



OLD GOLD & BLACK

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WOFFORD COLLEGE

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Supporting our community through grief: New Wellness Center support group

Caroline Kennemur '26
Staff Writer

This semester the staff at the Wellness Center staff introduced a new grief support group designed to help students going through the loss of a loved one. After noticing an increase in students going through a grieving process, they felt it was time to create a space for healing.

"We noticed that many students had recently lost family or close friends this semester. We have always known that grief groups can be a good support for people, but until recently we did not believe that there were enough students interested in a group for one to be formed," Kellie Buckner '01, a counselor on campus, said.

This newly formed group aims to comfort students and offers a safe space for them to connect with others in a similar situ-

ation. With the holidays coming up, feelings of sadness can often come up more than usual.

"We hope this group will provide a space for students to feel supported and cared for – especially with the upcoming holidays," Tye Tindal '08, a co-leader of the group, said.

Currently the group meets every Monday at 4 p.m. and will switch to a biweekly schedule in the spring semester. Attendance is flexible; students can come whenever they are able in regards to their busy schedules and do not have to attend every session.

"Students can reach out to let us know they are planning to attend but are not required to attend every session. Come if you're able," Tiara Woney, another co-leader and counselor, said.

The group is open to all students, regardless of where they are in their grief journey. They are

different each session.

"Each session has a framework to start discussion that can adapt to meet the needs of that day," Perry Henson '96, another counselor, said.

On arrival, students are asked to fill out a confidentiality agreement to ensure that everything said in the group will stay in the group. Further, students only need to share what they are comfortable sharing.

"We hope that students navigating any type of loss will have an increased sense of belonging and support while they are attempting to process their grief experience," Woney said.

The Wellness Center hopes that the new group will offer students a new sense of connection during a difficult time.

"We hope that students navigating any type of loss will have an increased sense of belonging and support while they are attempting to pro-

cess their grief experience," Tindal said.

Measuring the success of the group can be difficult, but the counselors believe that participation is a sign of growth and that students are meeting their needs. Students can learn about the group through flyers, daily announcements, emails and just through contacting the Wellness Center.

"Anyone can join the group by registering using the QR code provided on our flyer. They may also email Tye or Tiara. We also advertise the group on social media and in the daily announcements," Buckner said.

For students who may be unsure about joining, the counselors and leaders encourage reaching out.

"We encourage everyone to come and experi-

ence the group. There is no pressure to share but people can benefit just from being present in the room. We just want people to feel supported," Buckner said.

Students can also schedule one-on-one sessions with a counselor if they do not feel comfortable in a group through the Wellness Center portal.

"Students may choose to begin an ongoing counseling relationship by scheduling a first-time appointment. If they believe that they only want to speak to someone one-two times, they may choose to schedule a solution session instead," Buckner said.

The goal of the grief support group is to remind students that they are never alone and will always have a support system on campus.



photos by Caroline Parker

Counseling services have been offered in the Wellness Center for many years, but the counseling service staff have introduced a Grief support group, Tiarra Worley, Kellie Buckner '01, Tye Tindal '08 and Perry Henson '96 work with the program.

How much more change can Wofford students take?

Darcy Phillips '27
Staff Writer

As the fall 2025 semester winds down, Wofford students continue to be faced with changes in their community.

Chick-fil-A will be leaving this spring, a new president will serve in fall 2026 and the new basketball coach has taken the court. Wofford students cannot help but wonder what change will be made next.

One such change will occur by Interim. Wofford ITS has the plan to disable SMS text and voice call options for Multi-Factor Authentication by the end of this semester. Beginning in January, the Microsoft Authenticator app will be the supported multi-factor authentication method used by Wofford College.

Although a seemingly insignificant change compared to the other changes Wofford students are experiencing, most students admitted to finding this change inconvenient in some way.

Out of 84 respondents, 54 students use an authentication method via cell, either text or phone call, while 30 students use the Microsoft app. The options that the majority of Wofford students use will now be removed. 55% of students thought that this change would be very inconvenient, 22% slightly inconvenient and 23% thought this would be no inconvenience largely because they already use the app.

Jokingly one student responded to this topic this way:

"First, they take Chick-fil-A and now they take the text via phone

away. Next, they take the Row."

