

# CONQUER & PREVAIL

## WOFFORD COLLEGE



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## A method to the madness



■ Cathey and Bullard to present research on the mysterious illness of King George III at Oxford University.

Historians have long pondered the mysterious illness of England's King George III. More popularly, "The Madness of King George," a 1994 British film; the Netflix series "Bridgerton;" and "Hamilton," the Broadway phenomenon, have kept the king who ruled Britain during the American Revolution in the mainstream. But the circumstances of his decline and death remain elusive.

"It's really hard to diagnose when you don't have access to the patient," says Dr. Matt Cathey, professor of mathematics at Wofford. "Some historians have suggested porphyria, a hereditary blood defect. Others speculate bipolar disorder or diabetes ... or a combination of these. I'm not sure anyone will ever know for sure."

Cathey, however, may have stumbled across a more data-driven way to look at the journals of royal physicians that could shed new light on the mystery. He and Chanson Bullard '26, a biology and psychology double major with a concentration in neuroscience from Sumter,

S.C., spent the summer reviewing royal physician diaries and recording values for information logged, such as sleep, pulse, medicines administered, mood, bowel movements, exercise and much more. The database they developed has more than 100 categories.

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## Wofford ranks No. 6 nationally in study abroad participation



Students in the Wofford in Milan cohort prepare for a behind-the-scenes tour of the Duomo.

Wofford College's study abroad program was again recognized as one of the best in the nation by the Institute of International Education. The institute's 2024 Open Doors report showed growth in all areas.

According to the report, which was released on Nov. 18, Wofford ranks as the No. 6 baccalaureate college for the participation in study away for academic credit. The college moved up two spots from the 2023 report. Wofford also rose three spots to No. 3 for short-term study abroad participation among baccalaureate colleges. The report collected data from the 2022-23 academic year.

On top of Wofford's total number of students participating in study abroad experiences, the college ranked No. 5 in credit awarded for study abroad experiences, marking the first time the college has made the top five in this category.

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## Learn Chinese at Wofford through STARTALK



Wofford to offer academic credit for free Chinese language and culture courses this summer.

By Daniel Brasington '25

Dr. Yongfang Zhang has been awarded a National Security Agency STARTALK grant of \$137,194.82 to direct Wofford College's 11th STARTALK Chinese program in June 2025. The program still provides the benefits of learning Chinese — career opportunity, cultural understanding and cognitive health — but this year the program is targeting a different student population.

“Previously the program was directed toward middle school and high school students, but this year the emphasis is on providing instruction to high school and college students,” says Zhang, associate professor of Chinese at Wofford. After joining the Wofford community 14 years ago, she quickly realized the value of bringing STARTALK to the college. She says working with students such as Moses Briggs '25, a computer science and Chinese double major from Spartanburg, has been the best part.

“Learning a new language can bring frustration, but after a couple of days you can hear the participants singing children songs in Chinese and rushing through their lunch so that they can practice their introduction speeches,” says Briggs, who has served as a STARTALK counselor for the past two summer sessions. “The chance to build relationships and see friendships blossom has been very special to me.”

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## A week of firsts



President Samhat and Prema Samhat hosted a reception for first-generation college students during First-Gen Week.

Many students attending colleges and universities these days are comfortable with higher education thanks to parents who also went to college. For those whose parents did not, the journey isn't always so straightforward. That's one reason why Wofford Firsts was created and why it offers a full week of programming each academic year to highlight and celebrate Wofford's first-generation students.

Wofford Firsts held this year's First-Gen Week during the week of Nov. 4-11. It was the first edition to be held in partnership with Alpha Alpha Alpha (Tri-Alpha), an honor society for first-generation college students, defined as a student whose parents, stepparents and/or legal guardians did not complete a bachelor's degree.

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## Remembering Dr. Susan Griswold



Griswold was the first woman to chair an academic department at the college.

Not long after arriving at Wofford College in 1980 to chair the Department of Foreign Languages, now the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures, “Dr. Griswold” — Dr. Susan Cass Griswold — received an invitation from the president of the Faculty Wives Club.

“The well-meaning note said to make sure to tell my wife to attend the next meeting,” says Griswold. “I was the first woman to lead an academic department, and some colleagues — and their spouses — didn’t know what to think.”

Griswold died on Nov. 3 at her Spartanburg home after a career of paving the way for women in leadership and helping the college modernize the teaching of foreign languages and expand opportunities for students to study abroad.

“I never imagined, when I enrolled in Dr. Susan Griswold’s Spanish 201 course during my sophomore year at Wofford, that she would end up becoming a lifelong mentor and friend,” says Dr. Camille Bethea ’91, professor of Spanish. “Susan was a force of nature! She was a wonderful professor and an even more amazing person. She was fierce and adventurous; she could be tough as nails but also incredibly funny, caring and kind.”

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# Lifelong Learning at Wofford Winter 2025 registration is open

Lifelong Learning at Wofford is offering almost 50 classes, events and trips during January. Choose from a wide variety of classes.

Explore the website to learn more and register:

<https://www.campusce.net/wofford/category/category.aspx>

## Athletics updates

**Wofford announces NCAA Graduation Success Rate data**

**Volleyball concludes regular season with four-set win at Furman; host SoCon Tournament this weekend**

**All-Southern Conference Faculty and Staff Team announced**

**Six selected to CSC Academic All-District women's soccer team**

**Three selected to CSC Academic All-District men's soccer team**

**From the Athletics Director's Desk**

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