

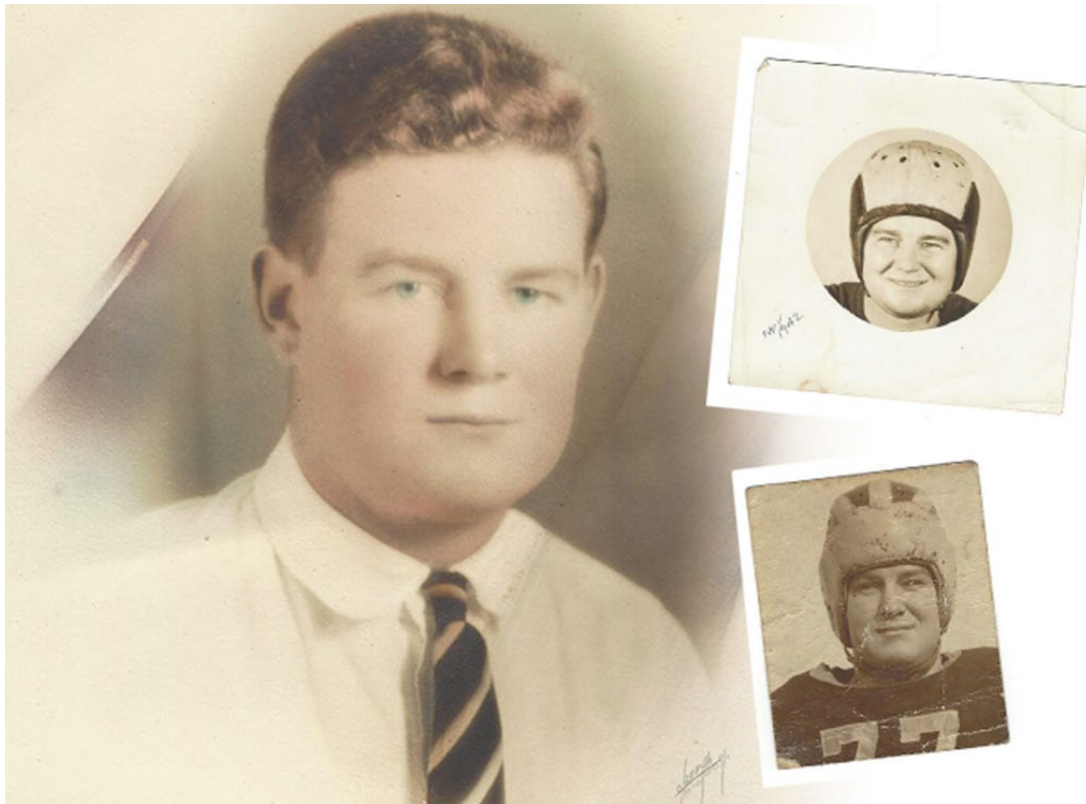
# CONQUER & PREVAIL

## WOFFORD COLLEGE



ISSUE #143 | JULY 27, 2023 | FROM THE OFFICE OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

### Honoring his legacy



Jake Strait '43 served in World War II, and his granddaughter Laura Studstill Self '07 is honoring his military service by donating to Wofford College's Military Memorial project.

Laura Studstill Self '07 has memories of summer days with her grandfather Jake Strait '43, including trips to the post office in his red pickup truck.

His insistence on keeping a post office box stemmed from his service in the U.S. Army during World War II.

"He always used a post office box because his letters were stolen from his mom's mailbox," Self says. "She didn't know if he was OK or not."

Self is honoring her grandfather's military service and passion for Wofford College with a gift to the **college's Military Memorial project**. 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.

Strait died when Self was 12 years old, and she has fond memories of their time together and the stories he told. She remembers him talking about liberating concentration camps during the war, and he often discussed Gen. George S. Patton.

"I'm surprised there's not a child named Patton in our family," says Self, although George is an uncle's middle name.

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## Trekking Taiwan



Valerie Soto '23, from Mountain Top, Pennsylvania, is furthering her study of the Chinese language in New Taipei City, Taiwan, during her second trip to study in the country.

Valerie Soto '23 is seeing new things during her second trip to Taiwan.

Soto is currently studying in Taiwan through the Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) program. She is in the Tamsui district.

"This place is known as the coastal district because it is a fishing town that was once a Spanish settlement. Tamsui, also known as Danshui, is surrounded by beautiful mountains and scenery," she says.

Soto originally intended to study abroad in China in 2020, but her plans were interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. She later received the opportunity to visit Taiwan in fall 2022 through China Educational Tours (CET) Academic Programs and couldn't wait to go back.

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## Radio and WWII



Dr. Mark Byrnes, Wofford College professor of history and chair of the history department, examines the relationship between U.S. foreign policy and radio leading up to World War II in his book “Radio and the Great Debate over U.S. Involvement in World War II.”

When teaching courses on American diplomacy, Dr. Mark Byrnes likes to put his students in the positions of the people at the time. That means lots of research into the past. More than a decade ago, while preparing for a class, he came across a magazine with speeches leading up to the United States’ involvement in World War II and made a discovery that led him to write a book.

The magazine, *Vital Speeches of the Day*, published talks by anti-interventionists and interventionists, and Byrnes started to notice that each transcript cited the radio network that broadcasted the speech.

“It hit me that this debate was taking place on radio,” says Byrnes, professor of history and chair of the Wofford College history department. “It’s the first time you had a big foreign policy debate in America that everyone could hear.”

Byrnes' book "**Radio and the Great Debate over U.S. Involvement in World War II**" was published by Rowman & Littlefield, and it's finding its way to college libraries across the United States. The book looks at the relationship between U.S. foreign policy and radio and how that time period shaped media coverage of political discourse.

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## Summer City Tour

THE CAREER CENTER AND ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION PRESENT

# SUMMER *City Tour*



**LOWCOUNTRY | JULY 30**

**CHARLOTTE | AUG. 3**

**WINSTON-SALEM | AUG. 9**

**SPARTANBURG | AUG. 13**

There is still time to RSVP to network and socialize with students, alumni and Wofford staff in Charlotte and Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and Spartanburg. The Wofford College Alumni Association and the Career Center in the Mungo Exchange are bringing Terriers together in a few different cities this summer.

- **RSVP for the Aug. 3 Charlotte event.**
- **RSVP for the Aug. 9 Winston-Salem event.**
- **RSVP for the Aug. 13 Spartanburg event.**

## The Carolina Panthers are on campus



The Carolina Panthers are holding training camp at Wofford through Aug. 10. Practices are free and open to the public.

The NFL's Carolina Panthers are on campus for training camp. **Visit the team's website for free tickets to attend practice and find details about this Saturday's "Back Together" event that begins at 11 a.m.**

## Athletic updates

**Wofford baseball names J.J. Edwards as head coach**

**Men's and women's track earn USTFCCA all-academic honors**

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