F. OLD GOLD AND BLACK JOINS "FIRST 54" FUN

The Old Gold and Black student newspaper joined “The First 54” initiative with distribution of the first issue of the semester along with a slice of “Black and white” newspaper cake. “The First 54” is a play on the year Wofford was founded (1854), and involves a cross-campus collaboration that engages students in the college experience with a planned activity a day for the first 54 days.

G. WOFFORD LAUNCHES ASSESSMENT OF INCLUSION

During the 2016-17 academic year, Wofford is undertaking a comprehensive assessment of diversity and inclusion. College leaders believe that, in addition to showing areas that need improvement, the coming year of evaluation and introspection will highlight things that Wofford is doing well in this area.

H. PREPARING FOR LIFE AFTER WOFFORD

The Office of Advancement is doing well in this area. Dr. Ramon Galinanes, Bonner Scholar program coordinator, is leading the Bonner Scholar program area. Wofford is doing well in this area. The Old Gold and Black joins “First 54” to boost efforts to prevent substance abuse and suicide. Jed provides schools with a framework for supporting student mental health as well as assessment tools, technical assistance and a team of clinicians.

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Dr. Terry Ferguson ’75 and Dr. Amy Telligman took their Environmental Studies 101 class to the Goodall Environmental Studies Center for a lesson on the water. Sheridan Kate Murray ’19 wrote about the experience.

Read her perspective at wofford.edu/woffordtoday »
CELEBRATING COMMUNITY

IN KEEPING WITH THE BEST OF WOFFORD COLLEGE AND GREEK LIFE
WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES
My take on the naming, dedication and use of the Stewart H. Johnson Greek Village
by Omar K. Elmore ’19

We’ve given tours of our fraternity house every home football weekend since the dedication and naming of the new Stewart H. Johnson Greek Village, and I hear the same things: “Wow! Wofford sure has changed since I was a student.”

Yes, Wofford has changed over the decades, but in one short year, the social look and feel of the campus are totally different.

Last year as a freshman I was trying to fit in, and I quickly discovered that Saturday afternoons took some real planning. Would I be lucky enough to get an invitation to watch a game over in the senior village? Were my friends going to be on campus or had they made plans? By Saturday afternoon, I was tired of studying and wanted to hang out with people and have some fun, but where?

That’s no longer a question with the completion of the Stewart H. Johnson Greek Village.

“I like having the new Greek Village because it creates a space for everyone to get together — Friday nights, Saturday afternoons, philanthropy events, chapter meetings, you name it,” says Lillian Fant ’17, president of the Panhellenic Council. “This year has already felt like we’ve been having more communal activities, which is really exciting.”

During the naming and dedication of the Stewart H. Johnson Greek Village, the Wofford family discovered the area’s potential. The student body, alumni, parents, faculty and staff — all dressed in Wofford’s colors and crowding the village’s common spaces — stood together with one purpose: to celebrate community. According to Jason Davidson, director of dining services, Aramark served more than 1,000 people on-site during a tailgate-style luncheon just before the naming and dedication. The area was packed, which speaks to the importance of Greek life at Wofford.

“While many colleges and universities are choosing to direct their energies away from the Greek system, Wofford College has recommitted itself to Greek life on campus. Look around you. This beautiful village is proof,” said President Nayef Samhat during the dedication and naming ceremony. “This past year has shown us just how important Greek life and community are to Wofford College.”

Representatives from each house in the Greek Village, holding signs with their letters, provided the backdrop for the speakers. Student representatives from National Panhellenic Conference, Interfraternity Council and the Association of Multicultural Students and National Pan-Hellenic Council organizations also spoke at the event.

“I’ve already said that we need a sign at our door asking people to take their shoes off before they come in,” joked Shelton Blue ’17, president of IFC. “This is a great moment for Wofford College, and it makes the tough conversations we’ve had for the past few years worth it.”

Fant thanked the college and Greek Village donors for giving Wofford women houses “that we didn’t know we wanted until we got them.” Fant, a legacy, has been coming to Wofford and hanging out with her parents at the old fraternity row since she was a child.

Alex Hardy ’17 is new to Greek life and the fraternity scene, but he says he’s been impressed with the way different fraternities and sororities have worked together for a common goal.

“This sets Greek life at Wofford College apart, and I’m proud that Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. and the Association of Multicultural Students have been a part of this positive change at Wofford College.”

The bitterness of the lease negotiations was mentioned in passing during the dedication, a remnant of what now feels like a distant conflict. The difference on campus is now staggering. Throughout the week organizations hold events at the Stewart H. Johnson Greek Village — concerts, philanthropy events, pumpkin carving, tailgate shows, even exercise classes — that build community. The student body congregates at the Greek Village on weekend nights, flowing between the various houses regardless of affiliation. Students come to the Greek Village to study during the day or play Frisbee. It’s great, and Saturday afternoons are now simple. Students congregate at the new Stewart H. Johnson Greek Village to watch football, enjoy good music and play games on the lawn.

Drake McCormick ’18 put it really well at the dedication and naming of the Greek Village when he thanked Ann and Stewart Johnson ’67 and other Greek Village donors: “In recognition of your unselfish gifts, made in keeping with the best of Wofford College and the Greek system ... may the Stewart H. Johnson Greek Village be a place for all students ... to find welcome and a backdrop for the formation of lifelong friendships.”

I couldn’t agree more!


A PLACE WHERE DREAMS ARE DREAMED

Wofford dedicates the Meadors Multicultural House

by Annie Schott Mitchell

For Vicki R. Muller ’85, it was indeed a happy Homecoming.

For the past three years, the current Wofford Alumni Association Board of Directors president has worked with the Wofford Black Alumni Association and its leadership team of Ellis Colvin ’83 and Robert Mickle ’85 to realize a dream — a dream of a place on campus all students can call home. Over Homecoming weekend, the Meadors Multicultural House was officially dedicated in the Stewart H. Johnson Greek Village.

“The Meadors Multicultural House isn't just a building made of brick and mortar,” said Resharia Keller ’19 during the celebration, a native of Greenwood, S.C., and president of the Association of Multicultural National Pan-Hellenic Council organizations, see endless possibilities. Care of Wofford — as well as care of others — is nothing new to the Meadors family, a legacy that began with Marshall LeRoy Meadors ’24 and has continued through nine Wofford alumni spanning four generations. Jack also served on the Wofford College Board of Trustees, a post James accepted in June.

“Our family has always been very conscious about the need to bring people together,” says Jack Meadors. “This has been a priority for us, starting with my mom and dad. Segregation was something we wanted to confront when we had an opportunity.”

When Jack heard from his son about the Black Alumni Association’s desire to build a multicultural house for all students, he knew it was a perfect fit. For James Meadors, it feels good to give, and he hopes the house will be a place where differences are embraced. “A student exposed to a diverse environment is automatically richer in their knowledge and perspective of the world,” he says. “To make the world a better place for everyone should be our goal. As our alma mater, we believe that to help accomplish that, diversity is not only important at Wofford, but is essential to the institution's survival.”

Jonathan Franklin ’77, a journalism master’s student at Georgetown University, agrees. “The house is a symbol of diversity, inclusion and purpose,” he says. “Wofford, for many years, has been taking steps to increase the diversity efforts on campus when it comes to students of color, programming and awareness of issues affecting minority students. The Meadors Multicultural House will hopefully build this bridge that the campus needs in order to showcase and support all students.”

President of Kappa Alpha Pi Fraternity Inc. Alex Hardy ’19, from Spartanburg, S.C., is happy for a place his fraternity can call home. “I’m grateful that this house will give our group visibility and a voice on campus that will only enhance the already strong Wofford community. I can’t wait to use this house for many years to come.”

As a first-year student navigating the sorority recruitment process, Abby Umberger ’21 immediately found a home with the sisters of Delta Delta Delta. For her, standing in the new Stewart H. Johnson Greek Village, preparing to dedicate the new Marsha Gibbs Tri Delta House, felt surreal.

“The Marsha Gibbs House is a tangible reminder of the fact that Tri Delta gives each sister a place to belong, a place where everyone is embraced and celebrated for who they are,” says Umberger. “This house will bridge the gap for generations of women. It will play a role in inviting potential new members to learn about our sisterhood, provide a home base for current sisters to work and play, and welcome Tri Delta alumnae who return to campus.”

She and her sisters, not just at Tri Delta, but also in the college’s other sororities — Kappa Alpha Theta, Kappa Delta and Zeta Tau Alpha — were at first apprehensive about having designated houses. For the first time in college history, however, Wofford women in Greek life now have comparable facilities, and they are already enjoying their new spaces.

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A BEAUTIFUL AND ELEGANT ALIGNMENT

Wofford dedicates the Marsha Gibbs Tri Delta House during Family Weekend

by Ryann Kroske McCall ’13

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The Black Alumni Summit brought Wofford students and alumni together for the third consecutive year to talk about community at Wofford, network and enjoy a perfect fall afternoon.

Each year alumni who have celebrated the 50th anniversary of their graduation return to the college for a special reunion. This year the college inducted members of the Class of 1966 into the 50-Year Club.

