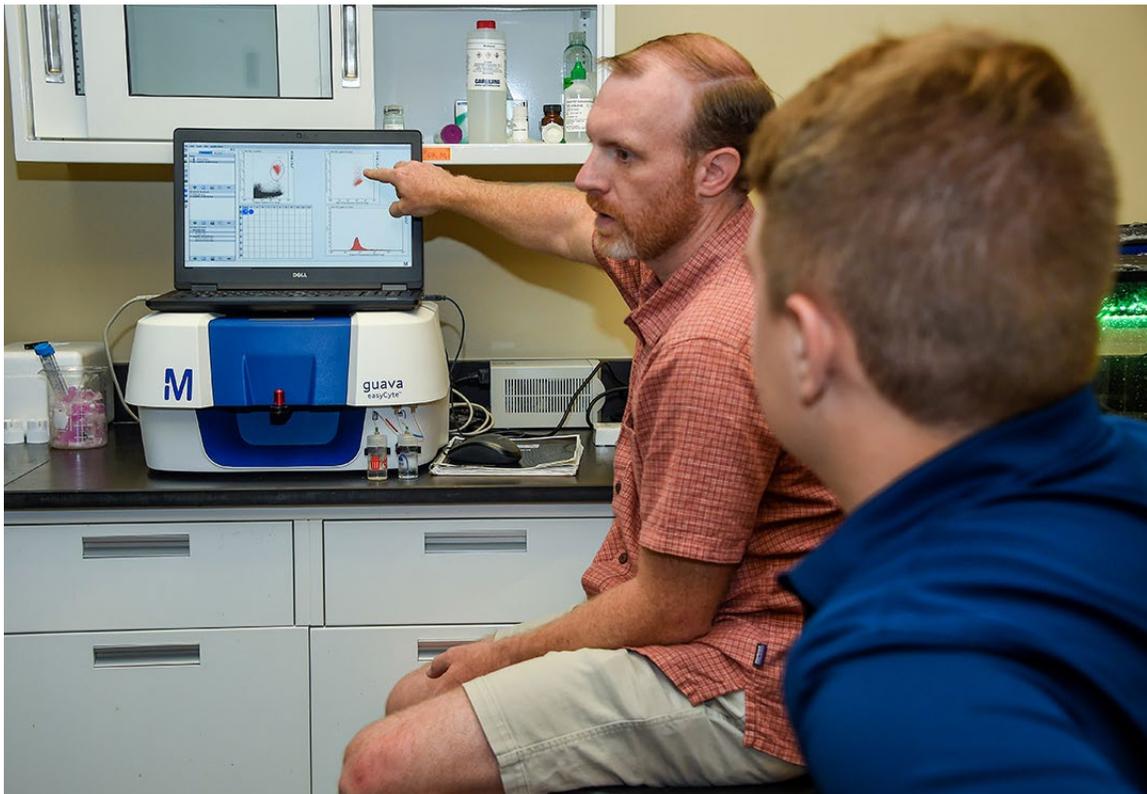




Ocean health



Dr. Geoffrey Mitchell, assistant professor of biology, and Chandler Dickert '23, a psychology major from Newberry, South Carolina, review data supporting research to save coral reefs.

Dr. Geoffrey Mitchell, assistant professor of biology, and a few Wofford College students are undertaking research aimed at protecting the health of the world's oceans by studying coral reefs. The work is being supported by a three-year National Science Foundation (NSF) grant.

The corals responsible for making reefs colorful hubs are becoming bleached as sea temperatures rise. This is making it difficult for many reefs to survive.

"They're fantastic ecosystems," says Mitchell. "They are second to the rainforests in the number of species they support."

Rising ocean temperatures are forcing corals, which are tiny animals, to expel algae, which gives reefs color.

According to the Australian Institute of Marine Science, 80% of the Great Barrier Reef, one of the seven wonders of the world, has undergone coral bleaching.

