



OLD GOLD & BLACK

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WOFFORD COLLEGE

108th EDITION ISSUE 2

Education on exoneration: Introducing the Innocence & Justice Initiative



Photo by Anna Lee Hoffman

Students gathered for the first meeting of the organization, taking place on Oct. 3. This organization is encouraging advocacy for the injustices within the criminal justice system.

An article by the staff of Innocence Project asserted in its subheader that innocent Black people are 19 times more likely to be wrongly convicted of drug crimes.

The article, “New Report Highlights Persistent Racial Disparities Among Wrongful Convictions,” cited the National Registry of Exonerations’ report that “about 69% of people exonerated from drug crimes (since 1989) were black and 16% were white, despite studies showing that white and black people use illegal drugs at similar rates.”

Wofford’s organization, Innocence & Justice Initiative, intends to advocate for innocent people and exonerates, as well as educate people on the racial disparities in those convicted and the flaws in the criminal justice system.

Dawn McQuiston, professor of

psychology and coordinator of the pre-law program, is the director of the organization.

“Our work at Wofford is inspired by the work of the Innocence Project,” McQuiston said. “We want to examine the problem of wrongful conviction and advocate for justice.”

McQuiston explained that organizations like this one are not usually formed at the undergraduate level, more often only available to graduate law students.

The organization plans to put emphasis on education of, outreach to and advocacy for exonerates and wrongfully convicted people.

“The data are what they are,” McQuiston said. “When you look at the stats of who is being let out of prison, it turns out more Black people were innocent than white people. We have a systemic race problem

when it comes to criminal justice in this country.

“(Some people) don’t believe there’s a problem here, and it is exactly those people that need the education.”

McQuiston also asserted that forensic methods are being questioned and updated, specifically citing the flaws recently being found in the practice of analyzing fingerprints and fire-starters in arson cases. She also criticized some practices previously treated as irrefutable.

“The number one factor in wrongful convictions is mistaken eyewitness identification,” McQuiston said. “In 70% of these (exoneration) cases, there was a mistaken eyewitness. In 50% of them, there was a problem with the forensic science.”

McQuiston explained that criminal justice is increasingly considering and examining human psychology’s effect on criminal cases. A person’s psychology can lead to problems such as incorrect accusations and false confessions.

“When McQuiston informed me of her idea to start the Law, Justice & Innocence Initiative, I knew it was my moral obligation to join,” said Gracie Hicks ’23, the organization’s social media manager. “I learned about wrongful convictions while taking Psychology and The Law, and there were many instances in which my heart broke at the thought of someone suffering punishment for a crime they did not commit.”

Hicks expressed her disappointment that South Carolina is one of 15 states that does not provide com-

penation to the wrongfully convicted.

“The hardships innocent people suffer are present even after being released from prison,” Hicks said. “They have no choice but to rebuild their lives from the ground up, often with little support. I hope the awareness (our organization) will bring to this matter will inspire Wofford students to act.”

“I’m definitely very excited about getting involved in this initiative because I think it is such a crucial cause,” said Neeley Wilson ’24, president of the organization. “Although innocent until proven guilty is the standard, we see far too many wrongful convictions. Wofford is a great place to start this initiative because of the passion that can be found in many students, thus allowing the ability to both educate and advocate.”

Chelsea McNeill is circuit public defender for South Carolina’s 8th judicial circuit, which includes Laurens, Newberry, Abbeville and Greenwood counties.

She stressed the importance of this organization at the undergraduate level.

“The Innocence & Justice Initiative is so important because South Carolina doesn’t have an active organization that services people adversely affected by the judicial system,” McNeill said. “This organization would most certainly bring better awareness to the legal community about the alarming rate in which defendants are pleading guilty to crimes they did

not commit as well as those who are wrongfully convicted after a trial.”

McNeill also asserted that many Americans believe our country has the best criminal justice system in the world, which may encourage people to turn a blind eye to injustices within the system.

“How can education ever be a bad thing?” McNeill said. “We should encourage it and learn from our mistakes. Otherwise, we are complicit with accepting flaws in our human-made justice system; a system which oftentimes isn’t ‘just’ at all.”

McNeill stated that it would be wonderful for undergraduates to get involved in the initiative, as they are the country and the world’s future.

She noted that getting involved as undergraduates would allow students to be armed with information as they enter their careers in law.

“I hope this program takes off at Wofford College,” McNeill said. “It would set Wofford apart from other institutions in this state as a leader in assisting with spotlighting what’s really important in the criminal justice system: getting it right.”

Madeline Brewer, managing editor

Class of 2023 to provide funds for graduate exams

The class of 2023 discussed and voted for their senior class gift during September.

The majority of votes went towards a fund to help current and future students with graduate school tests.