The 14th Annual Terrier Ball Auction and Gala brought the Wofford family together to celebrate and raise support for Wofford College student-athletes. One hundred percent of the more than $350,000 raised during the event goes toward student-athlete scholarships.
ALUMNI SERVICE AWARDS
The Wofford College Alumni Association honored (left to right): Ellis Colvin ’83, John Moore ’04 and Ted Ballard during the weekend. Read the full story at wofford.edu/woffordtoday.

DEDICATION OF MEADORS MULTICULTURAL HOUSE
The college thanked donors during the dedication of the Meadors Multicultural House in the new Stewart H. Johnson Greek Village. (See story on page 12.)

TAILGATING TRADITION
Wofford’s low-key, family friendly tailgate scene scored the college a mention in USA Today during 2015. Read more online in the Winter 2015 Wofford Today.

TERRIER FOOTBALL
Wofford lost a heartbreaker during overtime to The Citadel. But as always, we couldn’t be more proud of our Terrier student-athletes and coaches.

STREET PARTY
The biggest party of the weekend brings the Wofford community and the Spartanburg community together for food, music and lots of gold and black fun.

REPRESENTING WOFFORD
The student body crowned Drew Copeland ’19 as Mr. Wofford and Abby Umberger ’17 as the Homecoming Queen during the weekend.
The Trustee Matching Fund

Initiated by trustee Jimmy I. Gibbs and his wife, Marsha, the Trustee Matching Fund encourages the establishment of endowed scholarships by providing a pool of dollars designated to match the scholarship gifts of alumni, parents and friends of Wofford College.

by Ryann Kroske McCall '13
JIMMY AND MARSHA GIBBS ESTABLISHED A SCHOLARSHIP AT WOFFORD COLLEGE IN MEMORY OF JIMMY'S FATHER MELVIN L. "RAZOR" GIBBS '43. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP WAS THE START OF WHAT HAS BECOME A LONG LEGACY OF GENEROSITY TO WOFFORD COLLEGE. GIBBS' STADIUM, AN ADDITIONAL ENDEWDED SCHOLARSHIP, THE MARSHA GIBBS TRI DELTA HOUSE IN THE STEWART H. JOHNSON GREEK VILLAGE, CAPITAL CAMPAIGN AND SPECIAL PROJECTS GITS, ENTUSIASTIC SUPPORT DURING THE TERRIER BALL AUCTION AND GALA AND SERVICE ON THE WOFFORD BOARD OF TRUSTEES. AND THAT LIST IS BY NO MEANS COMPLETE.

“I've always been a believer of ‘the more you give, the more you get,’” says Jimmy Gibbs. It's that mindset that motivated him to establish the Trustee Matching Fund at Wofford College, a multimillion-dollar commitment intended to create a wave of endowed scholarship support for Wofford students.

“This is one of the most selfless gifts ever made to Wofford,” says Calhoun Kennedy ’99, associate vice president and executive director for advancement. “Scholarships will always be our top priority because students are our top priority. Many outstanding students who want to attend Wofford have difficulty doing so because of financial constraints. Students who look at Wofford have options, and these scholarships can make the difference between a student coming to Wofford or choosing another institution.”

According to Kennedy, the impact of endowed scholarships is twofold. Scholarships help the college stay competitive and attract top students, and they also decrease the burden of financial aid on the operating budget. That means the college can allocate those operating dollars to academic and cocurricular programming that enhance the Wofford experience for all students.

“This gift could not be more appropriately focused, given our needs,” adds Dr. David Wood, senior vice president and executive director for advancement. “Marsha and Jimmy Gibbs have provided generous support to virtually every charitable organization in the region, namely the award-winning Gibbs Cancer Center, a part of Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System. We are so fortunate that they are also faithful friends of Wofford College.”

Normally, the college requires a minimum of $50,000 for the establishment of a permanently endowed scholarship. Matching opportunities are available through the Trustee Matching Fund, however, at three levels, beginning at a commitment of $35,000 (see box for matching criteria).

Matching funds are limited, and requests for those funds will be accepted on an ongoing basis until all funds are committed. The college will credit all matching dollars triggered by the Trustee Matching Fund to the endowed scholarship donor.

“The money is theirs to start making a difference,” says Gibbs, who established the fund as an incentive to engage new scholarship donors and magnify the impact of their gifts.

Endowed scholarships leave a legacy, says Wood. They provide perpetual scholarship support because they are funded through the dividends generated from a principal balance. They are also a lasting way to honor a family member, friend or favorite professor.

“It represents a legacy, and it also creates a legacy by providing deserving students with access to the liberal arts experience prep- ration for meaningful lives as citizens, leaders and scholars,” says Wood.

Watson takes advantage of the Trustee Matching Fund to honor a family legacy.

The daughter of two lifelong educators, Erin Mitchell Watson ’91 grew up on the campus of MacMurray College, a small liberal arts college in Illinois. She remembers fundy the time spent in the laboratory of her late father, a member of the chemistry faculty, who later served as academic dean and then president of the college. Watson found her way to Wofford thanks to the endorsement of a family friend, Dr. B.G. Stephens ’57, who served as president of MacMurray during her father's tenure as dean.

Now Watson, managing director and head of strategy for SunTrust Robinson Humphrey in Atlanta and a member of the Wofford Alumni Association Board, sees the Trustee Matching Fund as an opportunity to recognize her father's legacy, while supporting the college she loves.

Preferre for the Edward J. Mitchell Jr. Endowed Scholarship Fund, established by Watson and her husband, Tom, will go to a woman interested in going into a business field with a background of campus and community involvement.

“This is less about me and what I'm able to contribute and more about recognizing my father and his impact and accomplishments,” says Watson. Watson always will carry with her memories of her father's support of her Wofford studies in the social sciences, as well as his willingness to bring her into conversations about business. He helped her believe that she could do anything, in any field.

Watson says that scholarship support played a huge role in her ability to attend Wofford with minimal financial burden, and she always has been interested in giving back through a scholarship of her own.

Amy and Clint North '79 use Trustee Matching Fund to pursue passions and meet the mental health needs of students

Clint North '79 says he uses the well-rounded education he received at Wofford every day. While that provides a good enough reason to give, parenting three sons — Ivey, Wiley ’16 and Carl '20 — adds to the motivation.

North and his wife, Amy, saw the Trustee Matching Fund as a way to help meet a need on Wofford's campus and to make a positive impact in the lives of deserving young people. The North Family Endowed Fund was created to support the scholarship needs of students with learning differences, while also providing programmatic support for the college's Wellness Center.

“I have wanted to create a scholarship for some time, but was unsure of how to go about it and what I wanted to support,” says North. “After seeing a need for improvement in a particular area, then hearing about the matching fund that would add ‘bang for our buck,’ my wife and I decided that the time was right to start a scholarship for an underserved part of the college population.”

Beth Wallace ’82, associate dean of students and director of the Wellness Center, is ecstatic about this commitment from the North family.

“To celebrate, support and reward those students who have learning differences will mean so much. To be able to say, in the form of a scholarship, ‘We are so excited you’re here, and we're investing in you because we want you to be successful,’ speaks volumes to those students who have worked so diligently to become Wofford Terriers,” she says. “The Norths are good people who saw a need.”

For more information about how to establish an endowed scholarship and take advantage of the Trustee Matching Fund, visit wofford.edu/trusteeMatchingFund or contact Calhoun Kennedy ’99 at kennedy@wofford.edu or 864-597-4200.

IN 1983

Jimmy and Marsha Gibbs established a scholarship at Wofford College in memory of Jimmy's father Melvin L. "Razor" Gibbs '43. The establishment of the scholarship was the start of what has become a long legacy of generosity to Wofford College. Gibbs' Stadium, an additional endowed scholarship, the Marsha Gibbs Tri Delta House in the Stewart H. Johnson Greek Village, capital campaign and special projects gifts, enthusiastic support during the Terrier Ball Auction and Gala and service on the Wofford Board of Trustees. And that list is by no means complete.

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Clint North ’79 says he uses the well-rounded education he received at Wofford every day. While that provides a good enough reason to give, parenting three sons — Ivey, Wiley ’16 and Carl '20 — adds to the motivation.

North and his wife, Amy, saw the Trustee Matching Fund as a way to help meet a need on Wofford's campus and to make a positive impact in the lives of deserving young people. The North Family Endowed Fund was created to support the scholarship needs of students with learning differences, while also providing programmatic support for the college's Wellness Center.

“I have wanted to create a scholarship for some time, but was unsure of how to go about it and what I wanted to support,” says North. “After seeing a need for improvement in a particular area, then hearing about the matching fund that would add ‘bang for our buck,’ my wife and I decided that the time was right to start a scholarship for an underserved part of the college population.”

Beth Wallace ’82, associate dean of students and director of the Wellness Center, is ecstatic about this commitment from the North family.

“To celebrate, support and reward those students who have learning differences will mean so much. To be able to say, in the form of a scholarship, ‘We are so excited you’re here, and we're investing in you because we want you to be successful,’ speaks volumes to those students who have worked so diligently to become Wofford Terriers,” she says. “The Norths are good people who saw a need.”

