



Keeping the Faith



The Rev. Dr. Ron Robinson '78, Perkins-Prothro Chaplain and Professor of Religion, carried on a long tradition on Wednesday. And he did it in a most non-traditional way.

The Imposition of Ashes, observed on the first day of Lent, was held on the Yorke Portico behind Main Building. Because of COVID-19, it was a contactless ceremony, with prepackaged ashes handed out to those who gathered. As "Amazing Grace" played over a speaker, the attendees dipped a finger into the package and marked a cross on their foreheads.

"Ash Wednesday is always a well-attended service on campus, particularly when it's in a warm setting," says Robinson '78. "In fact, we always run out of seats, so we usually do it several times. About 70 percent of our students come from liturgical Christian traditions, where Ash Wednesday is very important. I love that it is both Catholic and Protestant, too. It has been important to Christians for centuries and to the campus for a long time. I felt like we needed to figure out a creative way to do it."

Lucy Person '23, a psychology and Spanish major from Charlotte, North Carolina, wasn't certain the ceremony would take place this year because of COVID. She was pleased to learn that it would and enjoyed having it outdoors.

"In some ways it makes you feel closer to God," Person says. "Traditionally it's nice to have the thumb of someone else make the cross on your forehead, but there was something deeply personal about doing it yourself."

[Read more.](#)

Quick Action



Taifha Alexander was a little over a month into her role as assistant dean of students for diversity and leadership development at Wofford College when the COVID-19 pandemic began disrupting campus life. Her office, however, has been a bit of a nerve center for the campus community in the past year.

Alexander's ability to lead discussions on race during the pandemic and in the wake of national protests after the violent deaths of Black Americans in high-profile cases has led the South Carolina College Personnel Association (SCCPA) to name her the recipient of its Joseph E. Heyward Humanitarian Award.

"Despite having only a month of experience on our campus, she rallied her office, our division and the entire college around the causes of social justice and equity," says Allen Lollis '15, associate director for residence life and community standards, who nominated Alexander for the award. "As a member of the Wofford community for nearly 10 years, I have never seen anyone, or any group, for that matter, unite as many different factions from our campus for one goal."

[Read more.](#)

Alumni Podcast



The Alumni Office has launched a podcast highlighting Wofford alumni volunteers. The inaugural episode includes an interview with Monique McDowell '92 and Joseph Bias '06. They discuss their Wofford years, how the college has influenced their careers as attorneys and their experiences as Black students and alumni. [Click here to listen.](#)

Football in February



The Terriers will play their first February football game in college history at 1 p.m. Saturday when they host Mercer University. Attendance will be limited with the families of student-athletes and Wofford students getting priority seating. Terrier Club members also will receive an opportunity to purchase a limited number of tickets this season based on priority points. The game can be viewed through ESPN+. **Find more information, including the top notes of interest heading into the game.**

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