

WOFFORD COLLEGE

GOVERNMENT AND
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Department Newsletter

Fall 2017

• Terriers in the World •

SARAH CLEMENS – International Affairs Major 2018

I am very fortunate to have had the opportunity to spend my summer in Germany working to promote human rights with Amnesty International. Standing on the streets of Hamburg in my Amnesty International uniform alongside my little portable stand, I would approach people with a smile asking if I could interrupt their busy day for a quick moment to discuss human rights. Doing this job I approached on average one hundred people a day. Out of those one hundred maybe fifteen people would stop and talk to me and, out of those fifteen, hopefully three to five would be inspired enough to want to become a regular donor to Amnesty International. That sums up what my job was, day in and day out, rain or shine. I had the chance to meet people from all walks of life, from different countries and backgrounds and opinions. I met people who told me intimate details about their lives and personal stories of human rights abuses, one man showed me a chest full of scars he received during the Cambodian genocide in which he lost his entire family. I was also in Hamburg during the time of the G20 summit. As an International Affairs major, getting to witness the clamorous social and political atmosphere in Hamburg during this time was incredibly fascinating. Especially working for a human rights organization, I was able to hear peoples' fears, opinions, and hopes regarding politics, refugees, energy, globalization, and the U.S. My experience working for Amnesty International promoting and fundraising for human rights causes on the streets, completely in German, was just as much a sociological, political, and cultural experience as it was a working experience. I could not leave my experience behind me as the summer came to end, so I decided to open an Amnesty International student group at Wofford.



WIL SHELTON – Government Major 2018

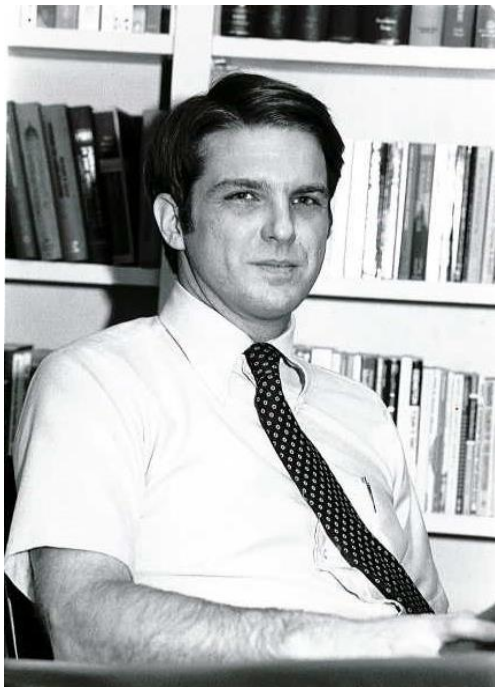


In the spring of 2017, I had the incredible opportunity to participate in the Bard Globalization and International Affairs Program (BGIA) in New York City. For the semester, I lived in the city, took classes and worked for an organization that had a connection to international affairs. My organization was a small online travel, culture, and politics magazine called *Roads and Kingdoms* (R&K). I chose this organization because of my interest in pursuing a career in journalism. R&K was the perfect bridge between my background in Arts and Entertainment and international affairs. While working for R&K, I had the chance to see what it was like working for an

online publication that relies mostly on freelance submissions. I learned how to pitch an article and several of the “Do’s and Don’ts” when communicating with an editor. BGIA will be instrumental in my future success because of the professional development skills I learned there. Additionally, BGIA has an extensive alumni network and while living in New York, I established several valuable connections. Living in New York taught me that I am vastly more capable than I thought. The metropolitan life, classes, and a full time internship taught me how to maximize my time (like doing homework on the subway), how to overcome adversity (such as the time my wallet was stolen), and most importantly, that I really am not at the center of the universe, and that even when you’re surrounded by people 24/7, none of them are paying any attention to you. It was an extraordinarily humbling experience and I could not be more thankful for it.

Dr. Dunson and the Great Magnolia

By Dr. William E. DeMars



Dr. Linton R. Dunson, Jr.—the founding Chair of the Government Department—is also credited with saving the great magnolia tree in front of Main Building on Wofford College campus. In 1998, Wofford undertook a major landscaping project on its central campus, led and funded by Mr. Roger Milliken. Mr. Milliken loved trees, and he planted more than a thousand new ones to form the arboretum that visitors to Wofford can still tour today. But he also wanted to straighten the road through campus, and that goal jeopardized the great magnolia. Dr. Dunson had a love and astonishing knowledge of birds, plants and trees, and so he was placed on the committee with Mr. Milliken. It was Dr. Dunson who proved to be the most effective advocate for the great magnolia: he collected copies of photographs that many students had traditionally taken of themselves in front of the great tree; and he convinced Mr. Milliken’s own landscape architects that the road could be “jiggled” to spare the tree.

That was Dr. Dunson’s last grand gesture on Wofford’s campus. In the 42 years that he taught here, from 1966 to 2008, a total of 917 Government Majors graduated from Wofford, and almost all of them took at least one course from Dr. Dunson. His letters of recommendation helped scores of those students get into law school, grad school, or their first job. More importantly, he shaped their views of politics, society and public service, of what constitutes America, and what is worth renewing and carrying forward into the future.