For more information about how to establish an endowed scholarship and take advantage of the Trustee Matching Fund, visit wofford.edu/trusteeMatchingFund or contact Calhoun Kennedy ’99 at kennedy@wofford.edu or 864-597-4200.
PUTTING THEORY INTO PRACTICE

Psychology students apply lessons learned in the classroom to real-world experience

by Jo Ann Mitchell Brasington ’89
A Wofford professor and four Wofford psychology majors recently participated in a high-profile criminal case. The semester was already under way when Dr. Dawn McQuiston, associate professor of psychology and one of the college’s pre-law advisers, received a call from a local defense attorney. His client’s particularly visible homicide trial was about to begin, and the defense team wanted help with jury selection.

“I contacted four top students from my previous ‘Psychology and Law’ class and said, ‘I need your help right now. Drop what you’re doing,’” says McQuiston.

Anna Usher ’17, a psychology major with a business minor from Asheville, N.C., jumped at the chance. “I knew this could be my only opportunity to do this, and I can’t imagine a better way to apply what we learned in our ‘Psychology and Law’ class,” she says. “Plus, it’s a huge honor to know we had the trust of our professor and the defense attorney.”

McQuiston says the case was emotional with photos and evidence that were hard to see.

“I thought of these particular students because they were all in the top of their class, and I knew that they could handle the weight of this case,” says McQuiston. “The stakes were high, and they took the work very seriously.”

For Sydney Butler ’18, a psychology major with a business minor from Charlotte, N.C., the experience confirmed her interest in the field.

“This experience boosted my confidence and gave me real-world exposure to the role of psychology in the law,” she says. “I saw our work as helping assure the defendant’s right to a fair trial. It wasn’t about right or wrong, it was about the integrity of the judicial system.”

Olivia Coors ’17, a psychology major with a history minor from Laurens, S.C., says she learned that things are not always black and white.

“It’s complicated,” she says. “Knowing that, I gained so much respect for the judicial process — especially for the attorneys and Dr. McQuiston, who showed us how to be professional in this setting.”

According to McQuiston, selecting the most sympathetic jury can take months, and defendants with deep pockets — typically big corporations — may spend thousands of dollars to give themselves an advantage. That wasn’t the case in this trial; the work had to be done quickly.

“The point is to use scientific data to select or deselect jurors,” says McQuiston. “Ideally I want to look specifically at the local jury pool to determine trends in juror opinions based on demographics like income, gender, age or political views, and also take personality characteristics and preconceived ideas about justice into account. Conducting mock juries and focus groups is another way to determine the type of juror who will be sympathetic to certain kinds of evidence.”

Jury behavior and selection may be a science, but the Wofford student research team still had to contend with emotion.

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Bopp has developed a mutually beneficial relationship with White Oak Estates in Spartanburg to reinforce student learning. For example, during the fall semester her students joined White Oak residents to celebrate Active Aging Week. During one session, older adults sat on a panel answering Wofford student questions about aging:

“We sort of got off track talking about how things have changed in society since we were their age,” says Jan Frances, a retired teacher who has written four books. “We had a captive audience and enjoyed talking with the Wofford students.”

According to Emily Cappelmann ’18, a psychology major from Mount Pleasant, S.C., the White Oak residents talked about what it was like to grow up during World War II and where they were when Kennedy was assassinated. “I realized then that my generation one day will be talking about where we were during 9/11.”

Later in the week Wofford students enjoyed lunch with White Oak residents and shared technology advice. The older adults were asked to bring their laptops, e-readers and smartphones for one-on-one tutorials.

“I do a lot of walking and want to learn how to use Map My Walk.” “My son put me on Facebook, and I want to know how to post a picture of the puzzle I just finished.” “I want to Skype my girlfriend.” The Wofford students fielded a variety of questions, the older adults enjoyed the experience and their discussions extended well beyond technology.

“One resident wanted me to set his laptop to automatically connect to WiFi. Then we downloaded the Walmart App and NetFlix,” says Sutton Alexander ’18, a psychology major from Rock Hill, S.C. “He was so much fun to talk with. I couldn’t believe he was 92 years old.”

Gladys Ballinger, a resident of White Oak for almost 16 years, didn’t need computer help.

“I came to see people I didn’t know before the group discussion on Tuesday. I liked that most of the Wofford students called me by my first name. It made me feel good,” says Ballinger, who’s 86. “When you’re as old as I am, people don’t pay you much attention, but I’m still around and still have something to share.”

Gladys Ballinger that meant sharing a joke a day with the Wofford students.

“The reciprocal benefits of these intergenerational interactions are so important,” says Bopp. “Discussing technology, for instance, gives both older and younger adults a connector, something that leads to conversations and stories, and in Gladys’s case, jokes.”

The “Adult Development and Aging” course is an upper-level elective course often taken by psychology and biology majors. Many students come into the course skeptical.

“The experience made me optimistic about aging,” wrote Audra Pack ’17, a psychology major from Sarasota, Fla., in her class journal. “I now know that it is not all dark and dreary and that older adults are capable of having just as much fun, if not more, than young adults. This class has provided me the opportunity to see aspects of aging that I would not have previously noticed and has provided me with the tools I need to help my own family members and myself.”
For Amanda Greene ’16, preparing to teach means overpreparing. On Oct. 18, she began her first eighth-grade Spanish class of the day at Florence Chapel Middle School with a discussion of homework and vocabulary words that students found difficult. “Señorita Greene” and her clase (class) played charadas (charades) using their vocabulary words and Skyped Chris, a university student and Greene’s Spanish tutor in Chile. Greene's students asked Chris questions in Spanish. He answered in turn, and Greene jumped into the role of translator.

Greene filled every minute of the class period, and she could have taught more if necessary. “Christie Johnson ’95, one of my education professors at Wofford, always says to over-plan. There’s nothing wrong with over-planning because if students find out you’ve run out of things to do, that’s when classroom management falls apart,” says Greene.

Planning. Practicing. Preparing. According to Greene, who’s navigating her first year as a teacher but already talks and acts like a veteran, Wofford’s Teacher Education Program helps students with all three.

“We're demanding, and the time commitment can be stressful, but it prepared me for what teaching is now. I’m not too surprised by what I see,” Greene says that the most important part of the Teacher Education Program is the semester of student teaching. “It’s the hardest thing I’ve ever done,” she says. “On one hand I was the teacher, but on the other hand I was still a student.”

According to Johnson, students must complete 45 semester hours of coursework before being admitted to the Teacher Education Program. Teacher education candidates then complete three different field experiences: 10-, 15- and 100-hour clinicals, preferably in a rural, urban and suburban school setting. Their final field experience is the semester of student teaching during their senior year. Teacher education candidates also are required to pass three standardized tests: Praxis I, Praxis II and the PLT.

“I tell them it’s a full-time job with no pay, but good educators commit,” says Johnson, who came to Wofford to become a public school teacher and is a product of the Teacher Education Program.
Wofford will graduate three teacher education students in the spring. One of those students is Madison Jones ’17, an English major from Charleston, S.C. Jones decided her sophomore year to teach, partly because of the influence of past teachers. She believes, “good teachers are consistent and mentor as well as teach content in a way that makes students want to learn.”

Jones and her classmates in the Education 420: Instructional Methods class are eager to begin their 100-hour senior field experience because it gets them one step closer to student teaching. “I’m excited,” says Holly Reynolds ’17, a mathematics major from Fort Mill, S.C. “We’re finally going to get to put into use all that we’ve learned for the past three or four years.”

Reynolds excels at math and because of that always has found herself tutoring her peers. She wants to reassure and encourage those intimidated by the subject. “When I tell people I’m going to be a math teacher, I get a lot of ‘God bless yous,’” says Reynolds. “I’m on a mission to help those who say, ‘I’m horrible at math’ or ‘I never get math.’ If I can make even one student who hates math love it, I’ll have done a good day’s work.”

McKensie Rogers ’16, in her first year as a Spanish teacher at Byrnes High School in Duncan, S.C., understands. She decided to pursue teacher education at Wofford because of the way teaching is both about academics and personal relationships. She says valuing and considering the different learning styles of her first- and second-year Spanish students is her biggest challenge. “While I want to value their different learning styles, personalities and strengths, I have 21 to 29 students in each class, and that’s a lot of differences to consider while teaching,” she says. Her biggest reward is being a part of the growth and development of her students. “They’re young and starting to figure out life; being invited into that process is really humbling. I love seeing their academic progress, absolutely, and I love that teaching allows me to do that and at the same time see them develop as people.”

For Jones, Reynolds and Umberger, the reality that they soon will be teachers instead of students is sinking in. They will finish their last semester of coursework at Wofford in the fall and will take their final, final exams in December. They all believe in public education, and they all love students. They’re prepared, and the first-year teachers who were sitting in their seats a year ago are proof.

Taylor Till ’16 comes from a family of teachers, and although she tried to ignore the calling, she’s now happily teaching third-grade U.S. government and civics at Chapman High School in Inman, S.C. She’s also the head cheerleading coach.

“All of the classes in the Wofford Teacher Education Program prepared me to teach in a classroom,” says Till. “They taught me about the education system, strategies to implement in the classroom and different educational philosophies, but the most valuable tool the program gave me was the classroom experience.”

She acknowledges that transitioning from student to teacher was hard, but she never felt unprepared. “Dr. Ed Welchel, chairman of the college’s Teacher Education Program, was always real with us about teaching, but he also was real with us about how rewarding the profession is. I’ll always be grateful for his wise guidance.”

