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

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

Willie Earle, the victim of the last lynching in the state. Will Gravely '61 and Dr. Will Willimon responded by raising funds to replace a stolen monument to Earle.

Current Wofford students '68 and Dr. Will Gravely '61.

In February, Wofford hosted a conference on South Carolina’s last lynching and racism. The event featured the insights of Dr. Will Willimon, who was the expert witness (or professor) in Dr. Tom Tolbert ‘77’s case.

During the spring semester the Hon. Henry Floyd ’70 (above right), U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, left his gavel and robe and returned to Wofford a few times a week, where he was the expert witness (or professor) in Dr. Tom Tolbert ‘77’s case. Julia Elizabeth Tolbert will be fully restored and become a part of the college’s permanent collection thanks to the generosity of Dr. Tom Tolbert and Judy Klausen Tolbert ’77. Julia Elizabeth Tolbert studied under Lamar Dodd and was active through the 1940s into the mid-1950s.

The event featured the insights of Dr. Will Willimon, who was the expert witness (or professor) in Dr. Tom Tolbert ‘77’s case.

Dr. Dawn McQuiston, associate professor of psychology and pre-law advisor, took four students to the Innocence Network Conference in San Diego, Calif., in April. Attending the conference were (left to right) Faith Lifer ’17, Sami Bernstein ‘17, Amanda Knox (wrongfully convicted in Italy as an exchange student), Cierra Kaiser ’17 and Peggy Payne ’17.

Continued online.

The classroom in Daniel Building 203 now has a new, large-scale map of the world thanks to Jake Brice ’17 (above), an international affairs and economics double major from Greenville, S.C. Brice searched the world for the rare map, secured Campus Union funding and helped install it when it arrived on campus.

Continued online.

A selection of works of Julia Tolberts continue restoration and showcased to students at Wofford.

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

Continued online.

During the college’s 163rd Commencement Wofford presented honorary degrees to Harold Chandler ’71 (below), chairman, president and CEO of Milliken & Co, who also delivered the Commencement address; Nikky Finney, a South Carolina poet; and Susan Phifer “Stace” Johnson, community volunteer, philanthropist and art collector.

Continued online.

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Continued online.

An experience they will never forget: Wofford baseball team visits National September 11 Monument and Museum.

Small world New York: Wofford graduates share the art of living and working in the Big Apple.

Rosalind Sallenger Richardson on life, love, art and the ride of a lifetime.

Admission goes test optional: Wofford also joins American Talent Initiative; how to recommend a student for admission.

An experience they will never forget: Wofford baseball team visits National September 11 Monument and Museum.

Small world New York: Wofford graduates share the art of living and working in the Big Apple.

The power of the gift: Hollis gift supports Wofford music program.

Admission goes test optional: Wofford also joins American Talent Initiative; how to recommend a student for admission.

An experience they will never forget: Wofford baseball team visits National September 11 Monument and Museum.

Small world New York: Wofford graduates share the art of living and working in the Big Apple.

On life, love, art and the ride of a lifetime: Rosalind Sallenger Richardson.

Admission goes test optional: Wofford also joins American Talent Initiative; how to recommend a student for admission.
UNLEASHED (RATHER, UNBRIDLED)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rosalind: No, I can’t go out with you tonight. I just met you!
Jerry: I really am a nice person.
Rosalind: I have never met you before, and I don’t know anything about you.
Jerry: Well, if you will just get out of this car and come in this house with me, I have friends in there, and they will tell you that I’m nice, and you will be perfectly safe going out with me.

After about 30 minutes of haggling, they decided to go on a triple date with two other couples—putt-putt golf at Myrtle Beach. To this day they disagree on who won the miniature golf game. He says she beat him, she
Richardson says of the gift. “It gives me great pleasure to honor my wife Richardson says of the gift. “It gives me great pleasure to honor my wife good fortune that Rosalind agreed in honor of his wife. “It has been my good fortune that Rosalind agreed in honor of his wife. “It has been my good fortune that Rosalind agreed to marry me many years ago,” Mr. Richardson says of the gift. “It gives me great pleasure to honor my wife with the naming of this facility with the naming of this facility

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

On Oct. 21, 2014, a new chapter was written in their love story — the announcement that Mr. Richardson provided the gift to build Wofford College’s first arts building, named in honor of his wife. "It has been my good fortune that Rosalind agreed to marry me many years ago," Mr. Richardson says of the gift. "It gives me great pleasure to honor my wife with the naming of this facility.

"We would order one pizza and one beer, and we would split the pizza and the beer because we didn't have any money. And we would sit in the same corner booth, side by side, and just get as close as we could. It was just wonderful," says Mrs. Richardson. A year later, Jerry Richardson proposed to Rosalind Sallenger the same way he met her — in a car on a dirt road. "I said yes right away," says Mrs. Richardson. "I was in such a hurry to say yes because I knew the next year I had to take algebra. And when he asked, I said, 'Absolutely I will marry you!' I am so excited I am not going to have to take algebra next year!"

A building that houses Wofford’s departments of art and art history and theatre, along with state-of-the-art spaces for instruction, performances and exhibits, is the perfect compliment to its namesake, a woman to whom Rosalind’s love of art and our love of Wofford are a perfect match in making this vision for the college a reality."

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

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Mrs. Richardson finds the bold work of Georgia O'Keeffe breathtaking, and she enjoys creating her own work. She started taking lessons in charcoal and throughout the years has worked in acrylic, oil, screen-printing, woodcutting and pottery. She gives her art to her children and grandchildren, and makes each of them a unique, handcrafted pottery ornament every Christmas.

Sports are another passion of Mrs. Richardson, however, the first lady of football’s love for athletics began long before she met Mr. Richardson. “In the neighborhood we played whatever sport was going on in the leagues,”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Please Join Us!**
The POWER of the GIFT

Alumnus puts pep in scholarship gift

Hollis '58 funds scholarships for students in music groups

by Laura Hendrix Corbin

Richard E. Hollis '58 loved playing his tenor saxophone in the Wofford College pep band while he was a student.

