



MAY 2020 PARENT NEWSLETTER

I've been associated with Wofford since my first visit to the campus as a high school junior in the fall of 1990. Since then, I've always thought what made Wofford special and different was the people. That thought has never been truer than in the past 6-7 weeks. The campus is empty and Wofford isn't the same without the people. Let's hope that we can all gather together in August to celebrate the class of 2020, officially welcome the class of 2024 to our community and have the classes of 2021, 2022 and 2023 back home. This is a bigger newsletter than usual with lots of good info. It's also the last newsletter until the fall, although I'm sure we will be in touch this summer.

Thom Henson
Director of Parent Engagement

2020 COMMENCEMENT INFORMATION

This is the current plan for Commencement. As with most events right now, it is subject to change.

Friday, August 21

3 p.m. Baccalaureate service, Jerry Richardson Indoor Stadium

4:30 p.m. Honors/PBK convocation, Jerry Richardson Indoor Stadium

Keep an eye out for receptions that will follow these events.

Saturday, August 22

8 a.m. ROTC Commissioning, Leonard Auditorium

10 a.m. Commencement Exercises, Jerry Richardson Indoor Stadium

FROM THE REGISTRAR

Summer School registration and drop/add has reopened. Students may register or drop/add for both terms of summer school and drop/add will remain open until June 2 for the first term and until July 7 for the second term. Please refer to our [website](#) for additional information pertaining to tuition, fees, meeting times, schedule, etc.

Final grades for the spring semester will be available for viewing Wednesday, May 20 through myWofford. If your student has a question about his/her grade, she or he should contact the professor of the course.

The college has reminded students to read all correspondence from Wofford during this time of uncertainty. There are lots of updates.

FROM FINANCIAL AID

In line with the rest of the Wofford community, the Financial Aid Office has been working remotely the past several weeks. During this time, we have been assisting students and families for both our returning students and the Class of 2024.

Just a few reminders come to mind as we begin to wrap up the 2019-20 academic year:

1. At the conclusion of the spring semester, we will notify aid recipients of any academic deficiencies that may result in the loss of scholarships and financial aid for the 2020-2021 academic year. Notification(s) will be sent to the student's Wofford email address.
2. Since the grading system was altered for the spring 2020 semester, we revised the 2019-2020 Financial Aid Handbook by providing an addendum with changes related to the grading system.
3. The release of financial aid and scholarships for returning students is scheduled for mid-June.
4. Please ask your student(s) to check their myWofford financial aid portal now and throughout the summer for any outstanding documents we may need to finalize their financial aid. Look for the "Unsatisfied Requirements" tab.

We miss our students and can't wait to be on campus again! Contact us at finaid@wofford.edu if we can ever be of assistance to you!

Best wishes for good health and safety!

FROM INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Fall 2020 Study Abroad – Wofford's Incident Management Team continues to monitor the evolving situation surrounding COVID-19. The Office of International Programs and partners overseas plan to move forward with off-campus study for fall 2020 and will adjust plans as appropriate if that proves impracticable. As of late April, some of Wofford's partners have announced adjustments that include delayed start dates, components that include remote learning, and limiting independent travel.

Interim 2021 Travel/Study Projects – The list of available travel/study programs from interim 2021 can be found [here](#). Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis throughout the summer until the final deadline of Sept. 20. Students can apply for travel grants [here](#) until the final deadline of Sept. 13.

Interim 2021 Travel/Study Info Session Recording – International Programs staff held an information session about Interim 2021 travel/study programs, how to apply, deadlines, and more. You can watch the recording [here](#).

Advising for Spring 2021 Study Abroad – Students interested in studying abroad during the spring 2021 semester can meet with international programs staff virtually via Zoom. Students can sign up for an advising appointment [here](#). The deadline for spring 2021 study abroad applications is Oct. 1.

TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY

India, anyone?

January 30 – February 14, 2021

Travel may not be forefront in our minds at the moment, but if seeing the Taj Mahal is on your list, then travel to India with Prema Samhat, wife of Wofford's president, Nayef Samhat. A native of India, she led a group this past February and will repeat the experience in 2021. Group size is limited. For information, email Prema Samhat at samhatpr@wofford.edu. Wofford alums, parents, grandparents and friends are welcome!



FROM THE BOOKSTORE

How to Return Spring 2020 Rental Books – Every student who rented books for the spring semester will receive an email in early May with a prepaid FedEx shipping label. All rentals must be returned by mail (no books will be accepted in-person at this time). While the due date of Friday, May 15 has not been changed, the "Grace Period" in which there are no penalties for late return has been extended from 3 days to 15 days to allow for transit time. Any student who needs to keep a spring rental book past the end of May should contact the bookstore for assistance with extending their rental into the fall. Contact the bookstore manager, Rebecca Liakos, by email at liakosrm@wofford.edu or rliakos@follett.com with questions or concerns regarding rental books.

