Between the Towers
an insider's guide to Wofford
The Members of the 2010 Presidential Seminar
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TO THE CLASS OF 2014 AND ITS SUCCESSORS

This Insider’s Guide to Wofford was written and compiled for you by the departing members of the 2010 Presidential Seminar. You will find our names listed on the frontispiece and our faces, together with those of President Dunlap and Professor Dinkins, in a group photograph on the back cover. That photo was taken when we were in the midst of our last semester at Wofford, and this guide — finished in our final few days — is based on what happened to us throughout our four years here. For the most part, we’ve omitted what we’d like to go back and change, except for those things we wish we’d done that, somehow or other, we never did. We’d like to think we might help you avoid repeating such mistakes, and, though we know how unlikely that is, we’re fairly certain that, when you’ve reached this same point in your Wofford careers, you’ll wish as we do that you’d taken full advantage of what we recommend. But we also know that you’ll have made your own discoveries by then, and we urge you to add to this compilation the things that make your Wofford so special.

One thing is absolutely clear to us now: our greatest joy has been in each other, and that is something we can share with you only in the limited form of this guide, made up as it is from bits and pieces of ourselves. If you’re willing to take the trouble, you can reconstruct a lot of the Wofford we knew — though, of course, it’s far more important for you to use what we’re passing on to experience it anew, to make it your own, and to love it as we have done.
THINGS TO DO BEFORE YOU GRADUATE

- Get to know people on campus and have conversations with them that you wouldn’t normally have.
- Go outside your usual comfort zone.
- Play Frisbee on the lawn in front of Milliken.
- Donate what you can to something anonymously.
- Wake up and decide to go on a random day trip to the mountains, to Asheville, etc.
- Swim in the fountain fully clothed!
- Challenge a professor.
- Pull an all-nighter in Milliken.
- Get a breakfast croissant from Zach’s.
- Have coffee with one of your professors.
- Get in a mud pit on Boys’ Bid Day.
- Slide down the Slip ‘n Slide during Spring Weekend.
- Take a spontaneous late-night walk to Krispy Kreme with friends.
- Go bowling during orientation.
- Get a ride from campus safety in a golf cart.
- Play volleyball on the court in the Village (or, even better, faculty vs. students volleyball).
- Talk to Ms. Rita at Java City when you are having a bad day.
- Wake up and saunter to Acorn Cafe before 7 a.m. The sunrise at Wofford is not only amazing, but the stillness of the campus is refreshing and peaceful.
- Take a few hours to read in the grass on a Friday afternoon. If you are on the lawn in front of Old Main and face in the direction of the fountain on a late afternoon in the spring, you may be pleasantly surprised!
o Go for a walk at Glendale. Carry your camera and/or sketchbook.

o Play tennis in the middle of the night with your friends... in your best party wear!

o Grab some blankets, hot cocoa, and bundle up for a few hours of stargazing at the intramural fields. Doing so in winter is best!

o Go for a slide down the hill with the little kids (and the big ones... meaning take your roommates with you!) at Gibbs Stadium during a football game.

o If it snows, engage the campus in a snowball fight. Then, to make peace, have everyone lie down side-by-side and make giant snow angel chains!

o Play in the rain.

o Host a cookout at the Pavilion. Every day is worth celebrating!

o Ask professors about their hobbies outside of class and academics. You’ll be surprised to discover how much alike you and they really are!

o Be willing to pay the money to do at least one thing you won’t necessarily be able ever to do again, even if it’s expensive.

o Stop by a professor’s office just to chat.

o Go abroad for Interim!!!

o Go abroad!!!!

o Take a class you’re interested in, even though it’s not in your major.

o Play tag/hide and go seek/capture the flag/war around the campus at night.
EVENTS

Orientation

The first two weeks of being a Wofford student are some of the most hectic days you will ever have as a student. You have just moved to a new place, are surrounded by hundreds of new people, and are attending countless meetings about every aspect of life at Wofford. You are not going to want to go to everything, but you should.

Everything people are telling you is important and will help make the transition to college life easier. Go to the meetings, participate in as many awkward icebreakers as you can, and take notes. Orientation week is so busy that you will not be able to remember most of the things you hear. You will meet the same people multiple times and you will get confused walking around campus.

You are going to miss home and you are going to miss your high school friends, but those feelings will lessen over time. When you move to campus and start orientation jump in with both feet and don’t look back. Put aside any self-consciousness you feel and create new memories. The people on the Orientation Staff have worked hard to try to make the experience worthwhile, so do not take it for granted.
Football Tailgating

Once you are settled into your dorm, football season will be calling. Regardless of your opinion on pro or college football, the Wofford Terriers will surely steal your heart. Last year (2009) marked the end of a streak of eight winning seasons and the Terriers led the SoCon in kick-off returns. But every year’s a great year for the Terriers.

One of the best ways to get excited for a game is to attend the student tailgate lot. There is always an abundance of energy and if the weather is sunny, speakers will be blasting music and sofas will be set out as seating. But regardless of where you are tailgating (with parents or students), you are bound to eat great food and enjoy yourself before the game. Be sure to find a place in the student section of Gibbs Stadium before the game begins, as it will fill up quickly.

In addition to football games, be sure to take advantage of all Wofford home athletic events. Burwell will serve a meal at the event if the time conflicts with dinner and you can use your Terrier Bucks to purchase pizza, popcorn, pretzels, deep-fried Oreos, funnel cakes, and soft drinks during the game. GO TERRIERS!
Honor Code Convocation

Hosted by the Honor Council and Office of Student Affairs, the Honors Convocation is an important introduction to the Academic Honor Code of Wofford College, as well as a memorable bonding experience for the freshman class.

Wofford’s Honor Code is not begrudged by students; in fact it is highly regarded and treasured by all who receive a degree. The Honor Code upholds and maintains the impeccable integrity of each Bachelor’s degree awarded by Wofford College. By graduation, students will have signed their name hundreds of times signifying that they have upheld the Honor Code in preparing every paper and completing every exam.

At the end of the Honor Code Convocation, each member of the incoming freshman class signs their class banner, which will hang on the second floor of the Student Life building until their Graduation Reception as a testament to their promise to maintain Wofford’s standards for academic integrity.
Oktoberfest

The first time that Delta Phi Alpha, the National German Honor Society, and the Foreign Language Department hosted Oktoberfest, my friends and I were skeptical. Obviously, we doubted whether the Wofford version of the festival would live up to the debauchery provided by the German one. What is the point of going to Oktoberfest if it does not have huge tables lined with intoxicated Germans? What if there are no buxom barmaids and rowdy bands?

We were pleasantly surprised to find that the Wofford festival was a realistic interpretation of the German one. The Foreign Language Department knew what they were doing. There was a band. There were women in dirndls and men in lederhosen, traditional German attire. Burwell was covered in blue and white pennants and tablecloths, while the Burwell staff had pulled out all of the stops, preparing amazing food: sausages, sauerkraut, pretzels, strudels, and streusels. To drink there was hot cider, cold cider and — for those of age — many different types of beers. Of course, there is beer. My friends and I loved it. I remember swaying and singing with students and professors, all of us holding our steins high as we celebrated this most Germanic of celebrations. We ended up staying in Burwell for three hours.

