Beyond the Lecture

Benjamin Sale '25 and Daniel Alexander '25 received scholarships and mentorship from Nathan Patnam '19 because of their interest in computer science.

By Brandi Wylie '24, intern

Nathan Patnam '19 is honoring his father’s memory by awarding scholarships to Wofford College students showing an interest in computer science.

His father, Dr. Raju Patnam, who died in 2019, placed a strong emphasis on getting an education and stressed the importance of “learning something new every day.”

Patnam is using the Raju Patnam Scholarship to honor his father’s legacy while supporting Wofford students and encouraging them to seek education in the same ways that his father
encouraged him. He’s also using the application process to teach and prepare students, even if they don’t receive the scholarship.

“The Career Center is not going to hire you for a job at a software company, someone at a software company is going to hire you,” Patnam says. “They can help you create a resumé or provide interview prep, but when it comes to some of these harder things in computer science, like technical interviews where someone will ask you a coding question, I want to help.”

Patnam, who lives in Simpsonville, South Carolina, is a full stack developer with Salesforce. He will join the team at Uber to assist with the company’s voucher and coupon process.

During his time at Salesforce, he established the Beyond the Lecture nonprofit to mentor computer science majors. His goal is to provide opportunities for students to gain insight from professionals in the computer science field. After graduating from Wofford, Patnam began mentoring students and decided to help those at his alma mater. That led to the scholarship and nonprofit.

The Spring Concert returns to Leonard Auditorium for the first time since 2019.
Wofford’s choral ensembles will perform tonight (Thursday) at 7 in Leonard Auditorium. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. The Men’s Glee Club, Women’s Choir and Wofford Singers will perform love songs from the past 500 years ranging from 16th-century madrigals to The Beatles and Jackson 5. Watch the livestream on Wofford College’s Facebook page.

Honoring service

Dr. Steven Richards ’08 and Dr. Charlie Bass, Wofford’s Dr. and Mrs. Larry Hearn McCalla Professor of Chemistry, chat beside a plaque honoring Bass outside of the chemistry department’s new advanced chemistry lab.

The Wofford College chemistry department’s new lab for research honors someone who’s given countless hours to hundreds of students: Dr. Charlie Bass, the college’s Dr. and Mrs. Larry Hearn McCalla Professor of Chemistry.

“If you’re a physician, dentist or pharmacist and you went to Wofford since the early 90s, you had him,” says Dr. Steven Richards ’08, a Spartanburg dentist.

Richards spearheaded a campaign to honor Bass by raising funds for the advanced chemistry lab then naming it after him. More than 30 Wofford alumni contributed.

“I didn’t receive a single ‘no’ response,” says Richards, who credits Bass for his approach to teaching organic chemistry and how it prepared students for careers in medicine. “That is a huge tribute to Dr. Bass.”
The campus community, including members of the college’s Board of Trustees, held a dedication ceremony for the new lab on May 6.

Remembering Eli Sanders

Elliott “Eli” Sanders ’54 died May 6.

Elliott F. “Eli” Sanders ’54 always credited Wofford College for helping him build a successful business and life.

Sanders died May 6 at his home on James Island, South Carolina.

Richard Johnson, Wofford’s director of athletics, says Sanders gave back as much as he got.

“A man of enviable character, he was simply a wonderful human being,” Johnson says. “Generations of Wofford students yet unborn will benefit from his generosity. We shall all miss him greatly.”

A native of Blackville, South Carolina, Sanders joined the U.S. Army before finishing high school and served for about a year in Germany as World War II was coming to an end. When he returned from the war, he attended Georgia Military College, where he completed his high school studies and began work on his college degree.
Wofford lured him away with the offer of a football scholarship. He scored the Terriers’ lone touchdown in a 1953 game against Auburn University. Sanders was inducted into the Wofford College Athletics Hall of Fame in 1991.

Bruce Williams ’78 installed as chief judge

Bruce Williams ’78 was installed as chief judge of the S.C. State Court of Appeals on May 4. The state legislature elected him to the position on Feb. 2. He was first elected to the Court of Appeals in 2004. Williams began his career on the bench in 1995, when he was elected to the Fifth Judicial District Family Court. During his tenure as a family court judge, he served as president of the South Carolina Conference of Family Court Judges, as well as secretary-treasurer. In 1997, he established the Richland County Juvenile Drug Court. He was awarded the Governor’s Program Achievement Award for Juvenile Drug Court the following year.

Campus elections, appointments

Wofford College’s student government leadership has been elected and appointed for the 2022-23 academic year.

The Wofford College student government association has announced the election of officers, delegates and commissioners for the 2022-23 academic year, as well as the appointment of members of the college’s honor council. See who’s serving.
See highlights from the 2022 Bosscars Awards. The event was presented by the Wofford Student-Athlete Advisory Committee in conjunction with the Department of Athletics. Find the complete list of award winners.

SAAC visits Carolina Miracle League

Wofford’s Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) recently spent time with the Carolina Miracle League and participated as buddies during various games.