



Wofford College

**STUDENT-FACULTY COLLABORATIVE  
AND MENTORED SUMMER  
UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH**

Summer 2022



## STUDENT BIOGRAPHIES

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**Chantel Aguirre '23** is a Chinese and biology major from Spartanburg, South Carolina. In addition to serving as a sexual assault victim advocate in accordance with her participation in the Bonner Scholars program, she also is a Gateway Scholar and works at Spartanburg Regional as an emergency medical technician. She is passionate about women's health and hopes to become an obstetrician/gynecologist.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Maya Fein, assistant professor of theatre.



**Carson Archie '24** is an environmental studies major with a data science concentration from Charleston, South Carolina. This summer he worked with a group to assess lead concentrations in soil in Spartanburg city parks. This project is a continuation of Wofford's study of greenspace equity in Spartanburg County. The project's primary goals are to look at how legacy effects of heavy metals such as lead from various sources, including lead paint, lead fuel and Superfund/brownfield sites — locations that have been contaminated due to industry or other anthropogenic change — may have affected Spartanburg's parks. Along with being on the chemistry/sampling team, he worked with mapping and coding software to see if the results may relate to environmental justice issues. He hopes to pursue a career in environmental protection and the work that the chemistry team has done this summer has only reaffirmed and helped motivate him to continue on that trajectory, and he hopes to continue doing environmental research in the future.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Grace Schwartz, assistant professor of chemistry.



**Emily Arnold '23** is a Spanish major and English minor from Cheraw, South Carolina. She worked on two projects over the summer, one with a team collecting individual climate stories and experiences, and another with a team working to elevate the work of Latinx activists during the pandemic. The goals of both projects are to uplift

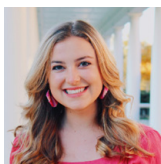
community voices, struggles and actions, and to further deliberate conversation. Emily also is a member of the executive committee of Kappa Alpha Theta and the leadership team for RUF, and is a student editor for the Writing Center.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Laura Barbas Rhoden, professor of Spanish.



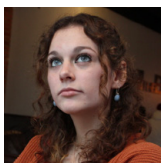
**Blake Batten '23** is a double major in sociology and anthropology and art history from Anderson, South Carolina. This summer she worked to create a free art camp and conducted research at the same time. Art has always been her passion, and some of her fondest memories are from art camps from when she was younger. Creating that experience with the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Upstate has been a dream come true. After graduation, she plans to get her master's in anthropology or work her way up through The Walt Disney Co. to eventually become a Disney Imagineer.

**Faculty collaborators and mentors:** Dr. Youmi Efurd, museum curator, and Dr. Karen Goodchild, Chapman Professor of Humanities.



**Taylor Boswell '23** is a biology and Spanish double major from Moore, South Carolina. Over the summer, she conducted research to better understand the ramifications of abandoned and condemned properties in the Spartanburg communities of Una, Saxon and Arcadia. She participated in surveys, local fundraisers and focus groups. On campus, Taylor is a member of the Honor Council, Wofford Ambassadors, Greek Life and Orientation Staff.

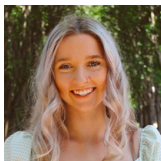
**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Alysa Handelsman, assistant professor of sociology and anthropology.



**Anneka Brannon '26** researched mental health through dance this summer in the project "Interconnected: The Tangle." She is the 2022 recipient of the Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Fine Arts Scholarship and an active member of Students Demand Action. She spent time in Washington, D.C., this summer working to prevent gun violence before beginning her research project

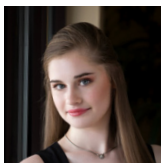
at Wofford. She hasn't yet declared, but she plans to double major in theatre and intercultural studies.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Maya Fein, assistant professor of theatre.



**Sara Buckmaster '24**, a sociology and anthropology major from Simpsonville, South Carolina, worked to determine the impacts that abandoned and condemned properties have on neighborhood wellness in the Una, Saxon and Arcadia areas of Spartanburg. As a student researcher, she conducted surveys and interviews, organized focus groups and hosted a community flea market where neighborhood residents had the opportunity to connect with resource organizations providing health care access, food access and more. She was previously engaged in community-based research in Spartanburg's Highland neighborhood, where she received a grant to sustain after-school programming initiatives at Spartanburg Housing locations. After Wofford, she plans to attend graduate school to study urban anthropology.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Alysa Handelsman, assistant professor of sociology and anthropology.



**Audrey Buffington '24** is a double major in theatre and English from Greenville, South Carolina. For the past two summers, she has gotten to work on the development of "Interconnected: The Tangle," an original dance theatre piece about mental health. This summer she served as a dancer, graphic designer, publicist, social media planner/manager, researcher, tech assistant and lobby display artist for this iteration of "The Tangle." She hopes the work she has done for the project can aid the destigmatization of mental health challenges while providing comfort to those who experience them. She has loved the opportunity to grow as a performer and help develop a new piece. In the summer of 2021, she helped produce "Honey," an original play by Kevin Connaughton. This summer she worked as the PA for the first South Carolina New Play Festival. She has been a part of every production during her time at Wofford, performing in "Heroes of the Fourth Turning," "Private Lives," "Twilight Bowl," "The Fairytale Lives of Russian Girls" and "Pride and Prejudice." She works for the theatre department, doing publicity and running the Instagram. Some of her

other campus involvements include being a member of Kappa Alpha Theta, the vice president of Alpha Psi Omega, and the graphic designer for Wofford Athletics and Recreation.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Maya Fein, assistant professor of theatre.



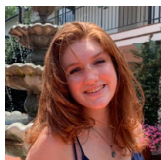
**Kimberly Cao '23**, a biology major and Chinese studies minor from West Columbia, South Carolina, studied the reproductive success of Eastern Bluebirds throughout the breeding season. The team looked at the number of eggs laid, eggs hatched and the number of young successfully leaving the nest contingent on other factors like temperature, canopy cover, precipitation, etc. This research will be a part of a larger project over many years to determine the various contributing factors affecting the Eastern Bluebird population. Her group also performed sound recordings at Glendale Shoals and the Cottonwood Trail to determine how human disturbances impact songbird biodiversity. The goals of these topics are to contribute to a larger database and inform others of the ways we have impacted the ecosystems and biodiversity within Spartanburg. She is a part of WAAPI, HOSA and the Pre-Dental Society. She plans to go to dental school after Wofford.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Lori Cruze, associate professor of biology.



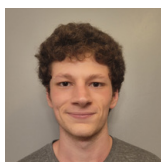
**Cole Carroll '23** is a biology and a religion minor from Dillon, South Carolina. He spent the summer researching the reproductive behavior of cavity-nesting songbirds and the avian biodiversity of the Upstate. In the spring, he constructed 30 nest boxes and placed them at Milliken Arboretum, a 600-acre green space that borders three of Spartanburg's major highways. He spent the summer checking the boxes biweekly to study the effects of time in breeding season on clutch size, hatch date and fledge date. He also collected sound recordings of birds and participated in bird banding at Glendale Shoals to study bird biodiversity. On top of research, he also was a tutor and teaching assistant for organic chemistry this summer.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Lori Cruze, associate professor of biology.