While he majored in business administration, Hollis relished his time playing in that small, "pick-up-style" band. "We played for basketball games. That little Wofford pep band loved to play at every event we could, but sometimes it was difficult because money was very tight," says the Union, S.C., native who was in the marching band at Union High School. That's why Hollis took advantage of the Trustee Matching Fund in order to create the Richard E. Hollis Endowed Scholarship Fund that he hopes will go to students participating in Wofford's pep band/jazz band, currently known as "The Wofford Thundering Terrier Athletics Band and Jazz Ensemble." Such a student is the first preference for the scholarship, created for students "of good character, academic promise and with a demonstrated financial need," preferably students who participate or will participate in "approved musical organizations of the college."
“This wonderful scholarship was directed to support performing music groups that have the greatest exposure to the community and alumni, which would be groups that perform at athletics events,” says Ron “Doc” Miller, director of athletic bands and jazz studies. “The WOCO Band, which includes all Jazz Ensemble class members, is the ‘pep band’ performing at all home basketball games... We are so grateful for Mr. Hollis’ gift.”

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

When Truett Hollis died in January 2016, he left $500,000 to Wofford for the Sandor Teszler Library’s academic commons project.

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

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

Later in life Truett Hollis was even more dedicated to his music, Hollis says. “He practiced every day for two hours, even up until he died. He was the pianist at Wofford even before Sam Moyer came, and Sam depended a lot on Truett.” Moyer, most famous at Wofford for the men’s vocal group Moyer’s Men, was a professor of music and art and director of the college band and glee club from 1947 until 1965.

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

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

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

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

Nearly half of Wofford College’s 1,650 students take advantage of the college’s ever-expanding and improving music education and performance opportunities. Those include:

- Wofford Singers, a mixed voice choir.
- Men’s Glee Club, a male chorus and the oldest performing group on campus.
- Women’s Choir, a women’s chorus established in 1989.
- Wofford Men, a small “pops” a cappella men’s ensemble.
- Goldtones, a small “pops” a cappella women’s ensemble.
- Show Choir, a group that performs Broadway melodies with choreography.
- Gospel Choir, a group founded to uplift the community through song, fellowship and praise.
- Band, which performs at concert venues and athletics events.
- Voice Lessons, individual music laboratory instruction.
- String Ensemble, a group that studies and performs selected string literature.
- Musical Interim projects, offered every other year in January in conjunction with Wofford Theatre.
- Classes in musical history and theory.

Wofford offers no music major, but a minor is under consideration.

With the opening of the new Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts, which houses student concerts being held there. It’s a wonderful opportunity.”

— Gary McCraw ’77
associate professor and director of music
WOFFORD GOES TEST OPTIONAL

HIGH SCHOOL GPA REMAINS BEST PREDICTOR OF ACADEMIC SUCCESS

BY LEIGH ANN MILLER ’13

WOFFORD JOINS NATIONAL ALLIANCE TO EXPAND COLLEGE ACCESS, OPPORTUNITY
by Laura Hendrix Corbin

Group works to recruit, enroll talented low- and moderate-income students

As part of Wofford College’s ongoing efforts to expand educational access for underrepresented students, the college has joined the American Talent Initiative (ATI), an effort to substantially increase the number of talented low- and moderate-income students at the nation’s top-performing institutions. Wofford joins 67 of the nation’s most respected colleges and universities in the alliance, including Harvard, Princeton, Yale and Johns Hopkins, in the commitment to enhance efforts to recruit, enroll and support lower-income students, learn from each other and contribute to research that will help other institutions expand opportunities.

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

Wofford previously has announced other initiatives to address these issues, including committing $300,000 in scholarships for first-generation college students from South Carolina.

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

“We hope this change will encourage more students to apply to Wofford,” says Brand Stille ’96, vice president for enrollment. “We consider a number of factors when students apply for admission to Wofford. These factors include high school grades, academic rigor, extracurricular activities, an essay and recommendations. Consistently, a student’s high school GPA has been the best predictor of academic success at Wofford. We remain confident we can continue to make sound admission decisions without standardized test scores."

Wofford considers the following components to make an admission decision:
• Common application
• High school transcript
• High school report form
• Essay
• Activities
• Recommendations (optional)

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

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

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

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

Do you know a student who would be a good fit for Wofford? TELL US ABOUT THEM!

Introducing Wofford’s RECOMMEND A STUDENT page.

Visit wofford.edu/alumni to tell us about your family member, friend, neighbor, etc., and we will send them information about Wofford.

TELL US ABOUT THEM!

Visit wofford.edu/alumni page.

RECOMMEND A STUDENT
NEVER FORGET

Wofford baseball visits National September 11 Monument and Museum
by Jo Ann Mitchell Brasington ’89
Spencer Kulman ’17 (above) was a first-grade student in Westchester, N.Y., when two planes crashed into the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. He remembers waiting in the school’s hallway, watching his teacher crying, then hearing that the school was on lockdown. While he waited, confused, for his mother to pick him up from school, Joe Graziano Sr., a firefighter from Engine 22, Ladder 13, searched the north tower, clearing floors the size of football fields, beginning with the 24th and moving down. Of the 10 firefighters from his station who went into the building that day, he was the only one to make it out alive.

The two met in New York over spring break at the National September 11 Monument and Museum, along with the rest of the Wofford baseball team, and it’s an experience none of them will ever forget. “It was a beautiful day. Not a cloud in the sky. The temperature was great.”

“You didn’t think anything bad could ever happen on that day.”

That’s how Graziano started his talk to the team, most of whom had limited memories of Sept. 11 because they were so young when it happened. Graziano, who had not spoken publicly about the day until talking with the Wofford team, gave them an account of the events: sitting around the kitchen table in the firehouse joking with his FDNY brothers, seeing the first plane go into the north tower, contacting his wife about leaving a key for his son because Graziano now was anticipating a change in his routine, seeing the second plane hit, realizing it was terrorism and not just a horrible accident, getting the call to go to the World Trade Center.

“We went from my firehouse, right through Central Park to the West Side highway … We were flying. Police were directing traffic. No one was allowed on the streets. We got there in about five minutes,” says Graziano, who, along with other fire fighters, immediately reported to the command center. “First they told us to take our coats off, then they said gear up … We serpented our way to the north tower — the first one hit — through falling glass. People were jumping. At the time we thought we were safer inside the building than out. We knew right then and there that we were in trouble.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Grazianos presented the Wofford baseball team with warm-up shirts bearing the names of the fallen firefighters from Graziano’s house. The team wore them proudly against the Naval Academy the next day.
Young men who were in preschool or first grade absorbed the timeline, the voices and the remains of Sept. 11, 2001.

