

WOFFORD COLLEGE



TERRIER

EXPO

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- 10 Living with a Disrupted Climate in Spartanburg County – Amplifying Voices in Spanish and English
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- 12 Herbarium usage, specimen flows, and knowledge circulation in the field of bryology
- 12 The Privilege and Displacement of Depravity in Bram Stoker's Dracula
- 12 "Our Mother Who Art in Heaven": Josephine Butler and Elizabeth Barrett Browning's Interpretations of the Maternal Divine
- 12 Healing Practices: Cultural and Medical Influences on Premature and Special Needs Births Across Nations — Stories and Reflections from Beyond the Hospital Walls
- 12 Restoration of an FPLC Instrument and Computational Tools for Mutation Stability Analysis
- 13 The Effects of Small Molecule Antagonists on LHRH-1 Activity: A Potential Treatment Method for Triple Negative Breast Cancer
- 13 Faculty Perspectives on Relational Pedagogy in Higher Education
- 13 Why future clinicians study sociology: Undergraduate insights on the value of sociology for medical careers
- 13 Sociology and Careers in Medicine
- 13 Fearfully and Wonderfully Made: Religion, Infertility, and Intersex Bodies
- 13 The Confederate Flag in Comparative Politics
- 13 The Evolution of Russian Tactical Doctrine in Ukraine
- 14 László Mednyánszky: Christmas Night Carolers
- 14 Reimagined Fashion through Gothic Architecture
- 14 Paris Beyond the Architecture: Promoting Accessibility in Historical Spaces
- 14 The Best of Both Worlds: Life as a Football Player and Multilingual Opera Singer

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

(at glance)

Friday, April 17, 2026

Locations: Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts (RSRCA) and Chandler Center for Environmental Studies (CCES), Wofford College

12:30-1:15 p.m.	Check-in and registration, front of RSRCA
1-1:05 p.m.	Brief welcome remarks
1:05-2 p.m.	Art, Creative Works, and Poster Session I, front hallway of RSRCA Oral Presentations Sessions I, CCES 212
2-2:45 p.m.	Oral Presentations Sessions II, CCES
2:45-3:30 p.m.	Oral Presentations Sessions III, CCES
3:30-4:15 p.m.	Oral Presentations Sessions IV, RSRCA 112 and CCES
4:15-5 p.m.	Art, Creative Works, and Poster Session II, front hallway of RSRCA
5-6 p.m.	Reception and celebration on the front lawn of Old Main with Cool Hawgz BBQ and One Love Fusion food trucks

ART, CREATIVE WORKS AND POSTER SESSIONS SCHEDULE

Location: Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts

SESSION I: 1:05-1:50 P.M.

Space #	Student Name	Project Title
1	Rachel Dozier and Madie Kern	Art History in Animated Films
2	Rachel Dozier	Horyeop-do Folding Screen: Art, Patronage, and Social Accessibility in Joseon Korea
3	Millie Hatchette	Bad Bunny Showcase
4	Ansley Elizalde	Bad Bunny Showcase
5	Mia Leon	Bad Bunny Showcase
6	Hatcher Parker	La Vida Cultural
7	Sophia Lee Thrasher	Changes in Mayan Sacrifice
8	Hayden Pendergrass	Race and Colorism of Latino Identity/ Political and Social Construction of Latin Identity
9	Hayden Pendergrass	Say it Loud: How the Black Power Movement in the U.S. inspired Black Pride and Activism in Brazil
10	Lillian Smith	Cross-Cultural Relationship Building Across Linguistic Divides
11	Lily Vandagriff	Ghosts in the Neighborhood: Tracing Memory, Place, and Power Through Youth Perspectives
12	Anna-Kathryn Fleenor, Carter Catlette, Jenne Taylor, and Bella Agnello	Effects of Positive Intervention on Mindset
13	Greer Worley, Mary Miles Lee, Brady Snow, and Zion Sampson	Sleep Habits
14	Ethan Allison, Rylee Ashley, and Emma Tomco	What is the role of Ace2 receptors (which are reduced by COVID-19) in the taste system?
15	Nate Hopkins	Satisfaction of Biweekly Senofilcon A Toric Contact Lens Wearers Who Were Refit Into Weekly Contact Lenses
16	Marc Rivera	Design and Synthesis of a Chiral Supporting Ligand for Zinc-Catalyzed Hydroamination
17	Amelia Dowling	Synthesis and Characterization of Poloxamers Modified with Antioxidants
18	Meera Patel and Mary Tracy Moorhead	Cytochrome c oxidase, Structure, Function, and Significance
19	Abigail Zagar	Factors Related to Crayfish Abundance in a Rapidly Urbanizing Watershed
20	Liliana DeLatta	Chemical Markers of Urbanization on Streams in Spartanburg, South Carolina
21	Grace Christman	Gothic Pinnacle
22	Emily Krajic	Renewed Threads
23	Meadors Page	Molding Matter(s)

SESSION II: 4:15-5 P.M.

