



## Steady growth



Dr. Katharine Putney, left, assistant professor of biology, with Dr. Doug Rayner, professor of biology emeritus, Taylor Thornton '22 and Alex Michaels '22 at the Glendale Shoals Preserve. Their research on creating a citizen-science powered phenology trail is one of several undergraduate research projects from the summer.

By Robert W. Dalton

To Dr. Natalie Grinnell, working on a research project is a huge milestone in the life of an undergraduate student.

“It’s the moment where a student transforms from just absorbing knowledge to helping create knowledge,” says Grinnell, Reeves Family Professor in Humanities. “You get to add your voice when you participate in research and create something. That, to me, is at the heart of what it can mean to be an academic.”

Over the summer, Grinnell directed a project on gender and fertility in contemporary werewolf literature. She was one of 21 members of the college faculty leading 38 Wofford students in undergraduate research focused on 19 different projects.

Dr. Ramón Galiñanes Jr., Wofford College’s director of undergraduate research and post-

graduate fellowships, says he has seen a steady increase in student research opportunities and participation. That's a trend Galiñanes wants to see continue. A robust undergraduate research program helps cement Wofford's standing as one of the country's top residential liberal arts colleges, he says.

"There is a tradition of undergraduate research at Wofford," says Galiñanes, who over the summer led a project on news media production in Angola from 1989-2002. "We're much more visible as a national liberal arts college, and in order to continue to have that recognition this is something we need to do. It's critical to the liberal arts mission."

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## College's first chief equity officer named



Dr. Dwain C. Pruitt has been named Wofford College's first chief equity officer. In this role, Pruitt, who is a 1995 Wofford graduate, will lead the college's collaborative efforts to advance strategic goals, with emphasis on informing diversity initiatives, policy development, campus climate and the implementation of high-impact efforts that ensure inclusion. He also will ensure institutional compliance with applicable federal and state laws related to Title IX.

Pruitt comes to Wofford most recently from the University of Louisville, where he served as the assistant dean for curriculum and governance in the College of Arts and Sciences.

"Remaining connected with students has always been a priority, and I look forward to working with Wofford students both inside and outside of the classroom to develop a more just, equitable and diverse community," Pruitt said.

He has also worked in undergraduate research at the University of South Florida and at Morgan State University's College of Liberal Arts in a variety of administrative and student support positions.

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## David Beasley to visit Wofford Sept. 7



Former S.C. governor to discuss work with United Nations

Former South Carolina Gov. David Beasley will visit Wofford College for the Hipp Center for National Security and Foreign Policy's Annual Lecture Series.

Beasley, executive director of the World Food Programme, will give a lecture Sept. 7 at 7 p.m. in the Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts. The public is invited. A reception will follow.

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## Claire Burke Stokes '09 interview launches podcast

Claire Burke Stokes '09, executive administrator to the general manager of football operations for the Carolina Panthers, was the first interview for the team's InspiHER podcast that's highlighting the stories and careers of women across the Carolinas. Stokes has been with the team nine years. [Listen to the podcast.](#)

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