Joe Graziano Jr. met the team at the Reflecting Absence pool and pointed out the names of firefighters who lost A mangled fire truck served as the backdrop for a team the Grazianos so they would remember them and the The team signed game balls and presented them to firefighters to make it out of the north tower alive.

Joe Graziano Sr. shared his story as one of the last difference they made in their lives.

One of the most powerful things Graziano did was tell the tears from their eyes. “We lost nine guys, but only found eight. “We thought we had plenty of time,” Graziano explained, looking out across the solemn faces, some of whom were wiping

I don’t think that there’s a baseball team in the country that’s had the experiences we’ve had at Wofford,” says Kulman, a pitcher for the Terriers. “The things I’ve experienced here … I don’t even know that baseball is the best part.”

That’s just fine with Interdonato, head coach of the Terriers since 2007: “Our guys are students first, which means we expect them to learn in the classroom and on the field. I want them to have experiences that will make them better people, not just better baseball players,” says Interdonato, who met Joe Graziano Jr., former Georgetown Hoyas pitcher, at a baseball recruiting show-case in New York state the year before. Graziano shared his dad’s story with Interdonato, and the two worked out every detail of a plan for Graziano Sr. and the Wofford baseball team to meet.

The experience was in line with others that Interdonato had organized. Last year the team played Baylor over spring break. Guys on the team from Texas enjoyed crowds of their relatives and friends watching and cheering in Wofford gold and black. Over the past four years the team also has traveled to Nashville, Tenn., and Rome, Italy. This year the spring break trip included a series with Villanova (outside of Philadelphia) and a game against Navy (in Annapolis). Besides the detour to New York, the team also spent a day in Washington, D.C.

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

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

“One of the most powerful things Graziano did was tell the Wofford student-athletes a little something about each of his FDNY brothers.

“Captain Walter Hynes was a lawyer, besides being captain in the NYC fire department. He would do pro bono work for anyone.”

“Marty McWilliams was a plumber. Lots of firefighters did work on the side. I was a pub owner.”

“Mike Eferis was a short stocky guy. He was our shortstop (softball is serious business for the FDNY) … always the dirtiest guy on the field. Tommy was found in 2016 … I was the guy that identified him.”

“Greg Stajk pitched a no-hitter at Kings Park High School … He was an artist — 20 years I worked with the guy and didn’t know he was an artist.”

“Tommy Sabella was a carpenter and an excellent practical joker. He would actually design practical jokes and could fix and do anything.”

“Tommy Hetzel was an electrician. He would just sit and talk to Chris, my youngest son.”

“Dennis McHugh was a real young guy with three children. He was rock solid — a rugby or Irish football player.”

“Tommy Casoria was an Upper East Side bartender — a favorite with the girls.”

September 11, 2001 changed the lives of so many people. Graziano spent weeks after the attack talking with the grieving families of firefighters about what it was like in the building and his last memories of the men they loved.

“IT’S A WAY TO HONOR THEIR MEMORIES,” says Graziano Sr.
S M A L L  W O R L D

N E W  Y O R K

W O F F O R D  G R A D U A T E S  S H A R E
T H E  A R T  O F  L I V I N G
A N D  W O R K I N G  I N  T H E  B I G  A P P L E

B Y  J O  A N N  M I T C H E L L  B R A S I N G T O N  ’ 8 9
NBC’s Craig Melvin ‘01 credits makeup and lighting with making him look good on TV, but from watching him since he made the jump to NBC (as co-anchor of “Weekend TODAY,” national correspondent for “TODAY” and MSNBC anchor), it’s about much more than the lack of shine on his nose.

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

“I was a scholarship kid. I had a lot of help going to college,” says Melvin, whose mother was a schoolteacher and father a postal clerk. “There wasn’t a lot of money lying around for college.” When President Nayef Samhat approached him about serving on the board, Melvin knew that he didn’t have a surplus of time, but he still had a strong interest in the college and desire to give back.

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

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

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

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

“I get to meet some cool people. Sometimes that’s glamorous, sometimes that’s not. When a news crew shows up it’s either a good day or a really bad day,” says Melvin. His favorite people to interview aren’t famous or political figures. “I love talking to ordinary people who have done something exceptional.” One of those recent stories hit particularly close to home. The Rev. Lawrence Meadows ’99, Craig’s older brother and a minister at New Bethel Baptist Church in Woodruff, S.C., was diagnosed with early onset Stage IV colon cancer. He was only 39.

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

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

“No, Craig, it’s not the lights or the makeup that make you look good on TV. Just as you’re drawn to inspirational stories and stories of uncommon good, we’re drawn to you for the same reason.”
KATHERINE AUL ’07

LIVING THE ART AND SCIENCE OF LANDSCAPE DESIGN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PAUL VECCHIONE ’10

CREATING A PLACE WHERE ART MEETS CUSTOMER SERVICE

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

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

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

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

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

“We work 24 hours a day so clients and projects get passed across time zones. Tommy’s in the headquarters in Amsterdam. When I get up, my brother is finishing his day. At 6 p.m., I pass things off to Jason in Seattle, so someone is taking care of business for our clients around the clock,” says Vecchione. “The clients like the attention. It’s a saturated market, and anyone feels like they can get a camera and shoot video. We knew we needed to get a leg up on the competition. We knew if we weren’t editing through the night, someone else would. I consider us a customer service company that happens to make films.”

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

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

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

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

It worked at Wofford, and it’s certainly working with Starr Media in New York.
AMBRE KELLY ‘00
ALL FOR FUN AND ALL FOR ART

COURTNEY WALLS ‘12
A HEART FOR THE arts WITH A HEAD FOR BUSINESS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kelly, who admittedly loves getting married, says that she and Gori are thinking about doing the performance wedding in every state. Although they’re legally married in New York now, they think it could be interesting to find art spaces throughout the country and marry repeatedly—all for fun and all for art.
JEFF ASHWORTH ’04

The Art of Turning Weird Job Experiences into a Career in Writing

To produce a 100-page magazine on the Broadway musical Hamilton, it helps to have backstage passes. “It’s the closest to the stage I’ve ever been, and that includes plays I’ve acted in,” says Jeff Ashworth ’04, editor-in-chief of Topix Media Lab.