Oktoberfest has changed each year, had different perks each time. Sometimes it is outside, sometimes it has dancing. But it is always fun without being debauched — a useful discovery in itself. Hosted during the week, the festival is a great chance to unwind for a few hours and just try something different, to get outside of Spartanburg without actually driving. You might even learn to Polka and get to keep a stein!
Mr. Wofford Competition

A sharp contrast to the honorable and distinguished Homecoming Queen competition, the Mr. Wofford pageant offers necessary comic relief for students laden with busy schedules and the usually competitive spirit of Homecoming week.

Each male contestant is nominated by a student organization, team, or club; the top candidates, voted on by the student body, compete in front of students. A panel of select judges determine the reigning Mr. Wofford. Contestants are judged on their hilarious and typically scandalous costumes, pick-up lines, a choreographed group dance and crowd applause. This event has high student attendance and involves a small amount of crowd participation. All attendees are guaranteed hearty laughs and material for conversation for weeks to come!
Winter Lighting at Fraternity Row

What could be better than hot apple cider on a crisp winter evening? Hot apple cider and holiday lights. If this sounds appealing, don’t miss the Winter Lighting at Fraternity Row. Each fraternity decorates their roof and the front of their house in hopes of catching the judges’ eyes and taking home first place in this annual competition.

Students, faculty, and staff gather at dusk in the middle of the row for hot beverages and camaraderie as the houses are lit up for the first time. Judges drive around in golf carts examining each house before making their decision. No matter what the outcome, you are sure to enjoy yourself and have fun with your friends — plus, it’s a great study break as winter exams draw near.
The Hoop-Rat Classic Basketball Tournament

If you think training a dog to sit, go fetch, or roll over is impressive, then you are in for a big surprise. Each fall, introductory psychology students train rats to play basketball over the course of the semester. As part of the laboratory component of the class, students apply their knowledge of operant conditioning by training their rats to play one-on-one basketball on a miniature court. The training culminates with a one-on-one rat basketball tournament for all students and faculty to enjoy.

Whether you are in the crowd or a trainer of one of the rats, the Hoop-Rat Classic is something you do not want to miss. Fans fill the arena (McMillan Theater) in anticipation of watching the top seven rats from the class compete. Student commentators give play by plays, and the audience places their own bets on who the champion rat will be.

Whether you consider the event a nail-biting game or just a way for students to live out their athletic dreams vicariously through their rats, it is prime entertainment. So fill your bracket, invite your friends, and make a bet for who will become this year’s rat basketball champion.
The Sandor Teszler Convocation

Sandor Teszler was an amazing Hungarian, a Holocaust survivor who landed in the Carolinas and had the first integrated textile mill. He and his family had been able to escape the Nazis with the help of many friends and strangers, and towards the end of his long life he audited so many courses and befriended so many students and faculty, that he was officially named a Wofford College Professor. Our library is named in his honor.

A Wofford student, Amy Henry, put together the memoirs of Sandor Teszler through interviews with the help of a now-retired history professor, Dr. Philip Racine. The memoirs, which can be found on the Wofford Web site and in the library, end with Sandor Teszler saying, “I do not know why this is so, but in spite of all the tragedy of my life, I do know that whatever kindness I have shown others has been returned to me.”

Each year Wofford gives The Sandor Teszler Award for Moral Courage and Service to Humankind to an individual who embodies the spirit of Mr. Teszler. The recipient of the award also receives an honorary degree, a citation, and a $10,000 cash award. The initial cash award was made possible by Reed Hastings, CEO of Netflix Corp. During the award convocation, the recipient delivers a speech that is not only inspiring, but also encouraging to every person who has ever dreamed of changing the world. Past speakers have pushed students to help the world in ways they had never thought possible.

In addition to Jacqueline Novogratz, the 2010 recipient, those honored in the past include Vernon Baker, Dr. Paul Farmer, and Marian Wright Edelman.
One classmate has confessed, “It is very troubling for me to admit that I have only been to one Sandor Teszler Convocation. As I sat through my first Sandor Teszler Convocation in my senior year at Wofford College, I realized that I have been missing an occasion to recognize and learn from people who have displayed remarkable moral courage and provided extraordinary service to humanity. It was astonishing to listen to this year’s recipient, Jacqueline Novogratz, who established the Acumen Fund to invest in businesses that will serve the poor with goods and services. Moreover, it meant even more to witness first-hand the passion that she has for her work and for humanity. People like Jacqueline Novogratz give hope to the world and encourage each of us to preserve that hope in the face of many adversities. Now that I understand the importance of this event, I wish I had attended past convocations. Do not miss out on the opportunity that this event provides!”
Terrier Play Day

I felt exhausted as I awoke to the awful sound of my alarm at 8:30 a.m. on a Saturday morning. Sluggishly, I arrived at the seal of Old Main to begin setting up for my first ever Terrier Play Day. Initially, as a Twin Towers member, I thought Terrier Play Day was just another ordinary event aimed at serving youth. Never did I fathom however, that this day would greatly affect people from all around Spartanburg as well as myself.

On this particular day, we invited a company to set up many large, inflatable play areas in front of Old Main. We also invited thirty-three student organizations to sponsor a fun event for youths, such as a beanbag toss, jump rope, limbo, and many more. When we finally finished all of the preparations for the event, the Spartanburg youth arrived at Wofford College by the busloads. The sight of hundreds of children made me realize that we had created a mini-carnival on campus. As I stood at the top of the steps of Old Main to observe exactly what we had done, I was enlightened about the true purpose of this mini-carnival and the controlled chaos below me.

While the event gives the youth an opportunity to visit a college campus like Wofford, it also provides a safe environment for children to be themselves and enjoy the simple pleasures of life, even if for just three hours. Coming to this revelation made me understand the importance of what my fellow students were committed to doing, and I was fascinated and awed to be a part of such a great event.
Earth Day

Earth Day is like a Mother’s Day especially for our planet! On either Tuesday or Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. of Earth Week, which is the week of Earth Day celebrated every April 22, the campus comes together in a flurry of festivities. These festivities include arguably the best lunch of the year (it’s organic!), served on the lawn in front of Old Main if the weather is fine, a car show, raffles and prizes, music and sometimes rock climbing!

The Planeteers, an environmental group on campus who organized the first annual celebration, and Beta Beta Beta collaborate to make Earth Day at Wofford an event you never want to miss!
The Terrio

The first Wofford Terrio was hosted in 2004. Drawing its inspiration from the Palio di Siena that is held biannually in Siena, Italy, the Terrio is a race that features numerous golf carts colorfully decorated by the various departments and organizations on campus. Students from departments and organizations are dressed in costumes in order to support their favorite cart.

The event starts with a blessing from Chaplain Ron Robinson. Following this, the carts parade in front of Old Main, allowing the crowd to see the various carts and voice approval (or disapproval) for the decorations on them. Afterwards, the racing skills of a senior and a faculty member are put to the test as the race begins. After being timed as they run their laps, the carts finish at the oldest building at Wofford College, Old Main.

Various titles are awarded every year in different categories for the departments and organizations displaying the most spirit, the most flamboyant cart, and the speediest lap. The creativity and athleticism celebrated at the Terrio are something that truly should not be missed... or taken too seriously.
May Day Play Day

As I was leaving the Milliken Science Center on a hot day in the month of May, I came across several inflatable play areas in the middle of the Front Lawn of Old Main while walking back to my room in DuPre Hall. “What in the world could this be?” I thought to myself. I knew that it could not be an unexpected Terrier Play Day since I coordinated the event a month ago in April. As I approached one of my friends who stood in a line to receive candy apples at the event, I asked, “What is going on here?” He simply replied that it is May Day Play Day in a loud and cheerful voice.