Student Name	Project Title
Daniel Bryant and Bryce Knight	From RFCC to RPX: Exploring a Reserve-Backed Alternative to the Venture Capital Cycle
Marshall Fleming, Pierce Ducas, and John Anthony Cole	Global Finance and National Sovereignty on the Panama Canal
Andrew Smith	Socialism and its long-term effects on Cuba
Katherine Pinkney	Hair in Caribbean and Latin America
Alexis Walker	United States Intervention in Haiti
Michael Pedone	Internalized Racism in the Dominican Republic
JC Blackwell, Georgie Collins, Elizabeth Ann Cooper, Lyla Jones, Evan Nieders, Rowan Oxley, Kate Podrebarac, Kate Timmerman, and Hannah Wall	Making them visible: Women Writers and the French Literary History
Emma Rose Radcliff	German Immigrants During the American Revolution
Abby Herpel and Sarah Ratcliffe	Investigating Memory of Faces Based on Impressions of Emotional Contextual Information
Brittany Moore and Emma Moore	The Effect of Mood Shifting on Memory Quality
Eliza Beckett, Jayden Weinstein, Lydia Easler, and Dean Brook	Effects of Early Human Enrichment and Handler Consistency on Cortisol Levels and Adoption Outcomes in Shelter Dogs
Catherine Stewart	Thermal Zone Preference of Native Crayfishes and Displacement by a Non-indigenous Crayfish
Hannah Dozier	Distribution of Microplastics in a Coastal SC Stormwater Pond
Owen Gilley	Evaluating Macroinvertebrate Community Monitoring Techniques in Upstate South Carolina
Mariam Ali and Sebastian Torres	Living with a Disrupted Climate in Spartanburg County - Amplifying Voices in Spanish and English
Sunni Owens, Lily Vandagriff, Bianca Taylor, Taylor Pecht, and Nick Dyer	Community Sustainability through the Eyes of a Program Manager
Emma Kathryn Hedden	Burwell Battles: Uncovering Food Insecurity Among Students with Meal Plans at Wofford College
Georgia Vesser	Overshadowed Voices: Why Inclusive Media Matters
Claire Taylor	Psalm 23: A Religious Study on American Gun Culture

ORAL PRESENTATIONS SCHEDULE

Locations: Chandler Center for Environmental Studies (CCES) and Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts (room 112)

Please refer to the full program for map and more information.

	Location: CCES 212
Time	The World of Physics
1:05-1:15 p.m.	"The Magneto Caloric Effect" by Will Troyer
1:15-1:25 p.m.	"Chiral Superconductivity" by Aiden Morris
1:25-1:35 p.m.	"Quantum Dots in Theranostics" by Alex Wall
1:35-1:45 p.m.	"Parahydrogen as a Superfluid" by Charlie Horne
1:45-1:55 p.m.	"Coherent Control of a Single Antiproton" by Ali Dulaney
Session Moderator	Dr. Solmaz Bastani, assistant professor of physics

	Location: CCES 109	Location: CCES 110	Location: CCES 212
Time	The Environment	The Humanities	Washington Fellows Roundtable Session
2-2:10 p.m.	"Seeing Spartanburg Through Students' Eyes: A Middle Schooler's View on the Environment" by Lily Vandagriff	"The Privilege and Displacement of Depravity in Bram Stoker's Dracula" by Adam Hoyle	A roundtable discussion led by Dr. David Alvis, professor of government and Samuel Pate Gardner 1918 Chair of Government and International Affairs
2:10-2:20 p.m.	"E. Coli Concentrations Across Spartanburg Freshwater Streams" by Peyton Burnett	"Our Mother Who Art in Heaven: Josephine Butler and Elizabeth Barrett Browning's Interpretations of the Maternal Divine" by Kate Gillum	
2:20-2:30 p.m.	"Herbarium usage, specimen flows, and knowledge circulation in the field of bryology" by Alex Burnett	Open	
2:30-2:40 p.m.	Open	Open	
Session Moderator	Tim Brown, instruction and research librarian	Emily Witsell, research librarian and instruction coordinator	

	Location: CCES 109	Location: CCES 110	Location: CCES 212
Time	Medicine and the Sciences	Education and the Sociological Imagination	A Conversation with the Career Center
2:45-2:55 p.m.	"Healing Practices: Cultural and Medical Influences on Premature and Special Needs Births Across Nations — Stories and Reflections from Beyond the Hospital Walls" by Margeaux Stapleton	"Faculty Perspectives on Relational Pedagogy in Higher Education" by Grace Harrison, Kate Gillum, Jenna Hollis, and Sophie Peek	A conversation on the topic of student research and creative works to careers led by Jenn Sainovski and Godwins Tuyishime.
2:55-3:05 p.m.	"Restoration of an FPLC Instrument and Computational Tools for Mutation Stability Analysis" by Devin Ruppe	"Why future clinicians study sociology: Undergraduate insights on the value of sociology for medical careers" by Blythe Jowers, Taylor Woodruff, and Katherine Pasibe	
3:05-3:15 p.m.	"The Effects of Small Molecule Antagonists on LHRH-1 Activity: A Potential Treatment Method for Triple Negative Breast Cancer" by Devin Ruppe	"Sociology and Careers in Medicine" by Katherine Pasibe	
3:15-3:25 p.m.	Open	Open	
Session Moderator	April Grey, student success librarian	Emily Witsell, research librarian and instruction coordinator	

	Location: CCES 109	Location: CCES 110	Location: RSRCA 112
Time	Conflict, History, and Religion in the Social Sciences	Fashion, Paintings, and the Power of Architecture	Life as a Football Player and Multilingual Opera Singer
3:30-3:45 p.m.	"Fearfully and Wonderfully Made: Religion, Infertility, and Intersex Bodies" by Taylor Jordan	"László Mednyánszky: Christmas Night Carolers" by Alexandra Laycock	"The Best of Both Worlds: Life as a Football Player and Multilingual Opera Singer" by Nathanael Cole
3:45-4 p.m.	"The Confederate Flag in Comparative Politics" by Darcy Phillips	"Reimagined Fashion through Gothic Architecture" by Dillon Shin	
4-4:15 p.m.	"The Evolution of Russian Tactical Doctrine in Ukraine" by Nicholas Kuzmin	"Paris Beyond the Architecture: Promoting Accessibility in Historical Spaces" by Cassie Drew	
Session Moderator	Tim Brown, instruction and research librarian	Emily Witsell, research librarian and instruction coordinator	Dr. Dwain Pruitt, chief equity officer and vice president for community initiatives

TERRIER EXPO PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS AND MENTORS

STUDENTS: Rachel Dozier and Madie Kern

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Emily Tuttle

Art History in Animated Films

This independent research Interim allowed us to connect visual, historical, and cultural contexts from the prehistoric period through to the later Middle Ages to animated films produced by Disney and DreamWorks. We selected film case studies set throughout the Western world during this time period and researched and summarized stylistic conventions found in their art history, literature, and historic events. We then compared our findings to how these animation companies interpreted that material for a modern audience, examining these choices on their accuracy.