Rob Taylor ’16 teaches economics, government and history at Byrnes High School. “I feel 100 percent prepared to deal with the challenges and obstacles I face on a daily basis because of the instruction and opportunity I received from Wofford’s Teacher Education Program,” says Taylor. “It had a moment in college where I realized teachers do, in fact, make the difference in people’s lives, and the field of education is one of the most vital to our country.”
During his eight years as bishop of the North Alabama Conference, Bishop William H. Willimon ’68 became increasingly aware of the burden of debt that the men and women he was ordaining into the ministry were carrying. He decided that he needed to do something to help. With his wife, Patricia, he established the William H. Willimon ’71 M.Div. and Patricia Parker Willimon Scholarship Fund at Yale’s Divinity School. In a nod to his undergraduate alma mater, Willimon asked to give first preference for the fund to Wofford students in need of financial aid.

“There is a long tradition of Wofford graduates coming to YDS,” says Willimon, who established the Willimon Family Endowed Scholarship at Wofford in 2011. “Mine is directly tied to Dr. John Bullard, who was head of the Religion Department at Wofford when I was there. It was rumored at Wofford that if you were an A student, Dr. Bullard would not write a recommendation for you to anywhere else. I found that to be true. When I suggested that I apply to more than one graduate program, he simply told me he was a very busy person and would not write a recommendation for anywhere else. ‘You will thrive there,’ he told me.”

Willimon acquiesced. After graduating from Wofford, the Greenville, S.C., native enrolled at Yale Divinity School, completing his master of divinity degree. His ministry took him to a number of South Carolina Methodist congregations, and then to Duke University, where he was dean of the chapel and professor of Christian ministry until his election as a United Methodist bishop in 2004. He served eight years as the bishop of the North Alabama Conference before retiring and returning to Duke in 2012.

Jim Hackney ’77 holds a master of arts in religion from Yale and currently serves as senior director of development at Yale Divinity School. He shared the good news of Willimon’s gift with Wofford.

“Will, as a Wofford trustee and a member of the dean’s advisory council of YDS, wanted to figure out a way for this to benefit both places,” says Hackney, who explains that Yale requires every scholarship indenture to be approved by the provost. Preferences or special conditions, such as those in the Willimon scholarship, are carefully scrutinized. For that reason, YDS has very few scholarships with a preference for other colleges. “The fact that we were able to get this through reflects well on Wofford, for Wofford students who came here have done so well.”

According to Hackney, it doesn’t hurt to have Jerry Henry ’75 (YDS master of divinity), who serves on the YDS dean’s advisory council, as a friend as well. Henry is on the board of the Association of Yale Alumni (representing 150,000 Yale alumni worldwide) and chairs the graduate and professional school’s alumni.

Making the Yale Divinity School experience possible for future Wofford graduates by Phillip Stone ’94, college archivist

“IT WAS RUMORED AT WOFFORD THAT IF YOU WERE AN A STUDENT, DR. BULLARD WOULD NOT WRITE A RECOMMENDATION FOR YOU TO ANYWHERE ELSE. I FOUND THAT TO BE TRUE.”
Exploring the Wofford-YDS connection

The William H. Willimon ’71 M.Div. and Patricia Parker Willimon Scholarship Fund at Yale Divinity School was designed in part to encourage top students from Wofford to consider Yale with the incentive of tuition assistance. This is the next step in the Wofford-YDS connection that began in 1928, when Albert Outler graduated from Wofford and enrolled at Yale. Below is a list of Wofford-YDS graduates who were influenced by Wofford faculty such as Dr. John Bullard, Dean JerryCogdell, Dr. Larry McGuheer, Dr. Bill Moun and Dr. Celeste Zdanski. Dr. A.K. Anderson, chair of the Department of Religion at Wofford, and others encourage students today to consider the tradition as well.

Wofford alumni who have attended YDS since Outler:
• Richard E. Allen Jr. ’71 (M.Div. ’75)
• A.K. Anderson ’90 (M.Div. ’93)
• Mesarh Arant ’12 (M.Div. ’15)
• James Ballard ’12 (M.A.R. ’16)
• Robert T. Cannon ’79 (M.Div. ’82)
• Robert E. Cuttino ’49 (M.Div. ’52)
• Eric D. Dufuhy ’81 (S.T.M. ’86)
• J. Richard Elders ’64 (M.Div. ’69)
• Henry R. Freeman ’71 (M.Div. ’75)
• John M. Freeman ’68 (M.Div. ’71)
• Philip W. Kearse ’74 (M.Div. ’77, S.T.M. ’80)
• Iverson Graham ’58 (M.Div. ’62)
• James R. Hackney Jr. ’77 (M.A.R. ’79)
• Samuel B. Harrelson ’00 (M.A.R. ’02)
• Jerry W. Henry ’75 (M.Div. ’80)
• John W. Hewell III ’64 (M.Div. ’67)
• A.V. Huf Jr. ’59 (M.Div. ’62)
• Phillip W. Kearse ’74 (M.Div. ’77)
• James L. Mahaffey ’68 (M.Div. ’71)
• Warren L. Molton ’48 (S.T.M. ’50)
• C. Luke Powell ’59 (M.A.R. ’72)
• William L. Prosser ’10 (M.Div. ’13)
• Wade Clark Roof ’60 (M.Div. ’64)
• Reggie R. Rowell ’74 (M.Div. ’77, S.T.M. ’80)
• Henry M. Smith ’63 (M.Div. ’66)
• Kenneth E. Smith ’74 (M.Div. ’79)
• Will H. Willimon ’68 (M.Div. ’71)
• Al Tisdale ’75 was the associate dean and director of Anglican Studies and Formation at Berkeley Divinity School (Episcopal arm) at Yale for many years. His wife, Nora Tubbs Tisdale, is professor of Homiletics at YDS.

* deceased

Are there others?
If you or someone you know should be on this list, please email woffordtoday@wofford.edu.

“Unlike at denominational seminaries, students at Yale rubbed shoulders with students from many different denominations, and from all over the world.”

Anders also cites Yale’s strong tradition of teaching in biblical studies, theology and worship, and especially notes the influence of three YDS faculty members: Robert Johnson, George Lindbeck and Blained Childs. Those were part of the YDS approach to interpreting religious texts and traditions. In the years since Anderson studied at Yale, the faculty has become more diverse in terms of the fields they teach.

“Now their studies are much more global,” Anderson explains. “Students who are studying there now are getting introduced to Christianity in a full-bodied form, not just limited to one part of the world. As an alum, I have been thrilled with the direction they’ve gone in.”

Three recent Wofford graduates, Mesarah Arant ’12, James Ballard ’12 and Will Prosser ’10, have earned degrees at Yale. Prosser, a sales executive for UPS, chose Yale on the advice of Dr. Byron McComn, then the Outlier professor and chair of Wofford’s Department of Religion.

“Wofford, especially the religion department, prepared me well for the rigors of Yale,” Prosser recalls. “In fact, I noticed a distinct difference between those who went to smaller liberal arts colleges and large universities. Whenever a class asked for a comparison or synthesis of materials, I would just look around and ask, ‘Okay...and? That’s it? What else do you want?’ Because, of course, I had been asked to do similar things in every class at Wofford. Meanwhile, some of the students from large universities weren’t sure of what was being asked of them.”

In a way that Bullard predicted, Prosser found that both Wofford and Yale prepared him “for asking the difficult questions, for being able to adapt to unfamiliar and difficult situations. People ask me all the time how I use my religious education in my job, and I tell them I use it every day. Both taught me how to learn, and in this business, it’s all about two questions: What can you learn, and how fast can you learn it?” I can positively answer both because of Wofford and YDS.”

Future Wofford students can be grateful to Willimon for helping make that same experience possible for them.

“Pre-ministerial students often acted like there was no place to go to seminary outside of the South,” explains Dr. John M. Bullard, Albert C. Outlier Professor of Religion, emeritus, who chaired Wofford’s Department of Religion from 1998 to 2002. Bullard regularly encouraged his best students to consider Yale, where he had earned his seminary and doctoral degrees. He believed that attending a divinity school such as Yale would help broaden students’ horizons. “Unlike at denominational seminaries, students at Yale rubbed shoulders with students from many different denominations, and from all over the world,” says Bullard.

For similar reasons, Dr. Charles F. Nebbit ’72, who was chair of the Wofford Department of Religion before Bullard, also encouraged students to consider Yale or the University of Chicago, which was his alma mater.

During a Yale alumni reunion a number of years ago, Bullard says that a divinity school professor confided in him that his colleagues considered Wofford one of their primary feeder schools. In traveling from Wofford to Yale in 1968, Willimon was following a well-established trail. One of the first to make that trek was Dr. Albert C. Outler ’28, who earned his P.H.D. from YDS in 1938. Outler had a distinguished career as a professor, first at Duke, then at Yale and finally at Southern Methodist University. He was one of the foremost Methodists theologians and experts in the life and theology of John Wesley, and he is credited with coining the term “Wesleyan Quadrilateral” to describe the basis of Wesley’s theology — the reliance on scripture, reason, church tradition and personal experience in reaching theological conclusions. An endowed chair in religion at Wofford honors Outler’s memory.