Surely the college will not be shutting down the Row, however; this does beg the question of why? Why does ITS feel the need to consolidate multi-factor authentication into one option?

ITS responded to these questions, hoping to provide clarity to Wofford's students:

"SMS and Voice MFA methods are considered among the least secure methods to use in modern MFA. Wofford has had many incidents over the last couple years where one of those methods was used to breach a Wofford account. Retiring both SMS and voice and moving towards Authenticator App and Passkeys allows Wofford to better protect its community and data against bad actors."

ITS explains the dangers of email that Wofford has been dealing with.

"Phishing emails remain the top threat faced by all Wofford community members. Cyber criminals have not only increased the amount of phishing emails; they are also using AI to make them harder to identify. Wofford's email security blocks over 20,000 emails per month categorized as phishing, but still, some get through to user's mailboxes. Password reuse is also a common security risk."

ITS acknowledged that students may feel annoyed but hopes that they will understand the precautions set for success as a community.

"[ITS] is hoping that students realize the benefit of better securing their accounts, not only for them personally, but also that keeping

their account secure helps the Wofford community as a whole."

In order to combat this risk, the simple change to retire SMS and Voice puts us on the path to better securing ourselves and our college.

Overall, students need to feel some degree of security and sameness in their campus community.

One student expressed that she just needs Wofford to be consistent.

"It feels like they are always changing stuff like this."

Of course, change is necessary, and this change does seem to benefit Wofford students overall. However, Wofford must be considerate when bringing about other changes in the future. When such changes occur, Wofford students must be consulted and given space to express potential frustrations.

Are there fewer job opportunities or young adults post-grad?

Catherine Lesesne '26
Staff Writer

As undergraduate students begin to explore their potential interests in the workforce, a primary focus is which fields have the most availability. Students prepare for life after graduation by taking part in internships, work studies, research and other avenues of professional development.

"I think there are a lot of opportunities post-grad, but I will say I have noticed that a lot more companies and employers are looking for individuals with prior experience such as internships and volunteer positions. I think it has pushed college students more into the workforce while in school so that they are able to gain experience, so that it is an easier hiring process," Karis Phillips '26 said.

Phillips, a participant on the Wofford-Converse Master's of Art in Teaching program, plans to teach in Spartanburg after college.

"Teachers are always in need and through Wofford, Spartanburg One and Converse, I have been given the opportunity to continue my educa-

tion with no cost and a guaranteed job right after the program concludes," Phillips said.

However, some seniors and recent college graduates have commented on what seems to be a decline in the availability of jobs post-grad.

"There are less entry level opportunities for young adults post grad. Internships are an option for some people but there isn't a guarantee for a return offer. Of the entry level positions, most require a few years of experience in the field as well, it's just more competitive. A college education isn't nearly enough," Caroline Forest '26, a double major in finance and government, said. "I'm not sure if this is due to macroeconomic factors or AI, likely a mix of both. We have a lot of skilled and intelligent college students graduating and it seems like there just aren't enough jobs. A lot of people are returning home post-grad which is a shift compared to previous generations."

Modern technology provides young adults with platforms such as LinkedIn and Handshake that help aid in the job search. However, such tools are required to cover a variety of fields that are hiring. Many employ-

ers at network events claim that the ability to network is a crucial component in the job search.

"Networking is important because you never know who might meet," Curt McPhail '96, executive director of the Career Center, said, at the Terriers Behind the Brand networking event on Nov. 5. "It is also important to remember that your first job is simply a first job. It is simply a starting off point for where you want to go."

Wofford College's Career Center offers hand-on assistance in looking for internships, volunteer opportunities, and jobs post-grad. Their team looks over resumes and applications, hosts



networking events, helps students prepare for interviews and provides resources that point students closer towards achieving their post-grad and professional goals. More information can be found at careercenter.wofford.edu.

photos by Mark Olencki
As the fall semester comes to an end, the Class of 2026 gathers to celebrate the past few years together. With graduation approaching, students are keeping a close eye on the current job landscape.

Working with the older generations is how you better yourself

Lilian Galloway '29
Staff Writer

We are six generations deep in our modern workforce. Spanning through the Silent Generation to Gen Alpha, roughly 60.2 percent of people aged over 16 are employed. Within the Millennial generation alone, around 76% of millennials are employed.