**Samantha Carter '24** is a biology and Spanish double major with a minor in environmental studies from Waxhaw, North Carolina. This summer, she worked to uplift and highlight climate stories from South Carolina. Climate stories are expressions of how each individual is experiencing climate change and a space to voice their hopes, frustrations and opinions on the socially hot topic. The climate story project works to bring awareness to the phenomenon of changing weather patterns over time and the ripple effects that impact us all. We worked to interview people from all demographics to ensure our work was inclusive and representative of the community. She also worked on a second project to uncover the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on the Latine community in Spartanburg. This project was started to highlight the progressive work Spartanburg has done to bridge the Spanish-English language gap and provide a guide for other communities. She also is a member of Wofford's Orientation Staff, Every Campus a Refuge, Sigma Delta Pi (Spanish Honor Society) and Delta Delta Delta, and is a tutor in the Writing Center. She has an internship to provide environmental education outreach and hopes to pursue further education and a career in environmental justice in Spanish-speaking countries after graduation.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Laura Barbas Rhoden, professor of Spanish.



**Wallace Chapman '24** is a biology major from Spartanburg, South Carolina, who plans on going to medical school after graduation. He spent the summer researching how the nutrient phosphorus and its signaling pathway relates to coral bleaching. Apart from making great friends and learning the technical parts of the lab, he has been measuring the expression of certain genes thought to be involved with phosphorus transportation and recycling throughout the organism. They take samples from phosphorus-starved and -filled organisms, enhance them to quantifiable levels and then measure how they differ. If they find a gene that is significantly changed between the two, they know that it plays a large role in how the organism processes nutrients, a very important thing to know about dying corals.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Geoffrey Mitchell, associate professor of biology.



**Willow Conley '25** is an undeclared major from Bluffton, South Carolina. This summer she worked on a paper with Dr. Natalie Grinnell analyzing werewolves in Gail Carriger's "Parasol Protectorate" series. She read both primary and secondary sources, discussed and provided ideas about the novels, and co-authored a paper about their discoveries. They found that in most contemporary werewolf literature, the werewolf body changes shape but appears as helpless to resist the progress of linear time as the heroine of the historical romance. They use the concept of queer temporality to show how the werewolves in Carriger's series twist away from normative temporality to redefine the nature of the wolf and its function in the werewolf pack, creating a queer space in the supernatural that resists many of the clichéd tropes of other paranormal romance.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Natalie Grinnell, Reeves Family Professor in the Humanities.



**Tucker Couch '24**, a chemistry major from Bristol, Tennessee, worked with a group that studied the reproductive success of the Eastern Bluebird and local songbird diversity. Eastern Bluebirds have experienced a recent decline in their population due to the loss of habitat caused by the removal of things like dead trees that they require in order to make nests. The group is hoping to determine factors that can affect things like the number of eggs laid and the number of hatchlings that survive in order to improve conservation efforts. The group's other project is focused on determining the level of songbird biodiversity in our area. Using sound recordings, they hope to determine how noise produced by humans affects the number of songbird species.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Lori Cruze, associate professor of biology.



**Paola Cruz '23** is a sociology and anthropology and Spanish double major from Charlotte, North Carolina. She is Wofford's 39th Presidential International Scholar and conducted research this summer investigating abandoned and condemned properties in the Una, Saxon and Arcadia communities. The project expanded beyond researching



the impacts of these properties and has become a project of listening and highlighting impactful and powerful stories about life in these three communities, which have been collected through surveys, interviews, group discussions and community events.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Alysa Handelsman, assistant professor of sociology and anthropology.



**Chandler Dickert '23**, a biology major with a minor in environmental studies from Newberry, South Carolina, researched *Exaiptasia diaphana* anemones and their endosymbionts Symbiodiniaceae. *Aiptasia* anemones were used as model organisms for coral to better understand coral bleaching. He hopes to establish a working protocol that can observe the mitotic index of Symbiodiniaceae. This protocol can then be used to look at the rate of division of these endosymbionts on their own and inside *Aiptasia* anemones. Dickert, in collaboration with Clemson University and the National Science Foundation, extracted RNA from *Aiptasia* anemones and their symbionts. Using this RNA, Dickert, along with Clemson University, constructed a genomic library used to see gene expression in anemones and its correlation to climate change. He is the president of Sigma Nu fraternity, captain of the club soccer team and member of the club disc golf team.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Geoffrey Mitchell, associate professor of biology.



**Brenna Duley '23**, a biology major and business minor from Forest Hill, Maryland, researched the link between heat stress and the proliferation of symbionts in two anemone lines using fluorescence microscopy. Several incidences of mass bleaching events have been attributed to global climate change, an immeasurable threat to the rise in average sea temperatures across the globe. Subsequently, the sensitivity of the symbiotic relationship between the anemone *Aiptasia pallida* and their residing symbionts belonging to the Symbiodiniaceae family continues to heighten. Her research used methods of BrdU and nuclear staining and microscopy photography to track the algal cell division that is altered under environmental stress applicable in our current ecosystems.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Geoffrey Mitchell, associate professor of biology.



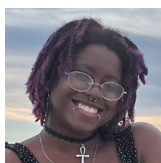
**Kaelyn Emon '24** is a psychology major and a philosophy minor from Spartanburg, South Carolina. She was a part of the research team focused on amplifying individual climate stories with a broad focus on English- and Spanish-speaking communities. They gathered data using phenomenological observations as well as adopting Socratic interview techniques to convey the experiences of the South Carolina residents that they spoke to. This research worked to shed light on the impacts of climate change in Spartanburg, other cities in South Carolina and even some countries around the globe.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Christine Dinkins, Kenan Professor of Philosophy.



**Nathan Faulstich '23**, a biology major from Lake City, Florida, was part of a team examining the symbiotic relationship between *Exaiptasia diaphana* anemones and their Symbiodiniaceae endosymbionts. Certain factors serve to alter the mitotic index—rate of cell division—within each organism. The team continues to focus on establishing a protocol that accurately measures the mitotic index of each organism and the effect of phosphate deprivation on the mitotic index. Research involved the team creating new protocols for RNA extraction and collaboration with Clemson University to yield a new genomic library. Faulstich is an iCAN mentor, volunteer at Halcyon Hospice, member of Sigma Nu fraternity, president of Alpha Epsilon Delta Pre-Healthcare Honor Society, and a tutor and teaching assistant in the chemistry department.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Geoffrey Mitchell, associate professor of biology.