At that point in my sophomore year, I had heard of the event but had never taken the time to attend. Therefore, I did what most curious people would have done, which was stay and enjoy May Day Play Day activities. There was a huge inflatable slide, an inflatable gladiator ring, and many other inflatable items that I cannot even begin to describe to you except as a lot of fun after a long and hard day of classes. It was amazing to see the number of Wofford students enjoying those simple activities and reliving their experiences as much younger children. I must even admit that screaming at the top of my lungs while sliding down the huge inflatable slide re-ignited my youthful flame for the rest of the evening.

However, even more amazing than reliving childhood fantasies were the immensely satisfying funnel cakes. The funnel cakes were the best part of the May Day Play Day and the best part of my entire day. Everyone that attends Wofford should experience May Day Play Day at least once in his or her life.
Boys’ Bid Day

One of Greek Life’s biggest events of the year, Boys’ Bid Day, is a great illustration of the incorporation of all members of the Wofford Community into the spirit of brotherhood that the fraternities represent. Even if you’re not a member of Greek Life, don’t pass up the chance to see and enjoy one of the year’s biggest events celebrating the formal beginning of pledgeship for more than 200 freshmen and sophomores.

Although the formal festivities begin at 5:00 p.m., many Greeks will start things off shortly after their last classes of the day, just before or after lunch. Don your fraternity’s traditional attire — or something else that you don’t mind getting wet — and make your way down to the Row. Catch the new members right after they sign their bids and then follow them for the traditional dunk in the fountain on Campus Drive.

The fun doesn’t stop there. Run back towards the row for a night of celebration as the fraternities whoop it up with their new pledges.
The Wofford Whisk Away

The Wofford Whisk Away was conceived as a daylong event filled with activities enabling visitors and students alike to come together in fun and bliss while supporting a charitable cause. Students organize the events of the day and whisk away their (paying) guests — older alumni and friends of the college who, as they arrive, are filled with anticipation and eagerness at the prospect of feeling like students again.

The activities of the day could include botany and birding adventures at Glendale Shoals along with storytelling and sketching at the Goodall Environmental Studies Center. Children could easily be entertained either with a scavenger hunt on campus or with some water monitoring kits at Glendale and a few college students for them to play with! On-campus events could include a QiGong class on the Village lawn or Salsa, Samba, Flamenco dance lessons in Richardson. And don’t forget the tennis courts and the other athletic facilities at the Village. The goal of the day is to put the guests at ease and to make them feel like a part of the college, having fun in the company of students while helping them raise money for a worthy cause.

This event was planned, but, for various reasons, never fully realized. It is a legacy to you from the Class of 2010.
Commencement Weekend

Towards the end of my first year at Wofford, I mentioned to my dad that I thought I might like to go to Commencement. I had a couple of friends who were graduating, and my family lives only five minutes away. So I figured why not go support them? Yet my dad told me that it was completely unnecessary. Dad said he barely made it to his own Wofford graduation and that nothing in his life was changed because he missed the other three. He said my friends would not be able to talk to me or hang out with me and that attending was really not worthwhile.

Guess what? For once, my dad was wrong! Commencement weekend at Wofford is completely engaging! There are so many opportunities to spend time with your friends and support them, from the dinner and the parties on Friday night to the big Wofford-sponsored bash at the Marriott on Saturday night after Baccalaureate. Even after the graduation ceremony itself, you will have ample opportunities to take pictures with friends and professors because Wofford serves lemonade on the lawn, and everyone stays to hang out and say their last goodbyes before parting ways.

There really is something special about Wofford’s Commencement. I don’t know if it’s because Wofford is such a
family that you feel as if you know everyone who walks across the stage or maybe if it’s seeing the moment when all the seniors walk together through the gates out into the ‘real world’ that unfailingly gives everyone chills. I’m not sure what makes the event so amazing, but I do know that students come back to Wofford from great distances to go to the Commencement activities.

If you have friends graduating, it is completely worth it. Get your sundresses, suits, and dancing shoes ready, because you are going to need them!

Another graduating senior offers this opinion: “Don’t pass up the opportunity to join in the numerous Commencement activities that symbolically sum up four years of hard work for the graduating seniors in May. While many may think these activities are only for the graduates and their family, the entire Wofford community is welcome to join in this festive and important time. Although many of the seniors will begin to celebrate earlier in the week, following their last exam, the first official launch of graduation weekend is a Wofford Village reception on Friday evening. An off-campus Class Party hosted by the Senior Class Officers will offer a chance to share an evening with the graduates one last time before they walk across the stage and receive their diplomas early the next morning.”

The same senior notes, “Take special note of the symbolic procession of seniors through the front gates of Wofford and into the world, a path that has been blazed by numerous others who now comprise an alumni base more than 15,000 strong. Make sure to wish them the best of luck in their careers following Wofford as they pass by, escorted by Wofford alumni who graduated 50 years before!”
SERIES & RECURRENT EVENTS

The Wofford Chamber Music Concerts & The Troubadour Series

Throughout the year, Wofford hosts a half-dozen or more concerts featuring famous performers from around the world. In many instances, the musicians are friends and Juilliard classmates of Wofford’s own Dr. Eun-Sun Lee, Associate Professor of Music and Director of the Wofford Strings Ensemble. On a number of occasions, Dr. Lee herself will join the performers and concertize with them. These concerts are free to the Wofford and Spartanburg communities, and, even if you have no special knowledge of or love for classical music, you will be denying yourself a truly memorable experience if you fail to attend.

Each year, Wofford also hosts the Troubadour Series, directed by Dr. Jhon Akers and named after the poet Carl Sandburg, who was called “the Old Troubadour” by Frank Lloyd Wright. This too is a series of musical events containing extraordinarily gifted and often well-known musicians and ensembles, especially featuring the guitar.

The events in both series fall on different dates each year, but there are always announcements about them posted on the calendar and around the campus. You should try to go to at least two or three each year, no matter what your musical preferences. The musicianship is always brilliant, and to see many of these performers in other venues would be very expensive. Open your ears and broaden your mind.
Choral Groups & Events

The Wofford Singers is a male and female mixed-voice ensemble that performs three times a year. Its performances include a fall concert during Family Weekend and a Christmas concert in Leonard Auditorium. In the spring, the Wofford Singers present a final concert in Leonard Auditorium as well.

Participation in the Wofford Singers counts as a class for students who meet to rehearse in the Daniel Building at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The choral directors are Christi Sellars and Gary McCraw. A short audition is required to join, and all pieces are sung in 4-6 vocal parts. Many of the Fall Family Weekend pieces are Broadway musical or jazz pieces, which give the students a chance to sing contemporary pop music and add a few costumes and dance moves to spruce up the event. The Christmas Concert and Spring Concert usually consist of classical pieces sung in Latin. In the recent past, the Wofford Singers has beautifully performed major choral works by Schubert, Handel, and Vivaldi.

The Wofford Women’s Choir is an all-female non-audition group, and the Men’s Glee Club is an all-male non-audition group. Both of these groups meet at 6 p.m. during the weekdays. These groups perform during Family Weekend and at the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting. In the spring, both ensembles present a pop concert in the Pavilion, performing pieces like A Michael Jackson Tribute and music from the film O Brother, Where Art Thou?
If you take these classes for a total of four semesters, they also count as a credit towards the general education requirement in Fine Arts.

