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WOFFORD COLLEGE

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Rebounding? Basketball program restores school spirit after coaching controversy

Nola Webb '26
Staff Writer

The men's basketball program has faced nothing short of an unpredictable series of events since their impressive accomplishments in the 2024-25 season.

After unexpectedly landing themselves in the final, the men's basketball team snagged the SOCON championship title in an intense game against Wofford's longtime athletic rival, Furman University. The Terriers then found themselves in the NCAA tournament for the first time since 2019. Although Wofford fell to their first-round opponent, Tennessee, their appearance in the NCAA tournament revived the sense of pride for the program.

Wofford's success at the SOCON championship game in Asheville was undoubtedly fueled by the overwhelming amount of fans in attendance and the energy that spewed from the student section. This outpour of school spirit is what made the events that followed all the more disheartening and worrisome.

After Wofford's March Madness appearance, the men's team was left with very few returning players, as most either graduated or entered the transfer portal in the spring. However, former Head Coach Dwight Perry was quick to recruit an entirely new team before the fall semester began.

Yet, the Terrier's troubles did not end here. After a brief controversy

over student housing for these new players, Perry was let go. This event again pulled Wofford basketball into an uncomfortable spotlight and left the rebuilt roster without a leader.

Now, the Wofford team is fully refurbished with the hiring of Head Coach Kevin Giltner '12. Giltner, a Wofford Basketball alum himself, has seen great success both as a player and as an assistant coach at Virginia Tech.

It seems the team's work may not be over. With school spirit and confidence left slightly shaken by the uncertainty since March Madness, the basketball program's next hurdle is rebuilding student support before the upcoming season.

On Thursday, Oct. 23, the team took a leap in this direction, hosting the first-ever "Old Main Madness," on the seal in the heart of Wofford's campus. This event featured a DJ, emcee, dance and cheer performances, food trucks, giveaways and interactive games with the men's and women's basketball teams.

In an inspiring opening remark, Giltner expressed his hopes for the upcoming season, most notably urging students to support the Terriers at as many home games as possible.

"We need you guys to be everyday fans," Giltner said when addressing the students and local fans at Old Main Madness.

Giltner pointed out that the college has one of the nicest basketball arenas in the country that is within

walking distance for the majority of students, leaving little reason to not have attendance similar to that at the SOCON tournament for every regular season game. He too, seemed to believe that the cheers from fans were integral to the team's success in the SOCON tournament last year, and their support could be the missing piece to another great season.

Old Main Madness was a great chance for fans to see the energy of the new players and coaching staff. This event, like Wofford basketball games, was incredibly accessible and almost difficult for students on their way to Burwell or the library to avoid.

Caroline Gargano '26 was one of the many students to attend.

"After that event, I'm feeling energized and excited for the season," Gargano said, "You can tell the team is super excited to be here."

It seems like the men's team has the power to create the narrative for their season, with no remnants of the past season besides their fan base.

The men's and women's non-conference schedules both feature six home games in the Jerry Richardson Indoor Stadium throughout November and December. Longtime fans and curious minds alike are surely eager to see what the new season brings, especially after such a tumultuous recent course for the men's team.

photos by Hailey Hirter
Wofford's men's and women's basketball teams joined in forces for Old Main Madness. Basketball restores its name after an unexpected start to the school year.



Craig Melvin Scholarship gives students the opportunity of a lifetime

Brooke Meltcher '27
Contributing Writer

McKinley High '27 and Brice Woodhouse '27 were awarded opportunities of a lifetime thanks to Craig Melvin and his scholarship. Craig Melvin, a familiar face to many as the lead anchor of The Today Show and NBC News, is a 2001 graduate of Wofford College. On Monday, Nov. 3, the two students were able to personally thank Melvin for his generosity during a visit to NBC studios in New York City.

During his time at Wofford, Melvin was a member of the Kappa Sigma fraternity and majored in government. Although he never had the chance to study abroad, Melvin is

now giving back in a remarkable way. He and his wife, Lindsay, created the Lindsay and Craig Melvin Fund to support Wofford students participating in study abroad programs.