Ashworth was an actor at Wofford during the transition from Dr. J.R. Gross to Dr. Mark Ferguson ’94, and he remains a fan of the type of theatre he studied there: work that’s as challenging as it is entertaining.

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

After graduation, Ashworth worked at the Warehouse Theater in Greenville, S.C., where he met a group of actors who decided to move to New York together. They shared a small apartment and waited tables or took odd jobs between gigs. “Pretty cliché, actor-y stuff,” says Ashworth.

To add diversity to his acting resume, Ashworth began pursuing stand-up comedy, which in turn helped him discover a skill he’d never considered using to pay his bills: writing. “I was working freelance revising emails for Harvard Business grads, which was enlightening,” says Ashworth. “It assumed everyone knew how to write.”

Ashworth’s hodgepodge of experiences helped him land a job with World Wrestling Entertainment, writing for WWE Magazine. “I had no publishing experience and very little pro wrestling knowledge, but they were looking to expand and were willing to take a chance on me,” says Ashworth. “Plus, I was willing to work for practically nothing, which was viewed as an asset.”

After two years at the magazine, Ashworth joined WWE’s creative writing team, overseeing the production of upwards of 100 magazines and books per year for Disney, Marvel, Hasbro and several other brands — Newsweek and WWE included. “I’ve edited stories about John Wayne, marijuana and My Little Pony — often in the same day. It’s another weird job.”

A few years later Ashworth was recruited by his former boss at “WWE Magazine,” the founder of Topix Media Lab, to become the company’s editor-in-chief, where he oversees the production of upwards of 100 magazines and books per year for Disney, Marvel, Hasbro and several other brands — Newsweek and WWE included. “I’ve had the opportunity to build a media platform that’s as challenging as it is entertaining.”

“Twitter had just become a thing, and most businesses didn’t understand it,” says Ashworth, who was a pioneer, meeting to propose using the social media platform to enhance storylines. “WWE is a live soap opera. So my job became connecting characters on television to their social media accounts in real time.”

Things escalated quickly. “I went from composing a few random tweets to traveling the globe producing TMZ-style ambush videos for WWE.com and orchestrating stunts at Comic-Con. It was a weird job!”

“WWE is the closest to the stage I’ve ever been, and that includes plays I’ve acted in,” says Jeff Ashworth ’04, editor-in-chief of Topix Media Lab.

Every job starts with a budget. That’s yet another lesson Dakota Willimon has learned as an interior designer in New York City.

“People think my job is super glamorous, but sometimes I’m schlepping tile to a client in the rain, meeting architects on a job site outside of the city or working on project logistics in the office. Exciting things, like picking out tile or meeting architects on a job site outside of the city or working on project logistics in the office. Exciting things, like picking out tile or...”

“People think my job is super glamorous, but sometimes...”

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challenges as well, particularly with school-age children. “It’s a

Writers on Loving and Leaving New York,’” says Heintzberger,

South Orange, N.J., just a short train ride from Manhattan.

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Heintzberger completely understands the inspiration that New

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other national and international equine magazines. She’s written

as Chronicle of the Horse, (with Anna Ford) and “Modern Eventing” (with Phillip Dutron). Her byline and photo credits appear in Chronicle of the Horse,

an equestrian journalist and photographer as well as a media and

“I like the energy and all the people,” says Heintzberger, who is

Heintzberger made her first trip to New York with Dr. Vic

Blanchone and the Wofford women’s ensemble. They sang at Carnegie Hall. Her husband, Haagen Grosserhode, proposed to her on the top of the Empire State Building, and they lived in the city until a few years ago.

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

“I like the energy and all the people,” says Heintzberger, who is an equestrian journalist and photographer as well as a media and public relations consultant for world-class eventing and dressage clients. She’s also the co-author of two books: “Beyond the Track” (with Anna Ford) and “Modern Eventing” (with Phillip Dutron). 

Her byline and photo credits appear in Chronicle of the Horse, Dressage Today, Practical Horseman, Warmbloods Today and other national and international equine magazines. She’s written about the controversy surrounding legislativing carriage horses, the best way to avoid being kicked by your horse and major competitions, including the Pan American and World Equestrian Games.

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

“I read this book not too long ago called ‘Goodbye to All That’ — it’s still one of my favorites — is how to do sales over the phone when you don’t love talking on the phone. I come up with a lot of the content myself. If something’s frustrating to me, I want to figure it out, and I do that by researching a topic and writing about it.”

Weber blends life and work as an associate editor for Business Insider magazine and as senior editor for an online magazine primarily geared toward women in business.

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

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

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

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

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

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

“I knew that if I didn’t go for it, I’d regret it, and I’m not the kind of person who lives in the ‘what ifs,’” says Eberhardt. She found a job as a live-in nanny, signed up for acting classes, hired a vocal coach and found a weekend job teaching musical theatre to children through the Creatively Wild Art Studio in Brooklyn.

“She’s figuring out how to live cheaply in the city, taking in everything she can about the business, auditioning and building a resume.

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

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

A year into her experience, Eberhardt continues to work on her craft, audition and support herself. “Acting is all. I can’t picture myself doing anything else.”

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

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

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

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

“I knew that if I didn’t go for it, I’d regret it, and I’m not the kind of person who lives in the ‘what ifs,’” says Eberhardt. She found a job as a live-in nanny, signed up for acting classes, hired a vocal coach and found a weekend job teaching musical theatre to children through the Creatively Wild Art Studio in Brooklyn.

“She’s figuring out how to live cheaply in the city, taking in everything she can about the business, auditioning and building a resume.

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

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

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

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

1960
The South Carolina Football Hall of Fame inducted Fisher DeBerry during an enshrinement ceremony on April 20. DeBerry played college football and baseball at Wofford and was a member of U.S. Air Force Academy football team for 23 years.

1964
Dr. Bill McCall Jr. and Dr. Mark McCall ‘68, brothers and retired dentists, were inducted into the 2016 Second Wave Hall of Fame, an honor that recognizes local retired citizens who have proven through volunteering that life can remain impactful and productive. They live and serve in the Tryon, N.C., area.

