



DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



WHAT'S INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

**WOFFORD TERRIERS ON
CAPITOL HILL**

**FORMER AMBASSADOR
MOSES SPEAKS ABOUT
ROMANIA AND HIS CAREER
IN FOREIGN POLICY**

**REFLECTIONS FROM
SENIORS IN THE
DEPARTMENT**

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Wofford Terriers on the Hill

The thrill of working in Washington D.C. on Capitol Hill is daily reality for many Wofford alums. Life on Capitol Hill is also a career that some current Wofford students want to pursue. Many students get first-hand experience with this type of work through internships with the CHIP program, or in local government offices, and find themselves inspired by their experiences to pursue a career in the federal government after Wofford. While this plan for life after graduation may initially seem daunting, there is a large number of Wofford alumni already working on the Hill.

The Wofford alumni on the Hill started their careers with an internship and thus stress the importance of this formative experience for anyone hoping to work on Capitol Hill. Some examples of internships that Wofford Alumni have held are Madison Hite's internship in Senator Lamar Alexander's office, Patrick McLean's internship with the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, and Meghan McCully's internship in Senator Scott's office, and her

subsequent internships through the CHIP program. For students who plan on going to graduate school before moving to the Hill, Austin Higginbotham is a great example of that career path. After graduation Austin attended graduate school at the Citadel, and then began interning for Congressman Ralph Norman, which he only did for three weeks before being offered a job on the Hill. Additionally, another path to the Hill after graduation is one which Zach Barnes followed as he worked for two years on political campaigns before following Congressman Ralph Norman to the Hill for an internship. *(Continued on page 2)*

The importance of an internship is something the Wofford alumni on the Hill agree on. As Meghan McCully recommends, “Spend your time and treasure on the internships and study abroad.” Furthermore, as Zach Barnes noted, “Congressional offices place a premium on Capitol Hill internships when making entry-level staff hires.” For current Wofford Students, the CHIP program and interim period are great tools to find an internship either on the Hill or in the field of government work in general. For graduating seniors looking to work on the Hill, Austin Higginbotham advises “to not be afraid to intern” because although life in D.C. can be risky and uncertain, “Finding a full time job on the Hill while not in Washington is often hard to do.”

Beyond the importance of internships, the Wofford alumni on Capitol Hill who we interviewed agree that networking is another necessary aspect of securing a job or internship on the Hill. Meghan McCully noted that building a network while at Wofford is helpful “so that you can have a quicker transition to life after graduation,” and this advice is especially important for current students. Zach Barnes also agrees on the importance of networking in his remark, “When I started work on the Hill ... I grabbed coffees with any senior staffer willing to sit down with me.” Students can start forming a professional network while at Wofford, and this is especially true since the Wofford community is so strong. In fact, the community is what the alumni on the Hill say they miss the most about their time at Wofford. Patrick McLean in particular misses this community because what makes Wofford special is “how everyone is on campus, so you see just about everyone when you’re in the dorms or walking to class.” Additionally, Madison Hite stated “The Wofford family does not end when you graduate, it grows. Those of us on the Hill are happy to help any Terriers looking for a job on the Hill or in D.C.”

Ultimately the advice these Wofford alumni give is two-fold: first to make the most of your time at Wofford through internships, study abroad, networking, and appreciating the community, and second that an internship and a strong network of connections are fundamental to securing a job on Capitol Hill after graduation. If you are considering a job in Washington after graduation, know that there is a strong Terrier presence already there that is happy to help fellow alums!

Former Ambassador Moses Speaks About Romania and His Career in Foreign Policy

On March 2, 2020, members of the Wofford Community had a unique opportunity to meet with and listen to a discussion between Wofford’s President Nayef H. Samhat and the former US Ambassador to Romania, Alfred H. Moses. Alfred Moses’ book, *Bucharest Diary*, was the background for the discussion; *(Continued on page 3)*



however, former Ambassador Moses was very open about his experiences, not only in Romania, but also in the foreign affairs community in general. In particular, Moses told some highly entertaining and fascinating stories about his time working with the former Communist leader of Romania, Nicolae Ceaușescu, and his insight was especially unique because of his many interactions with the leader. In addition to working with Ceaușescu, Moses has also met with every US president since Harry Truman, who is a personal favorite of Moses. Moses was moved by his time in Romania and he looks back on this time as influential in his life because of the conditions he experienced and how they shaped his view of the world today. Drawing from his impressions of Romania, Moses offered the Wofford community the important message that we must protect the society we live in because it is one of the best in the world, despite the challenges the United States faces today. Moses's message is also inspired by his high opinions of Harry Truman who had a true vision for America in the world, which Moses believes we lack today in the United States. Ultimately, Moses is a highly accomplished individual and his time as the United States Ambassador to Romania gave him numerous stories and a unique outlook on life which he was pleased to share with the Wofford community. His openness and his different perspectives on so many topics both historical and current made him a fascinating speaker for students, faculty, and the Spartanburg community alike.