STUDENT: Rachel Dozier

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Youmi Efurd

Horyeop-do Folding Screen: Art, Patronage, and Social Accessibility in Joseon Korea

Horyeop-do (虎獵圖/胡獵圖), literally meaning Tiger Hunting Scenes or Barbarian Hunting Scenes, is a genre of Korean painting that depicts Manchu soldiers of the Qing dynasty hunting animals such as tigers, bears, and deer in an outdoor setting. The study focuses on a six-panel Horyeop-do folding screen in Wofford College's collection, with the goal of examining the screen's style, function, and patronage. Through this investigation, this research aims to better understand the creation, use, and circulation of Horyeop-do within its broader socio-political context, as well as its unique characteristics in comparison to other Horyeop-do screens. In doing so, the project provides historical context for Wofford's piece and contributes to the larger body of scholarship on Korean art and culture during the Joseon period. Ultimately, this study seeks to reconnect the artwork meaningfully to its historical origins.

STUDENT: Millie Hatchette

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Amanda Matousek

Bad Bunny Showcase

This creative work is a diorama of specific parts of the Super Bowl show. We will use the diorama to show and explain the messages behind the show.

STUDENT: Ansley Elizalde

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Amanda Matousek

Bad Bunny Showcase

This creative work is a diorama of specific parts of the Super Bowl show. We will use the diorama to show and explain the messages behind the show.

STUDENT: Mia Leon

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Amanda Matousek

Bad Bunny Showcase

This creative work is a diorama of specific parts of the Super Bowl show. We will use the diorama to show and explain the messages behind the show.

STUDENT: Hatcher Parker

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Amanda Matousek

La vida Cultural

This creative work is a five-minute documentary on a Latin student at Wofford with family in Guatemala who is visiting them for the first time in his life, comparing and contrasting culture and life between the U.S. and Guatemala firsthand through handheld camera.

STUDENT: Sophia Lee Thrasher

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Amanda Matousek

Changes in Mayan Sacrifice

Data shows that in the postclassic period, Mayan human sacrifices changed to become more similar to their Aztec neighbors. Why? My research aims to find a cause and explain the effects. Product: A research paper and poster format accompanied by a creative display.

STUDENT: Hayden Pendergrass

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Amanda Matousek

Race and Colorism of Latino Identity/ Political and Social Construction of Latin Identity

This creative work and research project explores race and colorism in Latino communities. In addition, the

social and political mindset of Latin identity is analyzed along with common stereotypes and misrepresentations within the community.

STUDENT: Hayden Pendergrass

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Camille Bethea

Say it Loud: How the Black Power Movement in the U.S. inspired Black Pride and Activism in Brazil

This project explores how the Black Power movement in the 1960s and '70s in the U.S., which was rooted in Afro-Diasporic messages reaffirming Black music and identity, inspired Afro-Brazilians to embrace their own African roots and organize themselves politically and culturally. With newly awakened Black pride and consciousness, Afro-Brazilians, who had traditionally been marginalized, were empowered to celebrate their Afro identity/culture and engage in activism.

STUDENT: Lillian Smith

PROJECT MENTOR: Toria Teamer-Dalton

Cross-cultural Relationship Building Across Linguistic Divides

This creative work is focused on stories of cross-cultural relationships and growth while volunteering at Lutheran Services as a Bonner Scholar.

STUDENT: Lily Vandagriff

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Alysa Handelsman

Ghosts in the Neighborhood: Tracing Memory, Place, and Power Through Youth Perspectives

How might shining a light on the spectral voices of youth — unheard, forgotten, and often excluded — guide us toward more vibrant, just neighborhoods? Launched in 2023 under the leadership of Dr. Alysa Handelsman, the Imagining Spartanburg project explores how young people experience their neighborhoods and how those experiences can inform more inclusive local planning and policy. Centering the voices of 3rd and 7th grade students from three Spartanburg public schools, Wofford students conducted interviews, listening sessions, participatory mapping workshops, and created GIS visualizations to better understand youths' neighborhood life, access to resources, and visions of dream spaces. By integrating qualitative and quantitative data, Imagining Spartanburg offers both a framework and a call to action for centering young voices in shaping the future of our cities.

STUDENTS: Anna-Kathryn Fleenor, Carter Catlette, Jenne Taylor, and Bella Agnello

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Justin Bailey

Effects of Positive Intervention on Mindset

This study will look at how different practices of gratitude and acts of kindness will change mindset. We hypothesized that these practices will facilitate a more positive mindset and overall better mood. This study conducted a pre-test and post-test with an intervention of acts of kindness and gratitude practices to see the effect of positive attitudes. The pre-test and post-test measured their mindset from the previous week.

STUDENTS: Greer Worley, Mary Miles Lee, Brady Snow, and Zion Sampson

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Justin Bailey

Sleep Habits

Our research team is studying the effects of sleep education on the habits of our participants. We plan on surveying our participants on their sleeping habits, with inclusion of education on the benefits to healthy sleep. After five days, we plan on surveying the same participants, hypothesizing that the education will benefit participants' sleep.

STUDENTS: Ethan Allison, Rylee Ashley, and Emma Tomco

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Dave Pittman

What is the role of Ace2 receptors (which are reduced by COVID-19) in the taste system?

Angiotensin converting enzyme 2 (Ace2) receptors are the primary way that the COVID-19 virus enters cells. When COVID-19 enters the cell, the Ace2 receptor is downregulated and taste function is impaired. The role of Ace2 in the taste system is unknown. Here we compare the ingestive behaviors to sweet, salty, bitter, sour and umami tastants in wildtype mice to mice with the Ace2 gene knocked out mimicking the loss of Ace2 receptors seen in COVID-19.