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When he graduated from Wofford, Chris Carpenter ’90 moved to Atlanta for law school at Emory University. Shortly after that move, he received an invitation to meet with Walt Sessoms ’56 in his BellSouth headquarters office. “I was a first-year law student, and here I was sitting in Walt Sessoms’ office. I couldn’t believe that someone at his level would take an interest in me,” says Carpenter.

Carpenter, now a member of the Wofford Board of Trustees and a political and policy strategist and partner in the Peachtree Battle Group, was initiated into the Wofford-Atlanta community with that conversation, and like so many others, has remained connected to Wofford because of that support.

In September the Wofford-Atlanta community gathered for the 23rd time to hold the Atlanta Invitational golf tournament, an event that Sessoms helped start and that now honors both Sessoms and his Wofford baseball teammate Russell King ’56, who became a leader in the Wofford-Atlanta community when he moved to the area in the mid-1990s.

Ed Wile ’73, senior vice president of UBS Investment Bank & Global Asset Management, loves sharing the story of that organizational meeting of the golf committee. “We had a case of beer on my back deck,” says Wile. “We ended up with 14 teams that first year and raised about $1,600. Walt didn’t play golf, but he asked if he could borrow my son’s golf clubs and shoes so he could participate.”

A year later the group was back on Wile’s deck with another case of beer and a mission to raise more money for Wofford. “I think we raised $1,800 that second year,” says Wile. “That’s when my wife, Vicky, says, ‘You’re going about this the wrong way. You need sponsors.’”

Two decades later the Atlanta Invitational is totally sponsor-supported and has generated almost $1.3 million for Wofford student-athletes through the Terrier Club. The event that once made an annual contribution to the college now supports the Georgia Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund, established in 2011 in memory of Sessoms and King.

Two-time Major League Baseball All Star Bruce Benedict played catcher for the Atlanta Braves from 1978 until 1989. He joined the Wofford-Atlanta community during the Atlanta Invitational.
As teammates, Sessoms and King were legendary baseball players — King at first base and Sessoms as catcher. They helped grow the college’s baseball program as students and continued to serve the college as volunteers, trustees and model alumni throughout their lives. Proceeds from the Georgia Alumni Endowed Scholarship fund provide scholarship support for a student-athlete on the college’s baseball team.

“Ed Wile is right. It’s all about engagement,” says Carpenter. “Walt Sessoms and Russell King were the nucleus of this Wofford-Atlanta community. They engaged so many people and did so much good. It’s a tremendous privilege to be a part of this community and to honor them.”

This year’s tournament, at Hamilton Mill Golf Club, drew regulars like Bie Sunderland ’76, who this year brought his triplets (Nikki, Trip and Dara) to make a family foursome; Taiwanna Billups ’97, who has helped organize the event for the past six years and was playing in it for the first time; a group of regulars from AT&T that includes Fred Pearson ’74, one of the first African-Americans to play basketball at Wofford; longtime Atlanta Braves catcher Bruce Benedict, who was the guest of Bernie Gallagher ’67; and PGA Tour Professional William McGirt ’01, fresh off his FedEx championship performance at Eastlake Country Club.

“Russell and Walt were both devoted to Wofford, and baseball was in their blood,” says Kathy King, Russell’s widow. “They were on the board when baseball had to leave campus because of field regulations. It bugged him until the college brought baseball back.”

Kathy King enjoys attending the tournament each year. Wearing her Wofford gold and black, she catches up with tournament faithfuls and talks with Wofford baseball coaches and former players about the program.

“It’s rare that I go through old family items without finding something that has to do with Wofford or baseball,” says King. “I know I speak for Harriett (Sessoms) when I say how much it means to us to share who Russell and Walt were with the people now playing in the tournament. We were very touched when they honored them with the baseball scholarship and still are.”

Russell’s grandson, Ryan King of Charlotte, N.C., played in the tournament for the first time this year. According to Kathy, who became a baseball fan after she married Russell, the family connection now extends to another generation. Ryan’s first-grade son, Cameron, Russell’s great-grandson, loves Wofford baseball and has had the opportunity to round the bases at Russell C. King Field. “It means a lot to have that family connection,” she says.

Like Wile, Frank Herndon ’80 has been a tournament organizer since the beginning. Although he was the first volunteer and player to arrive at the course the morning of the tournament, he says that the tournament practically runs itself.

“Under Ed’s leadership it’s almost on autopilot,” says Herndon, director of business development for CIBER, a software services company in Atlanta. “We’ve got a group that cares about Wofford and wants to make things happen. Establishing an endowment with the tournament proceeds made it personal.”

The tournament, Wofford-Atlanta community and level of support generated for the college have grown because of that, just ask Kathleen Bazaz ’11.

“Ed Wile gave me an internship with UBS right after graduation. It helped me get my feet wet in the industry,” she says. “One day Ed says, ‘Wofford alumni in Atlanta host this golf tournament. I’d never played golf, but I’m good at organizing, and I appreciated the opportunities that Ed had given me, so I volunteered to help.’

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This year’s tournament, at Hamilton Mill Golf Club, drew regulars like Bie Sunderland ’76, who this year brought his triplets (Nikki, Trip and Dara) to make a family foursome; Taiwanna Billups ’97, who has helped organize the event for the past six years and was playing in it for the first time; a group of regulars from AT&T that includes Fred Pearson ’74, one of the first African-Americans to play basketball at Wofford; longtime Atlanta Braves catcher Bruce Benedict, who was the guest of Bernie Gallagher ’67; and PGA Tour Professional William McGirt ’01, fresh off his FedEx championship performance at Eastlake Country Club.

“Russell and Walt were both devoted to Wofford, and baseball was in their blood,” says Kathy King, Russell’s widow. “They were on the board when baseball had to leave campus because of field regulations. It bugged him until the college brought baseball back.”

Kathy King enjoys attending the tournament each year. Wearing her Wofford gold and black, she catches up with tournament faithfuls and talks with Wofford baseball coaches and former players about the program.

“It’s rare that I go through old family items without finding something that has to do with Wofford or baseball,” says King. “I know I speak for Harriett (Sessoms) when I say how much it means to us to share who Russell and Walt were with the people now playing in the tournament. We were very touched when they honored them with the baseball scholarship and still are.”

Russell’s grandson, Ryan King of Charlotte, N.C., played in the tournament for the first time this year. According to Kathy, who became a baseball fan after she married Russell, the family connection now extends to another generation. Ryan’s first-grade son, Cameron, Russell’s great-grandson, loves Wofford baseball and has had the opportunity to round the bases at Russell C. King Field. “It means a lot to have that family connection,” she says.

Like Wile, Frank Herndon ’80 has been a tournament organizer since the beginning. Although he was the first volunteer and player to arrive at the course the morning of the tournament, he says that the tournament practically runs itself.

“Under Ed’s leadership it’s almost on autopilot,” says Herndon, director of business development for CIBER, a software services company in Atlanta. “We’ve got a group that cares about Wofford and wants to make things happen. Establishing an endowment with the tournament proceeds made it personal.”

The tournament, Wofford-Atlanta community and level of support generated for the college have grown because of that, just ask Kathleen Bazaz ’11.

“Ed Wile gave me an internship with UBS right after graduation. It helped me get my feet wet in the industry,” she says. “One day Ed says, ‘Wofford alumni in Atlanta host this golf tournament. I’d never played golf, but I’m good at organizing, and I appreciated the opportunities that Ed had given me, so I volunteered to help.’
CLASS NOTES

1954
In September the National Newspaper Association awarded Bill Kinney Jr. the James O. Amos Award for his lifetime commitment to community journalism. Kinney is the editor and publisher emeritus of the Marlboro Herald-Adocate.

1960
Charleston, S.C., attorney James A. Stuckey Jr. has retired and closed his law office. He was admitted to practice law in South Carolina in 1961 and in California in 1964.

1971
Kerneth Smith, class chair
J. Harold Chandler has been elected chairman, president and CEO of Milliken & Co. Chandler has served on Milliken’s board of directors for 14 years, the past five as chairman. In May he completed 42 years of service on the Woodford Board of Trustees. The boardroom in the DuPré Administration Building was named in his honor for his service, including five years as chairman. Chandler says his first step at Milliken will be “to ensure an effective transition and to maintain the positive momentum from which the company is currently benefiting.”

1977
David N. Anderson of Columbia, S.C., has joined Greenrool-grande South Bank as senior vice president and market president in Richland and Lexington counties, leading the bank’s entry into the Midlands. Anderson is a veteran banker with 38 years of experience. In September, Anderson was named in his honor for his service, including five years as chairman. Chandler says his first step at Milliken will be “to ensure an effective transition and to maintain the positive momentum from which the company is currently benefitting.”

1984
Ken Kirkpatrick, class chair
Max L. “Rocky” Cummings Jr. has joined Boone Beasount & Woodham as senior manager and director of the accounting and assurance department in the Woodford Office. Cummings has more than 30 years of certified accounting experience in a wide array of industries.

1986
Brand Stille, class chair
Renee Farmer Foxworth is a pediatric nurse practitioner with the Rolina School of Public Health at Ebyrory University in Atlanta. She lives in Lithonia, Ga., with her husband, Nathaniel Earle Foxworth Jr.