“(The fund will help) rising seniors and current seniors cover the cost of graduate school entrance exams fees and/or the application fees associated with applying to institutions for graduate programs such as the GRE, GMAT, MCAT, LSAT,” said Ashley Owen, dean of the senior class.

Once the fund is created, the application process for students is expected to be hosted through the career center and will be awarded based on “merit and need” and will cover up to three graduate exams.

“(The initial funding will come from each senior’s) donation of \$20.23 (an ode to 2023), and we’re trying to get to 40% participation for the class,” said Woods Wooten ’23, senior class president. “The Mungos, alongside anonymous donors to the school, promised to match if we

reach that goal.”

Many within the 2023 senior class expressed motivation to do something even bigger than the class of 2022, whose gift it was to clean the seal of Old Main.

However, this did not mean that the class completely agreed whether their gift should be a more physical gift, as last year’s was, or a financial one.

A range of other gift ideas were discussed, either unseriously or officially, by the senior class. These ideas in-

cluded more trash cans throughout the Senior Village, a pickleball court, a new parking lot and other types of scholarship and endowment funds.

There was some controversy among the advocates for different senior gift ideas, particularly around the different scholarship ideas.

Some seniors wanted a more general scholarship for any Wofford student while others wanted more scholarships for certain activities, such as study abroad.

Wooten stated that this is the

only one of the funds that were senior-oriented, but that this will be beneficial to both current and future Wofford students.

The goal of this scholarship is that, beyond this initial funding, the endowment fund will continue to be funded by the class of 2023 and other funders to help Wofford students into the future.

Cameron Carsten, staff writer

Blowfish coming to town: Jim Sonefeld to visit Wofford, Hub City Books

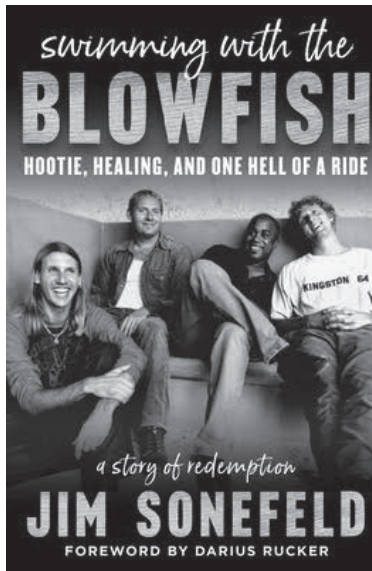


Photo courtesy of Jim Sonefeld. Sonefeld will discuss *Swimming with the Blowfish* on Oct. 12 at Hub City Books.

"Hootie & the Blowfish" was a popular American rock band during the 1990's, originating at the University

of South Carolina as a college band.

After they parted ways, they each remained relevant in various artistic spaces, including music and literature.

Lead singer Darius Rucker became famous for his country-style music, a large switch from the band's rock style.

He is currently on tour and will continue until mid-2023.

Guitarists Mark Bryan and Dean Felber have also continued to dabble in music. Bryan released his most recent album, "Midlife Priceless," in 2021.

Jim Sonefeld, however, used his time since the band to write a memoir, "Swimming with the Blowfish: Hootie, Healing, and One Hell of a Ride."

The memoir discusses the many ups and downs of having such a prominent and multiracial band during a time of open racism in the state.

"We didn't even have intentions of being a band that was notable," Sonefeld said, "yet we were that and

helped to shape race."

Sonefeld will be bringing his knowledge and experiences of such to Spartanburg, and Wofford College, on Oct. 12.

He will be hosting a book reading and signing event at Hub City Books at 6 p.m., as well as visiting with Carey Voeller, associate professor of English, and his LIBA-101 class earlier in the afternoon.

"When I read (Sonefeld's) memoir last summer, I quickly realized that some of it would easily apply to this class, particularly the sections where he recalls racist incidents against their Black vocalist and guitarist Darius Rucker, the band's antiracist allyship with him and that, as a South Carolina band, all four members disliked the fact that the statehouse flew the Confederate flag," Voeller explained.

Voeller's course is focused on the ideas of "American protest literature," as the course is aptly titled. Sonefeld's memoir acts as a prime example of such a piece.

Sonefeld will bring a new perspec-

tive to many Wofford students: a perspective that deals with the issue of the Confederate flag hanging before it became a major controversy.

"I remember sitting down with my friends just doing normal college things, discussing all that's wrong with the world," Sonefeld said. "Hanging the confederate flag at the Statehouse was one of those things."

In 2015, when the flag was removed, he said it was just one of those things that the band members didn't even have to discuss; they just knew a good but overdue thing had happened.

Sonefeld's memoir discusses this in greater length, as he kept every calendar of personal and Hootie-related events and had a plethora of journals to jog his memory.