STUDENT: Nate Hopkins

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Christopher Lievens (Southern College of Optometry)

Satisfaction of Biweekly Senofilcon A Toric Contact Lens Wearers Who Were Refit Into Weekly Contact Lenses

This poster highlights my research experience at Southern College of Optometry that includes clinical research trials. I collected data and helped write a scientific paper on a new toric contact lens.

STUDENT: Marc Rivera

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Robert Harris

Design and Synthesis of a Chiral Supporting Ligand for Zinc-Catalyzed Hydroamination

Chiral amines are key structural motifs in many natural products, pharmaceuticals, and biologically active molecules, making their efficient synthesis highly valuable. Hydroamination, the direct addition of amines across carbon-carbon multiple bonds, provides an atom-economical approach to forming carbon-nitrogen bonds. Zinc offers a cost-effective, earth-abundant, and low-toxicity alternative to traditional late transition metal catalysts for this transformation. While recent advances have focused on non-stereoselective zinc-catalyzed hydroamination, enantioselective approaches remain underdeveloped. Here, we report the design and synthesis of amino acid-derived ligands that coordinate with zinc to generate chiral catalytic complexes.

STUDENT: Amelia Dowling

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Robert Harris

Synthesis and Characterization of Poloxamers Modified with Antioxidants

Interest in the use of poloxamers as a potential therapeutic agent in cell membrane repair has increased in recent years, as well as synthetic methods to improve their functionality in the extracellular space. The central polypropylene block allows poloxamers to insert into damaged cell membranes, leaving the polyethylene flanks in the extracellular space. Covalent modification of the hydroxyl end groups with small molecule antioxidants like ascorbic acid allows the poloxamer to reduce reactive oxygen species while preventing more damage to cell membranes. These modified poloxamers have applications in chemotherapies and burn treatments. Here we explore various synthetic methods for covalently modified poloxamer F-127 with the antioxidant ascorbic acid.

STUDENTS: Meera Patel and Mary Tracy Moorhead

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Ramin Radfar

Cytochrome c oxidase: Structure, Function, and Significance

Cytochrome c oxidase is a crucial enzyme used in the cellular respiration process. Common methods of protein purification were learned and applied to bovine heart to isolate this enzyme. These include column chromatography, sonication, and ammonium sulfate fractionation. Various disorders exist due to improper function or lack of the enzyme, so this project aimed at learning initial purification processes before further research could be done.

STUDENT: Abigail Zagar

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Johnathan Davis

Factors Related to Crayfish Abundance in a Rapidly Urbanizing Watershed

Our study aimed to investigate the relationship between urbanization and crayfish abundance in a rapidly urbanizing watershed. Crayfish are keystone species that enhance nutrient cycling, serve as bioindicators, and are used as a surrogate species. In the northern hemisphere, the center of crayfish biodiversity occurs in the southern Appalachian region of the southeastern U.S. (Crandall and Buhay, 2008). This native biodiversity of crayfishes is significantly threatened by habitat loss and degradation and further reduced by the introduction of invasive species and pollution, with more than 50% of crayfishes listed as imperiled in the U.S. (Taylor et al., 2007). Urbanization (rapid land use change for residential, commercial, and industrial purposes) reduces aquatic biodiversity through warmer temperatures, stormwater runoff, pollutants, and causes riparian zone destruction. We hypothesized that development within the watershed (i.e., deforestation, increased impervious surface cover, etc.) would result in decreasing crayfish abundance.

STUDENT: Liliana DeLatte

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Grace Schwartz

Chemical Markers of Urbanization on Streams in Spartanburg, South Carolina

Baseline data collection and analysis for various watersheds in Spartanburg, S.C. The impact of urbanization was investigated as Spartanburg is a developing city.

STUDENT: Grace E. Christman

PROJECT MENTOR: Professor Michael Webster

Gothic Pinnacle

Wooden gothic-style pinnacle suspended, with ivy vines installed within and going to the floor.

STUDENT: Emily Krajic

PROJECT MENTOR: Professor Michael Webster

Renewed Threads

This creative work is a garment collection that I have curated over the spring semester. Each piece has been constructed using secondhand fabrics through the process of upcycling. Every garment is one-of-a-kind, transformed from previously loved clothing into a renewed design. The collection highlights the negative impact of fast fashion on our environment. Alongside my design board, I will be wearing one of the garments to allow viewers to engage more directly with my work.

STUDENT: Meadors Page

PROJECT MENTOR: Professor Michael Webster

Molding Matter(s)

This small exhibit features the process and possibilities plaster casts provide. Participants are invited to interact with the process by making molds and creating casts.

STUDENTS: Daniel Bryant and Bryce Knight

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Patrick Stanton, Dr. Philip Swicegood, Dr. Matt Cathey

From RFCC to RPX: Exploring a Reserve-Backed Alternative to the Venture Capital Cycle

This project explores a two-part conceptual framework for early-stage finance. Part 1 examines the Revenue Finance Capital Cycle (RFCC), a proposed reserve-backed model that uses revenue-linked instruments and a capital reserve vault to reduce dilution, buffer shortfalls, and recycle liquidity. Part 2 considers the Revenue Participation Exchange (RPX) as a possible market extension of that framework, asking how such instruments might gain broader liquidity and circulation. Together, the project asks whether reserve-backed revenue finance could function as a viable alternative or complement to portions of the traditional venture capital cycle.

STUDENTS: Marshall Fleming, Pierce Ducas, and John Anthony Cole

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Patrick Stanton

Global Finance and National Sovereignty on the Panama Canal

This research project examines the disconnect between the revenues raised by the Panama Canal and the tangible economic outcomes that the Panamanian people experience. It employs a mixed methods approach where-in we conducted fiscal analysis of the Panama Canal financial documents and collected stakeholder interviews from Panamanians in Panama City, Panama.

