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WOFFORD COLLEGE

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Campus Union election presents an unopposed Campus Union President



Photo by Caroline Parker

Simirin Channa, Liv Culver, Graydon Davies and Emma Skelton will serve as the 2023-2024 Campus Union Executive Officers.

On April 14, those elected to carry out the executive positions in Wofford's Campus Union for the 2023-2024 academic year were announced to the student body. Similar to past elections on campus, this most recent one has brought its own host of contentious conversation among student voters, the greatest of which being the uncontested election for Campus Union President.

"I realize that a big part of this election in the past has been the division because of the competition in the presidential race," said Student Body President-Elect Graydon Davies '24. "I hope students see that I am still qualified and excited for this job ... and that, at the end of the day, my campaign and my platform would have been the same."

Much of Davies' platform was centered upon the possibility of chartering a new Wofford tradition for students: a ring ceremony, something which Davies said will require student input and ample communication with faculty.

Davies also spoke on the importance of being able to "cultivate and maintain" a relationship between those in his position and the administration, mentioning past inconsistencies in this relationship to be a cause for a lack of progress by student government.

The other executives also highlighted the importance of well-working relationships in regards to student government, whether that be with the student body, administration, the board or other members of the council.

Campus Union Secretary-Elect Simrin Channa '25 will be serving her second term in this executive position in the upcoming academic year, bringing much earned experience that has proven to adequately address the topic of communication. Last year, Channa worked to set up an email system to achieve transparency in regards to the bills that were

"I feel like this (email system) lessened the division between the assembly and the student body," Channa said. "A lot more business was passed this year that was desirable to the student body."

A general focus of all the executive-elects is the support of student-led organizations. Campus Union Treasurer-Elect Olivia Culver '24 complimented the existing openness between the assembly and organizations during the allocation process, yet said that many of these organizations were still lacking necessary funding due to misunderstandings about the process.

In addition to Culver's suggested sup-

port for student organizations during the allocation process, Campus Union Vice President-Elect Emma Skelton '24 was adamant in her support of these organizations, believing the assembly's social involvement with campus organizations to be a crucial factor in their success.

"I think it's very important that the student body council attend most events that are hosted on campus and have a firsthand experience as to what students are passionate about, what they're mad about and what they love," Skelton said.

Despite the push for assembly involvement, a possible area for controversy could lie in the fact that all four members of the executive council are also members of Greek organizations, with three of the four belonging to Zeta Tau Alpha specifically.

"I think that it helps that a lot of us on Exec, while we are all four involved in Greek life, are involved in a lot of other things on campus," Channa said, adding that her personal involvement in other student organizations helps her to relate and better understand the desires of the student body.

Davies spoke more on the cohesive relationships between the assembly and administration, saying that the best route for a productive year lies in consistency and "making sure (goals) are aligned."

Though much of the conversation surrounding the new council has clung to their Greek identities and the nature of the election, the new Executive Council holds promise for a year of strong communication, progress and active engagement with the participation of the class and At-Large delegates.

Delegates At-Large: Harriet Barr '24, Madi Fike '24, Jack Grabarczyk '26, Gracie Blom '26, James Few '25 and Sunni Owens '26.

Senior Class Delegates: Candler Fontaine '24, Austin Givens '24, Lily Cochrane '24, MacKenzie Clinch '24 and Addie Patterson '24.

Junior Class Delegates: Gracyn Coker '25, Marga Van Der Linde '25, Mary Karr Griffith '25, Lawson Taliaferro '25 and Emily Drummond '25.

Sophomore Class Delegates: Geneva Kowbeidu '26, Caroline Parker '26, Eloise Hupfer '26, Zion Sampson '26, Wilton Grice '26 and Camille Terracina '26.

