Match game

Sammy Friedrich ’21 and Grant Wollam ’21 were swabbed on the same day in October 2019 to determine their eligibility to become stem cell donors.
Sammy Friedrich completed his stem cell donation on Aug. 31 in Boca Raton, Florida. His cells went to a 50-year-old leukemia patient.

By Robert W. Dalton

As members of the Wofford men’s soccer team, Sammy Friedrich ‘21 and Grant Wollam ‘21 were involved in some big matches.

None, however, were as important as the matches they made off the pitch. Through the Project Life Movement, Friedrich and Wollam both donated life-saving stem cells to leukemia patients.

Ann Henegar, executive director of Project Life Movement, says it’s a long shot for one person to be a match and go on to donate. For two classmates, teammates and roommates to make it, she says, the odds are staggering.

The numbers back her up. Since 2018, Project Life Movement, a three-person operation based in Charlotte, North Carolina, has swabbed nearly 13,000 potential donors. They’ve had 198 matches, with 17 – including Friedrich and Wollam – being able to donate.

Friedrich and Wollam were swabbed on the same day in October 2019, when Henegar and Katie Fowler, the campus coordinator for Project Life, visited Wofford to promote the organization’s mission.

“Grant and I said we wanted to sign up and asked if we could swab right on the spot,” says Friedrich, who flew out Wednesday (Sept. 14) to begin graduate school in Newcastle,
They only had a couple of kits because it was an informational session. It was super easy and a really happy surprise.”

Heavy metal

A group of Wofford students spent the summer working to assess lead concentrations in soil in Spartanburg city parks.

By Robert W. Dalton

A group of Wofford students spent the summer looking for something they hoped they wouldn’t find. They got their wish, and that’s good news for Spartanburg children who frequent the playgrounds at 18 parks in the city.

Led by Dr. Grace Schwartz, assistant professor of chemistry, the group worked to assess lead concentrations in soil in Spartanburg city parks. Chronic exposure to lead in soil can cause a variety of health and developmental issues in children.

“This is the first time I worked on a project and hoped I wouldn’t find anything,” says Megan Santos ’23, a biology and studio art major from Concord, North Carolina. “Some parks had higher content, but the concentration was not high enough to be of concern based on EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) standards.”

The project is a follow-up to a 2021 study by another Wofford team that looked at the
quantity and quality of parks in Spartanburg County. The team wanted to measure levels of lead because it’s a common urban pollutant that was formerly used in gasoline and paint, and also is an industrial pollutant.

**U.S. News rankings**

Wofford College is ranked by U.S. News & World Report as a top national liberal arts college, a best value and for supporting social mobility.

Wofford College continues to be ranked by national publications as one the best colleges in the United States. This time, it’s U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges for 2022-23.

The rankings were announced Monday, Sept. 12, and Wofford is ranked No. 70 on the publication’s rankings of national liberal arts colleges. The college is ranked No. 58 on the list of best values and No. 97 for social mobility.

“Wofford College’s presence in national rankings reflects a commitment to student success by faculty and staff and a uniquely committed alumni network,” says Dr. Nayef Samhat, the college’s president. “The Wofford community is filled with people who are dedicated to mentoring, learning in the classroom and out, and support exceptional experiential learning opportunities, all of which prepare our students for life after college.”
New life

Lizzie Richards ’23 spent the summer researching the life of Helen DuPré Moseley.

By Robert W. Dalton

Helen DuPré Moseley was a prolific writer, filling thousands of diary and journal pages. She wrote about her family, the weather and the things going on around town. But she rarely wrote about her art.

That’s one of the things Lizzie Richards ’23 learned over the summer while researching the life of Moseley, an artist known for her paintings of surreal figures. As part of her project, Richards, a history and art history major from Columbia, South Carolina, is now selecting some of Moseley’s works for an exhibit scheduled to open in February 2023.

“Art was only a hobby for her,” says Richards. “When I look at her artwork, it’s so childlike in a way. It’s so creative, and it’s work that should be seen.”

Moseley’s father was a member of the Wofford College faculty, and she grew up on the campus. She took over her husband’s insurance business after his death in 1927. In 1934, she was named Spartanburg’s first female postmaster by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. She died in 1984 at age 96.

READ MORE
The family of Corry Oakes ‘89, former chair of the college’s board of trustees, accepted an honorary degree and a Wofford stole from Chris Carpenter ‘90, chairman of the board of trustees, Dr. Tim Schmitz, interim provost, and President Nayef Samhat during Opening Convocation. Oakes died Aug. 7.

The family of Corry Oakes ‘89, former chair of the college’s board of trustees, accepted an honorary degree given to him posthumously during Opening Convocation. He was scheduled to receive the degree and to give the address at the event before his death on Aug. 7. Oakes wrote his speech in advance, and President Nayef Samhat read it on his behalf during Convocation. Watch Opening Convocation.
September events

“The Shape I’m In: Tri State Sculptors Member Exhibition” is on display in the Richardson Family Art Gallery, courtyard and café space in conjunction with Wofford College hosting the 44th Annual Tri State Sculptors Conference in October.

Wofford College will have four exhibits that the public is invited to view during September, including one that celebrates the legacy of Anne Frank that will begin Sept. 19 and include a Sept. 27 public discussion with Dr. Doyle Stevick, director of the University of South Carolina’s Anne Frank Center.

Wofford alumnae and a student are behind a musical with S.C. Children’s Theatre

The musical “Don’t Let The Pigeon Drive The Bus!” opens Sept. 23 at the South Carolina Children’s Theatre in Greenville, South Carolina, and two Wofford graduates and a current student are involved with its production.

Connor Vetter ’14 is the musical's director, Rachel Johnson ’24, a theatre major from Spartanburg, is serving as its music director, and Joanna Burgess ’22 is the lighting director. It’s the first production of the theatre’s 2022-23 season. Vetter and Johnson collaborated on “The Missing Moon,” which was written by former Wofford faculty member Kerry Ferguson and performed on the theatre’s second stage. Watch an interview with Vetter and others involved with the musical.