1965
Retired South Carolina Supreme Court Chief Justice Costa Pleuger was a speaker at “Civility in an Uncivil World” during Wofford’s Phi Beta Kappa annual convocation. Pleuger serves as secretary of the college’s board of trustees.

1968
Ronald G. Bruce, class chair

1969
Neely, the chief strategist and facilitator, and Marlanda DeKine, the executive director, of Speaking Down Barriers brought Quest, thought of aliens, laughter and shared insights to lifelong learning at Wofford participants during a two-part series this spring. The event, “Transforming Our Stories with Speaking Down Barriers,” included discussion and storytelling focused on rethinking and retelling stories of race and racism to reshape the world.

1970
Buzzy Rich, class chair

After 30 years Dr. Riddick Ackerman III retired from the practice of obstetrics and gynecology in Walterboro. S.C. On June 16, 2016, he also welcomed his first grandson, Riddick “Penn” Ackerman IV, the son of Brooke and Riddick Ackerman IV IV. The baby comes from a long line of Wofford graduates. His great-grandfather, Dr. Riddick Ackerman Jr. ‘26 and Rodney Leehew Bell ‘42, are also graduates.

1971
Kenneth Smith, class chair

J. Harold Chandler, chair of the board, president and CEO of Milliken & Co., wants “to make the company a more visible player in the Spartanburg community,” according to a Feb. 23 article in the Spartanburg Herald-Journal. Chandler took the reins at Milliken in October 2016 and has been actively re-engaging the community with the Milliken story since. He was the 2017 Commencement speaker at Wofford and received an honorary doctor of humane letters degree.

On Feb. 18, Edward Roberson said his interest in the independent insurance agency in Tarboro, N.C., where he worked for the past 35 years. He’s thoroughly enjoying retirement, and he and his wife are looking forward to spending more time with their daughter, son-in-law and their three children: ages 10, 9 and 6 and their son-in-law and their 2-year-old daughter.

1972
Allen Guignard, class chair

As of March 2017, Hunter Marshall is a North Carolina Board Certified Professional Counselor (LPC). Marshall and his wife, Sarah, live in Monroe, N.C.

1973
Richard Cohn Sr., founder and chairman of Cohn Construction Services and Cohn Management Services in Columbia, S.C., spoke to Wofford students this spring about his time at Wofford, his career and what it takes to build a business. Cohn spoke at The Space in the Museum Center.

1974
Jerry Calvert, class chair

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

Woody Willard of Spartanburg began his term as “The Mayor of Starbucks” at the Carolina Theatre, which has sat abandoned for an article in the Spartanburg Herald-Journal. Chandler welcomed his first grandchild, Riddick “Penn” Ackerman IV, the son of Brooke and Riddick Ackerman IV IV. The baby comes from a long line of Wofford graduates. His great-grandfather, Dr. Riddick Ackerman Jr. ’26 and Rodney Leehew Bell ’42, are also graduates.

1977
The Columba Star featured Emily deQueency-Newman, a descendant of American patriots and civil rights leaders, and her interest in history and genealogy in its Feb. 10 edition. She is the managing partner of Hartfield-Holt-Charleston.

1979
Wade Ballard, class chair

Florene, S.C., dentist Dr. James A. Richardson recently was appointed to the Medical University of South Carolina Board of Visitors. Richardson has been on the faculty for 32 years and has worked at Lani Cosmetic and Family Dentistry. He and his wife, Dr. Wendy Caldwell, have two children.

1981
Patrick Walton, class chair

After retiring from a career in education, Alice Littlejohn Boman has returned to Wofford as the administrative assistant to the chair of the library and the interlibrary loan coordinator at the Sandor Teszler Library. She worked in the library for two years while attending Wofford.

1982
Madison Dye, class chair

Caldwell Banker Caine recently welcomed Anne Robinson Polkoff as a real estate sales agent in the firm’s Spartanburg office.

ALWAYS EAGER TO LEARN
Wofford graduates share expertise with Lifelong Learning at Wofford

by Jo Ann Mitchell Brasington ’89

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

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

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

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

A few weeks later, Lifelong Learning at Wofford visited Hollowell at Little River Roasting Co. in Spartanburg for “From Farm to Cup: Exploring and Tasting the World of Coffee.” Although the conversation has lighter in the group of lifelong learners took their coffee exploration seriously.

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

Carol McCulloch was one of the participants in Hollowell’s coffee seminar. “Lifelong Learning at Wofford is the most interesting thing in Spartanburg as far as I’m concerned,” she says. “It’s an undiscovered secret; I can’t rave about it enough.”

McCulloch is now a program regular. During the spring session she took Dr. Philip Stone’s “Southern Politics” class on Tuesdays from 5 to 6:50 p.m. in the Sontheimer Library. Stone, the college archivist and a 1994 Wofford graduate, kept McCulloch engaged with tales of the South’s interesting political characters. She also enjoys the field trips, extra speakers and movie-watching events that are all a part of the program.

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

Lifelong Learning at Wofford started in 2015 under the leadership of Charlie Gray ’72. Morgan Jordan took over after Gray retired and has watched the program jump from 190 participants to 342 in less than a year.

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

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

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

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

To learn more, visit wofford.edu/lifelonglearning. The fall session begins in September.
A retired U.S. Army colonel, Claude Schmid recently published a novel titled "The Princess of War." It tells the story of young soldiers at war and how they deal with the challenges of combat. Schmid served for more than 30 years.

**1983**

Scott Gaett, class chair

The Florence Morning News featured Nick Townsend, a chef and musician, for his work with the Kaleidoscope Symphony Fundraiser event in Florence. S.C. Townsend has served as the food service manager of Carolinas Hospital System/McNair Healthcare for 26 years. He also sings with Masterschoo Choir and is on the Florence Symphony Board.

**1984**

Ken Kirpalani, class chair

Del Allen Jr. has netted more than 500,000 elementary school students since founding Diamond Del's Gem Mining Adventure in 1991. He travels to schools throughout the Southeast in his mobile mining truck, teaching students how to study and identify rocks.

**1991**

Leslie Howe Page, class chair

Bo Bozard and his wife, Amy, are proud to announce the birth of their son, James Haskin Bozard, born July 27, 2016. He joins big brother Robert Hugh Bozard. The family lives in Manassas, Va.