Reflections from Seniors in the Department

Wofford Seniors have a unique experience in their respective departments, and seniors in the Government and International Affairs department are no different. We asked several graduating Government and International Affairs majors to reflect back on their time in the department. One thing several seniors commented on was their decision to choose the Government or International Affairs major. One senior, Calvin Guyer, chose his Government major because of his desire to study “the foundation of our country while also learning analytical skills that would be useful when [he] later went to law school.” Calvin is also finishing up an International Affairs minor, which he chose so he could learn about “how countries interact with each other and how they manage global issues.” This desire to learn about politics and other countries is a commonality between seniors in these majors and students also note that they have learned far more than just facts and theories in their time in the department. In fact, seniors agree that the hard and soft skills they have learned are just as important for their personal development and lives after graduation.

In terms of life after graduation, senior International Affairs major Vera Oberg particularly values the department's “emphasis on analytical skills and applying learned ideas to current events” because these skills have impacted her ability to study and understand current issues in the world. Similarly, Bill Stewart, senior International Affairs major, reflects that “the proficiency that majors obtain in writing and public speaking are some of the best advantages of having this major going into life after Wofford.” *(Continued on page 4)*

after college for many seniors has also been impacted by their work in internships and time studying abroad. Both of these unique experiences give students a chance to put their knowledge and skills to the test while also seeing the world from a different perspective. Senior Brian Maroney notes that his time as a research intern at the South Carolina Statehouse was a great opportunity to challenge himself and apply what he has learned through his Government major to a real-world setting. Brian mentions that “the knowledge and skills I learned from the Government department helped me accomplish many of my tasks and helped me create connections within the legislature, some of whom are Wofford alumni.”

The 2020 seniors leave this lasting advice to younger students and prospective majors: make the most of your time at Wofford and in the department in particular. One senior in the Government major, EC Wheatley, gives the advice of forming connections to younger students. She highly recommends building relationships within the major, particularly “with your professors because when you do, they are more willing to help you succeed in and out of the classroom.” This advice is common among seniors because in this major, it is really the professors and students who will make your time so special and worthwhile. While it is sad for seniors to see their years at Wofford and in the Government and International Affairs department end, seniors will always carry with them the knowledge, skills, and lasting connections they formed through their majors.



Senior Government majors Eli Harrell (left) and EC Wheatley (right) outside Daniel Building on the first day of class in their senior year, Fall 2019.

Notes From the Chair

In January 2020, Dr. Bill DeMars stepped down from being chair of the Department of Government and International Affairs after nineteen years of dedicated service to the Department. We deeply appreciate all of Dr. DeMars' service as Department chair and I am honored to be following in his footsteps as the new chair of the Department.

With his shift away from being Department chair, Dr. DeMars has returned to teaching a full load of courses and has also been pursuing other professional development opportunities, including being awarded a Visiting International Professor Fellowship by the Ruhr-Universität Bochum (RUB) Research School in Bochum, Germany to collaborate with his co-author Dr. Dennis Dijkzeul on researching international NGOs. Dr. DeMars' Fellowship involves 3 separate 2-week visits to RUB to work with RUB graduate students.

Our normal Spring semester activities abruptly changed in March with the outbreak of Covid-19 and the closing of campus to students. Despite the challenges of moving all of our instruction online, we have remained committed to teaching and serving our students. Moreover, faculty members have been innovative in their approach: adapting moot court to an online format, changing curriculum to now include discussions about impact of a pandemic on American healthcare system, and designing simulations of global health crises. We deeply miss seeing all of our students in person and especially celebrating our graduating seniors. We are proud of how much our seniors have accomplished over their 4 years at Wofford and look forward to seeing them again soon.

We hope that you and your families are safe and healthy in these uncertain times. We love hearing from our alumni, so please send along any news or updates. I can be reached at vanderhillrj@wofford.edu, and contact information for all of our Department faculty can be found on our website: <https://www.wofford.edu/academics/majors-and-programs/government-and-international-affairs>.

Rachel Vanderhill, PhD
Department Chair



Recent renovations to the Daniel Building lobby.