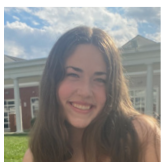
**Latavia Foster '23** is a biology major and English minor from Union, South Carolina. She plans to earn a Ph.D. in biology and pursue a career in biological research. Her hobbies include reading, writing, listening to music and looking for outfit inspiration.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Jeremy Morris, assistant professor of biology.



**Mac Gavin '24**, a sociology and anthropology and psychology double major from Lincolnton, North Carolina, worked as a part of a team on a quantitative and qualitative project researching abandoned and condemned properties in Una, Saxon and Arcadia. The purpose of the project was to help community revitalization efforts in these areas. To ensure the effort was community-led, she engaged in community workshops, door-to-door surveys and interviews with community members. She also did archival research on past public development plans starting from the 1950s in Spartanburg County. To get the input of the youth in the community, she helped lead a three-week summer camp. At the end of the summer camp, she put together an art installation of the different art pieces created by the children. The art installation was showcased at a flea market her research team put on. She also assisted in coding the data that will serve as a guide for community leaders as they make decisions regarding future community investments in Spartanburg.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Alysa Handelsman, assistant professor of sociology and anthropology.



**Maddie Glidden '24** is a chemistry major from Columbia, South Carolina. This summer she was part of a team that researched lead levels in parks the city of Spartanburg. Specifically, the team tested soils from parks with playgrounds because younger children are most susceptible to lead exposure and developmental health risks. They focused on determining which parks have the highest lead concentrations and evaluated how hazardous those lead levels are in comparison to EPA regulations. In addition to total lead concentrations, they also looked at the amount of lead that's bioavailable, correlation to other elements such as zinc and copper, and investigated whether there's any relationship between the lead levels from each park and the demographics of those park's visitors and the surrounding area. She primarily focused on preparation of the soil samples, instrument analysis and examining the data. On campus she is involved in Wofford Activities Council, is a member of Kappa Alpha Theta and is a TA for the chemistry department.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Grace Schwartz, assistant professor of chemistry.



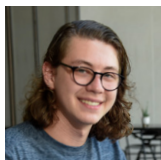
**Breelyn Grooms '25**, a biology major from Anderson, South Carolina, worked on projects relating to songbird reproduction and biodiversity in Spartanburg. The primary research focused on the reproductive success of Eastern Bluebirds, which had seen a drastic decline in previous years. The team placed nest boxes throughout Milliken Arboretum and quantified reproductive success through the number of eggs laid in each nest, how many eggs hatched and how many baby birds successfully left the nest. They also collected data to investigate how temperature, precipitation, time of year and surrounding environment could affect reproductive success within these nest boxes. With this data, they can highlight how climate change directly impacts the reproduction of animals within an ecosystem. From the data collected so far, a trend has been seen that increased temperatures causes fewer eggs to be laid per nest, which can be important if yearly temperatures continue to rise during the spring and summer seasons. The second research topic was concerned with overall songbird biodiversity in Spartanburg. They collected sound recordings at Glendale Shoals and Cottonwood Trail to measure the effects that human disturbance has on songbird biodiversity. They later analyzed the recordings and used an app to assist with identifying the calls that were made, and after confirming the bird was present, added it to a master list containing all heard species. From this study, they could potentially measure the impact human disturbance has on songbird biodiversity and determine what species prefer to live in areas with more or less disturbance.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Lori Cruze, associate professor of biology.



**Carson Harrell '24** is a biology and chemistry double major from Columbia, South Carolina. He is part of a team conducting research on the Eastern Bluebird and its reproductive success rate based on the number of eggs laid, the number of eggs hatched and how many baby birds that were able to leave the nest successfully. They also conducted research on how urbanization has affected the biodiversity of songbirds as a whole.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Lori Cruze, associate professor of biology.



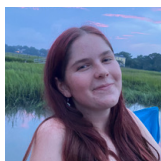
**Will Harvey '23** is an international affairs major and Arabic minor from Greenville, South Carolina. His primary focus is international relations within the Middle East region, taking part in Wofford's Middle East and North Africa (MENA) program as well as a research semester in Jordan. During the summer he started working on a project about the 1920 Iraq Revolt against the British. The project included a journey to the UK's National Archives and the British Library to find primary sources about the 1920 war. He plans to continue studying international affairs and pursue additional research opportunities after graduation.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Victoria Gilbert, assistant professor of government and international affairs.



**Callie Henline '23**, a government major from Statesville, North Carolina, worked on a mixed-methods study of the impacts of condemned and abandoned properties in Una, Saxon and Arcadia. In support of the community's organizing efforts, she and her fellow researchers went door to door conducting resident opinion surveys, held interviews with elected officials and community leaders, and facilitated focus-group discussions to better understand the history and perspectives of those living in the neighborhoods. The team shared their findings in public community meetings and presented data to county council in hopes of furthering the re-imagination and creation of neighborhood spaces that promote community wellness.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Alysa Handelsman, assistant professor of sociology and anthropology.



**Jill Hethcox '24** is a biology and history double major from Charleston, South Carolina. This summer she worked with four other research students, building off a previous Wofford study on greenspace equity in Spartanburg. Working from an environmental chemistry perspective, the team spent the summer testing the soil in all the playgrounds with accessible dirt for lead within the Spartanburg city limits. The team then applied demographic statistics in relation to the lead concentrations to see how these results may relate to environmental justice issues. This project has sparked

her interest in environmental research, and she hopes to continue to do similar studies in the future.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Grace Schwartz, assistant professor of chemistry.



**Scotdaija Jenkins '23** is a sociology and anthropology major from Greenville, South Carolina. Through a participatory action lens, both quantitatively and qualitatively, her research group collected information on prevalent issues in the Una, Saxon and Arcadia areas in Spartanburg to determine the impacts of abandoned and condemned properties on neighborhood wellness. They conducted surveys in each neighborhood, interviewed several community/praise leaders and officials, attended council meetings, hosted community workshops and held a three-week summer camp for kids ages 3 to 15. There also was a mapping component where they mapped more than 100 abandoned and condemned properties and other vital information. Much of their work speaks to re-imagining neighborhood spaces and examining the official versus the lived experiences of policies, expectations and opportunities. Scotdaija also is a Gateway scholar and a member of Wofford Women of Color and the Black Student Alliance. She has worked several jobs on campus, including in the Sandor Teszler Library and for the football team as a film assistant. She hopes to do a Fulbright after she graduates and to attend a graduate program in Virginia in hopes of becoming a psychiatrist or a behavioral therapist for children.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Alysa Handelsman, assistant professor of sociology and anthropology.



**Kerrington Johnson '23** is a finance major with a business minor from Anderson, South Carolina. She was first drawn to “Interconnected: The Tangle” by the opportunity to dance, but took a behind-the-scenes role in research to learn more about mental health. She competes on the women’s track and field team at Wofford. Balancing her time as a student-athlete has shown her the importance of caring for her mental health. She is appreciative of everyone who was so vulnerable and courageous in sharing their personal stories for this project. She would like to thank all who helped bring “Interconnected: The

Tangle” to life, as it is a great step forward in mental health awareness and the challenges we all face.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Maya Fein, assistant professor of theatre.