1989
Michael Sullivan, class chair
In February, Mark Bundy paused his FCC General Class examination at the Atlanta office. As an active “ham” operator, he is using his license to learn emergency communications. Bundy operates with the call sign WA7US. He also is active with the American Radio Relay League’s National Parks on the Air program, including activations at the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historical Site and the Chattooga River National Recreation Area.

1991
Leslie Houch Pag, class chair
Beth Stacy Pitts is an attorney with Denney Pese Kalk and Morgan in Columbia, Ga., where she lives with her husband and three children.

1999
Zach Atkinson, class chair
Anthony Leigh has earned a master’s degree in philanthropy and development from Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota. He serves as senior vice president for institutional development at Huntington College in Montgomery, Ala. He also serves as chairman of the board of stewards at Fraser Memorial United Methodist Church and chairman of the advisory board of Baptist East Medical Center. He is a member of the board of directors of the Business Council of Alabama and the Montgomery Rotary Club Foundation.

Eleanor McDonough Malinokski and her husband, Joe Malinokski, have announced the birth of their son, Bryan Andrew, born Aug. 28, 2016. He joins big brother, Owen.

A senior manager in the Charleston, S.C., office, Sarah Windham has been named a partner at Dixon Hughes Goodman. Windham is a certified public accountant.

1993
Anthony D. Hooper Jr., class chair
Jonathan Plack has been appointed family business services leader for PricewaterhouseCoopers US. As the leader of PwC’s Family Business Practice, he spearheads the strategy, operations, talent development, thought-leadership and marketing for the sector.

The Aiken Center for the Arts recently featured the works of Leigh Hyman Ryan as part of an all-women’s artist collection. For more information about Ryan and to view her latest work, visit leighryanart.com.

2000
Anthony D. Hooper Jr., class chair
Jenna Sheehan Bridgers, class chair
Dana Bruce and her husband, Scott Palmer, announce the birth of their daughter, Chelsea Grimsley Oswald, born June 7, 2016. Ramsey joins big sister Lela Gwen Palmer.

Dr. David J. Fallaw is the chief medical information officer at Augusta University’s Medical College of Georgia. He provides leadership and direction for the development and implementation of the clinic system strategic technology plan for the organization, while ensuring safety, quality and efficiency of patient care through the use of clinical technology solutions and evidence-based medical best practices. In addition, he acts as associate program director for the college’s Internal Medicine Residency Program and directs a course for internal medicine and family medicine residents. He received the MG1 Exemplary Teaching Award for Residence Education in 2013 and 2015.

2004
Fred Byers, class chair
Grant Close and his wife, Mary Grace Close, announce the birth of their daughter, Alice “Can” Close, born Sept. 1, 2016. The family lives in Spartanburg, S.C.

Chelsee Grimsley Oswald and Jeremy Oswald welcomed a daughter, Alice “Can” Oswald, born Sept. 4, 2016. Chelsea recently completed her fellowship in pediatric psychology at the Kennedy Krieger Institute at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. The family lives in Charleston.

2001
Brenda Johnson, class chair

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Call the Alumni Office at 864-597-4185

“STRANGERS TO TEMPTATION”
Hub City Press to release Gould’s short story collection in June

by Jo Ann Mitchell Brasington ’89

“If you are a sane, intelligent reader needful of stories that involve the heartbreak and hilarity of childhood, then you will cherish Scott Gould’s perfect collection of linked stories, ‘Strangers to Temptation.’

George Singleton, John C. Calhoon Professor of Humanities at Wofford College and author of ‘In the Heart of the Fire: The Civil War as Shared Memory’ and ‘The Cotton King: The Life of Joseph Choate,’ said, ‘I’ve read this collection and declare it a masterpiece.’

Designed by Jo Ann Mitchell Brasington ’89

‘You’ll be taken on a wild, eerie, unforgettable, yet ultimately comforting journey through the early South. You’ll be transported to another time and place—a time that has never left us and yet feels foreign and distant.’

‘Strangers to Temptation’ takes readers to a place in time where religion and race provide the backdrop for an often uneasy coming of age. Linked by a common voice, Gould’s 15 stories introduce a cast of uniquely Southern characters: a Vietnam vet father with half a stomach who plays a skinny Jesus in the annual Easter Play, a mother/nurse attempting to heal the world, all the while coping with sins of Smirnoff and Tang; a best friend whose reckless dive off a bridge earns him a fake eyelash and a new girlfriend; and the narrator, a base-ball-playing, paper-delivering boy just hoping to navigate the crooked path out of adolescence.

‘I always tell students NEVER to listen to that ancient creative-writing cliché that you should only write what you know. Rather, I tell them to write what they know well enough to lie about,’ says Gould, who lived in Kingstree between the ages of 5 and 14. ‘Those are important years. You learn a lot about life and love and death and community and laughter and despair and connection and heartbreak during those years. And for me, that chunk of years occurred in the late 1960s and early 1970s, when the schools were desegregating and new boundaries were being drawn, while the old boundaries were supposedly being erased.’

Gould, whose poetry, fiction and nonfiction have been published in Kenyon Review, New Madrid Journal, Carolina Quarterly and New Stories from the South, says his career as a writer started at Wofford.

‘Wofford runs through all of it,’ he says, ‘and I don’t ever take that for granted.’

‘Strangers to Temptation’ will be released on June 6, but it’s available now for preorder at hubcity.org/press/catalog/fiction/strangers-to-temptation.”
Adam and Stacey Williamson Perron welcomed two future Wofford Terriers with the birth of Virginia Belle Perron and Hugh Holman Perron, born June 12, 2016. According to their parents, the twins are looking forward to their first home football game.

2005
Ryan Waller, class chair

Paith Maret Pope launched Top Drawer Consignment Women's Consignment on June 1, 2016, in Spartanburg. The high-end women's consignment shop features clothing, shoes and accessories and operates primarily through trunk shows and online at shopfordrawer.net.

Claude T. Prevost III is a shareholder at Collinus and Lacy, practicing in construction, professional liability and premises liability. He was named a South Carolina Super Lawyers Rising Star and was voted "Best and Brightest — 35 and Under" for Columbia Business Monthly's inaugural listing. Prevost is president of the Young Lawyers Division of the South Carolina Defense Trial Attorneys Association. He lives in Columbia with his wife, Ann Mac, and children, Townsend and Layne.

2006
Hailey Green Intelletz, class chair

Now living in Shef., S.C., Laura Green and Nick Schonisch were married on Oct. 17, 2015, in Greenville, S.C. Laura works for Metlife in Greenville, and Nick works for PricewaterhouseCoopers in Spartanburg. Dr. Lindsay Grosso was a bridesmaid.

2007
Hunter Miller, class chair

Alex Fridzon is the chief financial officer and co-owner of AD 1 Global in Hollywood, Fla., where he lives with his wife, Katie, and two children, Abigail (4) and Hunter (2). Continuing her career in education, Tanya George Marshall was recently hired as the first African-American female to teach elementary school with Westminster Schools of Augusta in Georgia. She earned her M.Ed. from Columbia International University in December 2015. Marion Smith, a civil-society leader, expert in international affairs and executive director of the Victims of Commemorative Memorial Foundation, spoke at Wofford on Oct. 5. Smith holds a master's degree in international relations from Central European University, and his articles have appeared in USA Today, The Hill, The Washington Post and The Wall Street Journal.

2008
Nathan Madigan, class chair

Mary Beth Broadwater and Alexander Kollert were married on Sept. 3, 2016, in Salzburg, Austria. They had a small wedding at the University of Salzburg. Matthew Samuel Sumner and his wife, Amanda, welcomed a son, Matthew Samuel "Sam" Sumner IV, born May 21, 2016.

2009
Peyton Hupp, class chair

Living in Pasadena, Calif., Dr. Achini Bandara and Joshua Wiley were married on Oct. 15, 2016. The ceremony was held in Lexington, S.C. Achini and Josh met at Purdue University. She is a research administrator for the University of Southern California, and he is a technologist with NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratories. Mary Frances Dassel-Cole is a magistrate judge in Anderson, S.C. A graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law, Cole previously worked as an attorney in private practice and as a Spartanburg County public defender. She and her husband, the Rev. Lee Cole, live in Williamson.

2010
Kari Harris, class chair

Proud parents Molly and Joe Fornadel welcomed a son, William O'Neil Fornadel, born Aug. 8, 2016. Joe is now an associate attorney at Nelson Mullins in Columbia, S.C., handling medical-device and pharmaceutical litigation. Preston Willard and Charlotte Manigault McElveen, both of Columbia, were married on Sept. 30. He is chief operation officer of Palmetto Garage Works, and she is a human resources assistant with JH Development.

2011
Nam Pham, class chair

After graduating with a master of medical science degree in physician assistant studies from Mercer University, Alexandra Rogers James accepted a position as a physician assistant at OrthoNOW in Savannah, Ga. She and William James were married on July 16, 2016. William received a master of healthcare administration degree in 2013 from the University of South Carolina and is now a financial oncology analyst with the Nancy N. and J.C. Lewis Cancer and Research Pavilion at St. Joseph's.