High and Woodhouse's trip to NBC studios allowed them to thank Melvin in person for the opportunities his scholarship will open for them and his generosity to the Wofford community.

However, this visit was a surprise to Melvin, who had no idea who the recipients of his scholarship were, making this moment even more special.

"The reaction on his (Melvin's) face was my favorite part ... when the videos started playing of (McKinley

and then went on to me, and then when we walked out, how emotional he got to see how it affected our lives ... that was the best part," Woodhouse said.

"You saw the gloss in his eyes, like up close ... and to see him watch it for the first time ... since it is random, he doesn't know who gets it," High said.

Just as it was a surprise for Melvin to meet High and Woodhouse, the two students were equally shocked when they learned they had been selected for the scholarship.

"I was shocked. I immediately called my family, told them about it, and they were super happy for me, but I really had no idea ... I was over the moon knowing the trip would be

a little bit cheaper for me," Woodhouse said.

Unlike most scholarships, the Craig Melvin Scholarship does not require an application, essay or specific qualifications. Instead, it is awarded to random students who plan to study abroad and attend Wofford.

"It was like a pool. Everyone who applied to study abroad was put in and we were just randomly selected," High said.

"If you're going abroad, it doesn't matter if you've been once, if you've been three times, you're eligible for the scholarship," Woodhouse said.

High has already used her scholarship to study abroad in Morocco during Interim last year.

"It changed my perspective of travel

too. I think it taught me more about travels, more about the people you meet, opposed to the places you see or the sights you see. That was a huge takeaway of my trip," High said.

Woodhouse will be using his scholarship this upcoming Interim to study in Germany.

Thanks to Craig Melvin and his generosity, any Wofford student has the chance to receive this scholarship and experience the life changing opportunity of studying abroad.

For High and Woodhouse, their gratitude towards Melvin runs deep. "Thank you for blessing so many students... and to lift the financial burden that comes with traveling abroad. Thank you so much," High said.

Painting people, building community

SK Saggi '26
Managing Editor

As one of the recipients of the Whetsell Fellowship, Lyrical Gist '26 is preparing for her upcoming solo exhibition in February. Over the summer, Gist conducted research under the mentorship of Dr. Rebecca Forstater, associate professor of studio art, to generate new bodies of work tailored to her artistic approach.

As part of this fellowship, Gist traveled to New York City, where she visited museums and spoke with artists and curators. Now she is spending the fall semester creating pieces and further expanding on her research.

When asked about the inspiration behind her exhibition, Gist explained that the people around her have been essential to her growth and identity.

"I wanted this to be very community based and talk about the importance of a support system. I'm doing portraits to kind of honor people in my support system," Gist said.

Each painting in the upcoming exhibition reflects the unique aura of a specific friend or family member. These works began as finger paintings, a technique Gist uses to enhance her sense of connections with her subjects.

With guidance from her mentor, she developed the idea of centering her show around the people who are important to her.

"I feel more connected with the canvas and because the whole show is about connection and the people

who I'm connected with, getting my hands in the paint, and then painting these people who I care about so much with my hands feels more intricate and intimate than it would with a paint brush," Gist said.

Although Gist is confidently making progress in her exhibition process, she admits the concept was not clear from the start. The idea emerged while she was making art alongside her sister and discovered how much she enjoyed painting her hands for its expressiveness.

When asked how she wants the audiences to feel upon entering the exhibition space, Gist shares that she hopes they feel as if they are stepping into a new world. The exhibition space will use bright colors to create the colorful world we experienced as children.

Gist describes the experience she's putting together as playful, childlike joy and comfort.

"It's not a very exhibition format, but I like that because it kind of feels like when you're walking up the stairs of your grandma's house and you see all these like pictures on the staircase," Gist said.