**Hayden Jones '25** plans to double major in history and international affairs. He was born and raised in Spartanburg, South Carolina, but now lives in Anderson. He is a part of several organizations on campus, including vice president of Black Student Alliance, secretary of Wofford Men of Color and sophomore delegate to Campus Union. He also is a brother of the Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity. When approached to do summer research, he knew it would be a great opportunity. The research he's been doing on climate change stories has been beneficial for his growth as a student.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Christine Dinkins, Kenan Professor of Philosophy.



**Emily Lang '23** is a psychology major and philosophy minor from Lexington, South Carolina. Her research this summer examined the resources for older adults (65+) in Spartanburg County. Through interviews with resource organizations in Spartanburg, her team was able to identify the resources Spartanburg has and where there are areas of growth. They also looked at comparable cities that are deemed “age-friendly” to see how they are serving the older adult population. She created a deliverable to be distributed that defined successful aging and why it is important to have resources available, especially ones that focus on the four categories of well-being: social, cognitive, psychological and physical. With the population of older adults expected to double in the next 8 to 10 years, it is essential that cities and counties plan for this and have the resources available to increase longevity and life satisfaction. Emily is co-president of Wofford Companions, a member of Kappa Alpha Theta and a student worker for Lifelong Learning at Wofford.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Kara Bopp, professor of psychology.



**Yasmin Lee '23** is a studio art major and digital media and film studies minor from Columbia, South Carolina. Through a variety of lenses, Lee's works contemplate the relationship between the viewer and the subject's perception, as well as the subject's intended performance while being perceived. The politicization of diverse, sometimes racialized bodies featured within her works enter a multitude of conversations regarding intersectionality and identity. Recently, Lee was awarded the 2022 Whetsell and Hackney-Haight Fellowship paired with the 2022 Penland Scholarship. This past spring, she won two awards at the WOCO Film Fest: Best Director and Best Short Film. In 2021, she earned the Judy and Brant Bynum Fine Art Award and was named Best Emerging Artist by the Artists' Guild of Spartanburg. She is preparing for two solo shows in downtown Spartanburg. She is both enthusiastic and curious as to how broadening her understanding of the humanities will influence her creative endeavors.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Maya Fein, assistant professor of theatre.



**Josh Lipscomb '24** is a philosophy and Spanish double major from Travelers Rest, South Carolina. During the 2022-23 academic year, he will study abroad in Salamanca, Spain, taking courses in philosophy, Spanish and linguistics. He enjoys the outdoors and playing sports as much as he does learning new things and stepping out of his comfort zone. He doesn't have any clear career plans yet, but is considering applying to be a Fulbright English teaching assistant in Latin America after graduation.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Ramón Galiñanes Jr., director of undergraduate research and post-graduate fellowships.



**Heyward McPhail '23** is an environmental studies major from Spartanburg, South Carolina. This summer he was engaged in research focusing on the impact of abandoned and condemned properties in the Una, Saxon and Arcadia communities. They did this through door to door surveys, interviews, walking tours and focus groups, as well as participatory observations at community



meetings and gatherings. He is interested in this research because of his family history of working with communities in Spartanburg. He enjoys expanding further into the community and working with a multitude of people.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Alysa Handelsman, assistant professor of sociology and anthropology.



**Messiah Moring '25** is a biology and math minor on the pre-med track from Boiling Springs, South Carolina. She has been dancing for 12 years at StarMakers Dance Co. and will be starting her second year dancing with the Wofford Dance Team. She also is involved with multiple other organizations at Wofford, such as Wofford Women of Color, the Black Student Alliance and Minorities in STEM. She's also a Spartanburg FIVA (Faith in the Vaccine) student ambassador.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Maya Fein, assistant professor of theatre.



**Hector Ortiz '22**, is the 38th Presidential International scholar and a triple major in biology, philosophy and Spanish from Saluda, South Carolina. He examined different facets of Angolan identity through its civil war. A goal for this project includes translating Portuguese Angolan newspapers to closely examine gender, ethnic identity and third-party mediators as the conflict ended.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Ramón Galiñanes Jr., director of undergraduate research and post-graduate fellowships.



**Sarah Owens '23**, a philosophy and international affairs major from Charleston, South Carolina, interviewed and collected information from BIPOC residents in the Spartanburg area about how they were sensing climate change.

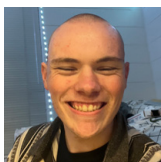
**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Christine Dinkins, Kenan Professor of Philosophy.



**Marlen Ramirez-Alvarado '24** is a biology and Spanish double major and a minor in philosophy with a concentration in medicine and liberal arts from Spartanburg, South Carolina. This summer she researched the impact of abandoned and condemned properties

in the communities of Una, Saxon and Arcadia. Her team volunteered in the community, hosted workshops and organized community events to benefit and raise awareness of the residents. Born in Spartanburg and growing up in Arcadia and Una, she hopes that her research can benefit the community and draw attention to the issues that are affecting the residents there today. The data that she and the team collected has been presented to Spartanburg County Council to advocate alongside community leaders to implement positive change. Marlen is a Bonner Scholar, Gateway Scholar, first-generation student, student representative of the Cultural Affairs Committee, and a member of OLAS and Wofford Women of Color. She plans to pursue a career in medicine after graduation.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Alysa Handelsman, assistant professor of sociology and anthropology.



**Noah Ravan '23** is a history and Spanish major from Bangor, Maine. He spent the summer researching the desegregation and integration process in Spartanburg's school systems. Over the course of the project, he interviewed graduates of Carver High School and Spartanburg High School and recorded their memories of integration and their experiences as the first Black students to attend desegregated schools.

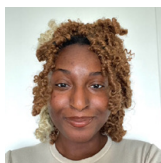
**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Clayton Whisnant, Chapman Family Professor of Humanities.



**Lizzie Richards '23** is an art history and history double major with a concentration in gender studies from Columbia, South Carolina. Under a grant from SCICU, Richards conducted archival research during the first half of the summer at the Spartanburg Public Library and visited galleries and art museums to put together a bibliographic essay on Spartanburg artist Helen DuPré Moseley (1897-1984). She researched Moseley's upbringing on Wofford's campus, ties to the Spartanburg community and her artistic career, which began much later in Moseley's life as a "hobby." With this information, she began writing a bibliographic essay for the art department that can be used for future researchers. Wofford acquired 386 works by Moseley in the fall

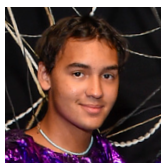
semester of 2021, so this research was used in the second half of the summer with the goal of planning and opening an exhibition of Moseley's works on campus in 2023.