WEATHERING THE STORM
Dr. Troy Gamble '76 spends retirement reviving local hospital

by Alex Hunt '15

Dr. Troy Gamble '76 knew from an early age that he wanted a career in medicine. He chose Wofford based on its reputation for producing successful medical students, and then went on to attend the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. After a long and fruitful career — beginning in a family physicians office and ending in the hospice system — Gamble was preparing for retirement when he received a call to join the team of Williamsburg Regional Hospital in Kingstree, S.C.

The hospital was in poor shape and millions of dollars in debt when Gamble took the reins as chief medical officer.

“Wofford taught me persistence,” says Gamble, referring to the rigorous academics and the accountability required by the Wofford faculty. The discipline and determination he developed were essential then and still remain keys to his success.

After several years of devoted labor, the hospital was set to make a profit for the first time in years. Then on Oct. 5, 2015, record-breaking flooding devastated South Carolina. The Black River, which runs through Kingstree, breached its banks. Water made its way into the walls of the hospital, later creating issues with mold and asbestos. A Department of Health and Environmental Control inspection forced the hospital to close its doors.

For Gamble, the hospital's prognosis, which involved laying off employees, turning away patients and permanently cutting off a source of community health care, was unacceptable. Over the past year, Williamsburg Regional Hospital has been functioning out of temporary emergency structures in its parking lot and in the offices of local physicians. With aid from FEMA and the state, the hospital has secured the funding required to build "temporary long-term" structures that will provide all the services of the former hospital. The plan is for these “temporary long-term” structures that will provide all the services of the former hospital.

“It's been two steps forward and three steps back,” says Gamble, dove in and committed himself to revitalization.

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“It’s been two steps forward and three steps back,” says Gamble, but persistence is paying off, and Gamble and hospital supporters remain hopeful and committed.

above: left to right in front of the emergency hospital facility: Dr. C. Dorn Smith, CEO Sharon Poston and Dr. Troy Gamble.

above right: the Williamsburg Regional emergency mobile hospital


“I did better than I thought, given that it’s one of the toughest terrains for an Ironman,” says Critchfield. “My goal was under 15 hours, even though each athlete is given 17 hours to complete the course.”

Critchfield started running for his health in 2012.

“It was tough, hurt and was not fun, but I began getting faster and losing weight,” he says. “I began winning races (5Ks, 10Ks, then half and full marathons). Then I got asked to compete in an Olympic distance triathlon in Chattanooga and started swimming ... I was hooked and started doing iron-distance races.”

The Ironman consists of a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bike leg and a 26.2-mile run to finish the competition.

Training has obviously become a big part of his life, but Critchfield also has a rewarding day job as corporate counsel for Volkswagen at the manufacturing plant in Chattanooga, Tenn.

“I mainly deal with contracts and suppliers,” says Critchfield, “but I’m such a car fanatic that this job is a perfect fit.”

2009

Wyatt Hoge, class chair

William received a master of healthcare administration from Mercer University. Mary Frances Dassel-Cole is a magistrate judge in Anderson, S.C. A graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law, Cole previously worked as an attorney in private practice and as a Spartanburg County public defender. She and her husband, the Rev. Lee Cole, live in Williamson.

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41 YEARS AND 500 MILES APART: ROWE AND MORRIS DISCOVER COMMON GROUND

A 63-year-old man who works as a chemical engineer and a 28-year-old woman who works as a writer and editor may not have much in common, but Leonard Rowe ’75 and Lisa Morris ’12 discovered a surprising connection at a colleague’s goodbye luncheon.

Sitting at a table with Rowe and several others on a military base in Maryland, Morris told a story about her one and only camping experience. She explained that the camping experience in the Peruvian Amazon was a part of Interim, a January term that focused on experiential learning, internships and study abroad opportunities offered by the liberal arts college she attended.

“Where did you go to school?” Rowe asked.

“Woford College,” Morris replied.

Rowe and Morris enjoyed a homecoming of sorts in Maryland, sharing tales of Woford and the similarities and differences in their experiences, which were at years apart.

A South Carolina native, Rowe was recruited to work at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland after studying chemistry at Woford, physical chemistry at the University of North Carolina and chemical engineering at Vanderbilt University. He now works with the Joint Project Leader for Elimination, an element of the Joint Program Manager, Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical and Biological Defense. The government organization is responsible for delivering material solutions to defend against the world’s chemical and biological threats.

Morris supports JPL-E as a client with the award-winning advertising and public relations agency, Joint Project Leader for Elimination, an element of the Joint Program Manager, Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical and Biological Defense. The government organization is responsible for delivering material solutions to defend against the world’s chemical and biological threats.

“Patterson Maker Miller is the operations manager for Mana Nutrition in Matthews, N.C. She and her husband, Graham Stroud Miller, were married on Aug. 20, 2016. They live in Charlotte.

Lisa Traywick has joined Sowell Gray Stripp & Laffitte as an associate in its Columbia, S.C. office. Prior to joining the firm, Traywick served as clerk to the Hon. H. Bruce Williams at the South Carolina Court of Appeals and the Hon. David C. Norton at the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina.

2012

Hallie Wilkin, class chair

Living in Orlando, Fla., ReAnne Satterlee Hinton and Tyler Newsom were married on June 17, 2016. Before is pursuing a master of arts degree in forensic and legal psychology at Marymount University.

2013

Morgan Victoria Amick, class chair

Catherine Lang received a master of science degree in occupational therapy from the Medical University of South Carolina in August. She is now working as an occupational therapist at the University Medical Center in Lubbock, Texas.

2014

Shri Selvakumar, class chair

Caesar’s Head Capital has announced the appointment of McFadden Anderson as managing director. The position brings Anderson back to his hometown of Greenville, S.C., after working in real estate investment and banking in Jacksonville, Fla.

2015

Maggie Strawd, class chair

This fall Lauren Dunbar has been competing for a spot on the LLPG Tour. She finished 65th overall in the first stage and has qualified for 2017 Symetra Tour status. Cathy and Pat Crowley ’73, a member of the 1970 Wofford NAIA National Championship golf team, have taken Dunbar under their wing. Crowley has caddied for Dunbar during the qualifying rounds and serves as her coach while she practices at the Country Club of Spartanburg.

Lauren Elizabeth Williamson received her master’s degree in professional accountancy from Clemson University. She has accepted a position at Elliott Davis DeLoach, in Columbia, S.C., as a tax accountant.

2016

Marianne Conrad, class chair

Annamaria Hidalgo accepted a position as an academic counselor at Spartanburg Methodist College.

Yukun Peng Drew is enjoying graduate school in the Entertainment Arts Engineering program at the University of Utah. The program was recently featured on National Video Game Day by FOX News as the top program in the country for video game design.

Developing the Flavors of Food and Foreign Policy

Womble finds rewarding work with Conflict Kitchen and Pittsburgh community

by Jo Ann Mitchell Brasington ’89

Several hundred people a day come to Conflict Kitchen in Pittsburgh, Pa., for food, conversation and a peek into a different way of life.

“Food is so central to every culture, and the communal action of dining with each other is very unifying,” says Malika Smith Womble ’11, who works parttime as the assistant to the co-directors of Conflict Kitchen. “A person may not understand the nuances of American foreign policy in Palestine, but they can enjoy the food and learn more.”

Conflict Kitchen, a public art project, serves food from countries with which the United States is in conflict. The current focus is on the food, culture and politics of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy (the six-member Iroquois Confederacy located mostly in upstate New York). “We just finished a seven-month focus on the Iranian community,” says Womble. “Pittsburgh has a large Iranian population, and local members of the community came to eat and talk. Conflict Kitchen brings more diversity to the community and gives us important opportunities for human interactions with different people.”

Womble, who is finishing her master’s degree in international development at the University of Pittsburgh, says Conflict Kitchen is the ideal fit for her background and interests. After graduation from Wofford, she received a graduate certificate from the Conflict, Development and Peace program at Carnegie Mellon University. After that, Womble worked in her family’s catering business and took advantage of lots of opportunities at Wofford to develop leadership skills, a global perspective and a heart for local community engagement.

“My work at Conflict Kitchen has a little bit of everything I love,” she says. “Wofford is really great about exposing students to lots of experiences — intern, study abroad, Greek life — not everyone has the chance to participate in those things. Conflict Kitchen is a place where people can get a global perspective and seek out alternative perspectives — like Wofford — so it’s a great fit for me.”

As the assistant to the co-directors, Womble’s work includes reconciling financials and budgeting, managing human resources issues and serving as the liaison with funders. When she’s not attending classes and studying or working, she’s volunteering and supporting community development in her borough, Millvale.

“It’s an up-and-coming community, and I’ve already seen tons of positive change,” says Womble. “Wofford taught me how important it is to get involved. I didn’t know anyone when I came to Wofford. Joining Tri Delta and having that tight-knit as an alumna encouraged me to try new things and voice.”

Womble now serves as the volunteer alumna adviser to the Tri Delta chapter at Carnegie Mellon, where her husband, Tyler Womble ’12, is completing his doctoral degree in chemistry.