It's Millennials and Gen Z who started the trend online of the "generational age gap." A technical term to refer to the disparities between generations in the workforce, the generational age gap seems to be growing in recent years.

Gen Z has been a pushing force in the workforce with revolutionizing

the idea of work-life balance. In addition, Gen Z brings a new understanding of technology and inclusivity in the workplace unlike other generations.

In the 1980s, the nation was forever changed by President Reagan's impact on the economic mindset of his generation. His values passed on through American markets and made the "American Dream" accessible through practices in capitalism.

The effects of his presidency still ring true today; in our lives as college students, many of us have been told we had to get a degree to get a job. This is partially true, as by 2031 around 72% of all jobs will require a college degree.

This will require the majority of

the public to go onto a higher education, which normally promotes well-informed and mindful graduates entering employment after their schooling. If the statistic holds true though, college will need to be made easily accessible.

We are seeing trends of Gen X turning to forums online asking, "why will no one hire me?" Actually, we see many people asking that from all different generations as the job market gets harder to navigate.

But Gen X is a missing gap between Baby Boomers and Millennials in the workforce currently. Hence the videos online stating, "me and someone's dad at work."

It is funny seeing a young, bright employee run circles (literally)

around someone's dad, but it begs the question of what we're losing in the process too. It's known that Gen X makes up a large portion of the current workforce, but the rates are declining as Gen X is often overlooked as employees.

Compared to the Millennials, Gen X are more likely to not receive a promotion due to a workforce favoring the innovation and mindsets of the younger generations. Many Gen X are outraged by this, and understandably so once a detailed account of Gen X is discovered.

Jobs that have been relied upon for years are suddenly lost or underappreciated with many Gen X'ers. As Gen X leaves the workforce, the age gap has surfaced.

Overall, the age gap seems to be taken positively by employees of different ages. Young workers like to talk to older members at their job, whether it be for professional development or human connection.

Though the age gap does not benefit some, it has ushered in a new time for generations that are usually disconnected to find a common ground.

Get involved with OG&B!

Madison Tolomea '26
Editor in Chief

With the fall semester coming to a close, I want to take this time to reflect on these past five months — my last fall semester at Wofford, a time with lots of changes and what the newspaper is up to.

We've recently opened the floor to any alumni wanting to write into the paper.

This is something that had a challenging process getting started, but I'm honored that alumni still care enough about their alma mater to want to contribute to our paper.

While I will never bump a current staffer's article to print these letters, I am excited for everyone to get their spotlight.

It's been an exciting time in the publications room with our paper being named on The Princeton Review's list of "Best College Newspaper." This was determined based on "students' answers to the survey question, "How do you rate your campus newspaper?" so I thank everyone that made this possible.

When thinking about what the future holds for this newspaper, I won't lie. I am nervous about what it will look like once I leave.

We have an incredible and talented staff of editors, writers and photographers, but it is mostly comprised of seniors.

I know the paper will be in great hands under the leadership and guidance of all of the younger staff, but this is my call to urge you if you

are even the tiniest bit interested in getting involved, to reach out to anyone on staff.

My time involved with the Old Gold & Black has been some of my most memorable and humbling. I've made lifelong friendships on this staff and been taught skills that will transfer to any work environment. It's not always easy to work with your peers, but this staff relieves that burden and helps create a paper that makes Wofford proud.

As we only hire twice a year, I urge anyone interested to reach out about being hired in the spring! I want to leave Wofford knowing that the paper is still thriving and has touched more students than before.

When thinking about leaving and graduating, my throat gets tight.

I will leave Wofford reluctantly but grateful for everything it has given me.

I'm excited to see what this upcoming semester has in store for everyone and what Wofford will look like years after I'm gone.

It's an exciting time on campus with the addition of Panhellenic's fifth sorority, Chi Omega, the ongoing hunt for the new president and buzz about dining hall changes.

But I'm most excited to spend my last spring semester, arguably the best of the semesters, taking in everything this place has to offer.

VOICES

AVI serves up a social media rebrand

Nola Webb '26
Staff Writer

“Donut Day?” “Cold Brew Mondays?” “TikTok Night?” These events mean little to those who don’t frequent Wofford’s Burwell Dining Hall. However, to many students, these mealtime holidays can be the shining beacon in Wofford’s limited meal options.