Judicial Commission:

At-Large: Carson Harrell '24, James Moon '25 and Caroline Gargono '26. Senior: Will Kennedy '24 Junior: Katie Kirk '25

Nola Webb, staff writer

First Miss Wofford Scholarship Pageant successful, Barker crowned Miss Wofford



Photo by Anna Lee Hoffman

Charlotte Barker '24 being crowned as Miss Wofford 2023 at the inaugural Miss Wofford Scholarship Pageant, started by Promise Henry '25.

eonard Auditorium to watch the inaugural Miss Wofford Scholarship Pageant.

The pageant included six first-year students, five sophomores, three juniors and

While many other colleges and universities in the state have a pageant, this is the first one for Wofford.

The idea came from Promise Henry '25, who competed in the South Carolina Collegiate Pageant last year as a Wofford representative.

"After representing Wofford at the

On Sunday, Apr. 16 at 6 p.m., members South Carolina Collegiate Pageant, I was of the Wofford community gathered in able to bring this idea to Talicia Murphy and Dean Lemere to bring it to life s it is a student activity," Henry said. "We were able to work together to get funds from the school and set a ticket price. Since I wanted this to be a scholarship pageant, I reached out to Campus Union, and they approved \$1,000 for it to be used for the scholarship."

The pageant's winner would receive the scholarship and earn the title of Miss

When Henry was touring colleges, it stuck out to her that Wofford did not have a scholarship pageant.

"When I learned we had a Mr. Wofford, though it is not taken as seriously as a traditional pageant, it seemed odd that there was not one for women to compete in, especially with the number of pageant girls we have on campus," Henry said.

Her goal was to provide one woman with the chance to serve the Wofford community, earn a scholarship and get more involved on campus and in the surrounding Spartanburg community.

The pageant itself included an interview round, which is done with the judges and no audience, as well as a "Wofford Wear" section, opening number and evening

Wofford Wear included the contestants sporting black, gold and white outfits to show their personality and school spirit. The evening gown portion was consistent with other pageants as well as the opening number.

Charlotte Barker '24 was crowned Miss Wofford 2023 at the end of the pageant.

"I had done a few pageants in high school, which taught me a lot about interviews and confidence, and I was looking for more experience in that aspect as

well as the scholarship," Barker said. "So, after talking with Promise, I decided that this was something I wanted to do."

The seats of Leonard Auditorium were filled for the pageant and the cheers of support from friends and family encouraged Barker and many of the other con-

"Hearing my friends cheer for me when I walked on stage was the greatest feeling in the world and gave me a boost of confidence that I didn't know I needed," Barker said. "I love being on the stage, as I grew up doing competitive dance and pageants, so it's always good to hear words of encouragement from the crowd."

Barker was unsure of who was going to win and was just excited to gain more interview skills and spend time with the girls competing.

"I did not go in with any expectation of winning but when they called my name, my jaw hit the floor," Barker said. "I truly was not expecting it. You can see in the videos the absolute shock on my face. I want to thank the judges because they saw something in me that I truly did not see in myself."

The judges were Miss SC Pageant Circuit Judges Bobby Holcolmbe, Jessica Holcolmb, Anna Bowles, Blake Kirsch and Molly O'Dell.