“I love where I am right now,” says Womble. “Pittsburgh is a great local testing ground for me to develop more leadership skills and experience. We miss being closer to Wofford, but we’re really happy here.”
IN MEMORIAM

1943
William Kilgore Thompson Jr., Sept. 9, 2016, Spartanburg, S.C. Thompson served during World War II as a motor officer and regiment maintenance officer. After the war he married his sweetheart, Mary, who wrote him a letter every day while he was away. He served with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Savannah, Ga., for 30 years. He retired with many honors, including the Army Decoration for Meritorious Civilian Service. He was an elder in the Presbyterian Church and an active Habitat for Humanity and Mobile Meals volunteer.

1949
Dr. Roy James Ellison Jr., Sept. 30, 2016, Greenville, S.C. A member of Westminster Presbyterian Church and a World War II veteran, Ellison practiced psychiatry for more than 50 years. He served as medical director of Marshall J. Pickens Hospital and chairman of Greenville Hospital System’s Department of Psychiatry. He led several professional associations and served on the state Board of Medical Examiners as the first psychiatrist and legislative representative of the state psychiatry association.

1950
The Rev. Thomas F. Steele Jr., Sept. 26, 2016, Rock Hill, S.C. A retired United Methodist minister, Steele was the first director of the Jaycee Boys Home in Rock Hill. He also served as director of the Children’s Home in Lancaster, S.C. He and his wife, Mary, were foster parents to more than 160 children during this time and were newly found to as “Mom and Pop Steele.”

1951

1952
Robert Alfred Hammett Sr., Aug. 26, 2016, Spartanburg, S.C. A longtime attorney, Hammett served in the South Carolina House of Representatives from 1960 to 1968. He was past city attorney and mayor of Inman. Hammett served four years in the U.S. Army on active duty in Korea and Europe before spending 18 years in the Army Reserve. He was an active member of the Episcopal Church of the Advent and past president of the Advent Foundation.

1954
The Rev. Willis Harold Switzer, Aug. 29, 2016, Franklin, Va. A veteran of World War II, Switzer pastored Baptist churches for 50 years. He retired in 2016 and continued to serve the community through a grief support group.

1956
Billy Hobert Inman Jr., Sept. 25, 2016, Boiling Springs, S.C. A U.S. Army veteran, Inman was a longtime agent with Liberty Life Insurance Company and a devoted volunteer with Boy Scouts of America. He was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church.

1957
Jerry Thomas Davis, Sept. 14, 2016, Spartanburg, S.C. Davis worked as a computer programmer before suffering from debilitating mental illness. He found hope and enjoyment later in life through New Day Clubhouse, an organization that provides volunteer opportunities, socialization and purpose for members.

1959
Col. (Ret.) Kenneth Huff Campbell, Sept. 16, 2016, Horse Shoe, N.C. Campbell served in the U.S. Army for 35 years, with assignments in Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Panama, Vietnam and Thailand. He was a member of the Carolina Mountain Artist Guild and the owner of Function Plus. He was an active member of Enowah United Methodist Church.

1960
Ernest Roy Baerfield, Sept. 8, 2016, Rutherford, S.C. Baerfield served on the Wofford Alumni Board, including a term as president in 1993. He also served as president of the Wofford Georgia Alumni Club between 1987 and 1990. Baerfield did a tour with the U.S. Army Intelligence Corps before enjoying a successful career in business and accounting.

1962
Hoyt Croomswell Burnett Jr., Sept. 5, 2016, Lexington, S.C. Burnett was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity and a four-year letterman and captain during his senior year on the Wofford football team. He spent his career with the state of South Carolina, including service with Vocational Rehabilitation, Midlands Technical College and Lexington School District Five. He was a member of Kirthwood Baptist Church.

1963
Roy Lee Cashwell Jr., Sept. 16, 2016, Greenville, S.C. Cashwell died after a brave battle with cancer. A loyal Terrier fan, Cashwell was instrumental in the creation of the Cashwell Family Endowed Scholarship at Wofford, where the family has asked that memorials be made. Cashwell spent his career in the insurance industry after a tour in Germany with the Army Security Agency. He was an active member of the Sertoma Club of Greenville and a faithful volunteer of the club’s Christmas tree program.

1965
William Frank Turner Jr., Sept. 9, 2016, Inman, S.C. Turner worked as an accountant with Mayfair Mills and as a tax counselor with the Spartanburg Methadone Clinic. He served in the South Carolina National Guard.

1966
Dr. Clarence Edward Taylor Jr., Oct. 11, 2016, Columbia, S.C. Taylor worked at the South Carolina Department of Mental Health as a psychologist and director of staff development and training. He devoted his life and career to promoting respect for those affected by mental illness.

1969
Elbert Stone Felder, Sept. 5, 2016, Union, S.C. Felder retired from the state of South Carolina and was a former member of the South Carolina Soil Conservation District. He was a lifelong member of Grace United Methodist Church.

Friends
Dr. James A. Keller, Sept. 6, 2016, Spartanburg, S.C. Keller retired as Samuel Pate Gardner Professor of Philosophy at Wofford in 2011 after 30 years of service. He chaired the department from 1972 to 2003 and was awarded emeritus status following retirement. Keller continued to teach classes even after retirement. His research and teaching interests centered on how religious beliefs can be appropriately justified, and his book, “Problems of Evil and the Power of God” (Ashgate, 2007), dealt with those issues. He was an avid reader of fiction and a film buff. Keller was an active member of First Presbyterian Church of Spartanburg.


Larry Douglas Kearse Sr., Sept. 18, 2016, Irmo, S.C. Kearse taught history and social studies for 34 years. He retired from Columbia High School in 2013 as a teacher, athletics director and dean of students. He was a recipient of the Christine Welsh Humanitarian Award in 1996. Kearse was a member of Grace United Methodist Church.

Susan Hall Fisher, Sept. 14, 2016, Spartanburg, S.C. A member of Kappa Delta sorority at Wofford, Fisher taught history at Dorman High School. She was a devoted mother and wife.

Making Memorial Gifts
There are three ways to make a memorial gift to Wofford:
1. Call the Office of Advancement at 864-597-4200.
2. Visit wofford.edu/supportwofford.
3. Mail a check made payable to Wofford College Office of Advancement 429 N. Church Street Spartanburg, S.C. 29303-3663.

Visit wofford.edu/lifelonglearning to enroll or discover more.
THIS COULD BE ME

Paul Atkins ’80 returns to campus to share experiences as commissioner of the SEC

by Jo Ann Mitchell Brasington ’89

When Paul S. Atkins ’80, CEO of Patomak Global Partners, former Securities and Exchange commissioner and a member of the Congressional Oversight Panel for the Troubled Asset Relief Program, came to campus in October, Kiara Williams ’18 was sitting in the audience in Leonard Auditorium thinking, “This could be me one day.”

Atkins was on campus to talk about international business, the current regulatory climate and the SEC, but he also returned to inspire and advise as a successful graduate of Wofford College.

“Paul Atkins is a reminder to those of us who teach here that our students may one day make decisions that have a great impact on the lives of others,” says Dr. David Alvis, associate professor of government and one of the college’s pre-law advisors.

Atkins has done just that. During his six-year tenure on the SEC (2002-2008), Atkins advocated for better transparency and consistency in the SEC’s decision-making and enforcement activities and smarter regulation that considers costs and benefits. Before joining the SEC, Atkins, who went to Vanderbilt Law School and worked as an attorney in New York immediately after graduation, assisted financial services firms in improving their compliance with SEC regulations and worked with law enforcement agencies to investigate and rectify situations where investors had been harmed. The largest of those involved the Bernie Madoff Ponzi scheme. Atkins was appointed emergency president of the Bennett Holding Group’s only legitimate subsidiary and eventually helped the company’s clients recover most of their investments.

“The experience made me sensitive to investor protection issues and the importance of the SEC’s enforcement powers,” says Atkins, who required everyone on his recovery team to field calls from swindled investors. “Two hundred thousand people lost money during the Madoff scandal. Their stories motivated me to do our job.”

Since then, Atkins has spoken across the country and written articles in The Wall Street Journal, Harvard Law Review, Financial Times, Forbes and USA Today about going after Ponzi schemes. He shared some of those stories with Wofford students and gave them an SEC primer, discussed his views on the causes for the failure of the banks in 2008 and weighed in on the flaws in the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. He also answered questions from Wofford students.

“What will keep us from another recession and taxpayer bailout?” “Is the SEC constitutional?” “Is high-frequency trading good practice? Why or why not?” “Do you have suggestions for internships in the financial services field?” “Is it better for me to go straight to graduate school or get experience in business first?”

“They were a sharp group,” says Atkins. “Wofford has good leadership and an active, engaged student body. It’s been fun to watch the college’s progress from Washington.”

After Atkins addressed the crowd in Leonard Auditorium, he ate lunch with and answered additional questions from Wofford students studying accounting, economics, finance, government and history.

“I’m taking an accounting class this semester and just did a presentation on the SEC, so this is relevant both to what I’m studying and to my future,” says Williams, a government major with a business economics minor from Blythewood, S.C.

Read the full story at wofford.edu/woffordtoday »
PUMPKIN FEST

The college brought in hundreds of pumpkins during the fall for the Second Annual Pumpkin Fest. Students carved Wofford-, Halloween-, Thanksgiving- and even Christmas-themed pumpkins and then enjoyed hot apple cider and fall treats.