**Faculty collaborators and mentors:** Dr. Youmi Efurud, museum curator, and Dr. Karen Hope Goodchild, Chapman Professor of Humanities.



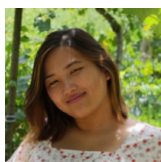
**MauriAnna Richardson '25** is a chemistry major on the pre-med track with an intent to minor in music from Columbia, South Carolina. This summer, she studied cancer cells and folate receptors. Folate receptors are proteins that eventually bind to the cells and stop their development, no longer hindering their host. This process is how chemotherapy works, and how a lot of cancer patients receive their treatment. During this process, she conducted independent research alongside her advisor. The research included creating a whey that would be filtered, then undergo dialysis before loading the sample to analyze and crystalize for further analysis. This research could potentially be used again in the future for developments regarding cancer treatments and helping patients.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Ramin Radfar, professor of chemistry.



**Marc Rivera '25** is a chemistry and mathematics major from Spartanburg, South Carolina. This summer, he researched mental illness through dance and visual arts. He followed his heart with his love of the stage and plans to further his studies and research during his college experience.

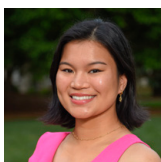
**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Maya Fein, assistant professor of theatre.



**Julie Rodrick '24** is an international affairs major and German and business double minor from Spartanburg, South Carolina. She spent the summer working on a project that showcases the work of three female Jewish artists from Austria who were exiled during World War II. The project included the creation of a website that highlights the brilliant work of these artists, including paintings, enamel art, children's books, drawings and illustrations. The website also features a page on historical context to better understand the effects of anti-Semitism, both broadly and in relation to the three artists. She was

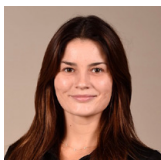
responsible for co-creating the website, transcribing documents, organizing digital files and scanning images and books. The project will bring attention to these artists' lives as well as their works. Julie is president of the Terrier Art Club and a member of Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Kirsten Krick-Aigner, professor of German.



**Megan Santos '23** is a biology major with a studio art minor from Concord, North Carolina. This summer, she participated with other students to test for lead concentrations at various Spartanburg playgrounds. The data collected allowed them to observe any variability within the area while also advocating for greenspace equity. Many of the sites of observation are near Superfund sites or near houses that contain lead paint. It was hypothesized that these areas would have high concentrations of lead compared to higher income areas. Megan is pursuing graduate school in the future, and summer research has allowed her to explore her interest in research, especially in environmental chemistry. On campus, she is a co-president of Wofford Asian and Pacific Islanders, a co-chair for the Wellness and Safety Committee and a senior delegate on Campus Union. She also participates in a variety of other organizations.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Grace Schwartz, assistant professor of chemistry.



**Katharine Spence '23**, a biology major with a minor in philosophy from Pawleys Island, South Carolina, was part of a research team that focused on two separate projects over the summer. The first focused on studying sexual dimorphism in house cats by dissecting and weighing the main muscle groups in the forelimbs and hindlimbs. The purpose for collecting this data is to determine if there were differences in muscle mass and skeletal shape in house cats. The second project focused on cricket anatomy in relation to jump performance and fighting performance. The goal was to determine what anatomical traits make crickets good jumpers or fighters. Katharine is a member of Wofford's cross country and track teams. In her free time she works at a vet center in her hometown.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Jeremy S. Morris, assistant professor of biology.



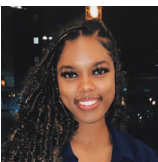
**Lauren Strange '24**, an English and French & Francophone Studies double major with a minor in accounting from Greenville, South Carolina, spent the summer curating and analyzing Angolan newspapers from 1989-2002. During this project, she and her fellow researchers created a coding guide in order to interpret how representations of the peace process, ethnicity and third-party mediators differed between two major publications from the designated time period. This was used to standardize the data and differing levels of bias depicted within the chosen topics. She hopes this research will be useful in understanding future conflicts with a greater global perspective and how bias within media representations greatly contributes to internal conflict as well as international.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Ramón Galiñanes Jr., director of undergraduate research and post-graduate fellowships.



**Noel Tufts '23** is a biology and Spanish double major from Charleston, South Carolina. This summer she collaborated on two projects: listening to and sharing climate stories in Spartanburg, and a case study analyzing integrative community supports for Latinx families during the COVID-19 pandemic in Spartanburg. Through the two projects, she conducted interviews to amplify community members' voices, continue conversations centered around climate change, and learn more about the ecosystem of support built for the Latinx community in Spartanburg in 2020. Noel is the vice president of community relations for Wofford's Delta Delta Delta chapter and is involved in Every Campus a Refuge, the ESOL initiative and orientation staff on campus.

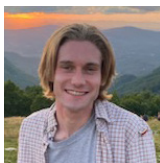
**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Laura Barbas Rhoden, professor of Spanish.



**Tiana White '23** is a philosophy and sociology and anthropology double major from Spartanburg, South Carolina. She plans to attend law school after graduating. She serves on the Judicial Commission at Wofford. Over the summer, Tiana conducted research on climate change for the project "Climate Stories in Spartanburg: Listening and Amplifying Voices in Spanish and English." This study was conducted with a qualitative approach that

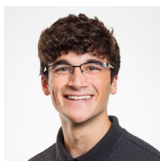
highlighted the voices of members (and leading forces) in the Spartanburg community, including Wofford.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Christine Dinkins, Kenan Professor of Philosophy.



**Drew Wilson '23**, an environmental studies major with a minor in data science from Sandersville, Georgia, researched the disparities of condemned property distribution in Spartanburg County to find their spatial and numerical significance. As a part of a primarily qualitative team, he focused on creating spatial and visual data using ArcGIS Pro and R Studio to represent both his numerical findings as well as his team's observational and ethnographic findings. He hopes that his work can provide a unique interdisciplinary bridge between two subjects that can be easily interpreted and used by citizens and government entities alike to enact change throughout Spartanburg County. Wilson is a resident assistant and Wofford Ambassador.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Alysa Handelsman, assistant professor of sociology and anthropology.



**Brady Wolfe '23** is a biology and religion double major from Chapin, South Carolina. He plans to attend medical school. This summer, he researched the Western notion of child development and health through a religious studies lens. This research is building on the recent push in the religious studies field to analyze seemingly secular cultural movements from a religious standpoint. His research led him to analyze children's puberty books, the CDC developmental milestones and associated resources, child medical neglect and disability scholarship. He utilized the work of religious scholar Ninian Smart and his seven dimensions of religious traditions to discover the many ways that the West's understanding of child development is itself religious. Moving forward, this research and framework of thinking will help him understand the religious formations of his own biomedical and "secular" understanding of health, and he can use this understanding to better converse with people who choose alternative methods of health attainment (prayer, crystals, herbal remedies). He has become more aware of what scholar Gary Laderman states in his writing "The

Cult of Doctors” — that “biomedicine can be understood as one health care system among many; like others, it is a cultural and social construction, a form of symbolic reality that is grounded in the particularities of historical and material circumstances, and that is also often in contention with competing systems of medicine and healing.”