There are three other small ensembles that perform choral pieces which tend to be more advanced in style and difficulty: The Chamber Singers, The Goldtones, and the Wofford Men’s Choir. The Chamber Singers are a male and female 16-member, 4-part a cappella ensemble which meets once a week and performs at the Fall and Spring Concerts. An 8-member female a cappella group, The Goldtones, performs many times throughout the school year at football games, convocations, and other community events as well as at the annual Wofford concerts. They are selected by audition and meet twice a week for an hour each time. Performing occasionally with The Goldtones, the Wofford Men’s Choir is an 8-part male ensemble, and it too has a competitive audition process in the fall.

“During my time at Wofford, I was a member of the Wofford Singers, Wofford Women’s Choir, and Chamber Singers. I thoroughly enjoyed the time spent rehearsing and especially enjoyed performing for friends and family. I was also given a scholarship each year, which may be awarded after an audition with the choral directors. The music program at Wofford is full of energy and talent. Even if you don’t consider yourself a singer or a performer, the music series provides a relaxed, collaborative environment that all students should take the time to enjoy.”
Wofford Theatre Major & Events

Wofford offers a major in Theatre as well as opportunities to participate in the Wofford Theatre productions, an active part of student life for more than 40 years. Dr. Mark Ferguson, ’96, leads the Theatre program at Wofford. He returned in fall, 2003, after the retirement of longtime professor Dr. J.R. Gross, founder of the Wofford Theatre Workshop.

Wofford Theatre generally has two mainstage productions and one interim production per academic year. The production during interim involves an intensive four week long rehearsal period of 8 hours a day, and it is completely produced and directed by Wofford students. Past Interim Pulp Theatre shows include The Rocky Horror Show, Reefer Madness, and Flight of the Lawnchair Man.

The auditions for mainstage productions are held in mid-September and before Christmas break. Most students can receive class credit for participating in a show, and many opportunities to be involved in Wofford Theatre exist even if you do not consider yourself an “actor.” Scenic Design, Light Design, Costume Design, Stage Management, and Assistant Directing are just a few available areas in which students can work offstage during a production.

All rehearsals and productions are held in The Tony White Theater, located in the Campus Life Building. The TWT is a black box theater with seating for roughly 100 audience members,
and as a result of the limited space as well as the quality of the productions, most of the shows sell out. If you are ever interested in going to see a Wofford Theatre production, you can visit www.wofford.edu/theatre to find out how to reserve seats.

Wofford Theatre prides itself on producing interesting, innovative, and intimate experiences for a wide range of audience members. The students that major in Theatre and/or are involved in productions find that training as a theatre artist is useful in many ways outside the theatre as well. The physical actor training, collaborative creative experiences in rehearsal time, and the study of many of the great playwrights will develop any student into a multifaceted individual. In its past forty years, some shows that Wofford Theatre has produced include *Waiting for Godot*, *Into the Woods*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, and Tom Stoppard’s *Arcadia*. Wofford Theatre celebrated its 40th Anniversary Season during the 2009-2010 academic year, with the plays *Metamorphosis* by Mary Zimmerman and *Big Love* by Charles Mee.

“For me, Wofford Theatre has been a place where I have studied, designed, acted, and produced great theatre for over four years. The department is small, but its size is not a disadvantage by any means. The professors and students work together very closely to create an inspiring ensemble of students from many different backgrounds. The Wofford Theatre welcomes the participation of anyone who is serious about a career in professional theatre and/or training and growth as an artist. It invites everyone to attend its productions.”
Fitness Classes at Richardson

Held in the Richardson Recreational Building nearly every afternoon during the week, fitness classes are sessions that typically last between 15 and 30 minutes and are a great way to squeeze a little exercise into even the busiest schedules. Almost any college student will attest to the fact that nutrition and exercise are not always situated at the top of their priorities lists, a fact that often times is detrimental to one’s physique or mysteriously causes previously well-fitting clothes to shrink. Attending the fitness classes is an effective means of avoiding certain pitfalls as well as a way to interact with people around campus whom you might not otherwise get to know.

Do not, however, be fooled into thinking that these sessions are a time for rest and relaxation. The abdominal and cardio-centered workouts compensate for their brevity by proceeding at an intense, if not grueling, pace. Yet, the sense of satisfaction that accompanies the completion of a session far exceeds any physical discomfort you might have experienced.
A Presentation Made by One of Your Professors

If you take a class with a specialized topic like “The African Diaspora in Literature,” it’s probably safe to assume that the professor teaching it has an interest in the topic. You can also figure that he or she didn’t just stumble upon this topic, but has spent years in graduate school and perhaps even as an undergraduate studying this subject, and, as a consequence, they might just know a little more about it than the precious nuggets revealed in class discussion. Therefore, when that professor is giving an on-campus presentation about something of his or her own interest, you should go to it.

Even if it’s not your favorite class (or your favorite professor, for that matter), you may be surprised how much you enjoy hearing someone you know, whom you see on a regular basis, speak at length about a topic that is truly important to him or her — because, if you’ve ever written a paper about one of your favorite books or composed a lab-report on an experiment in your intended field of study, you know what it’s like for a topic of academic interest to be truly important to you. And, no matter how dry that topic may be, when you speak about it to your friends or your professor or even to your mother over the phone, your topic becomes interesting to whoever person is listening because you care about it. Knowing all this, you should challenge yourself to hear your professors talk about what’s important to them. It may open your eyes to the reality that they aren’t just the voices behind the red pens, but people who, like you, have interests and passions they’re eager to share.
The Campus Gates

No Wofford student will willingly walk through the front gates of campus for fear of the ominous repercussions. No one is sure when this tradition began, but it is generally accepted that any student who walks through the gates leading onto North Church Street will not graduate or that something even worse may happen.

This tradition is so well rooted in campus culture that it has become a part of the Commencement ceremony itself. After receiving their degrees, the newly named and legitimized alumni process along Campus Drive toward the gates. They step out onto North Church Street, turn around, and then process back — belonging now to both worlds.
“Tapping the Terrier” is a new Wofford tradition that began in 2008 when the Bronze Terrier statue was donated by the alumni Class of 1956. The statue staunchly guards Wofford’s untarnished honor from his position in front of the Campus Life building, directing his fierce gaze to the east, alert to the possibility of any trespassing paladins or other tribes without the law. Graduating students, on their march from Campus Life to Old Main before the Commencement Ceremony, ‘tap’ the proud fighting terrier in a final salute of Terrier pride.
Light

Who is that young Wofford student who stands in front of the library? I feel like I’ve seen so many just like him, walking to class in their Wofford sweatshirt, often with a book-bag slung over a shoulder.

You are supposed to feel this way when you see the statue of William Light Kinney, III, in front of the Sandor Teszler library. It is what the artist, Charles Parks, intended when he created the sculpture. Born in 1969, Kinney passed away after a tragic car accident the summer between his sophomore and junior year at Wofford. Because he was the last of four generations of Kinney men who had attended Wofford, the family wanted to leave some lasting impression on those students who would follow.

Not only did his family establish several scholarships and awards in Light Kinney’s name, but they commissioned the “Light” statue. The positioning of the young student was actually taken from a photo that appeared of him as a freshman on the front cover of the 1987 Fall Wofford Today. Today, the statue serves as not only a memorial to the loss of a richly promising life, but as a representation of the spirit of any young Wofford student on his or her way to Old Main, the library, or even, following graduation, through the front gates of campus and on to life after Wofford.

