

WOFFORD COLLEGE

Wofford College usually gets its share of time in the national spotlight, but we are particularly proud this year of such distinctions as a listing in the Princeton Review “Best Value Colleges for 2012;” a selection as one of 40 “Great Schools, Great Prices” in *U.S. News & World Report*; and recognition as one of *Kiplinger’s* “Best Values in Private Colleges.”

Value is not always an easy concept to measure, but here are some reasons that Wofford scores high in this kind of benchmarking:

- A focused mission statement “to be a liberal arts college of superior quality,” and cost-effective programming that makes sense. For example, The Center for Community and Global Engagement (administered by our Perkins-Prothro Chaplain, Dr. Ron Robinson) emphasizes (1) Educational Opportunity; (2) Energy and the Environment; (3) Health and Healthy Living; (4) Poverty Reduction and Alleviation; and (5) Diversity and Pluralism.
- We have an effective enrollment management and advising strategy. Wofford’s most recent six-year graduation rate exceeded 83 percent, compared to the national average of 57 percent.
- We have one of the most robust learning outcomes “assessment for improvement” programs in the nation, and there is daily emphasis on conscientious budget management.
- As a nationally recognized “great college to work for,” we cultivate long-term relationships with faculty and staff who are passionate about student learning and who relate comfortably to others in the campus community.
- We take pride in an effective, individualized financial aid program that keeps the college accessible to a wide range of deserving students.

United Methodists remain the largest denominational group in the Wofford student body. Considering our average financial aid package last year was \$27,149, Methodist students received more than \$7 million through the financial aid office in 2011-2012. Support from the Senior College Scholarship Fund is a cornerstone of that effort. We appreciate that support and put it to good use as part of financial aid packages for United Methodist leaders of the future.

Katy Tamblyn is a junior at Wofford from Charleston, S.C., where she and her parents, Tommy and Leigh Tamblyn, are members of Grace United Methodist Church. A certified Lay Speaker, she was active in youth and musical groups in high school, and made two mission trips. She is active in several student organizations at Wofford, but her focus is on her major in religion and her pre-ministerial interests. “I definitely feel a higher calling,” Tamblyn says. “I am looking at Methodist seminaries — Duke and Candler at Emory — and I’d like to start out in youth ministry. Wofford has been a great fit for me. It has helped me to foster my love for my faith community and my interest in a Christian vocation.”

Another Methodist pre-ministerial student, sophomore Rob Levin of Mount Pleasant, S.C., is the son of Greg and Jenni Levin. “Wofford is a good fit for me because of the small class sizes,” Levin says. “Most of my classes here are capped at around 15 students. This gives me the opportunity to discuss class topics every day rather than having only an opportunity to listen. Dialogue is vitally important to a student of religion, and Methodists always have treasured human experience and rational thinking along with scripture.”

Young men and women like Katy Tamblyn and Rob Levin are the reasons that I believe the world is a better place because of Wofford College, past, present and future. Our vocation is to do good in this world without making any special fuss, sharing what we have with others and finding joy in doing so every day.

Benjamin B. Dunlap