Her exhibition will not just include paintings on the wall, Gist aims for her visitors to have the opportunity to interact with the artwork. At the exhibition, visitors will find an interactive table inviting them to draw someone important to them. These drawings will then be displayed on a wall, allowing everyone to contribute to the evolving artwork.

For those who do not want to dabble into their artistic side, a note box

will also be available for guests to leave messages to encourage this connection with community members.

"Even if you don't really know who you're connecting with, it kind of just shows that there is a thread throughout all of us," Gist said.

The show will be in the Richardson Family Art Gallery at Wofford's Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts on Feb. 2, 2026. A reception will be held on Feb. 12, 2026 where Gist will present a talk relating to her exhibition.



photos by Mark Olencki
Whetsell Fellow, Lyrical Gist '26, sits before her vibrant, in-progress paintings. She will present the full collection in a solo exhibition opening early in the spring semester.

What is the Miss Wofford Scholarship Pageant?

Catherine Lesesne '26
Staff Writer

The Miss Wofford Scholarship Pageant has grown in popularity since Promise Henry '25 founded it in 2022. It began with her involvement in the Miss South Carolina Collegiate Pageant. The following recipients of the scholarship chronologically were Charlotte Barker '24, Meredith Cook '26, and now Addison Sapp '27.

"I went in with a super open mindset and I knew that whatever happens happens, and I was just thankful to do it," Sapp said.

Sapp, currently a member of the dance team, orientation staff, Wofford Activities Council and TriBeta, was involved in pageants in high school due to her love of dance and showing her talent. Wofford's Campus Union allocated \$2,000 towards the scholarship recipient. This generous reward helped propel her deeper involvement in the Spartanburg community.

"I am already doing a lot with Wofford, so this was a great way to get more involved. I'm really excited to see the creativity this year, like the 'fun fashion' portion," Sapp said.

Sapp shares that holding this title

has created opportunities she had not anticipated.

"People might think there's too much to do for it but really it is just one of the most rewarding experiences to be able to represent Wofford in a way I didn't think I'd be able to when I came to Wofford," Sapp said. "I get to do so much and advocate for things I wouldn't be able to normally advocate for if I didn't have this title, so it has opened a lot of doors for me and has been such a memorable and fun experience."

This year the event will take place on Feb. 8, 2026, before sorority recruitment begins. Tickets are around \$10-15 and will take place in Leonard Auditorium.

In addition to being highly involved on campus, Sapp owns her own custom banner business, "Designs by Adds." What began as a love for interior design and attention to detail became a flourishing business of selling banners for various events. Frequently sold banners include ones that celebrate birthdays, classroom parties, sorority events and graduation parties.

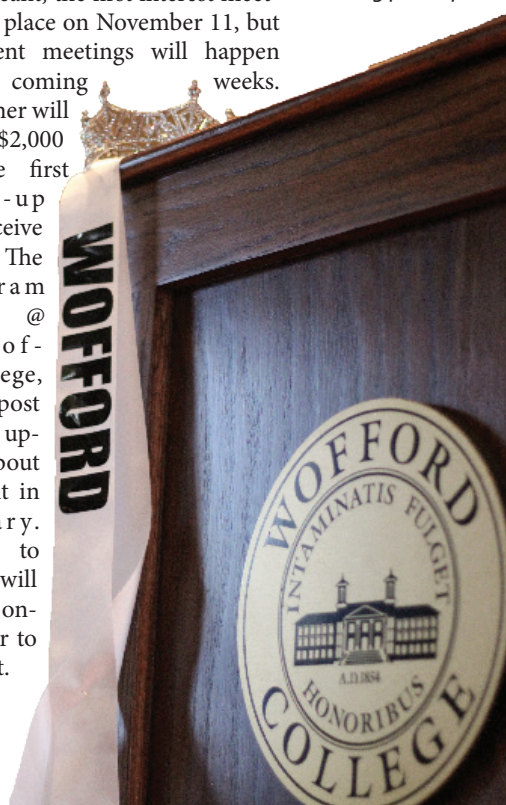
"Designs by Adds" grew attention following the Miss Wofford pageant, and both efforts extend beyond the Wofford community.