As one of many traditions at Wofford begun by Light’s mother and continued by others, at fairly regular intervals a lucky student finds a $20 bill in the cupped hand of the statue — conveyed, as it were, by Light. For some, the custom is to replace the twenty with a one-dollar bill and then gladly acknowledge that the generous spirit of this Wofford student lives on.
The Old Gold & Black

The Old Gold & Black is the college newspaper. It is written exclusively by students and does its best to keep the college community informed about all aspects of campus life. The paper reports on all things, whether it is sports, academics, entertainment, or the arts on campus. It is important to note that the paper also accepts submissions; if you have something to say, then consider the paper as one way to address the entire Wofford community.

The Black & Blue is a satirical issue of the Old Gold & Black published anonymously each spring. Meant to be a source of humor, it also allows the normally unbiased paper staff to offer some unconstrained opinions about recent goings-on at Wofford.

The papers will be delivered biweekly to your CPO. Keep an eye out for them, and be sure to read them!
The Resident Peer Mentor Program (RPM)

Take advantage of the RPM program! Each freshman is assigned a Resident Peer Mentor who is a second to fourth-year student here. Your RPM is one of your best resources at Wofford. Even if the program seems a bit cheesy to you at first, the mentors are more experienced students who are genuinely interested in helping you out. Most are sophomores and remember how tough but exciting it is to transition to college life. Your RPM can answer almost any question you may have about Wofford or Spartanburg. They can inform you about events, clubs or organizations, Greek life, and social activities at Wofford as well as give directions to great places in the city. Use your mentor because he or she can share a lot of things about the college that will spare you effort, time, or embarrassment!
Peer Tutoring at Wofford

Of the various resources available to Wofford students, the Peer Tutoring program has received little attention, but has been immensely valuable to all who’ve benefitted from it. This program, which connects students seeking help in various subjects with fellow students already well versed in them, has a Web page under the Academics subheading on the Wofford Web site. However, conversing with students reveals that, while most know that peer tutoring exists, few have been involved in it personally.

Nevertheless, peer tutoring serves several integral functions on Wofford’s campus, and new and returning students can benefit from being aware of them. In pairing students who’re attempting to improve their knowledge of various subjects with peers who excel at those subjects, the program provides tailored, interactive instruction. Whatever the subject might be, students can discuss it with someone who is familiar not only with the topics they are studying, but also with the professors teaching them and the broader context of those topics. Having access to such tutors can significantly enhance a student’s academic experience.

Moreover, the Peer Tutoring program also helps student tutors learn how to relate to, inspire, and instruct others. In working individually with fellow students, tutors must not only possess detailed knowledge of their field of study, but must also learn how to convey it to others. As they develop various strategies and study tools for their advisees, they attain invaluable experience as educators.

Whether serving as a tutor or receiving assistance as a tutee, Wofford students can benefit from the options and opportunities that peer tutoring provides. To acquire or become a tutor, students need only to ask their professors or the program administrators, who can arrange for students and peer tutors to meet and schedule sessions. If students know where to look, they can significantly enhance and facilitate their academic pursuits by participating in the Wofford Peer Tutoring program.
The Writing Center at Wofford

For many students embarking on their first year at Wofford, the Writing Center is a very useful service, assisting them as they seek to modify their work to meet college writing requirements. Nevertheless, there are also students who might get great benefit from the Writing Center and other programs like it, such as the Language Lab, but who fail to do so. One explanation might be a persistent gap between the sort of instant re-write some students expect and the valuable assistance that is actually provided. Such misapprehension might cause you to lose a significant opportunity.

On a basic level, the Writing Center functions as a regimented peer tutoring program that enables some of Wofford’s best student writers to aid their fellows in learning how to construct a successful college essay. Entering the Writing Center in Wofford’s Sandor Teszler Library, most students don’t know what to anticipate and are hoping the tutors will help them proofread or “fix” their papers. But the center is not designed to edit students’ work. Rather, among other things, it aims at imparting to students a better understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of their writing, of how to improve their work, and of how to generate creative, insightful, and developed arguments in whatever field they are studying.

To accomplish these goals, Writing Center tutors engage in interactive discussions with their peers, enabling them both to learn more about themselves and their writing. While discussing specific concerns with their tutors, students begin to master various writing and become adept at thinking analytically. At the same time, tutors develop academically and personally by interacting with their fellows. To a very real extent, tutors in the Writing Center benefit as much from assisting their peers as the students themselves, discovering how to empathize with, instruct, and discover new perspectives. For everyone involved, tutoring sessions at the Writing Center can be productive and valuable.

In addition to providing basic peer tutoring, the Writing Center offers other services on campus of which few students are aware. The center is not simply an office to which students can go, but a proactive organization inviting students to engage with and participate in its activities. As Sarah Moore, a current
Writing Center tutor points out, the Writing Center reaches out to Wofford students and local high schools by hosting writing seminars throughout the year, addressing specific subjects such as “Thesis Development” and “Evidence and Analysis.” Essentially, these seminars operate as a means by which the Center and its tutors, in reaching out to the wider Spartanburg community, not only provide students with general instruction but create an opportunity to examine and improve the Center’s operation. In addition, to help students stay informed about its various seminars and activities, the Writing Center plans to produce a regular newsletter.

Students considering going to the Writing Center can choose to have personal discussions with tutors about their specific work or to learn about writing through its seminars and newsletters. Of the various facilities, organizations, and activities that Wofford sponsors, the Writing Center stands out as an accessible outlet for students seeking both academic assistance and the opportunity to improve and enhance their abilities. As such, the Writing Center is an essential part of Wofford life that students should most assuredly use to their advantage.
Fun Funds

Fun Funds seeks to bring a social atmosphere to Wofford’s campus that, while fully exploiting our advantages of scale, is comparable in intensity and verve to that at much larger institutions. In December, 2009, Fun Funds revised its allocation procedures so that it can also serve, in effect, as Wofford’s concert-planning committee. While maintaining the fund’s original emphasis on encouraging students to propose their own “fun” events, the committee works hard to bring a wide variety of popular bands to campus. Surveys, student feedback, and suggestion blogs all help the Fun Funds committee achieve this goal.

Events take place all over campus, ranging from the Wofford Village to Fraternity Row, with free admission for all Wofford students. In just its first year after taking on the responsibilities of a concert committee, Fun Funds hosted such notable and diverse groups as Mike Posner, The Movement, Justin Moore, and JJ Grey and Mofro.

In keeping with its initial vision, a portion of the $85,000 fund is still available to students for smaller events. Please visit the Fun Funds Web site for more information on how you can apply for funding for events, in most cases those costing no more than $1,500. Vote in surveys, beg the committee to bring in your favorite band, and join the Wofford community at the next Fun Funds Concert or Event!
PLACES

The Chapman Cultural Center

Although there are many opportunities to watch performing arts on Wofford’s Campus, the Chapman Cultural Center is right around the corner and offers plenty more for those who can’t get enough of theatre, dance, or music. Located on St. John Street, literally walking distance from Wofford, the center offers a wide variety of performances throughout the year. I have always been particularly fond of the Spartanburg Youth Theatre and Spartanburg Little Theatre, both of which rehearse and perform at the Cultural Center. The Little Theatre typically puts on a couple of musicals and a few plays a year, and the Youth Theatre performs four “for the youth, by the youth” children’s plays each season. There are also regular performances by Ballet Spartanburg and The Music Foundation as well as occasional performances by local groups such as high schools or community programs. Within the Center, you can find an art gallery and a dance studio as well as the Spartanburg Science Center, all of which offer educational opportunities for students and adults.