“It’s happening all over the world,” Mitchell says. “It’s putting stress on their relationship. Why is that stress causing the corals to kick out their algae?”

Mitchell and his students are looking for answers to that question through cellular biology. They’re using a model system to replicate corals and the ocean by using artificial seawater and anemones.

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An evening with Eddie Glaude



Dr. Eddie S. Glaude Jr., a New York Times bestselling author, political commentator and Princeton University professor, will visit Wofford and give a public lecture on James Baldwin and African-American history at 7 p.m. on Oct. 28.

Dr. Eddie S. Glaude Jr., a New York Times bestselling author, political commentator and Princeton University professor, will visit Wofford College and give a public lecture focused on James Baldwin and African-American history.

Glaude will be on Wofford's campus Oct. 28 and his public event will be held at 7 p.m. in Leonard Auditorium. A book signing will follow at 8 p.m. The college's COVID-19 protocols require masks while inside campus buildings.

"The history department is hosting a series of talks this academic year focused on African-American history," says Mark Byrnes, professor of history and chair of the department. "We really wanted a high-profile scholar to serve as a keynote speaker, and Dr. Glaude is fitting. We quote James Baldwin on a brochure for potential history majors. Baldwin speaks to our times, and no one today is better able to talk about Baldwin and his relevance than Eddie Glaude."

The talk is sponsored by the Wofford College Department of History, the Lewis P. Jones Visiting Professor in History Fund and the Office of the President.

Glaude is the James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor and chair of the Department of African American Studies at Princeton.

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Class of 2020 Ceremony



The Class of 2020's time on campus ended six weeks early because of the COVID-19 pandemic. They were the first Wofford class in 159 years to not have Commencement exercises. Many returned for Homecoming 2021 and were celebrated in a ceremony that was a combination Commencement, Honor's Convocation and Baccalaureate.

Mungo Student Center dedicated



Maria and Steven Mungo's generous gift to Wofford College supported the renovation of the Mungo Student Center. A dedication ceremony celebrating the building's update was held Oct. 15.

Wofford College's Campus Life Building recently received renovations and a new name to honor Maria and Steven Mungo's gift to make an upgrade possible.

The Mungo Student Center offers campus dining options, exercise facilities, meeting spaces, a game room, offices for student government and the Division of Campus Life and Student Development.

"We wanted to make sure every Wofford student had access to a facility that would enhance their Wofford experience," says Steven Mungo, a Wofford trustee and a 1981 alumnus of the college. "The student center, which is ideally located in the center of campus, is the campus' living room. It should be a first-class facility for students to enjoy and relax when not in the classroom or residence halls."

The Campus Life Building was designed in the late 1970s and opened in 1980.

"The college's student center has been a well-used and well-loved building, and now thanks to the Mungos, it has truly become a hub of activity for all students," says Dr. Nayef Samhat, Wofford's president. "The Mungos have always put student success first. Wofford appreciates their leadership and generosity."

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A reunion of theologians



The Rev. Dr. Will Willimon '68, a Wofford College trustee, visits with Dr. John Bullard, Professor of Religion, Emeritus.

The Rev. Dr. Will Willimon '68, a Wofford College trustee and professor of the practice of Christian ministry at the Duke University Divinity School, visited an influential professor from his Wofford days while recently in town for a trustee meeting. Dr. John Bullard, professor of religion emeritus, was Willimon's advisor and one of his professors 50 years ago. Bullard, who chaired Wofford's Department of Religion from 1961 to 2001, recommended that Willimon enroll at Yale Divinity School, where he also studied. Peter Moore '69, of Spartanburg, was able to coordinate their visit and sent this photo.

In 2016, Willimon and his wife, Patricia Parker Willimon, established the William H. Willimon '71 M.Div. and Patricia Parker Willimon Scholarship Fund at Yale's Divinity School. The fund gives first preference to Wofford graduates in need of financial assistance.

Office of Marketing and Communications

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