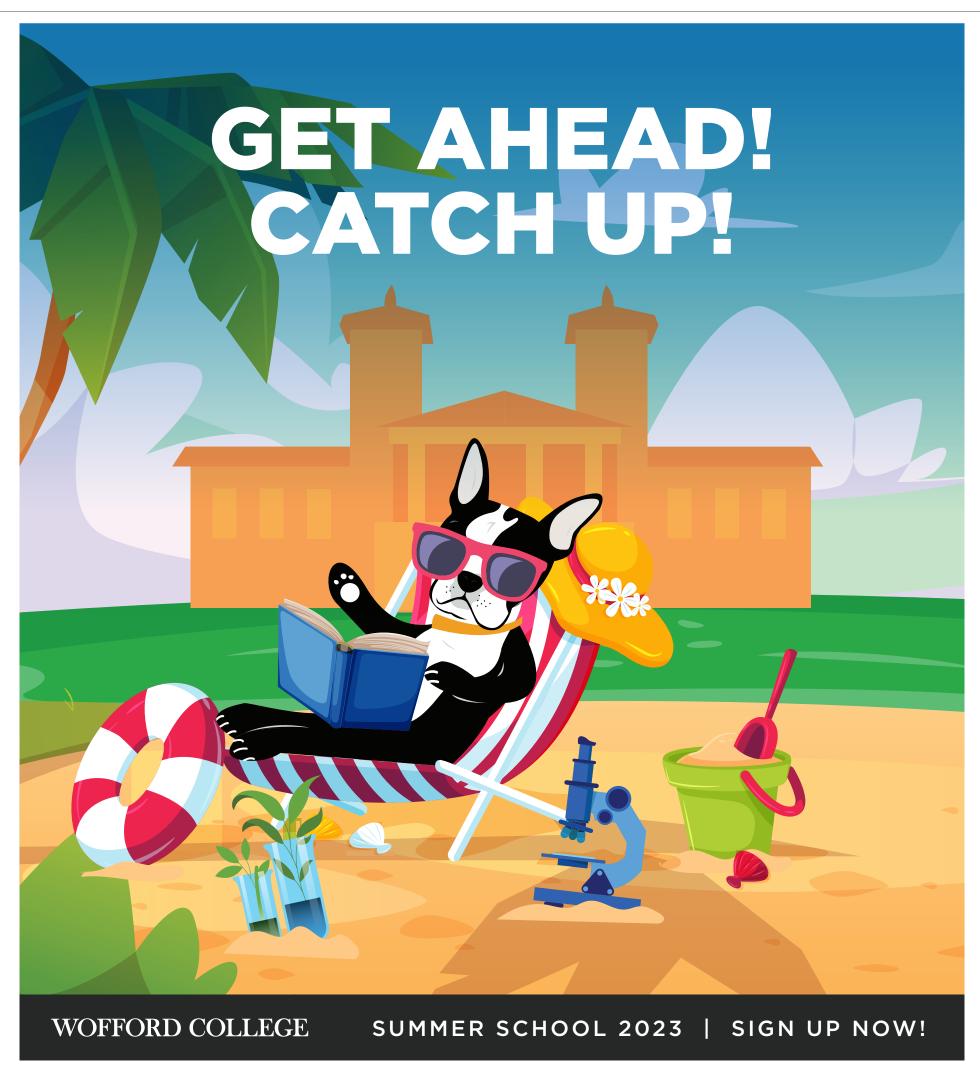
Both Henry and Barker mentioned the confidence that one gains from doing pageants because of the amount of work each girl puts in, as well as the interview skills they gain. They say that the benefits go beyond the stage.

"I would encourage anyone interested, even if you have never done a pageant, to sign up because it is more than just standing on a stage and smiling," Barker said. "It really does help you in so many aspects of life, especially interview skills and confidence."

Henry hopes to raise the scholarship amount in future years, but for right now the amount will stay the same.

The Miss Wofford Scholarship Pageant will happen again next year. The exact date and time will be determined at a

Julia Allen, managing editor



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OPINION

Terrier Bucks do so much more!



Photo by Haley Hirter

Anna Cooper '25 and Hannah Hyatt '26 read the menu at Cribbs Kitchen. Students are able to use their Terrier Bucks off campus at restaurants such as Cribbs Kitchen.

Terrier Bucks are an interesting aspect of life at Wofford. The average student gets \$270 dollars a year to spend before the year is over at about five restaurants and a few spots on campus, while those living in the Senior Village get \$400 a semester.

But how does the Terrier Buck system, even if it only covers a couple of hundred dollars a year, affect the experience of a Wofford student?

The "Wofford Bubble" is a term used by many to conceptualize the divide that exists between the student body and Spartanburg as a system.

The term is meant to designate how students are almost placed in a bubble, separated from the outside world that is Spartanburg.

However, this divide does not have to

be the case and could likely come down to how students experience their first year on campus. When easy and cheap entertainment can only be found inside friends' dorms, fraternity houses and Senior Village house parties, there is little incentive for these new students, who are likely new to Spartanburg too, to go out and try new places.