With the recent buzz of the Chick-fil-A closure in Zach’s at the end of the academic year, Wofford AVI Foodsystems has gained some negative attention. With already only a meager three on-campus dining options, relatively few compared to larger colleges, students were rightfully disappointed to learn they would soon be missing a beloved spot. However, this incident is overshadowed by the persistent efforts of AVI and Burwell staff this semester.

Recently, it seems that the Burwell calendar has been fuller than ever of special events and items. Not only is the menu keeping students on their toes, the increased social media presence for AVI at Wofford makes students more eager than ever for their next meal swipe.

So who is behind these enthusiastic and creative efforts? Keith

Tyger, resident director of culinary services at Wofford, shares that a lot of these ideas come from their staff, but now more students than ever are engaging with their team.

Tyger expressed that a longtime struggle for food services at Wofford has been communicating with and getting feedback from the student body. However, at the beginning of this semester, he made a crucial change that has alleviated this problem.

Like many modern-day solutions, Tyger sought to widen this pathway of communication and engagement through the internet, taking on students to run AVI’s social media accounts for Wofford.

One of these students is Jenna Huser '29, who shared she first learned of this opportunity when Tyger came to speak to her FYI class. She was curious about the position; as a freshman, she was unfamiliar with many of Wofford’s on-campus jobs, let alone for the dining hall. However, she claims that so far, the job has been a great fit.

“I thought it would be something that taps into things I already like to do, like creating posts and

event planning,” Huser said.

Tyger shares that he and his team are used to working with students and putting on events, like their bi-annual collaboration with Wofford Activities Council for Late-Night Breakfast. However, he implied that this newfound partnership with the new interns expands the creativity and communication of AVI, crediting them with the idea for “TikTok Night.”

“We’ve had a lot better interaction and outreach. We sent out the fall student survey, and usually we have to do a lot of legwork... to entice students to take the survey... Now, we’re able to use Jenna ... to help with that and engage students and get the word out about surveys and things like that,” Tyger said.

According to both Tyger and Huser, AVI staff and their student team have the joint goal of increasing student engagement, seen clearly in the interns’ efforts to boost social media advertising for these special events and Burwell staff’s willingness to put them on.

Huser expressed that she values the ongoing partnership between herself, as a student, and AVI and the multiple perspectives this provides on the topic of on-campus dining.

For Tyger, he referred to Burwell’s special events as “monotony-breakers” for both staff and students.

“We’re always trying to do things different and have special events to create interest and just to shake it up. And it’s fun for the staff too, to not do the same old stuff every day,” Tyger said.

Students can reach out to AVI at

Wofford with ideas for events or specialty items through their feedback form, available as a QR code on the screens at Burwell, and stay in-the-know about their upcoming events through their Instagram account, @aviserves_wofford.



photo by Addie Porter Rice '26 reaches for a plate from the Smoke and Fire station in Burwell Dining Hall. Burwell has begun incorporating more themed dining experiences in its operations.

Madame Morrible flips into Wicked Witch: A review of “Wicked: For Good”

SK Saggiu '26
Managing Editor

In “Wicked: Part One,” director Jon M. Chu brought the cherished Broadway musical to the big screens with unforgettable performances from Ariana Grande, Cynthia Erivo, Jonathan Bailey and many other esteemed actors.

I went into the first movie with almost no knowledge of the deeper lore that is behind the Wizard of Oz. Sure, my fifth-grade drama class made us enact the play and at ten years old, I wholeheartedly believed the Wicked Witch of the West was the ultimate villain, but to discover that these witches had a backstory was truly exciting. I walked out the theater that day in tears not because of Elphaba’s misunderstood reputation, but because I had to wait a whole year to watch what happens next.

Thankfully, the agonizing wait came to an end when the final part was released on Nov. 21 of this year. I have to admit it was so pleasant to see Johnathan Bailey, recently named People Magazine’s Sexiest Man Alive, bring Fiyero to life with his charismatic sense of yearning for the unexpected yet important character.

The film continues where the first part left off, following Elphaba as

she embraces her destiny, fighting to bring justice to the ousted animals by plotting to expose the Wizard of Oz for who he truly is.