Dr. Dunson’s devotion to the American founding—and the founders—is legendary. I witnessed a conversation one September between a sophomore Government student and Dr. Dunson about an important new biography of one of the founders that had just been published—I think it was on Alexander Hamilton. The student had read the book over the summer, and Dr. Dunson had ordered it and looked forward to discussing it with the student. Frankly, I had never before witnessed such a bond of intellectual friendship between a student and a professor. This was one of many experiences that convinced me after I arrived in 2001 that there was something very special going on at Wofford that I needed to understand and cultivate in the future.

You could say it was another American founder—Thomas Jefferson—who had led Linton Dunson to save the great magnolia. Dr. Dunson had earned his doctorate at the University of Virginia, which Jefferson had designed and built as the ideal university where citizens would be educated in the capacities and virtues necessary to preserve republican institutions of government. Part of Jefferson’s vision was that the architecture and beauty of the campus would help orient the faculty and students of the “academical village” toward the pursuit of knowledge. Dr. Dunson articulated this vision in an address to the Wofford College National Alumni Association Leadership Conference on September 20, 1997—likely while he was also arguing to save the great magnolia.

When I see that magnificent tree in front of Main Building, I sometimes think of Dr. Dunson standing up for the highest, broadest vision of education for free citizens.

If you would like to donate to the Linton Reese Dunson, Jr. Endowment Fund, please contact the Wofford College Advancement Office through Ms. Debbi Thompson, Director of Alumni and Parents Programs, at 864-597-4208 or thompsondn@wofford.edu.

Legacy of Hamilton: Constitution Day Lecture

Dr. Stephen F. Knott, Professor of American History and Government at Ashland University and Professor of National Security Affairs at the United States Naval War College, gave this year’s Constitution Day lecture on the “Legacy of Alexander Hamilton.” As an expert on Alexander Hamilton, Dr. Knott discussed how Hamilton valued prudence and moderation, had enormous respect for the rule of the law, and had a “jaded view of public opinion.” After an engaging talk, Dr. Knott took many questions from the audience. The questions addressed issues such as Hamilton’s view on foreign wars, what Hamilton would say about current politics, the tense relationship between Jefferson and Hamilton, Hamilton’s view on slavery, and many other topics. Dr. Knott emphasized the essential role Hamilton played in ensuring the ratification of the Constitution in the state of New York. Throughout the talk and questions, Dr. Knott gave a strong defense of Hamilton and argued that he made multiple important contributions to the development of the United States.

David Brooks Visits Wofford



Wofford College hosted David Brooks this September for two separate events. Mr. Brooks, a conservative columnist for the *New York Times*, began his career as a crime reporter and is now very well-known for his political commentary on NPR and PBS along with his numerous bestselling books. Wofford students had the privilege to attend a private Question and Answer session with Brooks where students asked a variety of questions, such as whether or not it was difficult working as a conservative writer at the *New York Times*, what authors inspired him, and what were his opinions on the American political system. When asked about the largest problems facing the world, he focused on the two challenges of social fragmentation and stagnant incomes. In his well-attended evening public

lecture, Mr. Brooks gave a more detailed explanation of how he sees the world changing. The educated elite are losing touch with the rest of society and, according to Mr. Brooks, President Trump was elected because of his calls to take down the system. Like in the 1960s, this point in history will be one of societal change, hopefully away from the narcissistic individualism of this era to an era of commitment and community healing, established around a renewed focus on the family, careers, faith and philosophy, and the general well-being of the community. In the words of Mr. Brooks, we must “celebrate dependence, relation, conversation, goodness, warmth, truth, selflessness and love.” Many in the Wofford and Spartanburg community enjoyed his presentations.

Honoring Judge Henry F. Floyd



Judge Henry F. and Mrs. Cindy Floyd

The Honorable Judge Henry F. Floyd, a judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, was the guest speaker at Opening Convocation on 5 September this year and received an honorary degree from Wofford College. Floyd, a 1970 Wofford graduate and native of Brevard, N.C., was appointed to his current position in October 2011 by President Barack Obama. He was first appointed to the federal judiciary by President George W. Bush in September 2003 as a judge for the U.S. District Court, District of South Carolina, to a seat vacated by Dennis W. Shedd, a 1975 graduate of Wofford. In both cases, Floyd was confirmed by enormous majorities in the U.S. Senate. Floyd is a graduate of the University of South Carolina School of Law and served in the South Carolina

House of Representatives. In the spring 2017 semester, Floyd co-taught constitutional law at Wofford with Dr. David Alvis, associate professor of government and international affairs, and will be joining Dr. Alvis again in spring 2018.

• We'd Love to Hear from You •

We hope that you liked hearing about what is going on at Wofford! We also love to hear what is going on with our alumni! Please send us your news, such as important life events, what you have been doing since graduation or any information about your achievements and awards.

Sincerely,

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