If you really love the performing arts, you are also more than welcome to get involved. Wofford students have been known to participate both on stage and behind the scenes in Little Theatre shows and in concerts with the Music Foundation. And if you don’t want to participate in a full-on performance, the center offers a variety of dance and art classes that anyone can sign up to participate in! For those of you who have always been interested in the performing arts, the Chapman Cultural Center is definitely a place to check out and visit regularly!
The Steps of Old Main

Situated exactly at what still, in the course of a day, feels like the center of campus, it’s hard to overlook Old Main. But think of Old Main as more than just the oldest building on campus, somewhere to attend class and convocations. Sit on the top of the steps and watch Wofford pass before you across the seal and the lawn. Think of the history that has happened where you sit, the countless feet that have walked the treads under you. Since 1854, Old Main has been the heart of Wofford’s campus.

The expanse of lawn before you has hosted thousands upon thousands of Frisbee games, untold numbers of students sunbathing and reading, and commencement after commencement almost since the College’s founding. The College Seal has been used as a dance floor and as a stage for karaoke concerts. The steps themselves have hosted innumerable deep and meaningful conversations. But they are great for everything else too. Try reading there. Or take a guitar there and just play. Or, possibly, take your work up there on a balmy evening to study for your exams in the spring semester (there are outlets at the top of the stairs).

Old Main is the heart of campus for a reason. Make it your own.
Have a Good Smoke

There are many places in Spartanburg that you should visit during your time at Wofford, and one of these places is C. Edward Cigars on North Church Street behind Groucho’s Deli. No classier place exists in Spartanburg. I know that you probably have reservations about smoking cigars, but I am not advising you to become a chain smoker; just once or twice a month is fine. Chris and Ben, the owners, are two of the nicest and most sociable people you will meet, and their walk-in humidor has some of the best cigars available at reasonable prices. The bar, once you are of age, of course, has a wide selection of beer, wine, and cocktails.

C. Edward is also a terrific place to feel the pulse of Spartanburg. Many times at C. Edward, as the patrons discuss what has happened throughout their week, I have heard inside views of news-worthy events in Spartanburg, a nice way to pop the Wofford bubble. Many people at Wofford would love to accompany you to C. Edward for a smoke and conversation, including some people in the library and Campus Ministries.

Few things have I enjoyed more at Wofford than a cigar and drink at C. Edward. There you can sink into one of their fine leather armchairs and, while the aromatic smoke of a good cigar wafts to the ceiling, get lost in conversations about life and the universe. As John Sprague succinctly puts it in his poem “To My Cigar”:

Yes, social friend, I love thee well,
In learned doctor’s spite;
Thy clouds all other clouds dispel
And lap me in delight.
Best Burger in Town

Just off of Isom Street going away from Wofford, across this little bridge, is a tiny dive known as Ike’s Korner Grille. Ike’s is without a doubt, in my mind at least, the best place to get a burger in Spartanburg. Sure, the Beacon gets all the publicity, but that is all a bunch of hype because Ike’s will not disappoint. Ike’s looks like a single-wide trailer in a gravel parking lot, and it is not a place that you would think the best burger in town resides. As you walk up either the front or side-entrance steps into Ike’s, the glowing eyes of stray cats under the porch follow you to make certain that you do not have any scraps to give.

If you have entered at lunchtime, then you do have clues as to what the place holds, for everyone from blue collar workers to suits such as doctors and lawyers will be seated enjoying or waiting to enjoy their delicious cheeseburgers. Of course, no maître d’ will be waiting to seat you, so you will seat yourself. Soon, a frazzled and over-worked waitress will come over and ask for your drink order, and I recommend their sweet tea. A menu does exist, but I have never ordered anything other than a cheeseburger and fries off of it. After the waitress comes back with your drinks in Styrofoam cups, order your cheeseburger the way you like it with fries. Soon, she will come back with a hand-pattied cheeseburger with your toppings and fresh-cut and freshly fried French fries. After you have taken your first bite, you will pause and look around at this place that looks more like a deep-woods illegal bar than host to a culinary gem, and you will think that the gods surely choose strange places to visit and give out recipes.
Little River Roasting Company

If lots of caffeine has not yet become a staple in your life, it will. Specifically, coffee. Coffee has the highest caffeine content out of all drinks, teas, and sodas. So, when you’re facing a late night, or an all-nighter, or just want an afternoon pick-me-up, coffee is your solution. On campus, Java City and Acorn Café are great picks, especially if you’re in Milliken for late-night cramming before a test. However, if you’re like me, coffee serves other purposes that only a local Spartanburg coffee shop can fulfill. Little River Roasting Company has become one of my favorite Spartanburg study spots and coffee sources because it meets all my coffee needs, including the following:

1) The morning ritual, which I engage in 365 days a year. For some, brewing your own cup of coffee in your own room is comforting, and waking up 10-15 minutes early everyday to enjoy coffee while doing some pleasure reading or surfing the internet can be a great stress-reliever. I recommend Little River Roasting Company’s coffee because it’s better, it’s cheaper, it’s local, and they roast their own beans. Buy a pound or two of ground beans and enjoy the result in your dorm room!
2) An afternoon pick-me-up. Right when you feel the 4:00 sluggish feeling coming on, a coffee does wonders. Little River is perfect for this because, instead of paying $4.25 for your grande mocha nonfat sugar-free vanilla coffee with light ice and a shot of espresso, you have two different drink choices. The best part is that it costs $1.00. Just come in, pick what flavor you want, fill up your cup, and put a dollar in the jar.

3) A study companion. Going off campus to study is great, but studying off campus with coffee is even better. An energy perk + a change of environment = one synergistic effect for great studying. After you buy your $1.00 coffee, go sit down on one of several comfortable couches for some great studying without all the background noise that you can count on at Starbucks.

4) Something to enjoy with friends in an intimate atmosphere. If you’re not studying, take a friend to Little River (heck, pay for their coffee too when it’s this cheap!). The atmosphere is warm, cozy, and intimate.

Little River is located at 460 Marion Avenue (about 5 minutes from campus). This fall, Little River is opening a coffee bar next door to the CakeHeads bakery and Hub City Book Shop located at the west end of historic Morgan Square within walking distance from campus. Enjoy!
Hub-Bub

If you come from a town that’s not too different from Spartanburg — same size, same basic retail stores, same things to do — the chances are your town doesn’t have a place like Hub-Bub. Located near the town square on Daniel Morgan Avenue, Hub-Bub is one of the unique treasures of Spartanburg. Its showroom houses art exhibitions by its artists-in-residence and by artists from throughout the community — including college students — as well as a variety of concerts and readings. The performers who’re featured at Hub-Bub are probably people you’ve never heard of: small bands from the surrounding area, writers who’re published by a small but thriving press, students who’re participating in their open-mic night. You don’t know them, and that’s a good thing. Hub-Bub’s culture is based on the importance it places on community, which means that, if you’re new to the Spartanburg community, you really don’t know these people, but you will.