"I started journaling in 1994 when we went to LA to record our first studio album," Sonefeld recalled. "I just knew it was something big and something I would never want to forget."

At Hub City Books, Sonefeld will host an entertaining reading for

people of all ages.

"I don't want people to think it will just be an average book reading," Sonefeld said. "It's gonna be exciting and interactive."

This is one of many stops to local colleges and bookstores that Sonefeld will make to discuss his memoir.

"I talked to my daughter, Cameron (Sonefeld '22), and asked her which of her professors she thought would let me come speak to their class," Sonefeld explained. "Voeller was on the list, and we have been in constant communication since."

"(Sonefeld) is a super cool, down-to-earth guy, and his writing is accessible, witty, but also profound," Voeller said. "I think students will enjoy getting to meet him and hear a rock star talk about some of the things we're examining."

Brandi Wylie, editor-in-chief

Physicist on the premises

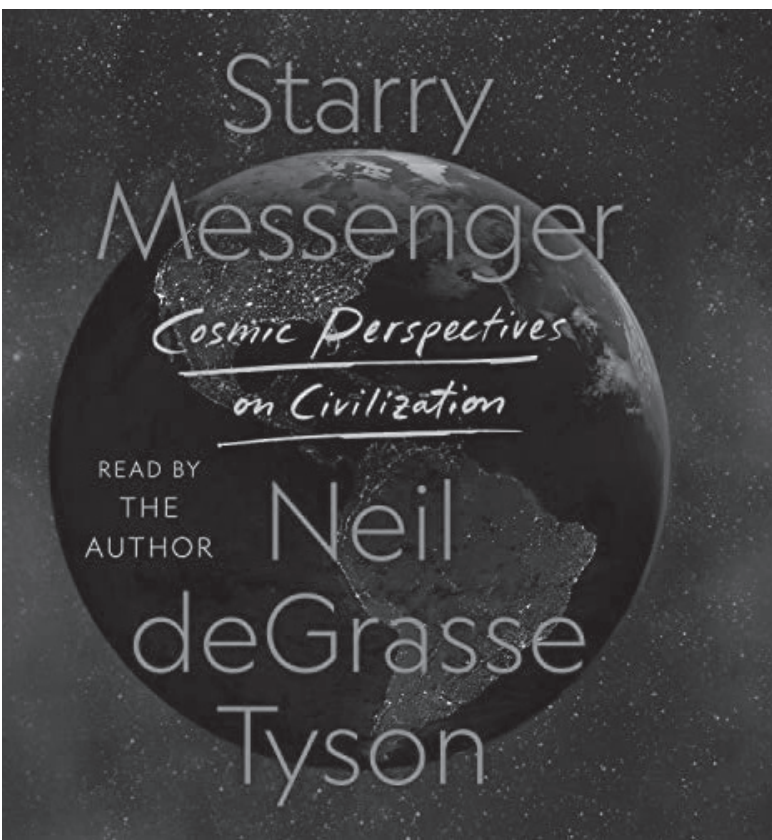


Photo courtesy of Neil deGrasse Tyson

On Tuesday, Sept. 27, Neil deGrasse Tyson, world-renowned astrophysicist and author, made an appearance at Converse University during his tour to promote his new book, "Starry Messenger: Cosmic Perspectives on Civilization."

The event included an hour-long interview followed by 30 minutes of questions from the audience. Tyson remained outgoing and animated throughout the entirety of the event, quick to crack jokes with the audience, even if they were at his own expense.

This included showing off his favorite tie that was decorated with each planet in the solar system.

"There's no Pluto, of course...get over it! He had it coming," Tyson said.

When interacting with the audience, Tyson leaned on the edge of his seat and spoke with fervor, engaging the audience.

After an hour of interview questions delivered by Will Case, chemistry professor at Converse University, Tyson began answering questions from the crowd.

"I love how much he engaged with the audience; I felt like I didn't just watch him, but actually met him," said Ali Dulaney '26.

Tyson also had some advice for college students on decisions that will build toward the rest of their lives.

"I'm going to tell you something that no teacher or parent is going to tell you: You should take the hardest classes you possibly can," Tyson said.

Tyson went on to explain the benefits that difficult classes offer in regards to deeply critical thinking and the ability to truly distinguish yourself from others, even if that comes at the expense of a poor grade.

"Ask anybody here who's 28 and older when's the last time someone asked them what their GPA was," Tyson said. "No one will give a rat's ass what your GPA was!"

Tyson's book "Starry Messenger" was written to offer a new perspective to consider when making decisions, especially in topics related to politics, war, religion, beauty, race, truth and other ideas of similar magnitude.

Much of the book focuses on the notably ineffective actions of human beings when observed from an outside view, claiming that aliens would be unimpressed with human abilities.

"The alien would leave and report back to say, 'There is no sign of intelligent life on Earth,'" Tyson said.

