



Offering context and enlightenment



Wigginton and National Civil Rights Museum talk highlight Black History Month observances at Wofford College

Dr. Russell Wigginton travels through the heart of Memphis, Tennessee, each workday to the historic Lorraine Motel. A welcome stop for Black travelers during the Jim Crow era, it was also the site of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Wigginton is president of the National Civil Rights Museum, and he will kick off Wofford College's Black History Month commemoration with a talk, "Journey to Justice: Why the National Civil Rights Museum Matters," and conversations with Wofford students about sharing authentic stories about Black experiences.

Wigginton will speak at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 2 in Wofford's Leonard Auditorium in Main Building. The event is free and open to the public.

“The National Civil Rights Museum just celebrated its 30-year anniversary,” says Wigginton. “I’ll speak a little about how the museum came to be after Dr. King was assassinated.”

Wigginton will introduce the college and Spartanburg communities to the context that led to the civil rights era, some of the artifacts and resources available at the museum and a few of the lesser-known events and heroes of the movement. He’ll also talk about the museum’s future.

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Taking the stage



The Pulp Theatre production of “The Fairytale Lives of Russian Girls” hits the stage at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday (Jan. 27-29) in the Sallenger Sisters Black Box Theatre inside the Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts.

By Robert W. Dalton

When the set designer, lighting director and the villain in Pulp Theatre’s production of “The Fairytale Lives of Russian Girls” have a meeting, Joanna Burgess ’22 does all the talking.

That’s because Burgess, a physics and theatre double major from Clinton, South Carolina, has all three jobs.

“These are all things I have a passion for, and it’s been really fun,” Burgess says. “It’s been a

lot of work, but we have a great crew that has helped make the vision a reality.”

Pulp Theatre is an Interim project that allows students to take the lead in all aspects of a production. The four-week term concludes with performances scheduled for 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday (Jan. 27-29) in the Sallenger Sisters Black Box Theatre inside the Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts. Performances are free and open to the public.

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Increasing access and success



Wofford is one of eight institutions selected to participate in the inaugural round of the American Talent Initiative’s Promising Practice Accelerator.

Amid a pandemic that has generated significant uncertainty, Wofford College has maintained its focus on identifying new ways to ensure talented students from lower-income backgrounds have the support needed to realize their potential. To support this effort, the **American Talent Initiative** has selected Wofford for the inaugural round of its Promising Practice Accelerator, which is set to launch this month.

The program has funding from Bloomberg Philanthropies, and Wofford is one of eight American Talent Initiative members receiving a \$25,000 grant to pilot or expand an initiative this semester that can transform outcomes for students from lower-income backgrounds.

“Wofford College looks forward to piloting a program that will support keeping talented students on campus,” says Brand Stille, Wofford’s vice president of enrollment. “Wofford has

long been committed to the personal and academic success of our students, and our work with the American Talent Initiative will reinforce this commitment on our campus and as we share best practices with others.”

Wofford will use its five-month grant to pilot an initiative that will incentivize student retention with \$1,000 end-of-semester awards. Fifty students with demonstrated financial need who have shown academic progress will receive the awards. The grants are designed to offset gaps in financial aid that contribute to a higher risk of attrition. Rewarding academic success also is intended to foster a sense of belonging. Eligible students will receive enhancements each semester as part of their financial aid award through graduation as long as they remain in good academic standing. If successful, other institutions can use Wofford’s low-cost, scalable blueprint to increase affordability and retention.

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Krick-Aigner’s research recognized



Dr. Kirsten Krick-Aigner, German professor, discussed her research on the friendship between an American family and an Austrian family and how the Austrian family found refuge in the United States during the Holocaust.

Jan. 27 is International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The day is intended to remember the victims of the Holocaust. Dr. Kirsten Krick-Aigner, German professor, was recently interviewed in a Botstiber Institute podcast about an article that she wrote for the Journal of Austrian-American History. The article focuses on the friendship of two international pen pals in the early 1930s, during which an American family sponsored a Jewish Viennese girl and her family. This enabled the Austrian family to flee persecution during the Holocaust and find refuge in the United States.

[+ Listen to Aigner’s interview.](#)

[+ Read her article.](#)

Wofford Athletics Hall of Fame



Mary Ann Phillips, Converse Draper, Maggie Bosley '14, Rob Galloway '15, Connor Davis '16, Matt Milburn '16 and Karl Cochran '15 were formally inducted into the college's athletics hall of fame on Jan. 22. Phillips, Draper, Bosley, Galloway and Cochran were selected as 2020 inductees. Forrest Lasso '15 also was in the class, but he was unable to attend the ceremony. Milburn and Davis were 2021 inductees.

[+ Learn more about the 2020 class.](#)

[+ Learn more about the 2021 class.](#)

Ayers to be inducted in S.C. Athletic Hall of Fame



Former Wofford football coach Mike Ayers is one of four people tabbed for induction in the South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame's Class of 2022. A banquet honoring the class and the Class of 2020 will be held May 23. Ayers had a 207-139-1 record with the Terriers.

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