Longtime York Comprehensive High School teacher and coach Joey Moore was confirmed as the school's new athletics director. Moore began coaching at York in 1998 and most recently has been the Cougars' offensive line coach and head boys' track and field coach.

**1993**

Candace Collup Smith, class chair

Dennis Carl Nielsen II is the CEO/owner of Nielsen Business Group, a business intelligence firm that offers data analytics and consulting, business analytics and cognitive solutions, web and mobile application development and asset management-asset analytics in White, Ga. He and his wife, Janine, have two children.

Pamela Garner Stoss is the new library media specialist at Ely's River Correctional Institution, a division of the South Carolina Department of Corrections. She is responsible for supervising institutional library desks and supporting GED and vocational students in the education department. She lives in Union, S.C.

Dr. Rich Williams has been elected treasurer of Healthy Learners, a faith-based nonprofit in Florence, S.C. Townsend has served as the food service manager of Carolinas Hospital System/McNair Healthcare for 26 years. He also sings with Masterschoo Choir and is on the Florence Symphony Board.

**1995**

Brandon Yancey Lonne, class chair

Brandon McKinley and two partners have opened a Shane's Rib Shack franchise at 739 John H. White Blvd. in Spartanburg. To learn more, visit shanesribshack.com/spartanburg.

A partner in the Smith Moore Leatherwood law firm, Dick Hieby has been named the leading attorney in commercial real estate in Columbia, S.C. Pearline Fleming Jr. is one of the partners. The opening is scheduled for late fall 2017. Visit comebackcolumbia.com for more info.

Angel Johnson Bresee is the executive vice president of the Coastal Community Foundation in Charleston, S.C. The foundation has approved the opening of the PDA, the new CEO, Durand Goss ’97. He and her husband, Alex, have three children, Donie Lou (7) and twins Ruby and Leo. “The PDA team has the right experience to lead and mobilize our region,” she writes.

**1997**

Beth Mangham Gearrars, class chair

Shelley Haddock Dempsey, director of On Your Time Initiatives for the University of South Carolina’s College of Nursing, has received the PDA. In her higher education administration, also at USC. She and her husband live in Columbia, S.C. with their two children, Arabella and Hunter.

Former director of the South Carolina Department of Revenue, Rick Reams is now with Neuse Point in Columbia, S.C. He has once again be assisting clients with complex tax, business and public policy issues.

Lt. Col. Travis Smith, stationed with the U.S. Coast Guard in New Orleans, La., was an artist for the Coast Guard Air Station newspaper before enlisting in the Air Force. On the weekend, his hobbies include playing golf and fishing for bass. Smith married Maggie next year at Wofford when Magre served as Smith’s assistant professor of military science.

**1999**

Zach Allen, class chair

Emily Long, director of Handbags and Hats, Downtown Church, has been named one of The Governor’s 100 Women of the Year by the South Carolina Women’s Reproductive Health Caucus, recognizing people making a difference in the South Carolina Midlands. Also honored on this year’s list is Laffitze Laffitte, III, 100, regional president for South State Bank.

Joshua Mason is the general manager of The Dump Furniture Company in Greenville, S.C. He has two children, Hayden (15) and Celia (13).

The South Carolina Economic Development Association has named Brian Nash its president for 2017. Nash serves as vice president of development for Agracel’s Southeast region, headquartered at Cayce’s Midlands Marketplace in Spartanburg. The American Optical Association has named Elizabeth Anderson Steele, associate dean for clinical affairs at the University of Alabama Birmingham School of Dentistry, the dean of the Dental Educator of the Year. The award was presented on the campus of Alabama State University.

The South State Bank announced that Larry D. Windham Jr. has been named senior vice president in Mooresville, S.C. He and his wife, Sarah, have two children.

A partner in the Smith Moore Leatherwood law firm, John Duckworth has been named the lead attorney in commercial real estate in Columbia, S.C. Pearline Fleming Jr. is one of the partners. The opening is scheduled for late fall 2017. Visit comebackcolumbia.com for more info.


The Self Family Foundation Board of Trustees has announced the election of Dr. Lucas McMillan as a trustee. McMillan is the dean of the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences and associate professor of political science at Lander University in Greenwood, S.C.

Taylor Howard, class chair

In April Will Bowen continued training and was sworn in as a deputy sheriff. He and his wife, Lauren, and their three children, McKenna, Wood and Xhina, have relocated from Ashville, Va., to Columbia, Ga.

Rebecca Tyler Coleman and her husband, Thomas, announced the birth of their daughter, McKenna Marie Coleman, born March 17, 2017. They live in Columbia, S.C.

Lauran Fowler Watson and her husband, Trenton, welcomed a baby, Ruby Elizabeth Watson, into the world on Jan. 13. They joined big brother Simon, who is 5. They live in Bainbridge, Ga.

Sarah Shelley Ford has joined First Citizens Bank as a business banker. She is the East Bay Street office in downtown Charleston, S.C.

Lauran Fowler Watson and her husband, Trenton, welcomed a baby, Ruby Elizabeth Watson, into the world on Jan. 13. They joined big brother Simon, who is 5. They live in Bainbridge, Ga.

**2004**

Fred Bowers, class chair

Look for Ashley Borders as one of “six lifelong friends” navigating “careers, love lives, friendships and legacies” on the current season of “Southern Charm: Savannah,” a spin-off of the popular “Southern Charm” reality show based in Charleston, S.C. The show premiered May 8 on Bravo.

Dr. Hitesh Tolani, an entrepreneur and dentist in private practice in Boston, spoke to the Wofford campus community in March, sharing his immigrant story and how his persistence and the support of the Wofford family brought him to where he is today. Tolani also held a smaller gathering with the students in The Space in the Mungo Center. There he talked about careers in dental medicine and what it takes to be an entrepreneur.

**2005**

Ryan Walker, class chair

Dr. Catherine England-Plisiewicz and her husband, Paul, announced the birth of their daughter, England-Plisiewicz, born Feb. 18, 2017. The family lives at Elles Grove in Marion, S.C. Dr. Rebecca Terry Coleman and her husband, Thomas, announce the birth of their daughter, McKenna Marie Coleman, born March 17, 2017. They live in Bainbridge, Ga.