Tickets for college students started at \$30 and included a signed copy of "Starry Messenger," so many Wofford students, like Devin Ruppe '26, happily took advantage of the opportunity.

"The book provided a cosmic per-

spective on society, which couldn't be more of what the world needs in a time of such selfish and dictatorial media outlets and leaders," Ruppe said.

Tyson also emphasized the importance the book placed in learning probability and statistics, as well as practicing exponential-thinking.

He explained how disregarding probability leads to failures like gambling and other frequent follies, and that an ignorance towards exponential thinking tends to limit how we imagine the future.

In "Starry Messenger," Tyson emphasizes the limits of cognition that

human beings maintain because of common norms and encourages everyone to educate themselves as much as possible about respective topics before making a decision.

"The more informed you are, the less dug-in-your-heels you will be, because you will have the ability to understand other perspectives," Tyson said.

Kayla Southwood, contributing writer

Tomorrow

The Career Center and Old Gold & Black present

"SMALLS TALK"

a panel discussion with Alexander Smalls '74

Oct. 12th, 1pm

OLD GOLD & BLACK



CAREER CENTER
IN THE MUNGO EXCHANGE

Student work featured in 44th annual Tri State Sculptors Association Conference



Photo by Anna Lee Hoffman

"The Shape I'm In" exhibition was on display through Oct. 8. Many students had pieces throughout the exhibit and were excited to use the conference to connect with other professional artists.

The Richardson Family Art Center houses exhibits students can observe at no cost. This allows students to see parts of the world that they may have otherwise never been exposed to.

The most recent exhibit on display is "The Shape I'm In: Tri State Sculptors

Member Exhibition," which was on display from Sept. 1 through Oct. 8. The exhibit displayed work from 50 of the 200 artists in the Association, including the work of seven Wofford students.

After being a member of the Asso-

ciation for five years, Michael Webster, associate professor of studio art at Wofford, jumped on the opportunity to host and provide students with professional experiences.

"With our art major being only in its fourth year, a lot of the professional experiences in art are new for Wofford students," Webster explained. "We've never had our art majors attend a conference like this and hope to have them travel to other conferences in the future."

The seven Wofford students whose work is on display also joined the association recently.

These students include studio art majors Maggie Genoble '24, Annie Heisel '24, Yasmin Lee '23, Carrie Metts '23 and Kate Timbes '23. Also included are alumna Olivia Williams '22 and studio art minor Jeanae Escobar '24.

Escobar describes her piece as "experimental," embodying darker tones than the pieces she usually creates.

"This is my first time exhibiting an art piece of mine, and it's a bit of a nerve-racking experience," Escobar said. "I remind myself that, even if I don't know what people think,

they are still taking away something after seeing my work."

She joined the association at the recommendation of her instructors and looks forward to seeing how this resource will allow her to make the connections necessary for success.

"If I were to pursue this medium further into my artistic career, my membership in the association could aid me in finding mentors, exhibition opportunities, workshops, and other things of the sort," Escobar said.

Lee has had several pieces on display and wants to use this opportunity to showcase a skill that she has recently learned: hot glass blowing.

She learned the skill at a Penland School of Crafts' glass blowing workshop this summer, in which she spent two weeks in the mountains focusing solely on the craft of hot glass blowing.

"It's so rare to gain a completely new skill," Lee said. "It was like going to Mars when I touched down in the hot glass blowing studio. I was learning how to do the craft as well as what the material communicates at the same time."

She also presented at the confer-

ence during the "Five slides at five minutes" conversation hosted by Metts. She showed a video of her time at Penland as well as went into more detail about what the piece on display meant to her.

"I made 12 pieces, and I wanted to choose something that told a story," Lee said. "Anything that has a narrative, I am interested. I made it with my partner at Penland after the first one shattered on us."

Although disappointing, she explained that this second attempt turned out better than the first and had a history attached.

She hoped to use the conference as a way of getting feedback on her piece from professionals, especially from one of the keynote speakers, Michaela Pilar Brown.

Brown, award winning artist and community advocate, spoke on Oct. 7 at 7p.m. in Leonard Auditorium. She also has a gallery, "Conterminous Elegies," installed in the lower level of the Richardson Family Art Museum, which will be on display through the rest of the fall semester.

Brandi Wylie, editor-in-chief

Latinx Community and the Impact of Immigrants



Photo courtesy of Saul Flores

Flores visited the school in Atencingo, México, after completing his walk.

Hispanic Heritage Month began Sept. 15 and lasts until Oct. 15. The office of Inclusive Engagement arranged for Saul Flores, a philanthropist, photojournalist and speaker, to visit Wofford on Sept. 20. He spoke about his journey dealing with his Latin American heritage and community engagement.