"I was advocating for people to get involved and start volunteering throughout the Spartanburg community, and they liked that after seeing the importance of it," Sapp said.

If interested in competing in the next pageant, the first interest meeting took place on November 11, but subsequent meetings will happen in the coming weeks.

The winner will receive \$2,000 and the first runner-up will receive \$500. The Instagram account, @misswoffordcollege, will post regular updates about the event in February. Tickets to attend will go live online prior to the event.

photos by Hailey Hirter
Promise Henry '25 created The Miss Wofford Scholarship Pageant in 2022. This pageant provides scholarships to winning participants.



VOICES

Wofford College: Shady or secure?

Darcy Phillips '27
Staff Writer

In recent months, concerns over security on college campuses have increased. In response to recent shootings, threats and swatting hoaxes on college campuses, South Carolina's House of Representatives Higher Education Subcommittee joined state universities to discuss an increase in safety measures to better protect students. Should Wofford consider an increase in safety measures as well?

Fortunately, Wofford has seemingly been free from extreme security issues such as these. However, some recurring security issues that Wofford faces are car thefts, break-ins and vandalism. Occasionally these issues go unresolved due to lack of security camera coverage in parking lots and on streets close to Wofford's campus. This also means that when cars are damaged, students may feel unsure about how to file insurance claims.

Raffy Castilla '27, a biology and French double major on the pre-med track, recounts an experience from her freshman year in which her car had been damaged in the arts building parking lot.

"I went to my car, and the entire back was scratched up. Everything else looked fine until I tried to open my car door and the door handle just

fell completely off. I went to campus safety, and they said they had cameras in that parking lot but didn't have any (cameras) getting the exact angle of where my car was parked," Castilla said.

Castilla shares that this experience was scary for her as a freshman in college, who wasn't sure what to do about it. She recalls how freaked out and upset she was because she expected that there would be cameras all over the parking lot, especially because the campus is open to the street.

Other students have cited similar experiences in which their vehicles (including electric bikes and scooters) have been broken into, damaged or stolen.

Based on the Wofford College Campus Safety Crime and Incident Reports, there have been recurring incidents of this type of crime.

Provided below are incidents of vehicle theft, or that of a similar nature or crimes committed in parking lots across campus:

2024: 1 Motor Vehicle Theft

2023: 6 Motor Vehicle Thefts

2022: 1 Armed Robbery/Kidnapping, 8 thefts from motor vehicle, 1 vehicle break in, 5 motor vehicle thefts, 4 larcenies from a motor vehicle

2021: 6 thefts from a motor vehicle, 2 vandalisms to a vehicle, theft of auto parts, 5 thefts of motor vehicle

2020: 1 vehicle theft, 1 car break-

ing, 1 theft from vehicle, various incidences of vandalism occurring in parking lots

As of 2025, there have been 4 instances of breaking and entering, 1 instance of trespassing and 1 instance of motor vehicle theft. The breaking and entering instances and motor vehicle theft all occurred in the arts center parking lot.

These incidents clearly indicate that there must be greater security implemented in

photo by Ellie Warren
Security around campus at Wofford consists of cameras and Campus Police; is that enough?



parking lots, especially in the parking lot behind the Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts and Memorial Drive directly behind it where cameras do not sufficiently survey the entire area.

Because Wofford College is not a closed campus, this poses certain risks for students that must be consistently addressed by campus safety. The process of ensuring campuses be free of crime and violence of any

kind must be continuous and collaborative in nature. Wofford College Campus Safety must work with students who have experienced crime of any kind, for instances like these to be prevented in the future.

Wofford College's Campus Safety did not respond to inquiries from The Old Gold and Black on these issues.

The disappearance of Chick-Fil-A: What comes next?