There is an exception to this rule, which seems to be the popular restaurants among what is offered on the Terrier Bucks list. Thus, restaurants like Cribbs and RJ Rockers become a regular part of the after-class or weekend experience for many Wofford students.

I would like to say that this limited exploration is in part fueled by the ability of students to use the money that is limited to the end of the school year.

If we accept this conclusion, then it can reasonably follow that the Terrier Buck system is an incentive structure that could be put to a much more expansive use than it currently is.

This might cause a few logistical problems to solve along the way, but it could be beneficial to the liberal arts learning experience of Wofford.

The first step towards this is what students have been asking for for years: more restaurant options. Expanding the list is obviously not as easy as just putting the restaurants on the Wofford website, but expanding flavor pallets is an important step in growth that a good college town can significantly shape.

Right now the offered meals include four American-style foods: one pizza chain, one barbeque joint and two dinner-style restaurants, as well as one Asian food option with Lime Leaf. This is not exactly as diverse as possible for a city with multiple styles of Asian, Latin American and other international cuisines within walking distance of the

Expanding the options could mean that students learn more about Jamaican or Middle-eastern food or possibly try those cuisines for the first time ever.

But the bubble is not just restaurants; it's the division between the student body and the Spartanburg community as

While I may know about what happens

in the city, I see fairly few students regularly breaking this barrier other than students that grew up here or those in sociology or similar majors working on community projects.

There are many festivals throughout the year in which Wofford partnerships could allow students to get discounted rates or use Terrier Bucks in order to give more incentive to go to such events, the recent Cribbs Burger Cook-Off or Spring-Fling being a great example.

Overall, the Spartanburg area is small but can offer a good extended learning environment for students if we just give them the incentive structure to be a greater part of it or leave the Wofford bubble earlier in their freshmen years.

I don't have all the answers for what should be done, but I think giving students more options to use what has already made them explore a little bit could mean that Wofford Students become even more well-rounded by graduation, further exemplifying Wofford's liberal arts mission.

Cameron Carsten, staff writer

Answers to Wofford questions: words from a senior



Photo courtesy of Walton Jolly

Group of seniors enjoying their final spring break.

By the time you read this article, I will have 19 days left at Wofford College. It truly only feels like yesterday that I walked on this campus as a junior in high school during my spring break of college

I came into Wofford as part of the Theater Living and Learning Community (LLC), which is where I really met my first friends here.

I considered majoring in theater, but ultimately decided to do a double major in government and environmental studies. COVID-19 cut my freshman year short, but luckily I had made some pretty great friends that lasted even though we were hours apart. Sophomore year, I got to know the beauty of springtime at

My junior year, I decided to join the Old Gold & Black, as I rediscovered my childhood love of writing, and I got to reconnect with my LLC friend (and now co-managing editor) Maddie Brewer '23.

Now I am a senior, approaching my final days at Wofford before heading back home and starting my journey to become the next Elle Woods.

When I moved into Greene Hall for my freshman year, I really wasn't sure what to expect. I was wondering what friends I would make, if I would like the dining hall food, was I going to join a sorority and what on earth I was going to major

Four years and a whole lot more questions later, I think I finally found some

Whether you are about to start your freshman or senior year, I know you definitely have some questions.

I reached out to a few seniors as we reminisced on our last few weeks in Spartanburg to hear what they have to say. Who knows, maybe this will help you or make you cry like I did during these interviews, and while writing this, if I'm being honest.

Everyone came to Wofford for a different reason; maybe you are like Anna Lee

"I decided to attend Wofford because it had everything that I could ever dream of wanting in an institution," Hoffman said. "Wofford perfectly combined the student life that I was looking for, plus the tight knit community that I value more than anything else."

Or maybe you are more like Matthew

Shouse '23, who had a relative attend

"Wofford was a school that was always on my radar because I am from the area. and also my dad graduated from here. Throughout my college search, I continued to feel drawn to the small classes. connections, and overall community that Wofford offers," Shouse said. "I applied to a total of 8 schools, but once I got accepted to Wofford on Christmas Eve in 2018, I never looked back. Best decision ever!"