Seth Flanagan '18, assistant director of inclusive engagement, highlighted the need to have an event like this, as the Wofford community has a tendency to exist in a bubble.

"We are in the business of creating global citizens that can affect change wherever their path in life may take them," Flanagan said. "It is essential that while students are here, we provide opportunities for students to experience the world outside of Wofford."

The talk, held in Leonard Auditorium, started with the story of Flores'

childhood in New York City with immigrant parents. Throughout his childhood, Flores became more aware of how hard his parents were working. He wanted to make the most of his opportunities, and this proved to be a theme throughout his story.

Isaiah Franco '23, international affairs and Spanish double major, serves as the Vice President of the Organization of Latin American Students. Franco is a member of the Latinx community on campus who attended the talk.

"My experience as a third-generation Puerto Rican overall is so different, but hearing about his parent's sacrifices reminded me of my childhood," Franco said.

When Flores applied to colleges, he received a grant that gave him the opportunity to make a difference in

a community that he belonged to. His first thought was to arrange a trip back to his mother's hometown, in Atencingo, Mexico, with other college students.

While visiting his mother's hometown, they had the opportunity to see what the elementary school his mom attended was like.

Flores discovered that the children in the elementary school were ready and eager to learn. However, he also found the building to be in disrepair. Later that same day, the principal told Flores that the school was in danger of being shut down.

This trip to Atencingo sparked a deeper question for Flores. He wondered what he could do going forward to improve the opportunity for education for these children. Flores decided to do

something extraordinary: to recreate an immigrant's journey starting from Quito, Ecuador all the way to Charlotte, North Carolina.

"I learned that Ecuador was a starting point for a lot of migrants," Flores said.

Along his journey, Flores committed to taking pictures. These photographs would be sold to repair the school in Atencingo, Mexico. These repairs and renovations would ensure that the lower-income students would have the ability to get an education if the school would remain open.

His journey was strenuous and dangerous. Flores mentioned one instance where he was close to death in the Darién gap in Colombia. In this area, Flores unknowingly came into contact with the venom of a

poisonous dart frog, causing him to go unconscious for a few days. He spoke about his fear from being so close to death.

Flores mentioned that the Mexico-United States border was also taxing to cross. This was not only due to the extreme danger but also the heaviness of knowing that this was the place that most immigrants had to cross to get to the United States.

"The trickiest part to cross next to the Darién Gap was the Mexican-American border. I was traveling through Juárez, which was one of the most violent cities in the whole world," Flores said. "I think that in the few days I was there, 46 people were murdered."

Upon the completion of his journey, Flores sold the photographs he took along the way. He was able to raise enough money to keep the school in Atencingo open.

Flores also gave students a chance to share stories with one another during his talk. He asked those in attendance to close their eyes and think of a moment in their lives when they realized that someone was making a sacrifice for them.

Afterwards, he gave students the opportunity to share. Flores believes that giving students a chance to reflect can be a powerful part of inspiring change.

"I wanted to give students an opportunity for students to look inwards and backwards and to look through where they are coming from, giving them a stronger direction to start projects like this," Flores said.

Flores' story can be a source of inspiration for students who want to make a difference in the local Spartanburg community and on campus. Flores was able to use his passions to motivate him to make an impact on his community.

"I hope students take away the notion that hard work does pay off," Flanagan said. "As a student, you can effect more change than you can imagine, both on campus and off."

Several students see struggles in being part of a small Latinx community at a predominantly white institution.

"I think being Latine at Wofford is just so hard because there are so few of us," Franco said. "In conjunction with this, it is hard to plan events or ensure the longevity of OLAS because almost everyone has to be involved to feel like things get done."

For non-Latinx members of the Wofford community, according to Franco and Flores, learning about culture is drastically important to personal growth. Students should immerse themselves in different Latinx contexts and educate themselves about those cultures.

"There are millions of immigrants in our country, and thousands that make the journey each year. In Spartanburg, there are dozens of migrant groups who have made a home here. (Flores) was able to tell some of their stories through his own voice," Flanagan said.

Katie Kirk, staff writer

MEET THE FIRST-YEAR DELEGATES



“Winning this election was truly such an honor. As freshman delegate, I truly want to be a voice for the freshman class and the greater Wofford community. Over the next year, I want to be a listener and form meaningful relationships with the class of 2026 in order to be the best servant to the community that I can be!” - **Geneva Kowbeidu '26**



“I am super thrilled to have been elected as one of the delegates for the class of 2026. I have always wanted to be involved in student government, so coming into college, I knew I wanted to petition for election. Being a voice for the freshman class comes with great responsibility, and I hope to represent the class well with new proposals that will benefit the majority of students.” - **Caroline Parker '26**