Elphaba’s pursuit of justice drives her into deep isolation while her sister, Nessa, remains unaware of the weight that accompanies her obsession with Boq. It was so refreshing to watch the house fall on top of Nessa; I believe it was an accurate depiction of how someone who abuses power should fade away. The most popular character, Glinda, steps into a new role of leadership where she finds herself perplexed between the choices of fame and justice; ultimately we see her choose loyalty and defend the friendship that changed her for good.

Even though the narrative of the film is set in a fantastical world, I could not help but realize how much of the plot mirrors the realities we face today.

As these characters step into roles they were never meant to lead, the tension in Oz mimics the disorder of the world with propaganda, political division and prejudice. Elphaba becomes vilified for seeking justice for those being wrongfully evicted from the land that is rightfully theirs; Nessa departs more individuals because of her inability to take criticism; Fiyero is punished for standing up against injustice; and

Boq is manipulated into fighting against his own conscience. Together, their arcs expose how easily power can distort the truth.

Most importantly, the Wizard of Oz acts as a dictator, using his ineffective powers to manipulate the citizens of Munchkinland, knowing exactly how to use their ignorance for his benefit.

As a conclusion to the two part saga, “Wicked For Good” tackled all aspects of the story from Elphaba’s journey to justice, Glinda’s evolution into the Good Witch and the Wizard of Oz facing consequences for his unjust decisions.

Now that the film series has come to an end, I already find myself missing the press tour interviews that had everyone questioning what actually happened on the set of the movie, the concept of Cynthia Erivo memes and Johnathan Bailey’s thirst trap edits.

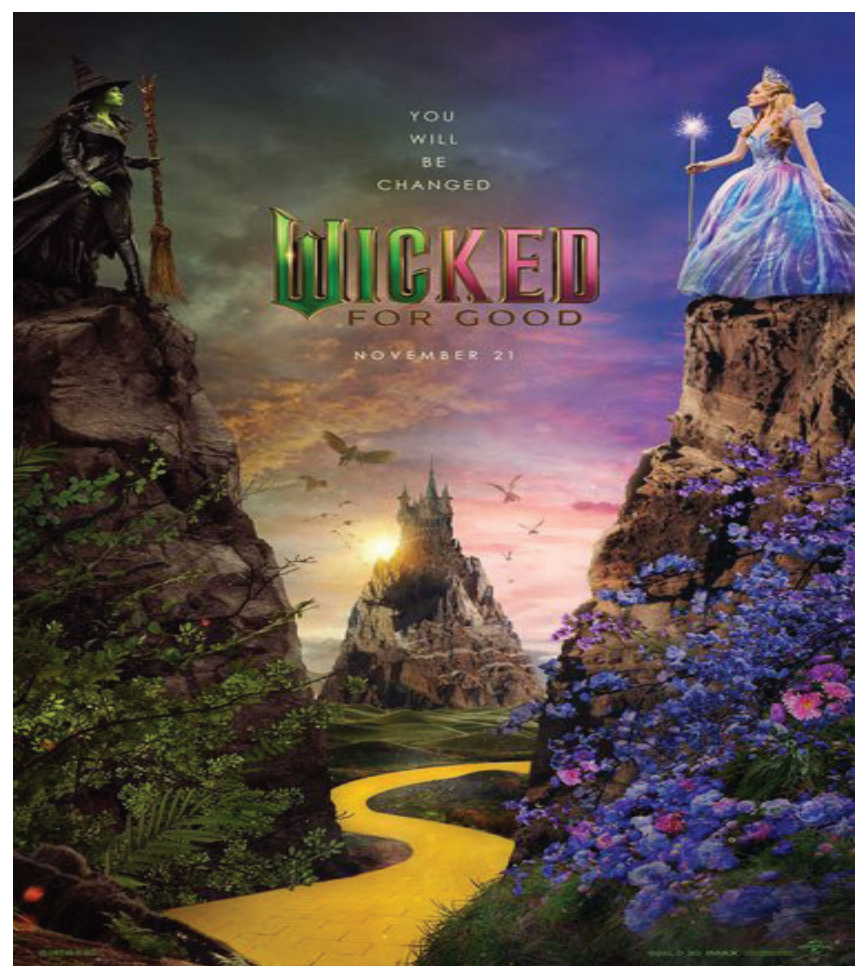


photo via Universal Pictures

FROM THE PUB ROOM

Closing time on my semester abroad

Abby Taylor '27
Staff Writer

Hey hey! For being the last time I'm taking y'all along with me abroad this semester, this article is definitely going to be an interesting one, solely owing to the fact that I recently spent 8 hours in a hospital here in Spain.