STUDENT: Andrew Smith

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Jocelyn Franklin

Socialism and its Long-Term Effects on Cuba

This project examines socialism and its impact in Cuba from the Cuban revolution to modern day.

STUDENT: Katherine Pinkney

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Jocelyn Franklin

Hair in Caribbean and Latin America

This research project explores the history of the Rastafari and how it has evolved in the Caribbean and Latin America, especially in Jamaica, and will look into how it is viewed today.

STUDENT: Alexis Walker

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Jocelyn Franklin

United States Intervention in Haiti

This research project examines Haiti's development overtime as well as how the United States has impacted the country's political and social growth.

STUDENT: Michael Pedone

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Jocelyn Franklin

Internalized Racism in the Dominican Republic

This project explores race and racism in the Dominican Republic. Specifically, it examines why many Dominicans avoid identifying as Black and how the country's history of colonialism and Trujillo's dictatorship influence this social issue today.

STUDENTS: JC Blackwell, Georgie Collins, Elizabeth Ann Cooper, Lyla Jones, Evan Nieders, Rowan Oxley, Kate Podrebarac, Kate Timmerman, and Hannah Wall

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Catherine Schmitz

Making them visible: Women Writers and the French Literary History

This class project highlights the literary contributions of Francophone women authors who have too often been rendered invisible across historical literary genres and on the timelines depicted in textbooks and literary websites. Our research revealed that female authors are frequently underrepresented — with only one or two included, if any — on standard literary timelines despite their significant writings and contributions to debates and movements. To remedy this, our Introduction to French and Francophone Literature (FR308) class researched writers spanning from the Medieval period to the present day and created a more accurate and representative literary timeline.

STUDENT: Emma Rose Radcliff

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. David Alvis

German Immigrants During the American Revolution

An analysis of German influence in the American Revolution

on behalf of the United States. From religious influences to the first of the House of Representatives to military leadership, this presentation draws much-needed attention to the role that German immigrants played in the American Revolution as we approach our 250th anniversary.

STUDENTS: Abby Herpel and Sarah Ratcliffe

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Katherine Steinmetz

Investigating Memory of Faces Based on Impressions of Emotional Contextual Information

When interacting with other people, attention is divided between their physical characteristics and the information you learn about them. Previous research has indicated a biasing of attention towards sentences of high arousal and faces with low arousal. This study looks at the duration in which people look at either information or physical features when first encountering someone.

STUDENTS: Brittany Moore and Emma Moore

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Katherine Steinmetz

The Effect of Mood Shifting on Memory Quality

We investigated the effect of mood and shifting mood on memory. Positive mood may have led to encoding items in a shallower or more gist-like manner, resulting in a similar memory strength for previously studied (true memories) and unstudied items (false memories). However, when mood shifted from positive at encoding to negative at retrieval, familiarity remained only for true memories.

STUDENTS: Eliza Beckett, Jayden Weinstein, Lydia Easler, and Dean Brook

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Lisa Cantwell

Effects of Early Human Enrichment and Handler Consistency on Cortisol Levels and Adoption Outcomes in Shelter Dogs

The purpose of this study is to evaluate whether brief, structured human enrichment reduces physiological indicators of stress (cortisol) in recently admitted shelter dogs and influences their length of stay prior to adoption. Additionally, we will assess whether handler consistency, having the same individual deliver enrichment across sessions, produces different effects compared to rotating handlers. This research aims to identify practical, evidence-based strategies that shelters can implement to improve canine welfare and adoption outcomes.

STUDENT: Catherine Stewart

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Johnathan Davis

Thermal Zone Preference of Native Crayfishes and Displacement by a Non-indigenous Crayfish

Native crayfishes rely on cold-water thermal refuges, which are increasingly limited due to climate change and urbanization. *P. clarkii* (especially larger individuals) can displace natives, increasing thermal stress and reducing refuge access. Rising temperatures and aggressive invaders compound risk for native crayfish. Conservation efforts should protect cold-water habitats and limit *P. clarkii* spread.

STUDENT: Hannah Dozier

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Kaye Savage

Distribution of Microplastics in a Coastal SC Stormwater Pond

Stormwater ponds were created to reduce both the number and impact of water disaster events, such as flood pulses and flash rain events, which affect surfaces like roads and sidewalks. While their primary purpose is to manage water overflow, a secondary function of these structures is trapping pollutants, which reduces their entry into other water systems and enhances local water quality. Recently microplastics (plastics < 5 mm) have been identified as an increasing pollutant, yet there is limited data studying where microplastics are distributed across stormwater retention ponds. The main goal of this investigation was to analyze sediment samples from across the bottom of a stormwater pond located in Horry County, South Carolina in order to identify where microplastics are accumulating.

STUDENT: Owen Gilley

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Amelia Atwell

Evaluating Macroinvertebrate Community Monitoring Techniques in Upstate South Carolina

Benthic macroinvertebrates, such as aquatic insects, are often sampled to monitor the health of freshwater ecosystems. This analysis looks at research in Spartanburg-area streams from 2023 and 2025 to evaluate the effectiveness of various techniques for evaluating macroinvertebrates.

STUDENTS: Mariam Ali and Sebastian Torres

PROJECT MENTORS: Dr. Christine Dinkins and Dr. Laura Barbas Rhoden

Living with a Disrupted Climate in Spartanburg County – Amplifying Voices in Spanish and English

This bilingual qualitative study explores how residents of Spartanburg County are experiencing and interpreting

the impacts of climate change. Through interviews and conversation, circle focus groups conducted in English and Spanish with 50 participants, the project highlights community perspectives on rising heat, extreme weather, land-use change, and concerns for vulnerable populations. The findings reveal the social, health, and emotional dimensions of climate disruption and underscore a strong desire for collaboration, improved communication, and local action to strengthen community resilience.