If you have nothing to do on a Friday night and just want to listen to a little music or hear some local slam poets, take a walk over to Hub-Bub and meet the local artists — who, chances are, aren’t too different from you.
Ruins & Nature

Spartanburg is an old mill town, but unless you’re looking, it’s easy to miss its heritage and its walking trails. On Clifton-Glendale Road, for example, right next to Wofford’s Goodall Environmental Studies building, the charred remains of the old Glendale Mill are still beautifully prominent. I visit roughly once a month, and every time the area has changed. The Wofford Environmental Studies Department has recently begun a vineyard there, and the creek-level landing beside the old dam is nearly finished with its renovation. The old bridge offers a wonderful place for stargazing, and, for further seclusion from the lights, the ruins are even better.

There are several good walking trails in town including the Liberty Trail by Wofford, the Cottonwood Trail by Spartanburg High School, the trail in Duncan Park, the Mary Black Rail Trail near Union Street, and Hatcher Garden on Reidville Road. Each of these offers a different view of Spartanburg from a naturalist’s or historian’s point of view. The Liberty Trail and Cottonwood Trail both have ultimate Frisbee golf courses adjoining them. Lawson’s Fork Creek flows peacefully by the Cottonwood Trail. Also, Hatcher Garden & Woodland Preserve Inc. regularly maintains and updates the preserve providing an ever-changing garden.

There are other mills in town, but I would not recommend them as regular places to visit. The Anderson Mill ruin, at the junction of Anderson Mill Road (off Reidville Road) and the nearby creek, is a small mill. White’s Mill ruin lies across Lawson’s fork creek from the back of the New China Buffet. The dam is still noticeable, but the house is decrepit. The Beaumont Mill has been
renovated, but is not presently in use except for the offices of the Southern Conference, to which Wofford belongs. The attempt at transforming the mill into a NASCAR museum failed a while back, and has since stood empty and quiet.

All of these mills and some of the trails together mark a much older day in Spartanburg’s history and the history of the upstate, which you can learn more about at the following Web sites:

**Glendale Mill**

http://www.upstateforever.org/Newsletters/Sept04Newsletter/AGlendaleSep_04.html

**Anderson Mill**

http://www.andersonmill.org/

**Beaumont Mill ruins**

SENIOR REFLECTIONS

The Directive to Build Relationships

One of the things that I will miss most about Wofford after I graduate in two weeks is the relationships that I share with people here. This relationship building is one piece of advice that I would offer, above all others, to those of you who are beginning your time at Wofford. While things like résumé building and study abroad are quite important, I view the relationships I have made as infinitely more so. Not only should you build relationships, but you should also go out of your comfort zone and get to know people with whom you would not have otherwise been friends. I believe that having a large and diverse support group is essential to having a sense of balance in your life, for, especially at Wofford, they will humble and guide you when you are prematurely prideful and lift you up in tough times.

I do not know of any logical reason why I, a Religion major, should have a friendship with Dr. George Shiflet, Chair of the Biology department, or Sam Walker, the director of Aramark food services at Wofford, and I could say the same of many other relationships that I have as well as those that might have been expected in my day-to-day interactions. I don’t mean that they are superfluous because I value them quite highly, but that there is no reason in my day-to-day interactions that I would have developed these relationships. I had to go out of my way to reach out to them, and the absolutely wonderful thing about Wofford is that you will find very few people who will not reach back.

I remember having a conversation with Dr. Proctor and Tim Brown after coming back from an art installation by
Kris Neely on the Liberty Trail. I floated the idea that I was doing too little my senior year and should get involved in something else, and they shot my suggestion down by saying, “Most people at Wofford are always rushing away to something else, and there are few enough people on this campus who truly stop and have conversations with people. Stick with the minority on this one.”

In retrospect, the idea of doing more my senior year was foolish because I was doing plenty, but I think their advice went deeper than that. How valuable is it to spend your college career doing résumé builders and studying constantly without taking time to enjoy college and the people around you? Wofford has meant and will continue to mean so much to me because of the people I love who are a part of it. Wofford will mean a great deal to you because of the relationships you build here, not the bullet points you put on your résumé.
**A Piano for every Person**

Public pianos, private pianos, performance and practice ones, for every desire — there’s a fitting piano here on campus.

With keys well loved and of simple tone, the Java City baby grand will sing with even the gentlest of songs. Its public location makes it convenient to find, and the Zach’s staff always enjoy hearing leisurely melodies. Almost every student has trilled its Baldwin keys, but it always awaits the serious player’s intrigue.

But, for those who stray away from the public eye, the Daniel building practice rooms, next to the music offices, house several pleasant uprights. Of a more brazen character, they are a slightly cruder breed but are still welcoming to passing students’ hands.

For serious practice, the McMillan Theater concert grand piano offers a hall with fine acoustics, and a volume that fills the room! The action is still strong and lives up to its name. Good for informal performances or sophisticated rehearsals, here is a piano for the preparing musician.

Last and best, the Leonard instrument, a venerable Boesendorfer, stands above the rest in its power and clarity. Be prepared when you enter, with your heart on your sleeve, to express through its vibrant nature the depths of human emotion. Smooth keys with full sound, this truly grand piano is the forte of our campus.

We eagerly await the coming of a new music building, and there will surely be more keyboards to find there.
Advice for Transfer Students

We don’t always find our “perfect fit” for college the first time around, and that’s okay! Whatever reason brought you to Wofford, thank it, because knowing you chose so well will make your experience at Wofford even richer. You’ll find that your experiences elsewhere afford you the privilege to value the “Wofford Experience” from a unique perspective, and it will help you realize how truly special Wofford is.

Speaking of privileges, you virtually get to wipe away all the embarrassing things you did during your freshman year. Think about it. You’re coming into a new college experience where no one knows all those awkward or maybe even regrettable things you did in your first year. Seriously, most people would pay for that.

Practically speaking, you won’t spontaneously assimilate into Wofford, so there are a few things you should know. First, before coming to Wofford, get a roommate. Living with someone gives you a great source of advice in your transition and will help you meet new people. Second, you will probably know a few people at Wofford before coming, so ask them for advice when considering what courses and professors to take. It may seem like all classes are filled since everyone has already registered for classes, but spots will open-up in the drop/add period. Third, grow accustomed to making yourself uncomfortable by putting yourself out there. Take the initiative to meet others — go to football games, tailgates, etc. If you are interested in becoming part of Greek life, do it. It is never too late. Regardless of whether you decide to join a fraternity or sorority, going through the process of rush is a great way to meet many students in a short period of time. Finally, when a thought like “Should I go to that event? Maybe?” crosses your mind, the answer is always yes.

Congratulations for giving yourself the opportunity to experience what the right fit is like. These next few years will be among the best of your life!
The Complete Human

Every minute is precious and should not go to waste. Fill up your days with voracious studying, taking time to exercise not only that marvelous brain of yours, but your body, your heart and soul! Every experience is a learning opportunity. Regardless of whether you’re talking to Miss Rita in Acorn Café about God and Life, kayaking at Glendale Shoals, or sitting on the lawn in front of Old Main on a Friday afternoon during your senior year observing how the light of late afternoon carpets the grass with hues of gold, you can learn something from every experience that you have. Not everything is singularly about academics or athletics, or even about you. Mold yourself into the foundations of a complete human! You are here to learn how to do that, and everyone here has some piece of advice to help guide your hands. So, listen to them, and appreciate what they have to offer you! Remember that silence is another kind of communication, so listen to that too.

