Carver’s legacy

Al Gray ’71 and Doug Jones ’69 are familiar names in Wofford College’s history. Gray was the college’s first Black student. Jones was the first Black student to graduate from the college while Gray’s studies were interrupted during the Vietnam War.

Both were graduates of Spartanburg’s Carver High School, and they were joined on Wofford’s campus by a few of their Carver schoolmates to help desegregate the college in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Many of those alumni are continuing to make a difference for today’s students and future generations of Terriers.
Six of them have established an endowed scholarship to support Wofford students pursuing internships. They’re continuing a legacy.

“Carver High School and Cumming Street School teachers often came to support us no matter what we were doing,” says Rudy Long ’73, who was one of the first two Black student-athletes on the Wofford football team and a charter member of the college’s chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

Breaking the code

Nicholas Jacobs ’23 uses his coding skills and passion for environmental science at his summer internship at the Grice Marine Lab.

Brandi Wylie ’24, student intern

Nicholas Jacobs ’23 knows it can be difficult to find internships. Sometimes, students don’t land their first choice. Then, there are times when opportunities just don’t seem to exist in their field of interest.

Jacobs, however, is proof an exact match can be found through networking and persistence.

“I just want to encourage future students applying for internships not to give up if they don’t
get accepted at first,” Jacobs says. “Make those connections and reach out to people about making your own project.”

Jacobs, an environmental studies and computer science double major from Florence, South Carolina, did just that. He was able to combine both of his majors and interests to create an internship that helps to explore exactly what he desired.

At the mercy of others

Anna Lee Hoffman ’23 is an editorial intern for Charleston Magazine. She’s honing her communication skills and patience.

By Brandi Wylie ’24, student intern

Anna Lee Hoffman ’23 used her Wofford journey to prepare for a summer working in the world of journalism.

Hoffman, a humanities major and sociology and anthropology minor from Milton, Georgia, is spending her summer living on campus and serving as a remote editorial intern for Charleston Magazine. This is the second editorial internship she has held. She spent last summer with Local Life magazine.
At Wofford College, she serves as the visual media editor for the Old Gold and Black, Wofford’s student-run newspaper. She has held numerous roles with the paper and works in social media marketing for many on-campus organizations.

These experiences have allowed her to build skills while finishing her degree. Two of the most important skills she’s learned are communication and patience, since much of journalism comes from obtaining information that other people hold.

Remembering Dr. Jim Seegars

Dr. Jim Seegars served as the first chair of the college’s Department of Psychology. He held that position for 37 years before his retirement in 1999.

Under the direction of Dr. Jim Seegars, Wofford College’s Department of Psychology gained a reputation in the 1970s for having energetic and young faculty who provided opportunities for students to participate in research. Dr. Ed Coffey ’74 wanted to experience it, and he registered for an introductory psychology course being taught by Seegars.

“I was hooked from the first lecture,” says Coffey, a neuropsychiatrist who is an affiliate professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences with the Medical University of South Carolina. “I wanted to understand human behavior, and I wanted to be like that guy.”

Seegars would eventually become Coffey’s father-in-law and one of the most influential people in his life. Seegars died July 23.