STUDENTS: Sunni Owens, Lily Vandagriff, Bianca Taylor, Taylor Pecht, and Nick Dyer

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Alysa Handelsman

Community Sustainability through the Eyes of a Program Manager

This poster and research project gives insight into the world of community sustainability in Spartanburg. What does it mean to build long-lasting relationships in your town as a college student?

STUDENT: Emma Kathryn Hedden

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Anna Harkey

Burwell Battles: Uncovering Food Insecurity Among Students with Meal Plans at Wofford College

Food Insecurity (FI) among college students is a national concern. It is a threat to undergraduate and graduate wellness alike, affecting academic success, belongingness, behavior, and, in turn, graduation rates. In 2009, the first article on college food insecurity was published (Hagedorn-Hatfield et al. 2022); since then, the literature has focused primarily on large public universities. Despite its intensiveness, the data reveal that no institution is immune to the issue. Even students with meal plans are at risk of experiencing FI. Both considerations necessitate this study. Through an anonymous survey at Wofford College that collected both qualitative and quantitative data, student perceptions of and experiences with food insecurity were gathered. Eligibility for this survey required current enrollment at Wofford College and experience with on-campus meal plans. 30 students chose to take part in this voluntary survey. The results prove the pervasiveness of FI despite institution size, value of student testimony in the provision of resources, and validity of food insecurity as a threat to student success.

STUDENT: Georgia Vesser

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Dresden Lackey

Overshadowed Voices: Why Inclusive Media Matters

My project is about marginalized communities and how they have been portrayed in media and the effects it has on those communities.

STUDENT: Claire Taylor

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Ingrid Lilly

Psalm 23: A Religious Study on American Gun Culture

This study seeks to examine the ways that Psalm 23 has been weaponized in gun discourse amongst different groups in America.

STUDENT: Will Troyer

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Solmaz Bastani

The Magneto Caloric Effect

This project focuses on the background and applications of the magneto caloric effect and how it can help to push towards realized quantum computers.

STUDENT: Aiden Morris

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Solmaz Bastani

Chiral Superconductivity

This is a final presentation for the Contemporary Physics class. I have done research on and created this presentation based on the paper published in Nature by MIT researchers release in May 2025 (Signatures of chiral superconductivity in rhombohedral graphene).

STUDENT: Alex Wall

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Solmaz Bastani

Quantum Dots in Theranostics

This research project focuses on the physics and use of quantum dots and nanoparticles in theranostics.

STUDENT: Charlie Horne

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Solmaz Bastani

Parahydrogen as a Superfluid

This research project focuses on Parahydrogen as a Superfluid.

STUDENT: Ali Dulaney

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Solmaz Bastani

Coherent Control of a Single Antiproton

This project focuses on the work published in August 2025 by the BASE experiment at CERN. This experiment demonstrated a single antiproton in a quantum superposition state for almost a minute, creating the first antimatter qubit.

STUDENT: Lily Vandagriff

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Kaye Savage

Seeing Spartanburg Through Students' Eyes: A Middle Schooler's View on the Environment

This project seeks to answer the questions: How do D7 middle school students experience the environment in Spartanburg, and how can this enhance or contextualize quantitative data? What can similarities and discrepancies tell us about advocacy and education in these communities? Working with a classroom of sixth graders at Carver Middle School to complete a survey and a mapping activity, themes of strong desire to recreation spaces and place-based environmental knowledge emerge.

STUDENT: Peyton Everette Burnett

PROJECT MENTORS: Dr. Amelia Atwell and Dr. Grace Schwartz

E. Coli Concentrations Across Spartanburg Freshwater Streams

During the course of summer 2025, we looked at a wide range of freshwater streams across the Spartanburg area. With each site we looked at both biological and chemical properties, to determine if the stream's health was adequate or not. For me specifically, I was interested in the concentration of E. Coli at these sites and how they varied from one another.

STUDENT: Alex Burnett

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Robin Lewis

Herbarium usage, specimen flows, and knowledge circulation in the field of bryology

This project examines the patterns and movement of bryophyte loans and specimens originating from Europe and North America, with the goal of understanding how knowledge circulates within the field of bryology.

STUDENT: Adam Hoyle

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Kimberly Hall

The Privilege and Displacement of Depravity in Bram Stoker's Dracula

This project is a component on my Honors Thesis, The Privilege and Displacement of Depravity in Victorian Literature. In Bram Stoker's Dracula, Count Dracula abides by English legal processes regarding the acquisition of property in London to an almost humorous extent, requiring a solicitor, title deeds, and multiple houses to accomplish his evil designs. Therefore, this paper analyzes Dracula's use of space—including his coffins for transportation—to illustrate how Victorian spaces are socially produced in ways that not only accommodate but also facilitate what I call the privilege of depravity.

STUDENT: Kate Gillum

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Phil Dorroll

"Our Mother Who Art in Heaven": Josephine Butler and Elizabeth Barrett Browning's Interpretations of the Maternal Divine

This research presentation focuses on synthesizing the views of Josephine Butler and Elizabeth Barrett Browning on the theoretical framework of the "maternal divine," or God as a mother figure. I argue that their views reflect bridging the gap between public and private spheres for women in the Victorian era.

STUDENT: Margeaux Stapleton

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Laura Barbas Rhoden

Healing Practices: Cultural and Medical Influences on Premature and Special Needs Births Across Nations — Stories and Reflections from Beyond the Hospital Walls

My Presidential International Scholar research examined how traditional practices, religion, and cultural beliefs influence the care of infants born prematurely or with special needs across different countries. This research was conducted in hospitals in India, Thailand, and the Dominican Republic. In my presentation, I will share not only the scientific findings of my work, but also the meaningful experiences that shaped my understanding beyond the data. Through stories and observations from my time in these communities, I will reflect on how cultural context, faith, and human connection influence medical care and the lived experiences of families and healthcare providers.