Caroline Kennemur '26
Staff Writer

The beloved Chick-Fil-A on campus will be closing at the end of this academic year after over thirty years. The decision was not made by the college, but rather Chick-Fil-A's corporate office. They made the decision to close all licensed locations that were earning less than \$1,000,000 in yearly revenue, unfortunately taking out the location in Zach's. The Chick-Fil-A on campus was only bringing in about \$600,000 in revenue each year.

AVI representatives have been in contact with Chick-Fil-A concerning a renovation and working to make it happen, and then the corporate office made their decision.

"A few weeks went by after the conversation and that is when we learned," one representative said.

Students and AVI representatives met Monday to discuss the closing and next steps.

"We wanted to hear input from the students and what they are interested in having on campus," another AVI representative said.

According to these representatives, Wofford is not the only college to be affected by this change. Several other colleges around the country will no longer have Chick-Fil-A.

"This was a system-wide decision

and not something that Wofford could control," one representative said.

Chick-Fil-A decided to focus on their more high income, standalone restaurants.

At the meeting, students and representatives conversed about potential new dining options in Zach's. An initial survey drew around 50 responses, with the most popular ones being Chipotle, Moe's Southwest Grill and Cava. Unfortunately, getting an on-campus Chipotle will not be possible because the company does not operate on campus locations, only bigger franchises. Other options include Raising Canes, Dave's Hot Chicken and more.

"We have reached out to a few different restaurants, and Raising Canes and Tzaziki's have shown interest," said a representative.

Another idea that was presented at the meeting was a brand new Wofford restaurant, similar to the Galleria. A working name was Terrier Eats.

"We could create our own concept, a place where we could rotate different menus and meals and make it unique to our campus," another representative said.

With an independent approach, the college could adjust the menu to what the students want and have more flexibility. With a nation-

al franchise, it would be harder to change or add things to the menu. However, some concerns were voiced about quality control and brand recognition, along with a possible wait.

"People like Chick-Fil-A because it's quick. At Boars Head, you are waiting in line for around ten minutes," one student voiced.

With Chick-Fil-A, the food is sitting on the counter ready for students to eat, making it a quick option for a meal between classes.

Another option students suggested were foods like poke bowls, Mediterranean dishes, and fried rice, along with local Spartanburg restaurants to bring Wofford closer to the community.

"We don't want the same types of food at every dining hall on campus or we will get tired of it," another student said.

One point brought up was that a new restaurant could even be open on Sundays, which drew some laughs around the room.

The decision on what will replace



photo by Caroline Parker

Students wait in the Chick-Fil-A line for french fries, as they know that the beloved meal will not be on campus next year. Chick-Fil-A is a campus-wide favorite, and students were saddened to hear about its closing at the end of this year.

Chick-Fil-A will ultimately be guided by the students. AVI representatives and Wofford officials plan to meet with the Campus Union representatives to get their opinions and make a final decision. Minor renovations will occur over the summer, with the new dining option presenting in Zach's in the fall of 2026.

"It's sad to see Chick-Fil-A go, but

this is a good opportunity to try something new. We want a place that students can enjoy and be proud of," one representative concluded.

Students can continue to share their thoughts and feedback by emailing marketing@wofford.edu or by contacting their Campus Union representatives.

FROM THE PUB ROOM

Roaming around Rome: study abroad post midterms

Abby Taylor '27
Staff Writer

Hey hey! The last time that we caught up I was headed into the peak of midterms here in Granada and had a trip to Rome planned, and I'm happy to report that all went well (I think)!

I had midterms for my religion and government classes, and was a bit more nervous for the religion midterm than for government. I haven't gotten grades back for either of them yet, but I walked out of both of them feeling good about them.

For government, I had to write one

essay and two short answer questions for the midterm and for religion, there were true or false, matching, and six short answer questions.

In this format of testing, because having short answer or essay questions helps me to convey that I studied even if I'm not completely sure about answering the question in full, I can write about what I do remember and show that I know at least some of the material that we learned in class and that I studied.

Now, it's just waiting for the grades to come back, but since I feel good about both of them I'm expecting at the very least a B- on both of them,

which I would definitely be happy with. Usually I'm the type of person who shoots for A's, but I'm using this semester abroad to focus more on other parts of life and learning that grades and school isn't everything.