“There were a lot of qualified candidates running for this position, so I am proud to have been one of the elected delegates. I am proud to be a Terrier and am excited to represent the class of 2026 as a first-year delegate! I’m always available to discuss issues with anyone so feel free to reach out to me!” - **Wilton Grice '26**



“I am honored to be a freshman delegate, and I cannot wait to see what this class has in store for the next four years. I plan to do my utmost to listen to requests and ensure every student feels included in the Wofford community. GoTerriers!” - **Jack Grabarczyk '26**

MEET THE FIRST-YEAR DELEGATES



“It means a lot to know that the freshman class trusts and believes in me. I hope to be an advocate for my classmates’ interest and help them have the most enjoyable four years of school.” - **Zion Sampson ‘26**



“Nothing else compares to being able to experience Wofford firsthand as a student. I have been welcomed into this special campus community, and I am extremely excited to serve as a freshman delegate and represent the class of 2026 during the 2022-2023 school year.” - **Eloise Hupfer ‘26**

Campus Union Updates



Photo courtesy of Mark Olencki

Resolution to expedite the process of senior village housing floor plans being accessible on the Wofford housing portal.

- Proposed by: Emma Skelton, Liv Culver, Adair Bannister
- Status: Passed on Oct. 3 2022

Proposal to form the student survey ad-hoc committee.

- A committee will send weekly surveys to students to gather opinions on bills and other Campus Union decisions.
- Proposed by: Woods Wooten, Camp Williams
- Status: Passed on Oct. 3 2022

WHAT'S UP AT WOFFORD?

Introducing the Office of Philanthropy and Engagement



Photo courtesy of Mark Olencki

The newly renamed Office of Philanthropy and Engagement staff photo.

The Wofford College Office of Advancement announced in late August they have made the decision to change their title to the Office of Philanthropy and Engagement.

This is not the first time the office has changed their name. Initially they held the title of the Office of Development, then the Office of Advancement and now the Office of Philanthropy and Engagement.

As Nayef Samhat, president of Wofford College, discussed in the report on the state of the college, the name change is an effort to increase

the office's engagement with alumni, students and the community.

Confusion among students and alumni surrounding the purpose and objectives of the Office of Advancement was the driving force behind the decision to adopt the title of Philanthropy and Engagement.

"I think when students heard of the Office of Advancement, they thought of construction, projects and new buildings," said Young Alumni and Philanthropy Engagement Officer Dylan Goshorn '22. "The term was intended to imply an advancement

of the college; to provide opportunities for people and overall make the college better."

The office hopes that this name change will provide clarity by highlighting the two essential goals of the office: to amplify philanthropy to Wofford and to increase engagement among the Wofford community.

"Hopefully this name change will highlight the two areas that our office invests in. Philanthropy is the giving side, working with alumni and friends of the college that give and allow the college to grow," Goshorn said.

Engagement, which is engaging with alumni and students and making sure that Homecoming, Class Reunions and Family Weekend are all attended."

Engagement occurred the weekend of Oct. 1, with Family Weekend being in full swing at the college.

The office has also already executed their efforts to increase student engagement.

On Oct. 5th, students were invited to the front of Main Building at 8 a.m. for Wofford trivia and free coffee to celebrate "A Day for Wofford."

Wofford is a lifelong experience, and the office wants to ensure that current students and alumni understand that Wofford is a part of their life still, no matter where they may find themselves.

Caroline Eddy '23 is already looking forward to coming back to campus as an alumna.

"I plan on attending my class reunions and homecomings," Eddy said. "I am really excited to come back to Wofford and see the changes that will be made for years to come."

OPE hopes that this name change will emphasize their engagement work with alumni and students such as Eddy, who are eager to keep their love of Wofford alive.

The office has also been working with the alumni associations throughout the country. Recently, the Wofford club of the Lowcountry held a "Lowcountry Summer Send-

off" on Aug. 21 in Charleston. They are hoping to continue organizing more events such as this to bring together the Wofford community, no matter where they are located.

Philanthropically, the Office works to build scholarship funds, increase opportunities for current students, further the Lifelong Learning Program, connect students and alumni and improve the overall Wofford experience.

Events such as "A Day for Wofford" work to raise the financial means to establish new scholarship programs, research and student internship opportunities, study abroad experiences and more possibilities.

Overall, the Office of Philanthropy and Engagement is optimistic about the name change. They are looking forward to focusing on improving engagement with students and alumni and working to raise funds to provide opportunities and programs that work to better Wofford as a whole.

The Office of Philanthropy and Engagement is located in the Papadopoulos Building.

For more information, please visit the office's website or email them at engage@wofford.edu

McAlpin Ott, staff writer

Potential dangers in Wofford parking lots



Photo by Caroline Parker

Campus Safety urges the importance of locking car doors and students taking their keys with them.

