



## ‘For Wofford’ Totals More Than \$470M



Wofford College's six-year comprehensive campaign, "For Wofford," has come to a successful completion a year early. Gifts and pledges totaled more than \$470 million. The campaign's original goal was \$300 million.

### Campaign highlights:

- Jerry and Rosalind Richardson gave a total of \$257.3 to the campaign, including a \$150 million gift to the college's endowment to support scholarships and experiential learning for students with financial need, an increase in the minimum wage on campus for Wofford staff and the care and maintenance of all Richardson-named buildings and facilities.
- Total giving from the Richardsons to the campaign is among the largest ever gifts to a national liberal arts college.
- Five new buildings were constructed: The Chandler Center for Environmental Studies, the Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts, Jerry Richardson Indoor Stadium, Jerome Johnson Richardson Hall and the Stewart H. Johnson Greek Village.

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## Chandler Center for Environmental Studies Dedicated



Wofford College officially dedicated the Chandler Center for Environmental Studies and celebrated the servant leaders who made it possible: Harold and Delores Chandler.

The 17,525-square-foot center opened at the start of the 2020-21 academic year.

“This has been a remarkable year at Wofford College. During a pandemic, we managed to complete a \$300 million comprehensive campaign, including the construction of the Chandler Center for Environmental Studies,” said Wofford President Dr. Nayef Samhat. “Delores and Harold Chandler, who made the lead gift for the new building are the ideal examples of the type of generous servant leaders who have made the campaign’s success possible.”

The Chandler Center for Environmental Studies received three Green Globes through the Green Globes Certification program, which recognizes buildings for sustainable design and operations. The building includes laboratories, classrooms and office space. Some of the building’s sustainable design elements include a rooftop garden with non-invasive plants, borrowed light in the building’s labs and classrooms, an exposed mass timber structural system, strategically placed windows for natural ventilation, heat island mitigation and controlled admission of natural light to reduce electric lighting to save energy.

The Chandlers have high hopes for students studying in the space.

“Students who will study here will lead companies or cities and states or other entities into a more environmentally sensitive era, or may become innovators or inventors, or who knows, even win a Nobel Prize for their stewardship and commitment,” Harold Chandler said during the dedication. “We expect to witness meaningful contributions from those who study, teach and are otherwise influenced by this award-winning facility and faculty.”

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## Commencement Schedule



Wofford College's 2021 Commencement Exercises will be held Sunday, May 16. The program will begin at 9:30 a.m. at Gibbs Stadium to promote physical distancing.

Shawan Gillians, director of legal services and corporate secretary with Santee Cooper, will serve as the featured speaker. Gillians is a 2004 magna cum laude graduate of Wofford College and a member of the college's Board of Trustees. Honorary degrees will be presented to former college Trustee Jim Bostic; Dr. Will Gravely, a 1961 Wofford graduate and a University of Denver professor emeritus of religion; and Dr. Steve Skinner, a clinical geneticist ([read the full biographies of the honorees and the featured speaker](#)).

The college will present the prestigious Algernon Sydney Sullivan and Mary Mildred Sullivan Awards to two students and two non-students. The Roger Milliken Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Science and the Philip Covington Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Humanities and Social Sciences also will be presented to faculty members.

Commencement will be broadcast through Wofford's YouTube channel beginning at 9:30 a.m. Sunday. The broadcast can be accessed at this [LINK](#). In case of severe weather, Commencement will be held in Jerry Richardson Indoor Stadium and only graduates will be allowed to attend.

Commencement activities will take place throughout the weekend, including a Baccalaureate Service at 5 p.m., Saturday, May 15, also held at Gibbs Stadium.

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## All in the Family



Elizabeth Thomas '21, a senior sociology and anthropology major from Ninety Six, South Carolina, continued her grandfather and father's legacies as cadets in Wofford's Army ROTC program.

By: Eyon Brown, communications intern

As another class of Terriers prepares for the final chapter of their Wofford experience, one student's journey signifies a continuation of her family's legacy in Wofford ROTC.

Elizabeth Thomas '21, a senior sociology and anthropology major from Ninety Six, South Carolina, and recipient of Wofford's Army ROTC merit scholarship, is a third-generation ROTC student at the college. Her father, Charles Thomas III '95, who "chose Wofford because of its ROTC program, not the other way around," completed four years in the program. Her paternal grandfather, Charles Thomas II, a 1967 graduate, participated for two years before shifting his focus to his goal of attending medical school.

Both men experienced the rigor of Wofford ROTC, albeit with slightly different features than Elizabeth's experience. For Thomas' father, who always knew that he wanted to pursue a career in the military, the most significant difference between his time and his daughter's time is the total number of cadets and the number of female cadets.

Originally, Thomas was a bit apprehensive about joining ROTC, having regarded it as "the thing that dad did." After speaking with cadets during her visits to the college and to the Daniel Building, her eyes were opened, her interest was piqued and the course of her life was changed.

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## Wofford Student-Athletes Earn SoCon Scholarships



Wofford College student-athletes earned three of the 10 Southern Conference postgraduate scholarships for the 2020-21 academic year, the league announced Wednesday.

Grant Wollam, a goalkeeper for the Wofford men's soccer team, received the Dave Hart Scholarship. Megan Dunn, a track and field athlete, and Omar Williams, a member of the tennis team, both received a Bob McCloskey Insurance Scholarship.

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