Humility will be your strongest ally in your journey. Approach everything and everyone with humility, and they will usually soften towards you and yield to you their treasures. Now, when I say “treasures,” I mean to indicate nothing material! You will receive knowledge or memories or love, and, somewhere along the way, you will be inspired by something. Then you will know what it’s like to have a passion, something that makes you wake up every day so happy to exist, and then, when someone approaches you with humility, you can share your treasures with them.

Vulnerability is not a curse of being human — it is a gift. The strongest bonds we make with each other are forged when we are at our most vulnerable. So don’t be afraid of your own vulnerability or that of others.
Terriers Victorious

On September 22, 2007, with both sunshine and water dripping from my body, I stood in the middle of the fountain with my dress clothes on. Boys’ bid day you ask? No. Instead, we had just snapped Appalachian State’s 17-game winning streak. Considering that the Mountaineers were unanimously voted the number one team in division I-AA football, this was a huge accomplishment in itself. Even bigger still was the fact that just two weeks prior to their matchup with the Terriers, App State had achieved one of the greatest upsets in college football history by beating Michigan, which was ranked fifth in the Division I AP Top 25 poll.

We celebrated. Rushing the field, some of the student body jumped into the arms of sweat-drenched football players while others just danced in circles with their ecstatic faces to the sky. Anyone guilty of leaving games early in the past would never have admitted it then. In that moment, we were all true blue fans, believing in the Terriers with visions of championship banners waving proudly about our heads. As the celebration died down, it hit me that there was only one thing left to do.

Rallying troops in what I envisioned as a William Wallace sort of cry, a band of unknowns charged to the fountain. I am not sure who was in that fountain. I do know that most of them were students I didn’t know very well. Maybe thirty or so of us carried the spirit of the victory there, and somehow it seemed to prolong the glow of the shared experience. We extended the eternity within which that moment deserved to exist.

In the grander scheme of things, I am not sure that our celebration was anything life-altering. Still, I can’t help but feel that we touched on something bigger than an athletic event alone. When those players on the field are not just some iconic image of athleticism, but your lab partner or your campus union representative, there is a more communal nature about the wins and losses of the team. Together we cherished every time that the Terriers were able to pull a close one out, and it is that awareness of a truly authentic community that makes your time at Wofford a special and unique experience.
Word to the Wise: Learn to Say “No”

It’s only two letters, and it’s typically one of the first words to come out of our mouths as children. No! But, for whatever reason, by the time we make it to college, most students have almost forgotten it as a part of their vocabulary. It’s time to reawaken that oh-so-scary word. Practice it with me: “No.”

Look at it this way: You’ve already gotten into Wofford or you wouldn’t be reading this right now. You have nothing to prove to this school anymore about how awesome you are. We’re all clear on that already. You’re awesome! So don’t keep trying to do things that you don’t love or don’t have time for just because you think it’ll make you look more awesome! It won’t! It’ll just make you more stressed out, and will prevent you from being able to devote yourself completely to the things you do love, which is actually less awesome. So pick the things you care about and devote yourself to them. And as for everything else: “No.”

The best time to practice this is right off the bat at the interest fair. I know you: you’re that student who isn’t quite sure what he or she wants to do yet, but everything looks so interesting at all the pretty tables, and you’re just going to sign up for all of the organizations and decide what you want to do later. No!! You’re not. I am graduating in ten days and I still receive emails from organizations that I don’t know a thing about! And I’m on their mailing list as if I’m interested or something! Obviously, I’m not!!! So why did I sign up in the first place?

The next time to practice this is when someone asks you to do something that you genuinely have no time for. It’ll happen sometime soon in the form of a, “Hey, I’m really busy — can you run downstairs and switch my laundry out for me?” or, even disguised as something fun: “Stop by my room in an hour, we’re watching The Lion King!” Now, I am not saying that you shouldn’t help your friends when they’re in need or spend quality time relaxing and watching movies. In fact, I’m a huge advocate of both. But when you really don’t have time for it, don’t do it! They aren’t going to hate you, because they should understand (they’re Wofford students too). You’ll get a chance in the near future when you aren’t so busy to make it up to them in some way. I promise.
I am all for being involved. In fact, most people give me a hard time daily about how busy I am, and I love being busy. But that also prevents me sometimes from being able to dedicate myself to the things I truly care about, or even relax, hang out with friends, or sleep! Wofford is a fabulous place to get involved in your community. There is a wide variety of organizations and clubs that range in focus! But you cannot do everything! No one can do everything. And there is no better time than right now to begin to recognize your limits. Know when you’ve got too much on your plate, and don’t add any more. Say it with me, one more time: “No.”
A COMPILATION OF ART & POETRY

My advice is summarized by a series of pictures, poems, and quotations: First, diversity is beautiful, both intrapersonally and interpersonally. Learn to value diversity in others as well as in yourself. It is impossible to avoid changing emotions, so appreciate the ups and downs — they add a substantial amount of color to the world. Second, in whatever you do, strive to do it well, and don’t let anybody put down what you are passionate about. Otherwise, the world will be a very monotonous place. Third, from working with kids with cancer, I’ve learned that unfortunate situations often create the most vivid and illustrious examples of the power of the human spirit. There are a lot of people who need help, and it is only by helping others that you can learn how valuable and how beautiful human life is. Fourth, worrying can be productive, but it can also destroy the world around you, so don’t get so frustrated with or so anxious about life that you forget to experience the present. This recommendation can be very difficult to follow, however, because people can be extremely greedy and insulting. Human nature has a very dark side, but you never have to give up your hopes and dreams because of what other people might say or do. Always keep trying. Finally, the universe is a big, confusing place, and everything can seem pretty pointless at times. But if you box yourself up and constantly deny the significance of things, everything can become very stormy. So open yourself up, find meaning in the world around you, experience the world around you, and live your life to the fullest.
Life is full of perspectives and opinions; individual experiences are what make life beautiful.

Maybe I’ll be floating tonight,
But I don’t know where to.
Maybe it’ll all just be all right
When I wake up in the morning.
I think I feel a change coming
In the tide,
But it’ll turn back again;
Of this I’m sure.
Do not quench your inspiration and your imagination; do not become the slave of your model – Vincent Van Gogh

... What could be more barren and desolate Than a sidewalk, In the summer, In Memphis? What could be a more Unnatural place For a flower to grow?

... This flower is unfortunate; It is an outcast. Yet despite the heat, Despite its vulnerability, And despite its complete abandonment, This flower still finds reason to grow; here. There is something about its condition That makes it Uniquely beautiful It radiates.
It only seems complicated because we try to comprehend.

*Where does the past go?*
*Into memories and onto paper.*
*And the future lives*
*In the hopes and fears of imagination.*
*Neither exists,*
*But both distort the present;*
*Both continually change the world.*
People may say that I can’t sing, but no one can ever say I didn’t sing. – Florence Foster Jenkins

You think you see a light,
It’s all about to end,
But it just passes by,
Leaving the darkness again.

Dance with me,
I love you lately
Come on love
You captivate me.
I’m seeing stars,
Sleep for me
While I dream.
Life has merely encapsulated chaos. Give it whatever meaning you want; pointlessness is the beacon on a hill that will help you understand.
2010 Presidential Seminar Class

Quintessential... A Wofford Education