Wofford students become more aware of everyday dangers unknown to them, even from the smallest of places.

Right now at Wofford, much attention has been drawn to student parking, as there have been break-ins and damage done to vehicles on campus.

Students are responsible for protecting their own property, including their vehicles if they choose to keep one on campus.

Despite the Wofford student body's more recent attention to the break-ins, Director of Campus Safety Dwayne Harris maintains that these incidents are no anomaly in comparison to recent years.

"The number of car break-ins that have taken place this year is consistent with what we've seen in the past," Harris said.

Additionally, Harris mentioned that none of the reported thefts have involved locked vehicles, suggesting student negligence to be a possible cause.

It appears that the key to preventing car break-ins may lie in the key to the car itself.

Even so, some Wofford parking lots are more prone to theft than others.

"The parking lot for the Arts Center is on the perimeter of campus and alongside a city street. It can be

easily accessible," Harris said.

Due to the parking lots' low lighting at night and spaciousness, campus safety is stressing the importance of locking cars and removing valuables from sight.

As there has been little observable difference in the number of car break-ins from previous years, and the incidents appear to be relatively preventable, Campus Safety have only made minor changes in regards to parking lot security.

"We haven't changed our policies," Harris said, "but we continue to increase patrols of campus parking lots and monitoring surveillance cameras. We also stress the importance of locking cars."

Even though the policies put in place are made for the benefit of all the students driving on campus, there are external dangers that cannot be controlled, and therefore students must take steps to protect their personal belongings.

If the extent of the break-ins and the security protocol remains essentially the same to previous years, what has sparked the current buzz among students?

According to several student reports, the thefts are being carried out by some unlikely offenders.

"The car next to mine happened to

be unlocked and there was a group of kids checking door handles on the car, and they opened the door and stole some of the belongings out of the car," said Connor Kiggins '26.

The group of minors then proceeded to slam the car door into Kiggins's car door, making a dent and causing some damage to the rear quarter panel of his car.

This, however, was not the only alleged actions of minors being mischievous on campus and breaking into multiple students' cars.

Jordan Jackson '26 suffered an early morning wake up at 2 a.m. to be told his car had been broken into at the same location as Kiggins'.

"Campus Safety told me my car was broken into in the parking lot behind the environmental building, so I had to walk down there and make sure nothing was stolen and nothing was," Jackson said.

Gabby Gecan, staff writer

Nola Webb, contributing writer

WHAT'S UP AT WOFFORD?

The importance of the American Dream, guest speaker Mike Rogers



Photo by Woods Wooten

Mike Rogers giving his speech on the American dream to Wofford students and the community.

Mike Rogers, former congressman for Michigan's 8th District and former chair of the House Intelligence Committee, spoke to Wofford students and the Spartanburg community on Oct. 4 as part of the Hipp Lecture Series on International Affairs and National Security.

The series was founded in 2011 to "create signature events at Wofford with the goal of capturing the

attention of students and the public while drawing them into important conversations on applying American leadership and ideals to the challenges of international affairs past, present and future," according to Wofford College's website.

Rogers' lecture, "The Importance of the American Dream at Home and Abroad," was chosen to be part of this series for multiple reasons.

"Given the rising concerns about national security posed by threats from abroad and anxieties regarding America's competitiveness in relation to other nations, Van Hipp felt that Mike Rogers' expertise on the subject as the former Chair of the House Intelligence Committee would be a timely subject for our students," said David Alvis, associate professor of government.

Rogers spoke on the threats from North Korea, Russia, China and Iran to the United States' national security and how a major issue in this is the literacy crisis going on in America.

"In the 8th grade, students in China are learning quantum mechanics while back in America, 70% of students cannot read at their grade level," Rogers said.

With the significant difference in education between the nations, it is becoming increasingly difficult to align our policies. Rogers also asserted that there is also a growth in hatred throughout the media and that as a nation, we have lost focus

on the positive and only focus on the negative.

Rogers is a believer in the idea that anyone can make a positive difference if they stand up for what they believe in and do not give up on themselves.

Rogers also sees importance in bringing such issues to a small liberal arts college.

"In the past, America has had big challenges that allowed us all to remember what brought us together, which is the idea that in America, we are bigger than our problems," Rogers said. "Recently, we have forgotten that we are bigger than our problems and it has hurt our politics, but we need to remember that we are strong and are not afraid."

With the supply chain problem and struggles with China, many people are wondering how it will affect South Carolina's manufacturing industry.

"We need to continue to produce things here at home; this is the dawn of a new age; we have to build things here and protect what's here," Rogers

said. "It is not just the capacities, it is the capabilities."

Rogers' stop in Spartanburg is part of his travels around the country in the last year, promoting a message of hope in American politics, attempting to promote optimism in our nation's political state.