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Dan Mathewson, professor of religion and associate provost for faculty development.



**Kleo Young '25** is a biology and chemistry major who grew up in Anderson, South Carolina and currently lives in Jonesville. He is a Bonner Scholar and a Gateway Scholar. He is the president of the Black Student Alliance and a brother of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity. He used his summer research project to gain lab experience and knowledge of new lab procedures.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Grace Schwartz, assistant professor of chemistry.

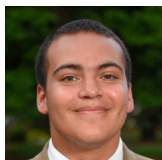
## SELECT STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION RESEARCH AND OTHER NATIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCES FOR UNDERGRADUATES

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**Colin Dral '23** is a chemistry major and religion minor from Zeeland, Michigan. He worked this summer as part of the REU program at Furman University. His project worked in the field of organometallics, and more specifically the development of new aminotroponimate (ATI) supported zinc complexes capable of intermolecular hydroamination. He also is a fellow for the iCAN mentorship program at Wofford, along with being a chief medical scribe for PRISMA health systems.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Robert Harris, assistant professor of chemistry.

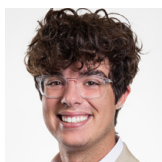


**Isaiah Franco '23** is an international affairs and Spanish double major with a minor in environmental studies from Newtown, Pennsylvania. This summer, as an undergraduate research fellow at the University of Vermont and Sterling College, he studied geographic, socioeconomic and cultural factors shaping crop diversity and livelihood outcomes in East Africa. His focus project analyzed possible relationships between conflict, seed acquisition and crop diversity in Uganda, using three rounds of the Living Standards Measurement Study - Integrated Surveys on Agriculture conducted by the World Bank and the Ugandan Bureau of Statistics as well as ACLED, a large-scale conflict event dataset. He hopes that his findings may provide insight into the way farmers adapt amid the turmoil of conflict, especially considering the importance of agriculture to livelihoods in sub-Saharan Africa.



**Hayden Fredericks '24** is a biology major with a minor in chemistry and concentration in neuroscience from St. Petersburg, Florida. She plans to attend medical school after graduating with aspirations to specialize in orthopedic surgery. She worked as a member of a team from the Wofford chemistry department to conduct undergraduate summer research at Furman University funded through an NSF REU grant. As a part of this team, she was focused on the synthesis and characterization of end-group modified poloxamers. The goal of her project was to attach various small molecule therapeutic agents as head groups to poloxamers in an effort to improve the cell membrane healing properties of the poloxamers, further attenuating cellular injury and death. Hayden plans to continue her work on this research project throughout the academic semester. She also is a student-athlete on the women's soccer team.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Robert Harris, assistant professor of chemistry.

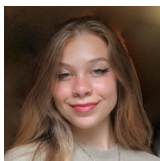


**Jack Stomberger '23** is a biology major and math minor with a concentration in medicine and the liberal arts from Danville, Kentucky. He spent the summer at the Medical University of South Carolina researching in the surgical oncology unit. His lab focused on Secreted Frizzled Related Protein 2 (SFRP2), a protein that has been shown



to be activated in response to tumor growth. The lab has created a monoclonal antibody of SFRP2 and has shown a reduction in tumor growth in osteosarcomas. His job was to begin this process with triple negative breast cancer. For further clinical studies to be approved, it was asked that CD38, a glycoprotein found on many immune cells, be shown on triple negative breast cancer, as it plays a key role in the SFRP2 pathway. Using biochemical assays, he showed its existence on cell lines, while also demonstrating its levels when treated with SFRP2. He also has used immunohistochemical techniques to analyze slides and compare different levels of other glycoproteins on breast cancer samples. The team hopes to move into clinical trial phases with the antibody in breast cancer patients later this fall. At Wofford, Jack is the chair of the Judicial Commission, a Wofford Ambassador, a Global Ambassador for the Office of International Programs, a TA and tutor for the biology department, and Medical Experience Academy Ambassador.

**Primary investigator:** Dr. Nancy DeMore, medical director of breast cancer at MUSC.



**Devon Taylor '24** is a biology and chemistry major from Lagrange, Georgia. With many family members in the scientific community, she has been inspired to apply to medical school after graduating. This summer, she was accepted to work in the REU program at Furman University. Scientific studies indicate that certain poloxamers, a type of polymer, exhibit cell healing properties. These properties can be enhanced when used in conjunction with small molecule therapeutics. Her project focused on using ether linkages to covalently bond a small molecule therapeutic with the poloxamer. The hypothesis is that delivering both the poloxamer and the therapeutic as a single molecule will enhance the therapeutic effect. She researched known reaction methodologies to form a synthetic plan for the new target molecule. She is excited to present her findings in October at SERMACS 2022.

**Faculty collaborator and mentor:** Dr. Robert Harris, assistant professor of chemistry.

## FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES

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**Dr. Laura Barbas Rhoden**, professor of Spanish, is the author of two books, “Writing Women in Central America” and “Ecological Imaginations in Latin American Fiction,” and numerous articles on Latin American environmental humanities and civic partnerships and global learning in higher education. She is co-president of the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment, an international professional organization, and founder of Alianza Spartanburg, a social impact network dedicated to fostering the inclusion of Latinx residents in improving quality of life in Spartanburg. She currently serves as a non-trustee program committee member for the Mary Black Foundation, and she is a member of the EMERGE Family Therapy and Teaching Clinic Board, the Behavioral Health Task Force, the Spartanburg Food System Coalition and the Community Advisory Board for CONNECT. She has collaborated with Dr. Christine Dinkins, Kenan Professor of Philosophy, community members and students to conduct several public research projects in the Spartanburg community. Students have presented these projects at national and international conferences, and the project reports are available open access in the Wofford Digital Commons.



**Dr. Kara Bopp**, professor of psychology, earned a bachelor of arts degree from Hamilton College, a master’s degree from New York University and doctorate in experimental psychology from Syracuse University. She was the recipient of the Roger Milliken Award for Excellence in Teaching of Science in 2017 and the Currie B. Spivey Award for exemplary work in the area of volunteerism in 2018. Her area of primary research in the field of cognitive aging examines effects of normal age-related changes on memory, in particular working memory, with influential meta-analyses on span and n-back paradigms. Her applied research provides the opportunity to pursue her passion for successful aging interventions, such as Wofford’s Lifelong Learning program and her own Living Words Program, which utilizes creative activities to promote cognitive, social and emotional well-being.

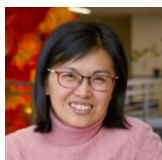
She was awarded an AARP Foundation and Council of Independent Colleges two-year grant from 2017-2019 that provided funding for an intergenerational connections program that continues through initiatives to connect local older adults with Wofford college students.