Bookstore Open for Online Business – Although the Campus Bookstore is currently closed to the public, we are still processing online orders! Visit woffordshop.com to see our selection of textbooks for summer terms, as well as clothing and Terrier gifts. Currently we are offering FREE ground shipping on all orders with no order minimum.

FROM THE WELLNESS CENTER

Medical Services

Medical Services at the Wellness Center continues to offer telemedicine appointments, which began on Monday, April 6. The medical staff is available Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-noon. To make an appointment, students should go to the Patient Portal on MyWofford and select a telemedicine appointment. At the time of the appointment, a link will be sent to doxy.me, the Nurse/Nurse Practitioner will come online. Because of the nature of these visits, we can only take one appointment every 30 minutes.

In addition, screenings are available by appointment only from 9 a.m.-noon for on-site visits at the Wellness Center. The on-site visits will be for faculty, staff and local students. Schedules may be adjusted throughout the spring and summer as we assess the changing needs of our community. Please check our Patient Portal for frequent updates. Our office does not do COVID-19 testing, this can be done at an urgent care, minute clinic or your local ER.

Follow us @woffordwellness on both Instagram and Wofford College Wellness Center on Facebook. We are encouraging students to find positive ways to deal with stress, anxiety and fatigue. Meditation, gratitude and healthy living are some of the ideas we are promoting.

Counseling Services

We are happy to welcome Tiara Woney, MMFT, LMFT-A, to the Wellness Center staff. Tiara moved to South Carolina from New York five years ago. She attended Queens College (Flushing, N.Y.) and Converse College for her masters in marriage and family therapy. She recently worked at the Department of Mental Health and comes to Wofford with a passion to support and assist students. Tiara has started a virtual support groups for students to connect and discuss challenges of being away from campus. She also is offering specialized groups for seniors. Students can check the Daily Announcements on details to join these groups on Zoom.

The counseling staff continues to support Wofford students' mental health during this time, Counseling Services has begun offering teletherapy for students. Students may schedule appointments as usual through the Medicat Patient Portal. Students with appointments will then be sent a link to enter the secure "waiting room" for the therapist at their appointment time. This support is available to students who have attended counseling in the past or those who would like to initiate services at this time. In addition, Wofford's 24/7 mental health assistance line is available to anyone in the Wofford community who needs in-the-moment support from a professional mental health counselor. The number is 864-597-4393.

Accessibility Services

Accessibility Services staff are able to assist students with disabilities during this time of transition to a new learning platform. Students with concerns or questions about their approved accommodations should contact accessibilityservices@wofford.edu. Staff are available for regular consultations or situational support through this time. The process for requesting new accommodations continues to be available on the student page of myWofford.

FROM THE CENTER FOR COMMUNITY-BASED LEARNING

Wofford's one-sentence strategic vision includes "preparing superior students for meaningful lives as citizens..." difficult to imagine a time when society has needed educated, socially aware, thoughtful, engaged citizens more than we do right now.

My grandmother used to say, If you're feeling bad/sad, the best thing you can do for yourself is something for someone else. "It seems paradoxical, but of course, she was right. It's been borne out in many scientific studies: engaging in and with the community, strengthening democratic values and civic responsibility, addressing critical societal issues, acting in the interest of and contributing to the public good all make US feel good. They also help us grow and learn and develop a sense of meaning and purpose.

So, if you or your Wofford student are feeling a little down these days, please remind yourselves that you are acting in the interest of the public good (and protecting those you love) by staying home, washing hands, and wearing a mask and physical distancing if/when you go out. And, there is much more we can be doing! Although much of the work of Wofford's community partners and Center for Community-Based Learning (CCBL) has changed drastically, we continue to work together to address the community's evolving needs, which, with 45%

of children in Spartanburg living in poverty before the pandemic, for example, are great.

So, please encourage your student to visit "CampusConnect" through their myWofford page (under "System Links"), to browse and accept volunteer opportunities. Engage with your student, if your time and energy permit. They can filter by virtual opportunities, type of work, issue area, etc. They should check back often as needs change. Current needs include: stocking food banks, making masks, "adopting grandparents" who are in facilities, tutoring and helping children with e-learning, mentoring youth, giving blood, delivering food to elderly or disabled people and more. You can also call the United Way in your area and ask how you can help.

Thank you for your attention and efforts. May your time in quarantine with your Wofford student be filled with meaning, purpose and love. Please feel free to contact Jessalyn Wynn Story with questions at storyjw@wofford.edu.

FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Would you like to send a special message to the Class of 2020? The Wofford College Alumni Association is asking alumni, parents and friends to participate in **20 for 20**. Click [here](#) to submit your 20 words of congratulations and encouragement. We will compile all responses and share on our website. Select responses will also be shared on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

429 North Church Street, Spartanburg, SC 29303-3663 | 864-597-4000

Follow us [@woffordparents](#)