All of us had the first half of our college experience impacted by the pandemic, but it did not hurt our experience.

It was when the restrictions had been slightly lifted and everyone was able to be together again sophomore year that really made Wofford feel like home, and even created some people's happiest memories, like Adair Bannister '23.

"Dancing and singing together around the grass lawn on a sunny Saturday, during a band party on the horseshoe," Bannister said. "It was during the late interim period in May of our sophomore year- all classes were done and we were finally out of quarantine. Everyone was so joyful and warm, it felt like we were one big family!"

While I'm sure every person in your life

has given you some form of advice about college, you can never have too much.

Baird Thoni '23 wants to tell all Wofford students "to take advantage of every opportunity and event on campus. I know people told me that, but you don't fully realize the importance of it until you are about to graduate."

Lilly Hatton '23 wants to remind us all to "give yourself the flexibility to grow," and Georgia Fischer '23 says to "never be a stranger."

For me, I tell you that this may not be the best four years of life, but try to make at least one day the best.

I leave you with the wise words of Blake Batten '23:

"Be present. Soak up the little moments walking across campus and spending time with dear teachers and friends. Embrace the hard times as opportunities to learn and find peace in the promise of good to come."

Julia Allen, managing editor

How to make the most of on-campus dining options

On-campus dining is a blessing and a curse. Not having to cook for yourself is convenient, but after a while you may I felt that, and I think I hacked the meal plan system, so here are some Wofford dining hacks from a senior who quickly learned how to make on-campus dining feel like her own kitchen.

First off, as scrumptious as they are, please do not get a Chick-fil-a crispy chicken sandwich for every meal. They are great, but all good things must come to an end. If you eat a chicken sandwich for every meal, you will soon hate chicken sandwiches. Remember, everything in moderation, so follow these hacks to find some ways to spice up your dining

Do you enjoy a caprese sandwich? Make start to crave some variety and the power one at Zach's by asking for a ciabatta roll to choose what you have for your meals. with your choice of protein, mozzarella, tomato, arugula, pesto, balsamic and salt and pepper.

Are you a vegetarian? Boars Head might seem daunting considering it is centered around meats. However, they offer hummus and other vegetarian friendly options. Try this hummus wrap out; it is packed with protein and flavor.

Order a wrap of your choice. I prefer spinach, with hummus and provolone cheese. Then, add mixed greens, cucumbers, carrots, banana peppers, tomatoes, pesto, balsamic and salt and pepper. Substitute what you wish, and this wrap is an easy, tasty trick.

Do not forget that even if you get Boars Head, you can get a side of Chick-fil-a waffle fries with your meal swipe. The chips and fruit cups of cantaloupe and melons can get old quickly, so I suggest getting some waffle fries every once in a while with your sandwich.

If there is a day where absolutely nothing seems appetizing to you in Burwell, do not worry. Here are some meals you can make.

First, make your own grain bowl, just like Chipotle or Cava, but free. Grab some rice or quinoa and use that as your base. Next, add some veggies and beans. Burwell almost always has steamed broccoli and cauliflower, which are easy ways to get in some nutrients.

Add a protein and whatever other toppings seem appealing to you. Then, head to the salad bar and top your bowl off with a sauce or dressing, or even hummus from the sandwich station. This staple makes Burwell a great filling meal, and you do not have to rely on the entrees to ensure that you will be pleased.

If you are ever extra hungry, capitalize on this system hack. Zach's computer system is slow, so if you use your meal swipe first at Zach's, you can then quickly run over to Burwell and also swipe there before it hits the system. Enjoy your Zach's fries and your Burwell ice cream

The Galleria in Phase V is limited in menu options, but timing is key. Do not, under any circumstances, get there at 12:20. Especially if you have a 1:00 class, you will not get your food in time. Instead, try to go at 11:20, as the line is much more manageable.