**Dr. Lori Cruze**, associate professor of biology, earned a bachelor of science degree from the University of Tennessee and a Ph.D. from the University of Florida. Prior to joining the faculty at Wofford in 2015, she was a research professor in the department of obstetrics and gynecology at the Medical University of South Carolina. Cruze is a reproductive biologist by training and is broadly interested in reproductive physiology, endocrinology and ecotoxicology. Her latest research focuses on the reproductive biology of local songbird species.



**Dr. Christine Dinkins**, Kenan Professor of Philosophy and recipient of Wofford's Covington Award for Excellence in the Teaching of the Humanities and Social Sciences, is co-author of two books, "Listening to the Whispers: Re-thinking Ethics in Healthcare" and "Our Dissertations, Ourselves: Shared Stories of Women's Dissertation Journeys." Dinkins also has published widely on the use of the Socratic method in teaching and qualitative research. She has collaborated with Dr. Laura Barbas Rhoden, professor of Spanish, community members and Wofford students with support from the undergraduate research program to conduct several public research projects in the Spartanburg community. Students have presented these projects at national and international conferences, and the project reports are available open access in the Wofford Digital Commons.



**Dr. Youmi Efurd**, Wofford College's curator, organizes and maintains the college's fine arts collection and exhibitions. Originally from South Korea, she holds a bachelor's degree in art education from Korea University, a master's in art history from the University of Georgia and a Ph.D. in history of art from the University of Kansas. Efurd's specialty is in Chinese art, and she uncovers the living nature of religious art as it responds to changing political, religious and social circumstances in Chinese history. Her training in Asian languages and societies aids

her research and broadens her perspective of viewing and understanding culturally significant objects. In addition to curatorial duties, she teaches museum studies at Wofford. Previously, she taught classes at the University of Kansas, Furman University, USC Upstate and Limestone College. Her recent administrative duties focus on the development of educational programs for visitors to enrich their museum experiences, as well as conservation and preservation of the college's art collection.



**Maya Michele Fein** is an assistant professor of theatre and serves as production manager and lighting designer within the theatre department. After completing her MFA in stage design and a teaching certification program at Northwestern University, she continued her journey as a lighting designer for theatre, opera and dance across the country. This summer, her research focused on collecting mental health surveys that included narratives on participants' experiences with mental health. With a team of artists who have been on Broadway, she then designed the lights, costumes and set to create "Interconnected: The Tangle." This dance theatre project aims to destigmatize and bring awareness to the vast challenges of the human journey by bridging the arts and mental health education. By exploring this subject through dance, a language that transcends words, it allows for clear storytelling that also offers personal interpretation. To her, design is a synthesis of art, science, math and psychology. Devising and designing "Interconnected: The Tangle" has provided her the opportunity to not only bring her passions to the stage, but also to inspire others to discuss the challenges of mental health and remove the stigmas related to it. For more information about the project visit [mayafein.com/interconnectedthetangle](http://mayafein.com/interconnectedthetangle).



**Dr. Ramón Galiñanes Jr.** is the director of undergraduate research and post-graduate fellowships. He holds a bachelor's degree in history from Montclair State University, a master's of philosophy in politics, democracy and education from the University of Cambridge (England), and a master's degree and Ph.D. in political science from the University of Florida. His research examines important questions about civil conflict, democratization, migration, civic engagement, ethnic

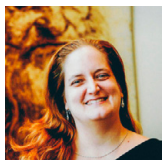
politics and social movements. He has received grants and fellowships from the American Political Science Association, the National Security Education Program, the U.S. State Department of Education Foreign Language and Area Studies Program, and the Gates Cambridge Trust. Galiñanes has taught social science and humanities courses and has organized and directed several study-away courses to Washington, D.C., and New York City. Galiñanes is a first-generation college student who is passionate about encouraging and empowering students to develop as scholars and civic leaders.



**Dr. Vicki Gilbert**, assistant professor of government and international affairs, has a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Pennsylvania. Her research focuses on a variety of topics, including rebel governance, identities and the legacies of violence in the Middle East. She also has published work on women's political participation in wartime Syria. On Wofford's campus, she also serves as a co-coordinator for the Middle Eastern and North African Studies Program.



**Dr. Karen Goodchild**, Chapman Family Professor of Humanities and chair of art and art history, avidly pursues research and wants to share that passion with students. She has recently published articles on landscape theory, Giorgio Vasari, Piero di Cosimo and Agnolo Bronzino, and her research has appeared in scholarly journals including *Artibus et Historiae* and *Source*, as well as in the *Ashgate Research Companion to Giorgio Vasari* (2016). She co-edited the volume *Green Worlds in Early Modern Italy: Art and the Verdant Earth* (Amsterdam University Press, 2019), which includes her essay "Naturalism and Antiquity, Redefined, in Vasari's *Verzure*." Her current work intersects with landscape and art theory, artist biography, literature and gender. Goodchild teaches courses in ancient and classical art, Renaissance art, gender in the Early Modern Period, surveys of African Art and pre-modern Western art, and practice-based courses involving community engagement in the arts.



**Dr. Natalie Grinnell**, Reeves Family Professor in the Humanities, has taught in Wofford's English department since 1997 and supervised the peer tutoring program since 2011. Her area of specialization is medieval studies, specifically Old French and Middle English romance and the works of John Gower and Geoffrey Chaucer. Recent publications include "Digital Unstorytelling: An Exercise for Teaching 'The Cloud of Unknowing' to Undergraduates" and "An Eco-critical Analysis of Gower's 'De Lucis scrutine.'" She is currently working on a book on the natural world as portrayed in Gower's poetry.



**Dr. Alysa Handelsman**, assistant professor of sociology and anthropology, has been engaged in ethnographic research projects in Ecuador for the last two decades, focusing specifically on children and youth cultures and publishing on girlhood, motherhood, poverty and decolonial research design. Since 2018, she has taught a year-long sustainability seminar and has been involved in designing and implementing sustainability programming in Spartanburg alongside Wofford students and community partners. This programming has focused on building sustainable communities through educational and extracurricular opportunities for children and youth. She is a graduate of the City of Spartanburg's Citizen Academy (2021) and is currently part of the Spartanburg County Foundation's Grassroots Leadership Development Institute. She forms part of Live Healthy Spartanburg's community engagement committee and is part of the city's steering committee this year to organize the Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Week celebrations. She was one of the judges this summer for the Juneteenth essay competition and participates regularly in Wholespire meetings and city and county programming. Over the last five months she has worked actively with students and partners in the Una, Saxon and Arcadia neighborhoods, and she is looking forward to continued collaborative research, fusing scholarship with activism.