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Dr. Ashley Carr Sims and her husband, Cole, welcomed their second son, Benjamin Charles Sims, in 2017.

Dr. Jacoby Garcia is a families services coordinator with Atlanta Habitat for Humanity. The LandTrust for Central North Carolina has named Sam Parrott as its new membership and outreach associate. The trust, headquartered in Salisbury, has conserved more than 25,000 acres in 10 central North Carolina counties. Parrott has worked with conservation organizations in Arizona, Colorado and South Carolina as well. Madison Walter is working at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Division of Global Health Protection as a health communications ORISE fellow. She graduated from Emory University Bolinus School of Public Health in May with a master’s degree in public health in behavioral science and health education. She lives in Atlanta, Ga.

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

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

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

Other members of the Wolford family taking part in the event were men’s basketball coach Mike Young, running backs coach Dane Romero ’09, members of the 2016 football team, David Marvin ’17 and Nick Colvin ’17, Ross the Terrier and the voice of the Terriers, Mark Hauser.

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

During the past 10 years, the Carolina Miracle League has provided nearly 500 participants facing mental and physical challenges with the opportunity to play baseball, bolster their self-confidence and bond with others sharing similar challenges. Their families also benefit from the support network created through Carolina Miracle League.

The Westminster Foundation of West Virginia has supported the development of Project Hub, a “maker space” or community innovation center. He says the company operates in a close-knit alumni network, he says, “It is awesome just to be able to give back to the community that has given me so much.”

Waln plans to use the skills and relationships he has developed as a student-athlete around him. He’ll start by working in pharmaceutical development, pursuing an MBA and making a run at a professional career in baseball.

“My time at Wolford has been absolutely great in every way,” says Waln. “I have had great professors, great coaches and great teammates. I am excited to see what is next.”

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

by Brent Williamson

The Carolina Miracle League held a celebration on April 20 to celebrate a decade of providing baseball to kids with special needs. Wolford was well represented with current student-athletes, coaches and a notable former student-athlete, Brent Berrin ’12.

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

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

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IN MEMORIAM

1941
John William Gore Jr. Jan. 30, 2017, Taylors, S.C. Gore served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He was the first amd only representative for Alliston-Ennis Co. and a member of White Oak Baptist Church.

1946
William S. "Jack" Hoffmeister, Jr., March 13, 2017, Florence, S.C. Dawn served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was an architect and artist. His paintings can be seen throughout the Southeast and are part of numerous collections. He also was active in his church and in various civic organizations.

1950
Robert Stephen "Rob" Livingston Jr. April 26, 2017, Amicus, Ga. Carr spent his career in clinical administration. He held numerous leadership positions in the field and was recognized as one of the Palmetto’s Top 50 Outstanding Young Leaders from the lieutenant governor’s office for outstanding work in gerontology. He was a president-emeritus of the White House College in Aging in 1995.

1952
George Kilgo Livingston Jr. April 26, 2017, Charleston, S.C. Harris served in the Korean War and earned a Bronze Star for valor. He was a member of the Palmetto’s Top 50 Outstanding Young Leaders from the lieutenant governor’s office for outstanding work in gerontology. He was a president-emeritus of the White House College in Aging in 1995.

1954
James Robert Griffith Jr. April 26, 2017, Americus, Ga. Griffith spent his career in clinical administration. He held numerous leadership positions in the field and was recognized as one of the Palmetto’s Top 50 Outstanding Young Leaders from the lieutenant governor’s office for outstanding work in gerontology. He was a president-emeritus of the White House College in Aging in 1995.

1956
Gary Arthur "Tom" O’Tuel, Jr. March 19, 2017, Bennettsville, S.C. O’Tuel served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. He was a member of Sigma Nu fraternity, a reserve police officer, member of Wofford Church, Directed Board and athletics photographer for the Great Falls Red Devils.

1961
Ronald Allen Shumaker Sr. April 26, 2017, Charleston, S.C. Shumaker served in the U.S. Army and was a member of the Palmetto’s Top 50 Outstanding Young Leaders from the lieutenant governor’s office for outstanding work in gerontology. He was a president-emeritus of the White House College in Aging in 1995.

1963
Gary Mitchell "Mickey" Byrd. Feb. 24, 2017, Spartanburg, S.C. Byrd served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War and was a member of the Palmetto’s Top 50 Outstanding Young Leaders from the lieutenant governor’s office for outstanding work in gerontology. He was a president-emeritus of the White House College in Aging in 1995.

1966
Barbara Alice "Bobbie" Talley. March 19, 2017, Spartanburg, S.C. Talley served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War. She was a member of Sigma Nu fraternity, a reserve police officer, member of Wofford Church, Directed Board and athletics photographer for the Great Falls Red Devils.

1971
Richard Raymond Prigmore Jr. Feb. 1, 2017, Hendersonville, N.C. Prigmore loved tennis teams and was famous for his tailgating food and hospitality. He was a member of Sigma Nu fraternity and was a leader in the Terrier Club.

1972
Dr. William L. Patterson. March 13, 2017, Jacksonville, Fla. Patterson continued the dental practice that his father built, maintaining loyalty to the clients and staff for more than 40 years. He retired in 2015.

1981
Henry Monroe Whiteside Jr. April 11, 2017, Belmont, N.C. Whiteside was a Sigma Nu at Wofford. He owned a law firm and was the legal voice of WBT talk radio. He also was active in Parkwood Baptist Church.

Dr. Noah Francis Gibson IV. April 6, 2017, Danville, Va. Gibson served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. He was a member of Sigma Nu fraternity and was a leader in the Terrier Club.

1969
James Mitchell "Dashier" Ditty. May 8, 2017, Weimar, Calif. Ditty played football for the Terriers, served in the U.S. Army and purchased a public relations career as a test pilot. He loved travel and outdoors activities, particularly sailing.

1970
Larry Eugene Dent. Feb. 17, 2017, Spartanburg, S.C. A talented musician and photographer, Dent served in the U.S. Army helicopter unit in Southeast Asia. During Vietnam, he owned "Dirt Farms" and ran the family’s businesses: E.M. O’Tuel Cotton Co. Inc., O’Tuel Gin, Marlboro Warehouse Inc. and Southern Gin and Fertilizer Co. Leadership in the church and community included helping Marlboro County implement the 911 Emergency Services system, serving as president of the United Fund of Marlboro County and serving on both the Wofford Parents Advisory Council and the Alumni Executive Council.