If the Galleria fries seem a little bland, try mixing mayonnaise, ketchup, salt and pepper to make a special fry sauce. As a last resort, if none of the options seem feasible, head into the market and grab some sushi or a salad with your meal

McAlpin Ott, staff writer

Ending affirmative action could bring admissions changes

The U.S. Supreme Court is soon expected to overturn affirmative action, or race-conscious college admissions.

According to the College Board, the decision will likely come out in June.

Affirmative action was a policy created to combat racial discrimination in admissions and job hiring, first created by President John F. Kennedy in 1961. It has largely been used to seek out members of marginalized groups who are underrepresented in certain workforces.

Wofford's admissions staff has been preparing for the decision since late last year by informing the board, reading articles and looking over amicus briefs related to the case.

"There are examples of states where affirmative action has been eliminated," Vice President of Enrollment Brand Stille said. "Most of those states have seen declines in underrepresented student enrollment."

Most of the impacted colleges were large public schools.

Stille was unsure of how diversity statis-

tics were affected at small private schools similar to Wofford.

Megan Tyler, director of admission, doesn't believe that overturning affirmative action would affect Wofford's diversity as much as it would for more selective colleges.

"We're not using race as the only determining factor," Tyler said. "It's part of the discussion, but the academic rigor, GPA and competitiveness of the student is the leading part of that discussion."

Stille echoed that race is part of a holistic consideration.

"I can confidently say that we've never admitted a student based on race alone," Stille said.

Wofford implements affirmative action more so in financial aid than in admissions, according to Stille. If the Supreme Court rules that race can't be considered in financial aid, the GOLD (Growing Our Leadership through Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) scholarship might be eliminated

However, need-based aid can be award-

ed to many of those who are currently GOLD scholarship recipients.

"With the Richardson gift, we have more resources to address the financial need of student applicants than ever before," Stille said.

Another area affected by ending affirmative action might be recruitment, as Wofford currently sends out targeted recruiting communication based on what applicants specify about themselves.

Stille doesn't see this being within the scope of the decision, though.

"That would be extreme, I think," he

Stille assured that, no matter the outcome, Wofford plans to increase the percentage of minority students, out of state students and Pell Grant students. The targets he listed are 25%, 50% and 20%, respectively, for the class of 2030.

"We're still going to value diversity in the same ways we do now," Stille said. "(The decision) may change our practice, but I don't think it will change the goals themselves." Alternatively, Dwain Pruitt, chief equity officer, said that overturning affirmative action will make diversifying campuses more difficult.

"There will still be ways to diversify a student body," Pruitt said. "It's just that they're going to cost more and they're going to take more time."

The increased cost and time would be due to recruiting in different places, according to Pruitt. However, Pruitt doesn't see the possible overturning of affirmative action as a solely negative thing.

"If Wofford wants to be different, then it's going to have to do things differently," Pruitt said. "That's why I say if affirmative action is removed from the table, that can actually be a good thing, because it would require us to think more imaginatively."

Pruitt stated that diversity is beneficial for college students because it prepares them for the global economy.

"If the opportunity presents itself in another country, we have trained students who are flexible, accommodating and humane enough to deal with people across lines of culture, religion, race and experience," Pruitt said.

Tyler shared a similar sentiment, saying that diversity equips students with suc-

"Hearing ideas that differ from your own and (having) thoughtful conversations with those people (is) a skill set that you can take into the real world," Tyler said.

Stille mentioned diversity's value to a liberal arts education, saying that diversity allows students to learn from those who are different from them.

"The diversity of ideas is probably the best form of diversity," Stille said. "Many times those ideas are informed by where you're from, your socioeconomic status, race or ethnicity."

Aiden Lockhart, staff writer

How inclusive was the 2023 Conference on Gender?



Photo by Addie Porter

Photo of audience at the Conference on Gender held in the Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center of the Arts Building on April 18. At the conference, students Ally Branzuela, Maddie Brewer, Willow Conley, Jacqueline Hansen, Erin Lachance, Lizzie Richards, Flora Sherrod and Lauren Strange presented their research on gender and sexuality.