"We want to ignite the American dream again within people, and let them know that there are doors opening and opportunities for people that did not exist fifty years ago," Rogers said. "Candidly, I want Americans to fall in love with America again."

He believes that as long as there is trust in our system, America will continue to prosper.

As a message to college students and the future generations, Rogers wants them to know that every piece of hope is still in America, and that "this is a place that people are risking their lives to get to because something special happens here."

Julia Allen, managing editor

Old Gold & Black Word Search

H N C C C A R S T E N S A A B
 F I O H R O Z K B H I O C L X
 S K T O L Z Y E V L D U K L S
 R L C W Y L I E K P U T W E K
 J A S L O C K H A R T H R N J
 I X D K G R C M R I L W X J T
 T K V O E W M B V T T O Z V I
 C G W B T Z I S R R D O K W H
 C G V K U T H L I E V D N E O
 D G G Z E M E W L I W H W B F
 F E B K Y K T E O I N E S B F
 T C F I K Q H Q A O A U R U M
 G A F R C E C M M M T M B L A
 T N T K Z B O U J X U E S H N
 N O G U R V X I Z H E O N L S

Southwood
 Hoffman
 Wooten
 Gecan

Lockhart
 Hethcox
 Brewer
 Webb

Williams
 Carsten
 Wylie

Kirk
 Ott
 Allen

FROM THE PUB ROOM

We want YOU to join our staff!



Photo by Anna Lee Hoffman
Be sure to reach out to be a part of this award-winning publication.

Have you ever had something so interesting to share, but no way to share it?

Have you ever written something so compelling that you feel the world should hear it, but had no way to make that happen?

I guess the better question here is: Have you ever wondered how to submit an article to *The Old Gold & Black*?

We accept open submissions to every single issue. What does that mean? It means that you simply have to email your article, 600 words in length and unbiased, to woffordoldgoldandblack@gmail.com, and in two(ish) short weeks, you will see it in print.

We suggest that anyone who wants to consistently contribute to the paper attends our weekly meetings at noon in the Publications Room of Dupre Residence Hall, located right behind Main Building.

If meetings aren't your thing, find our distribution schedule below. The date an article is due will be the last day you can send in an article for it to appear in the issue of the corresponding distribution date.

Issue one was due Sept. 15. We distributed on Sept. 27.

Issue two was due Sept. 29. We distributed on Oct. 11. (Hey, that's today!)

Issue three will be due Oct. 13. We will distribute on Oct. 25.

Issue four will be due Oct. 27. We will distribute on Nov. 8.

Issue five will be due Nov. 10. We will distribute on Nov. 29. With this issue being so prolonged because of Thanksgiving, articles must remain relevant for the next three weeks after you turn them in.

Issue six, our final issue for semester one, will be due Dec. 1. We will distribute on Dec. 13.

Issue seven will be due Feb. 16. We will distribute on Feb. 28.

Issue eight will be due March 2. We will distribute on March 14.

Issue nine will be due March 16. We will distribute on March 28.

Issue ten, Old Black & Blue, will be due March 30. We will distribute on April 18. This will also be a three-week period, but it's our satire issue, so finding relevance should not be of any concern.

Issue eleven will be due April 20. We will distribute on May 2.

Issue twelve, our final issue for the 2022-2023 academic year, will be due May 4. We will distribute on May 16.

Typically, we do not change this schedule, but we will be sure to republish this schedule on our Instagram page, @oldgoldandb.

Please do not hesitate to reach out

via the same email listed above if you have any comments or questions about this.

If you find that you have a topic that you would like to see written, what we call a "pitch," but simply don't have the time or interest in writing it yourself, please send it to that same address, and we will give it to one of our writers.

We also take submissions for more creative works by members of the Wofford community or opinion pieces about prevalent issues on campus. Anything you feel we should include; we are willing to consider!

We are here to serve you, all members of the Wofford community, and want to make sure that what we are putting out is what you would like to read

Brandi Wylie, editor-in-chief



Old Gold & Black staff and contributors

Old Gold & Black Staff

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SCAN ME

Check out our online exclusives here!

"Traditionally, Untraditional"

The *Old Gold & Black* is published by Wofford students for Wofford students, continuing a tradition dating back to 1915.

Unsigned editorials reflect the opinions of the editorial board, unless otherwise noted. Opinions do not necessarily reflect the views of the administration, the faculty or the students of Wofford College. Letters to the editor should be emailed to the editors at (woffordoldgoldandblack@gmail.com) and should not exceed 300 words.

The staff reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity. In addition, the *Old Gold & Black* staff encourages students to submit original works of art, creative writing and photography to be included in the paper. These submissions may also be sent to the editors. If you feel the newspaper has been inaccurate or unfair, please contact the editor.

Read *Old Gold & Black* online at woffordogb.com