**Dr. Robert Harris**, assistant professor of chemistry, graduated from Wofford College in 2009 with degrees in chemistry and mathematics. He completed his Ph.D. in organometallic chemistry at Duke University and an HHMI funded postdoctoral fellowship at Emory University, where

he studied the mechanisms of transition metal catalyzed carbon-nitrogen bond forming reactions. Before returning to Wofford in 2019, Harris joined the faculty at the College of Wooster as a visiting assistant professor in chemistry. Currently, he has an ongoing collaboration with groups at Furman University and the Medical University of South Carolina. His research interests include curriculum reform in undergraduate chemical education, the development of transition metal complexes to catalyze new reactions in organic chemistry, and the synthesis and modification of polyalkylene oxides with applications as cell healing agents.



**Dr. Kirsten A. Krick-Aigner** is professor of German in the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures. She has published widely in the fields of Austrian and German women's literature, Holocaust studies and postwar German-language culture. Publications include co-edited volumes on jazz in literature, "Jazz in Word: European (Non-) Fiction" (2018) and "Jazz in German-language Literature" (2013), and the volume "Unredeemed Past: Themes of War and Womanhood in the Works of Post-World War II Austrian Women Writers" (2011).



**Dr. Carolyn Martsberger**, associate professor of physics, earned a bachelor's degree from the College of the Holy Cross and then a master's and Ph.D. in physics from Duke University. While at Duke, she completed a certificate in translational medicine from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Prior to joining Wofford, she was a postdoctoral fellow in clinical neuropsychocardiology at Duke University Medical Center and taught physics at the undergraduate level. She is excited about her many opportunities to explore her passion for the intersection of cardiology, medicine and physics in a variety of settings. Her research focuses on understanding the nonlinear phenomena that promote irregular rhythms in cardiac tissue. She also is interested in how nonlinear, physiological systems such as the brain and heart collaborate and interact.



**Dr. Dan Mathewson**, professor of religion and associate provost for faculty development, earned his Ph.D. in religion from Emory University. He is a founding member of the Professional Wrestling Studies Association and served on the PWSA's inaugural executive committee for two years. His published work focuses on American Evangelicalism, Southern culture, and the intersection of religion and professional wrestling. His recent scholarship is on student development of intercultural competency in non-study away contexts.



**Dr. Geoff Mitchell**, associate professor of biology, earned a bachelor of science degree from Furman University and a Ph.D. in cancer biology at the University of Arizona, where he studied mechanisms for protecting normal tissues during radiation therapy for head and neck cancers. He also worked as a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Arizona and studied cellular decision making. At the end of his postdoctoral appointment, Mitchell joined the faculty of Colby College as a visiting assistant professor of biology before coming to Wofford. At Wofford, his research program, driven by his love of the ocean and scuba diving, focuses on the pressing environmental problem of coral bleaching that is occurring at an alarming rate across the globe. He and his students have published this work in leading academic journals and presented at regional and international conferences.



**Dr. Jeremy Morris**, assistant professor of biology, conducts research focused on animal performance, the role of aggressive behaviors on the evolution of animal anatomy, and the evolution of differences in anatomy and physiology between males and females. He has published research on the evolution of aggression in humans, male-female differences in the anatomy of carnivores, primates, humans and rodents. Other research topics that he has published on include deep sea ecology and fossil pangolins. Prior to becoming a professor, Morris carried out research on endangered Hawaiian forest birds and on



the effects of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill on bird life in the Mississippi River Delta. He also taught English to K-12 students in China, managed a zipline course in coastal Alaska and led a National Geographic student expedition to Indonesia that focused on ecotourism and marine conservation. He previously managed a project that brought conservation science and scientists to inmates in jails and prisons in Utah. Morris is an avid traveler and has spent several years traveling throughout Southeast Asia, India, China, the Himalaya, Central America and Europe. He has scuba dived and surfed all over the world, and has completed several overnight rock-climbing ascents of big walls in Yosemite and Zion National Park.



**Dr. Ramin Radfar**, professor of chemistry, earned his Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina and subsequently worked for a year in the crystallography laboratory at Schering-Plough Research Institute. In August 2001, he joined the faculty at Wofford College and since then he has supervised research projects of more than 40 students. Radfar has experience with expression, purification, crystallization and structural studies of large proteins. He has solved crystal structure of several proteins, including 4-diphosphocytidyl-2-C- methyl-D-erythritol (CDP-ME) synthetase from staph aureus and RNA-dependent RNA polymerase of hepatitis C virus in complex with divalent cation.



**Dr. Grace Schwartz**, assistant professor of chemistry, earned bachelor's degrees in chemistry and philosophy from Virginia Commonwealth University and a Ph.D. in environmental engineering from Duke University. She specializes in trace element biogeochemistry, contaminant remediation and environmental analytical chemistry. Her dissertation work explored the environmental impacts of coal combustion with a specific focus on the biogeochemical transformations and leaching potential of trace element contaminants from coal ash under different ash disposal and spill scenarios. After graduating from Duke, Schwartz worked as a postdoctoral fellow at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center,

where she developed in situ remediation technology for mercury-contaminated wetland sediments. She became a postdoctoral fellow at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in 2017, where her research explored the ecosystem controls governing mercury methylation in sediments and periphyton biofilms. In fall 2020, Schwartz joined the faculty at Wofford and teaches courses in environmental and general chemistry. Outside of teaching and research, she enjoys marathon open water swimming and has competed in races ranging from 1 mile to 10 miles.



**Dr. Clayton J. Whisnant**, Chapman Professor of the Humanities and European History, teaches a range of courses on modern Germany, 20th-century Europe and the modern Middle East. He received his B.A. from Rice University in 1993 and his Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin in 2001. His early research focused on masculinity, sexuality and the Cold War in West Germany. His first book, *Male Homosexuality in West Germany: Between Persecution and Freedom, 1945-1969* (Palgrave Macmillan) was published in 2012. His second book, *Queer Identities and Politics in Germany: A History, 1880-1945* (Harrington Park) was published in 2016. He is currently working on a textbook on Cold War Europe.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Dr. Jen Bradham	Karlee Tate
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Tammy Cooper	Career Center
Dr. Cissy Fowler	Center for Community-Based Learning
Sherri Gossett	Members of the Community who have supported these research projects
Zifan (Ivan) Gu '21	Members of the Faculty Development Committee
Kathy Kelley	Office of International Programs
Ann Jenks	Office of Marketing and Communications
J. Allen Lollis '15	The Office of the Provost
Dr. Robert Moss	The Office of the President
Julian Penuela	The Office of Student Success
The Rev. Dr. Ron Robinson	
Caroline Sargent '21	
Michelle Smith	
Dr. Tasha Smith-Tyus	
Dr. James Stukes	

Interested in learning more about summer collaborative research opportunities and/or undergraduate research at Wofford College?

Please contact Dr. Ramón Galíñanes Jr., director of undergraduate research and post-graduate fellowships, at [Galinaner@wofford.edu](mailto:Galinaner@wofford.edu).