How did I end up in the hospital, some may ask. Well, it turns out that falling on the street and hitting your head hard enough for a bump to start forming will immediately get you a one way ticket to the emergency room.

I was lucky enough to be with a friend when the fall happened, who helped get me to the hospital, fill out the forms and do a little bit of translating for me because I was not in the right headspace to be able to speak Spanish at the level needed to explain the situation or do all of this myself.

The hospital ran a bunch of tests on me, drew blood, did an X-Ray and kept me for observation for a little bit. I was lucky enough that all of the tests came back looking good, meaning I didn't have a concussion or any internal bleeding in my head.

It was super scary to do all of this while in Spain and I'm so grateful for my friend who helped me and that everything ended up being okay. It's

been a bit since the fall and hospital trip and almost all of the headaches and neck pain has gone away, so I'm almost back to being my normal self other than having a black eye.

Other than that big update, I also recently got to go to a professional soccer game for the team here in Granada with one of my friends. The beginning of the game didn't go all that well for us, which for better or worse allowed me to learn more about the local cussing here in Granada, but the Granada soccer team ended up winning 3 to 1.

Last week, IES also offered an olive oil tasting class for some of the students here, which I was lucky enough to be able to participate in. I got to learn about how olive oil is made and what types of olive oil are best for different types of food. We ended the class with testing three different olive oils, first by taking a very, very small sip of the oil, and then testing them with different foods.

Another fun thing that I was able to do recently was Christmas decorating in my residence hall, Tribeca. I just so happened to be walking through the common space when decorating was beginning to happen and was dragged into helping decorate the tree and common area.

However, the Christmas season coming up also means that finals

season is sneaking up on us here in Spain, so I'm getting locked in on my projects and studying for my exams, which are the week of Dec. 15 for us.

Before I sign off for the last time, I want to say thank you for coming along with me in my journey through this semester abroad. It's been so fun to be able to share my experiences with y'all and I'm so grateful to have had this as part of my study abroad semester. It's been a great semester, and hasta luego!



photo by Abby Taylor
Abby Taylor '27 poses in Granada, Spain for her last travel update. Over her semester abroad, she has thoroughly enjoyed every opportunity.



GUEST ESSAY: On the selection of Wofford's 12th President

Walt Leonard '77
Alum Guest Writer

The Wofford College Board of Trustees, in consultation with the AGB Search LLC firm, is currently in the process of selecting Wofford's 12th president. These Trustees have the unique opportunity and the responsibility to make a decision that will affect the future direction and reputation of Wofford as a desirable choice for prospective students and parents who seek a quality Christian, liberal arts education where

students can excel in the freedom of classroom discussions and open debate involving independent critical thinking skills.

I graduated from Wofford in 1977. My daughter, my sister and her daughter also graduated from Wofford. My dad, Dr. Ray Leonard, came to Wofford in 1949 and began a 44-year career as Chairman of the Biology Department until he retired in 1993.

Wofford's new president should be a visionary who is committed to healing the divided wounds within

the Wofford community and leading our alma mater forward, validating the college's past core values of merit-based decisions in student admissions, academic standards and faculty hiring. He/she must avoid the implementation of quotas, affirmative action and preferential treatment of students.

The Chronicle of Higher Education was quoted: "Since 2023, more than 300 colleges in more than 40 states have dismantled DEI programs and policies." Wofford should be a leader in this national movement to discon-

tinue the DEI ideology of espousing discriminatory identity politics which has resulted in the polarization of students, faculty and alumni.

Wofford's new president should be tasked with avoiding these divisive issues and be allowed to immediately focus on restoring unity, trust and confidence within an administration that is committed to Wofford College again being a politically neutral institution devoid of partisan politics within the administration and faculty.

My hope is that the Trustees will

recognize the many values of hiring a president who appreciates the long revered distinctions of Wofford College.

- Walt Leonard, DMD - Class of 1977

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