Legacy of service

Dr. Ellis Colvin has made a gift to the Wofford Military Memorial in honor of his great-grandfather, World War I veteran Dolphus Colvin.

The way Dr. Ellis Colvin ’83 sees it, almost everything he’s done in his life has been a tribute to his great-grandfather, Dolphus Colvin — 40 years of service to his country, including 21 years as a U.S. Army intelligence officer; a zest for education that includes the Ph.D. he earned earlier this year; even his next chapter launching and leading a private security company.

Now, Colvin is paying a fitting tribute to his great-grandfather with a gift to Wofford’s new Military Memorial project in his honor. The memorial will be a public space on campus that will bear the names, class years, service branches and ranks of those who died while on active duty beginning with World War I and Wofford’s establishment of a U.S. Army Reserve Officer Training Corps unit.

“I want to honor his military service,” says Colvin, “but it’s more than that. His service set in
motion my service to the nation. It was predestined. It was something I knew I had to do.”

As a child, Ellis only knew his great-grandfather as a farmer who settled in Dillon County, South Carolina. He didn’t learn of Dolphus’ military service during World War I until many years later.

**Streaming service**

Spartanburg County is one of the fastest growing counties in the country. Two teams of Wofford students are conducting research to determine the impact of that growth on the area’s water quality.

Dr. Amelia Atwell, visiting assistant professor of biology, and Dr. Jonathan Davis, assistant professor of biology, are directing the teams, which are measuring the aquatic biodiversity of Lawson’s Fork Creek and its tributaries.

“Everybody is moving here, and there is construction all over the place,” says Davis. “We’re looking at what happens to this water when that occurs. We all live downstream from somewhere, and we depend on this water supply for municipal uses and drinking water. We have to be stewards of that. This is one of the ways we can assess the quality, and we can come back five to 10 years from now to see how things have changed over time as we
Inspiration comes in many different forms. For Nicke Haney, growing up as a latchkey kid was her inspiration for founding Brown Girls Read.

Haney, who now serves as the organization’s CEO, remembers being a child and waiting for her parents to come home from work. She used the time to read and journal, which led to an appreciation for the power of words.

“I would write about all of my experiences with my friends in my books,” says Haney, an English teacher at McCracken Middle School. “So that’s what inspired me to get my degree in English. The written word is a powerful thing.”

She began sharing her passion for books with girls ages 10 to 14 through Brown Girls Read, founded in January 2020. The club meets twice a month, September through May, at CC Woodson Community Center. In June, Wofford College’s Office of Equity, Diversity and
Inclusion hosted the club for an overnight camp on campus. This was Brown Girls Read’s first overnight event and the start of a continuing relationship with the college.

Wofford Today

Wofford Today will reach mailboxes soon. But, if you can’t wait to get the latest updates from the college, celebrate the Class of 2023 and read alumni news, you can find the magazine online. Read the summer issue of Wofford Today.

‘Hard Comes First’

Rod Ray recently completed his 23rd season as the head coach of Wofford’s men’s tennis team.
Rod Ray, Wofford men’s tennis coach, is writing a book that will be published in 2024. “Hard Comes First” will focus on the lessons that Ray has learned as a coach and as the father of a child diagnosed with Autism. A website promoting the book includes a blog where Ray will share stories of perseverance that will inspire and support goal setting. Learn more and join a waitlist for the book.

Carolina Panthers Training Camp dates

Brandon Smith, a linebacker with the Carolina Panthers, signs autographs for fans after a training camp practice at Wofford in 2022.

The Carolina Panthers will have their 28th training camp at Wofford this summer. Practices are open to the public. See practice dates and times.