1971
Archibald Gordon McLarty. March 18, 2017, Santa Fe, N.M. Stewart died after a yearlong illness. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity at Wofford and became a golf professional at the Country Club of Great Falls after graduation. He also worked as a stockbroker and in the automobile industry.

1972

1973
Daniel Edward King. Feb. 22, 1973, Forest Acres, S.C. King died as the result of an automobile accident. He served in the military before attending Wofford. He worked as a manager in textile mills before earning a master’s degree and becoming a guidance counselor at Chase High School. He was a lifelong active member of First United Methodist Church of Forest City.

1973
Thomas Coburn Watson Jr. Feb. 10, 1973, Greenville, S.C. Watson served during the Korean War and was a member of the organization in France. He retired from the Social Security Administration.

1960
William Hawkins Barber. Feb. 14, 1973, Hickory, N.C. Barber died as the result of an automobile accident. He was a mathematics professor for 45 years, serving at both Mercer and Elon universities.

1961
Rupert Edward Howard. April 26, 2017, Spartanburg, S.C. A veteran of the U.S. Navy, Howard was a lifelong member of fraternity Sigma Alpha Epsilon. He was a member of the Kappa Alpha Order. He was a charter member of Azbkeki Memorial United Methodist Church and was an active member of the Marine Corps League and a leader in the field of residential medicine.

1966
Charles Wendell McLaster. March 5, 2017, Cowpens, S.C. McLaster served in the U.S. Navy and was a lifelong member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and was dedicated to his church and family.

1967
Rupert LaMarr Smith. March 17, 1967, El Dorado, Ark. Smith taught physical education at Emory and Henry College before becoming a nurse and nurse administrator. He retired in 2008 after 25 years in his second career.

1968
Ronald Allen Shumaker Sr. April 26, 2017, Charleston, S.C. Shumaker served in the U.S. Army and was a member of the Palmetto’s Top 50 Outstanding Young Leaders from the lieutenant governor’s office for outstanding work in gerontology. He was a president-emeritus of the White House College in Aging in 1995.

1969
Archibald Gordon McLarty. March 18, 2017, Santa Fe, N.M. Stewart died after a yearlong illness. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity at Wofford and became a golf professional at the Country Club of Great Falls after graduation. He also worked as a stockbroker and in the automobile industry.

1970
The Rev. Charles Russell Stober. March 16, 2017. An educator, she started the training program at USC-Upstate. She worked as the college’s athletics trainer. He worked at the Dayton Mental Health Center in Ohio for 25 years. After retirement he continued to teach driver's education classes.

1971
Edward E. "Buddy" Cubitt Jan. 23, 2017, Augusta, Ga. Cubitt served in the Marine Corps and was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity at Wofford and became a golf professional at the Country Club of Great Falls after graduation. He also worked as a stockbroker and in the automobile industry.

1972

1973
Richard Raymond Prigmore Jr. Feb. 1, 2017, Hendersonville, N.C. Prigmore loved tennis teams and was famous for his tailgating food and hospitality. He was a member of Sigma Nu fraternity and was a leader in the Terrier Club.

Dr. William L. Patterson. March 13, 2017, Jacksonville, Fla. Patterson continued the dental practice that his father built, maintaining loyalty to the clients and staff for more than 40 years. He retired in 2015.

1981
Henry Monroe Whiteside Jr. April 11, 2017, Belmont, N.C. Whiteside was a Sigma Nu at Wofford. He owned a law firm and was the legal voice of WBT talk radio. He also was active in Parkwood Baptist Church.

Dr. David Lynn Wilson, March 20, 2017, Seneca, S.C. Wilson was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity at Wofford and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. He retired as a major after serving 20 years in the South Carolina Army National Guard. He served on the Terrier Club Board of Directors and worked in property development and management. Wilson was an avid cyclist, who died tragically while cycling. He is the father of a current student, Sarah Wilson ’21.

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

Friends
Duane Austin “Doc” Stober, March 25, 2017, Spartanburg, S.C. Stober retired from the Wofford Department of Athletics after a long career as the college’s athletics trainer. He started the training program at USC-Upstate. He was an avid sports fan. He retired after 30 years with Memorial Health System. He was a huge sports fan, particularly enjoying coming to Wofford athletics events and seeing old friends.

If the answer is yes, then you are invited to attend the fall meeting of the Wofford College Alumni Association Board of Directors, which will be invited to attend the fall meeting on Wofford’s campus on Friday, Nov. 10, 2017. For more information and to apply, visit wofford.edu/AABapplication.

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MAKING ROOM IN THE INN

Daniels works to show hospitality and build hope for Charlotte’s homeless population

by Jo Ann Mitchell Brasington ’89

About 200 people line up outside the old train depot in Charlotte, N.C. There’s music, laughter and conversation. Some sit quietly, the thoughts of not having a home weighing heavily. Others celebrate the warm, safe place to sleep and the home-cooked meals that are a bus ride away. Children do their homework on the sidewalk. A woman rolls her bag down the hill from her car. Two men debate their NCAA tournament brackets.

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

“We match people who are homeless with different organizations that shelter them for the night,” says Daniels, referring to the Christian churches, Jewish synagogues, Muslim mosques, nonprofit organizations, YMCAs and even schools that come to the UMC late each afternoon from December through March to welcome and provide comfort to their “neighbors.” In total, these organizations provide about 18,000 beds on a rotating basis. “So many people have taken on this different way of sheltering people during the winter.”

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

“Chronic homelessness is on the decline, but transitional homelessness is on the rise because of the market,” says Daniels. “As a city we found that the cost is about $40,000 per year to support someone who’s homeless and living on the streets.” Part of the reason for the price tag is the high cost of emergency room services for minor ailments and expenses associated with jail time for victimless crimes, such as loitering. “At Room In The Inn, the cost is closer to $14,000 per year. We’re less expensive, and the people who we house are healthier because we connect them to other social services.”

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

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

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

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

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

Read the full story online at wofford.edu/woffordtoday »
ON THE COVER

THE ARTS AT WOFFORD

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