The weekend trip to Rome was absolutely amazing, I got to see so much of the city and learn more about its history. It was also my first solo trip of the semester which was scary and fun at the same time.

I did walking tours of both the Vatican and the Colosseum, on different days of course, and it was so cool to see the places that I've learned about in history classes. It was amazing to

see the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican with Michelangelo's paintings and the quietness of the chapel compared to other parts of the Vatican.

I also ate so much good food, between pasta and pizza and gelato, there was literally no way to go wrong. My meals in Rome also made me realize that I've started to become accustomed to the pace of the meals here in Spain, and Europe in general.

When eating in Rome, I would sit and people watch while I sipped on my glass of wine, waiting for my food to come out. I would eat slowly and then sit for a while after eating, just enjoying the atmosphere.

Being here in Spain has definitely helped me slow down in many ways, between meal times and life in general, and I'd say it's helped me learn more about myself in that I enjoy this slower pace of life compared to the fast pace that is ingrained in US culture. There are many things that I love about the fast pace of the US, but I've learned I need to balance it a little better with slowing down in some areas of my life.

That's all I have for now, but I'll keep y'all updated with anything new next time. Hasta luego!

Helene and Melissa can bring us together for much needed relief

Lillian Galloway '29
Staff Writer

I have only paid attention to weather changes when it either inconvenienced me or was historically significant.

The heat this summer was an inconvenience, and Hurricane Helene was extremely historically significant.

Most of my community in the upmost upstate corner of South Carolina wasn't affected like Western North Carolina was.

Our relief efforts consisted of going to the family friend's house to help them move the tree out of their driveway or letting friends use the gas stove in your home.

Asheville, however, was completely devastated, and with so many businesses losing their ability to produce anything, all of the South that relied on Asheville's major businesses were affected.

Fortunately in the year past since Helene we have seen major reform and relief efforts made for Western North Carolina's favor.

Many programs and institutions have contributed to Helene relief efforts, even a year later after the fact. Liberty University deployed teams of students and faculty to rebuild homes.

Operation Airdrop contributed the necessities for those trapped in the mountains.

Western Carolina University located in Cullowhee, NC, has dedicated their 2025 marching band show to the community created from the tragic aftermath of Helene.

Helene will remain infamous in the South Eastern most of the United States.

The results from the disaster can still be seen in the beloved places of the South: the Blue Ridge Parkway, Asheville's French Broad River and our Great Smoky mountains.

Simply put, Helene devastated us due to our lack of "resources" to combat such a storm. Geography in the Appalachian area causes dangerous flooding and landslides to occur commonly, and with Helene's power combined, the results were deadly to communities.

The issue is now that we see every community with a lack of resources being affected by natural disasters profoundly.

After Hurricane Melissa hit Jamaica on Oct. 28, the stricken families on the island are now an example of the need of relief like that that was given to Western NC.

Melissa as a Category 5 storm covered the entire island, and its wind speeds hold a new record for highest

and fastest acceleration known in the history of weather-recordkeeping.

The state of emergency called in Jamaica was so overwhelming that many people were either stranded or separated from their families.

Experts had warned prior to the storm's landfall about the severity of its impact, but seeking refuge became a panic within itself.

Now, there are businesses and homes scattered across the island and all infrastructure lost. The situation is a reflection of Helene with possibly worse implications. Not only that, but both of these storms could reflect a rising concern relating to how climate change is beginning to show itself.

If our communities were ravaged by Helene, I think we can look at the Caribbean countries and understand where humanity should play a role in this. The disasters caused by climate change won't be changing soon, but the way our societies interact together to find relief should change.

The support organizations and universities have shown Western NC should apply to the Hurricane Melissa victims as well.



photo by Mark Olencki
Hurricane Melissa recently brought devastation to Jamaica. Last fall, Hurricane Helene made its way through Wofford's campus.

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