



Helping hands



Bladen Bates '23 is interning with JumpStart, a ministry that helps prepare previously incarcerated people for re-entry into society.

By Robert W. Dalton

People who are trying to rebuild their lives after spending time in prison carry the burden of a lot of unflattering labels: Criminal, ex-con, jailbird.

Bladen Bates '23 prefers a kinder label: human beings.

Bates, an art history and psychology major from Traveler's Rest, South Carolina, is an intern with JumpStart, a ministry that helps prepare people who've been incarcerated for re-entry into society.

“There’s a stigma on people who were incarcerated,” Bates says. “Some people only see them as criminals, but they are humans just like us. They deserve a second chance. Sometimes the only thing that separates us from them is one mistake.”

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An update from college leaders



President Nayef Samhat and other senior leaders will provide an operations update during a Dec. 5 town hall.

Join President Nayef Samhat and members of Wofford College’s senior leadership team for a Zoom webinar, 4 p.m. EST, Monday, Dec. 5, 2022. The webinar will focus on college operations with a report on enrollment.

Register in advance.

College leaders will take questions during the event, with priority given to those who pre-submit questions. Email WoffordNews@wofford.edu with questions or topics you would like covered.

Terrier Startup Challenge



Megan Santos '23, a biology major from Concord, North Carolina, and Kate Timbes '23, a studio art major from Columbia, South Carolina, placed first in the Terrier Startup Challenge with their pitch for Talking Pieces.

The seventh annual Terrier Startup Challenge was held Nov. 17. Eight business pitches by nine students were heard by a panel of judges as the students competed for \$10,000 in startup funding. [Learn more.](#)

On her way



Nneka Mogbo '20 is teaching English in Algeria as a Fulbright Fellow. Her fellowship, originally scheduled for 2020, was delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

By Robert W. Dalton

When her Fulbright Fellowship was postponed and then canceled because of COVID-19, Nneka Mogbo '20 mourned and moved on.

Then, as quickly as it was taken away, the opportunity reappeared. Mogbo departed for Algeria in October, where she is serving as an English teaching assistant.

“I got a call in February that it was back on,” says Mogbo. “It was really bittersweet. While I was excited, I was also concerned that I’m not the same person I was when I was a fresh graduate.”

Mogbo learned in the spring of 2020 that she had been selected for the fellowship. Just days later, with the pandemic starting to shut down the world, she was told it was on hold.

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Wofford posts impressive NCAA graduation success rate data



The Wofford volleyball team is one of nine athletics teams at the college that posted a score of 100 with its graduation success rate.

The NCAA has released the latest Graduation Success Rate for all Division I institutions. Wofford had nine of 14 teams post a score of 100, the highest score available. The overall GSR for Wofford was a 96, which ranked second in the Southern Conference and first in South Carolina.

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Celebrating first-generation college students



Dr. James Stukes, assistant dean of student success and college access, MauriAnna Richardson '25, Laila Villeda '26, Isa Ortiz Calzada '24 and Anthony Tarulli '25 pose with a proclamation from Spartanburg City Council in recognition of First-Generation College Celebration Day.

On Nov. 14, first-generation college students from Wofford and Spartanburg's other colleges and universities were recognized with a proclamation during a Spartanburg City Council meeting in recognition of First-Generation College Celebration Day. MauriAnna Richardson '25, a chemistry major from Columbia, South Carolina; Laila Villeda '26, an undeclared major from Cumming, Georgia; Isa Ortiz Calzada '24, a double major in French and francophone studies and international affairs from Greenville, South Carolina; and Anthony Tarulli '25, a double major in biology and environmental studies from Bluffton, South Carolina; represented Wofford at City Hall with Dr. James Stukes, assistant dean of student success and college access.

The college's Office of Student Success hosted its fifth annual First-Generation College Student Celebration Week from Nov. 7-10. Caitlynn Myer '18 gave the college's first keynote address during First-Generation College Student Celebration Week, and a gathering was held at the president's house for students, staff and faculty who were first-generation college students. Students also got to know each other during karaoke and bingo.

Panoff recognized



Dr. Robert Panoff (center) received an award from the largest computer science professional society in the world during its conference in Dallas, Texas.

Dr. Robert Panoff, scientist in residence and instructor of computer science, recently became the first recipient of the Educational Award for Outstanding Contribution to Computational Science Education by the ACM SIGHPC chapter. ACM is the largest computer science professional society in the world. Panoff was recognized for his work assisting faculty with the integration of computational science in the undergraduate curriculum. He is widely known for developing Interactivate, a set of modeling tools to assist in the teaching of pre-college science and math. He also has received numerous National Science Foundation grants to provide workshops for faculty, K-12 teachers and students.

Panoff received a \$2,000 honorarium and recognition at the SC22 meeting in Dallas, Texas, earlier this month.

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