STUDENT: Devin Ruppe

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Michael Cato

Restoration of an FPLC Instrument and Computational Tools for Mutation Stability Analysis

Over the January term, Dr. Cato and I worked to revive a broken FPLC instrument. This instrument is worth tens of thousands of dollars new and will prove very useful to us in our endeavors in purifying proteins. While doing this, we worked to develop purification methods on a miniFPLC that we recently purchased. Simultaneously, we obtained molecular dynamics simulation data for many of our high priority target mutants in order to determine how their behavior changes at high temperatures. This process validates MD simulations as a useful tool for diagnosing changes in protein behavior and predicting thermal stability changes due to single point mutations.

STUDENT: Devin Ruppe

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Eric Ortlund (Emory University)

The Effects of Small Molecule Antagonists on LRH-1 Activity: A Potential Treatment Method for Triple Negative Breast Cancer

Liver Receptor Homolog-1 (LRH-1) is a nuclear receptor protein that performs a litany of tasks throughout the body; it has roles in steroidogenesis, bile acid homeostasis, and inflammatory response. Unfortunately, it is also responsible for the growth and proliferation of triple negative breast cancer (TNBC) cells. We have worked to develop antagonists (down-regulators) of LRH-1, in hopes that they will be effective in treating TNBC or slowing proliferation of TNBC cells at a minimum. Structural analysis revealed that the antagonist that had the most promising response against LRH-1 activity bound completely differently than molecules of similar structure. This, perhaps, will reveal the secret to how antagonism of the protein works and lead to a treatment of optimal effectiveness. During my time working on this project, I stumbled upon another compound that showed extreme promise as an antagonist. Thus, I investigated more about how this compound structurally affected the protein, confirming its activity as an antagonist and possibly identifying it as an inverse agonist, having even more extreme effects against the activity of LRH-1.

STUDENTS: Grace Harrison, Kate Gillum, Jenna Hollis, and Sophie Peek

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Kristy Hammett

Faculty Perspectives on Relational Pedagogy in Higher Education

This research project examines faculty perspectives on relational pedagogy in higher education. Drawing on qualitative interviews and written reflections, it explores how instructors across disciplines understand and practice relationship-centered teaching. The presentation highlights both the possibilities and tensions of relational work in college classrooms and considers implications for teaching, learning, and institutional support.

STUDENTS: Blythe Jowers, Taylor Woodruff, and Katherine Pasibe

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Lyla Byers

Why future clinicians study sociology: Undergraduate insights on the value of sociology for medical careers

This project focuses on how our sociological coursework has shaped our understanding of health, society, and the structural forces that shape medicine. We will discuss why sociological training is valuable for future clinicians and how it prepares us to approach patient care with greater insight, cultural awareness, and attention to structural inequality. This session highlights the vital role sociology

can play in developing thoughtful, empathetic, and informed healthcare professionals.

STUDENT: Katherine Pasibe

PROJECT MENTORS: Dr. Lyla Byers and Dr. Dresden Lackey

Sociology and Careers in Medicine

This project focuses on why having an education in sociology is important for a career in medicine.

STUDENT: Taylor Jordan

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Anna Harkey

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made: Religion, Infertility, and Intersex Bodies

Using a combination of literature analysis and interviews, this research aims to understand how religious interpretations and teachings shape experiences of gender, reproduction, and bodily variation, focusing specifically on intersex individuals and those facing infertility.

STUDENT: Darcy Phillips

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Ramón Galiñanes Jr.

The Confederate Flag in Comparative Politics

This project will explain the history of symbols and the ways in which they are utilized to ensure that they cannot be weaponized to support the ideas of racism, white supremacy, and other harmful narratives. This research will analyze how narratives surrounding the Confederate Flag have changed throughout history and how they continue to shift in the U.S. This research will explain why these shifts have occurred over time and how they may change in the future. There are wide gaps in statistical research on current beliefs regarding the Confederate Flag that this research hopes to fill through collection of data by means of interviews. As the political landscape continues to shift, feelings of belonging, especially in certain regions of the country, change as well.

STUDENT: Nicholas Kuzmin

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. David Alvis

The Evolution of Russian Tactical Doctrine in Ukraine

In 2022, Russian maneuver elements consisted mainly of BTGs (Battalion Tactical Groups) which were large maneuver elements designed for large, mechanized offensives. As the war has dragged on into its fourth year we have seen the rapid attrition of Russian mechanized units, and as a result Russian offensive tactics have changed to adopt to a new drone saturated environment. I seek to explain what exactly has changed, where are the tactics now, and where could they possibly go in the future.

STUDENT: Alexandra Laycock

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Youmi Efurd

László Mednyánszky: Christmas Night Carolers

This research investigates the oil painting Christmas Night Carolers by László Mednyánszky. Upon researching this painting, an extremely similar painting by the same artist was found with the title, Queuing for Bread. Analysis of these two paintings provides the viewer with a better understanding of what was occurring during László Mednyánszky's life in Hungary during the 1910's, as well as supporting the argument that the painting Christmas Night Carolers is representative of the resilience of the human spirit despite harsh, difficult environments.

STUDENT: Dillon Shin

PROJECT MENTOR: Professor Michael Webster

Reimagined Fashion through Gothic Architecture

In my presentation, I will discuss my clothing brand, which intentionally fuses streetwear with the Gothic Renaissance architectural style. I plan to focus on the form, silhouette, and elegance of Gothic Renaissance chapel architecture as the solution, which creates a language of timeless and expressive clothing. Inspired by vast grand chapel spaces, I plan to create a line of wearable garments that are expressive and accessible while preserving the artistry of haute couture.

STUDENT: Cassie Drew

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Trina Jones

Paris Beyond the Architecture: Promoting Accessibility in Historical Spaces

After a recent Interim term trip to Paris, France, I started with a question of how the physical layout of the city lent itself to creativity and ended with a question of how we can preserve historical landmarks and also promote physical accessibility.