The annual conference on gender was held by the Gender Studies program in the Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts on April 18.

Discussing the issues of gender and sexuality is never a light task. Students at Wofford, however, are typically willing and ready to attack issues regarding gender and sexuality.

Each year, the Gender Studies Program at Wofford holds a conference on gender to highlight research conducted by students on the topic of gender and sexuality. This year, eight students presented their faculty-advised research examining issues and theories of gender and sexuality from the last year.

The first Wofford Conference on Gender was held in 2002. This is the second year Carey Voeller, associate professor of English and co-chair of Gender Studies Program, has organized the event.

Although the Gender Studies Program is an effective way to develop awareness on sexuality and gender, presenters do not have to be involved in the gender studies program to present research at the conference on gender.

The program was designed to be interdisciplinary and involves courses in English, sociology and anthropology, philosophy, religion and art history. Seniors in the program complete a capstone project that intertwines two subjects.

Among the presenters were Ally Branzuela '23, Madeline Brewer '23, Willow Conley '25, Jacqueline Hansen '24, Erin Lachance '23, Lizzie Richards '23 and Lauren Strange '24. Sociology and anthropology, English, art history and biology majors were all represented at this year's conference.

Faculty advisors included Carey Voeller, Professor of Chinese Li Quin Kinnison, Assistant Professor of Art History Gillian Young, Reeves Family Professor in Humanities Natalie Grinnell, Associate Professor of English John Ware, Associate Professor and Chair of English Julie Sexeny and Chapman Family Professor of Humanities Karen Goodchild.

Strange presented her final paper for one of Carey Voeller's English courses in the Spring 2022. Because her paper focused on femininity and masculinity in Frank Norris's "McTeague," Voeller encouraged her to enter her paper to be considered for the 2023 Conference on Gender.

"I wrote about how the author, Frank Norris, situated male and female roles in relationships and how he defines masculinity and femininity between characters," Strange said. "I talked about the main character and his wife Trina. He has a pet canary, and the canary illustrates the ideal femininity, as it is locked in its cage and at the mercy of the man in this story."

Branzuela, a biology major, discussed the difference between Eastern and Western beauty standards and the impact that these beauty standards have on Asian-American women.

Hansen's and Lachance's research played off of each other, as both looked into the portrayal of women in visual media, Hansen with horror movies and Lachane with music videos.

Gender is a complex topic. With that notion, a wide array of groups need to be represented to provide a more holistic view of how issues of gender and sexual-

ity impact society. However, at this year's Conference on Gender, there was an apparent emphasis on female students researching issues of portrayals of women in various forms of media.

Women tend to be more inclined to research issues regarding gender studies.

However, if no male identifying students present their ideas and research at the conference, is that really an accurate representation of gender and sexuality in the Wofford student body and in society as a whole?

According to Voeller, it has always been an issue to get male students interested in discussing gender issues, even though they are just as affected by gender as female students are.

"The number one problem with gender studies is trying to get guys to care about it," Voeller said.

According to Voeller, this year's conference was historically less diverse compared to other years.

"Five or six years ago, we had more people who identified as men who presented at the conferences," Voeller said. "Last

year, it seemed that there was more of a racial diversity."

Moving forward, the conference hopes to expand the diversity of students participating, in terms of race, gender identity and sexuality. The barrier to this, however, is that a diverse group of students needs to already be interested in these topics and motivated to research them.

"The plan would definitely be to get more men involved and have more racial diversity, but the presenters do reflect the interest and the motivation of the students," Voeller said.

To present in next year's conference on gender, students can contact Voeller if they write a paper or complete research discussing topics on gender and sexuality during fall 2023 or Interim 2024.

Students can officially submit their work with a link that will be released in the beginning of spring 2024 semester.

Katie Kirk, staff writer

Read online about the Wofford Men and Women's Tennis Teams, Wofford Live and Equus!

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