STUDENT: Nathanael Cole

PROJECT MENTOR: Dr. Aaron Harp

The Best of Both Worlds: Life as a Football Player and Multilingual Opera Singer

This presentation and performance will focus on life as a football player and multilingual opera singer. I will start by introducing myself. Then, will talk about my experience as a football player, then experience as a musician, and will finish the presentation aspect by talking about how while the two worlds collide at first glance, there is a certain beauty to being able to balance the chaos of a football field, especially playing offensive line, and the elegance and peace of opera. I will also include a segment talking about my experience doing the NATS competition in the summer of 2025. Following the presentation, I will sing an aria of my choice in a foreign language (French, German, or Italian).

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT TERRIER EXPO AT WOFFORD COLLEGE?

Please contact Dr. Ramón Galiñanes Jr., director of undergraduate research and post-graduate fellowships, at galinanesr@wofford.edu or scan the QR code.



ORGANIZERS AND MODERATORS

Dr. Solmaz Bastani, assistant professor of physics, is an experimental physicist specializing in medical physics and nanoparticles for biomedical imaging. Her research focuses on developing cadmium-free quantum dots for cancer imaging, emphasizing biocompatibility and cellular uptake. She sees students as collaborators and actively involves them in her work, from experimental design to data analysis, to provide hands-on research experiences that often lead to conference presentations and publications.

Tim Brown, instruction and research librarian, received a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies at Davidson College and a master's in library and information studies from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. At Wofford, Brown is the personal librarian for first-year students and sophomores (until they declare majors) and is the library liaison for the departments of anthropology and sociology, art and art history, environmental studies, government and international affairs, music, religion, and theatre.

Dr. Ramón Galiñanes Jr. is the director of undergraduate research and postgraduate fellowships at Wofford College. He holds a B.A. in history from Montclair State University, a master's of philosophy in politics, democracy and education from the University of Cambridge (England), and an M.A. and Ph.D. in political science from the University of Florida. His research examines important questions about civil conflict, democratization, migration, civic engagement, ethnic politics and social movements. He has received grants and fellowships from the American Political Science Association, the National Security Education Program, the U.S. State Department of Education Foreign Language and Area Studies Program, and the Gates Cambridge Trust. Galiñanes has taught social science and humanities courses and has organized and directed several study away courses to Washington, D.C., and New York City. He is a first-generation college student who is passionate about encouraging and empowering students to develop as scholars and civic leaders.

April Grey, student success librarian at Wofford College, holds master's degrees in library science from the University at Buffalo and education from Medaille College, as well as a bachelor's degree in psychology from SUNY Fredonia. Since joining Wofford in 2016, she has focused her work on strengthening student research skills through information literacy instruction, individualized guidance and collaborative partnerships. She works with a wide range of academic and student support offices to promote resources and services available across campus. Her professional interests center on digital and media literacy and the exploration of how information policy impacts communities. Outside her academic work, she enjoys container gardening and fiber arts. She is also a proud shelter dog owner.

Mark Olencki '75 is the photographer and digital imaging manager at Wofford College. If a picture is worth a thousand words, then he has captured the stories of millions of moments in Wofford College history. A student photographer in the early 1970s, Olencki made photographs for the Bohemian student yearbook that are some of the only photos of that era. After graduation, he did printmaking and worked in photography before opening Olencki Graphics, where he extended his photography services to include graphic design

and other creative projects. He has designed dozens of books for the Hub City Writers Project, and his photographs have been included in art exhibits and permanent collections across the region. Olencki joined Wofford's Office of Marketing and Communications full time in 2008. Since then, he has captured events large and small, from Commencement and Homecoming to students studying on the lawn of Main Building. While athletics is not his primary responsibility, he's a fixture on the sidelines of athletics events, and he spends hours photographing student-athletes in the studio for promotional shoots. He was named the 2025 Southern Conference Staff Member of the Year for his dedication.

Dr. Dwain C. Pruitt '95 is Wofford College's chief equity officer and vice president for community initiatives. After earning a bachelor's degree in French and history at Wofford, he received his master's and doctoral degrees in early modern European history at Emory University. In addition to his formal training in 18th-century French history, he has done extensive research and writing in African American and American popular culture history. His articles have appeared in French Historical Studies, Journal of Colonial History and Colonialism, Journal of Graphic Novels and Comics, and Sankofa: A Journal of African Children's and Young Adult Literature. Chapter-length manuscripts appear in 2017's "Muslim Superheroes: Comics, Islam and Representation," and in 2023's "Incivility in Higher Education: The Costs of Bad Behavior." He has presented at several professional history and popular culture conferences, including: the American Historical Association; the Black European Studies conference, the Comics Arts Conference, French Historical Studies, French Colonial Historical Society, and the National Association of African American Studies National Conference.

Dr. Timothy J. Schmitz, Willimon Family Provost, has been a member of the Wofford community since 2000, when he arrived as an assistant professor of history. He chaired the Department of History from 2010-14 before accepting leadership positions as associate provost for administration in 2014 and interim provost in 2021. He was named a full professor in 2015. He has served the college in many capacities, including as director of summer programs, chair of the Modest Growth Group, member of the college's COVID-19 response team, member of the Strategic Vision Implementation Team and administrator for the \$4.25 million grant from the Romill Foundation. He also represents Wofford on the board of directors for the Northside Development Group and on Spartanburg's Postsecondary Education Attainment Task Force. His research and publications focus on early modern Spanish history, and he is the recipient of fellowships, grants and awards, including a William J. Fulbright Grant and Wofford's Covington Award.

Emily Witsell, research librarian and instruction coordinator, earned her bachelor's degree in English and French and Francophone studies from Macalester College, her M.A. in comparative literature from the University of Georgia, and her master's in library science from Indiana University. She joined the Sandor Teszler Library at Wofford in 2013. At Wofford, she teaches information literacy classes and supports faculty and student research in English, humanities, modern languages, Middle East and North African studies, Latin American and Caribbean studies, intercultural studies, and liberal arts studies.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

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