

# Alumni Board Handbook

2021 - 2022



**WOOSTER**

Alumni & Family Engagement



# Alumni Board Newcomers' Information

Welcome to The College of Wooster Alumni Board. You are embarking on three rewarding and exciting years with the College. The College looks forward to your active participation.

Below are guidelines to help you get acclimated with the role and expectations of the Alumni Board. Please feel free to contact us if you have questions at any point during your term on the Alumni Board.

## **Alumni Board Handbook**

Each Alumni Board member receives a handbook. We hope this information will help you navigate your duties and prepare you for this exciting leadership role and opportunity to serve the college. This handbook includes the following:

*Frequently Asked Questions about Wooster's Alumni Association Role of Alumni Board Members*

*Alumni Programs, Services, and Volunteer Opportunities Important Campus Information*

*Information about the College*

*History of the Alumni Association*

*Bylaws of The Alumni Association*

Alumni Board members will also receive a photo directory of all members each fall. Please forward any changes to your personal information to the Alumni Office so that we can be sure the directory is current.

## **Alumni Board member vs. Alumni Trustee**

Alumni Board members serve a three-year term and attend two Alumni Board meetings each year. Each Alumni Board member is assigned to two special committees and is expected to attend all committee meetings.

Alumni Trustees serve up to two three-year terms and attend Alumni Board meetings and three Board of Trustee meetings each year. Alumni Trustees are assigned to two special committees and are expected to attend all committee meetings.

## **Attire for Alumni Board Weekends**

We want you to be comfortable during your time on campus. "Business casual" dress is most appropriate for daytime meetings. You will spend a good part of your days in discussions and meetings throughout campus, so please bring shoes that will accommodate walking around campus.

There is a nice cocktail hour and dinner in the evening. There is no dress code for these events since you will be amongst Alumni Board members and College staff.

## **Accommodations**

We utilize local hotels to provide lodging while you are in Wooster. The College pays for all housing expenses. We will provide hotel block information in advance.

## **Meetings**

All Alumni Board members are assigned to two out of the four committees. A board member will serve on either Nominations or Distinguished Alumni Awards, and Engagement or Affinity. Information about each committee is listed below:

1. **Nominations:** this committee focuses on the recruitment and selection of new alumni board members and alumni trustees (those who also serve on the Board of Trustees). The focus is to look at areas of opportunity and growth for the board and develop a pipeline of committed members who are willing to serve. The nominations committee recommends alumni for open seats and the full board must vote to approve their recommendations.
2. **Distinguished Alumni Awards (DAA):** this committee focuses on selecting 2 individuals to receive the award. The Distinguished Alumni Award is presented annually to alumni who have distinguished themselves in one or more of the following areas: professional career; service to humanity; and service to Wooster. Alumni are selected who exemplify Wooster's dedication to excellence and its commitment to service.
3. **Affinity Liaison:** this committee focuses on engaging various identity and interest-based affinity groups with the activities and engagement opportunities represented within the Office of Alumni & Parent Engagement, and through the board. Each committee member will reach out to their assigned affinity group before and after each board meeting to gather important information to share with the board, and Office of Alumni & Family Engagement. In addition, the board member shares important information following the meeting with the leadership of the group.
4. **Engagement Committee:** this committee will focus on ways to keep former alumni board and alumni trustees involved with the board, and College. In addition, as opportunities present for unique engagement opportunities through the College, the members of this committee help to identify alumni who are interested in serving.

## **Between Meetings**

While much of the work of the Alumni Board takes place during its two meetings on campus each year, members are expected to participate in additional reading, committee conference calls, and assistance with special projects during the months between meetings. We seek to maximize the effectiveness of the Board by fully utilizing the energy of its members throughout the year.

## **The Wooster Fund**

Not only is it important to lead by example, by making your own gift to The Wooster Fund, it is also important to encourage others to do likewise. Alumni Board members have generated positive results in every form of action from personal emails, letters, visits, phone calls and Facebook posts to their classmates. Some board members have encouraged their classmates to support the Wooster Fund in a formal way. Training is provided – and believe it or not, fundraising can be made simple...even if you have never had to fundraise before. If you are interested in formally encouraging your classmates to give, please let us know.

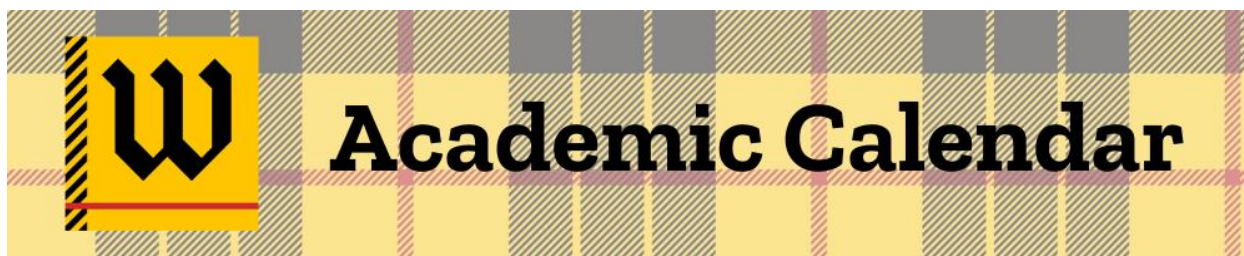
If you have any questions, please contact:

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# Academic Calendar

## 2021 – 2022, Semester 1

Fall Classes Begin 8:00 a.m.	8/25 (Wed.)
Fall Break Begins 4:00 p.m.	10/8 (Fri.)
Classes Resume 8:00 a.m.	10/18 (Mon.)
Thanksgiving Recess Begins 4:00 p.m.	11/23 (Tues.)
Classes Resume 8:00 a.m.	11/29 (Mon.)
Fall Classes End 4:00 p.m.	12/10 (Fri.)
Examination Days Begin*	12/13 (Mon.)
Examination Days End	12/16 (Thurs.)
Winter Break	4 weeks

## Semester 2:

Spring Classes Begin 8:00 a.m.	1/17 (Mon.)
Spring Break Begins 4:00 p.m.	3/11 (Fri.)
Classes Resume 8:00 a.m.	3/28 (Mon.)
Senior I.S. Due 5:00 p.m.	3/28 (Mon.)
I.S Symposium	4/29 (Fri.)
Spring Classes End 4:00 p.m.	5/6 (Fri.)
Examination Days Begin*	5/9 (Mon.)

Examination Days End	5/12 (Thurs.)
Baccalaureate	5/15 (Sun.)
Commencement	5/16 (Mon.)



# Alumni Board Committees 2021-2022

## Distinguished Alumni Awards Committee

***Sue Briss '82, Co-Chair***

***Chuck Nusbaum '02, Co-Chair***

Mary Beidler Gearen '79

Betsy Anderson '94

Meskerem Brhane '89

Christine Farrell '94

Ethan Flack '14

Kate McCall-Kiley '09

Michael Riffée '80

Angela Triplett '06

Bernice Walker '86

## Nominating Committee

***Mary Culnan '66, Chair***

Sandeep Bhatia '89

Margaux Day '06

Casey Henderson '02

Alexander Kyerematen '06

Michelle Pagano Heck '88

Karl Penn '90

Dempsey Simonis '15

Nate Whitfield '07

John Wilson '78

## Engagement Committee

***Michelle Pagano Heck '88, Chair***

Betsy Anderson '94

Meskerem Brhane '89

Mary Culnan '66

Christine Farrell '94

Ethan Flack '14

Casey Henderson '02

Michael Riffée '80

Bernice Walker '86

Nate Whitfield '07

John Wilson '78

## Affinity Committee

***Angela Triplett '06, Chair***

Sandeep Bhatia '89

Sue Curie Briss '82

Margaux Day '06

Mary Beidler Gearen '79

Kate McCall-Kiley '09

Alexander Kyerematen '06

Chuck Nusbaum '02

Karl Penn '90

Dempsey Simonis '15



# Nominations Guidelines For the Alumni Board

The Alumni Board will have a Nominations Committee. At its fall meeting, the Nominations Committee will review and evaluate all nominees and narrow down a slate of candidates and alternates for Alumni Board and Alumni Trustee vacancies. Between the fall and spring meetings, the Chair of the Nominations Committee will work with the staff of the College to gather additional information about the final candidates and propose additional candidates, as appropriate. At its spring meeting, the Nominations Committee will again review the slate of candidates and select the final list. The entire Alumni Board will then approve the recommended list of new Board members during its spring meeting.

## **Nomination Process**

All nominated candidates will be considered for the Alumni Board positions. College staff are responsible for providing recommendations for Alumni Trustee Representatives to the Nominations Committee.

Members of the entire College of Wooster community may submit nominations for the College of Wooster Alumni Board. For example, nominations may be submitted by:

- A College of Wooster Alumna/us
- An academic member of the College
- A staff member of the College
- The nominee
- A member of the College of Wooster community

The Office of Alumni Engagement will send a call for nominations for the Alumni Board once per year.

The nominator is requested to provide information about the nominee, particularly related to the election criteria including information related to date of graduation, major, address, additional degrees, major positions held, community service, leadership, Wooster service and/or a letter of support for the nominee. The Office of Alumni Engagement will provide biographical sheets for each nominee for the Nominations Committee's review.

Once nominated, candidates will be eligible for consideration for five years. After the fifth year of consideration, without being elected to the Board, candidates will be removed from the nominations list.

Anonymous nominations should be discouraged. If the College Alumni Office receives an anonymous nomination, they will contact the nominee to see if he or she is interested in being a candidate and to request biographical data.



The elections will fill vacancies of three Alumni Board members each year and Alumni Trustee Representatives as needed.

### **Nomination Qualifications**

The eligible candidates for the Alumni Board must be an alumna/us of the College of Wooster, not currently employed by the College. There is no minimum number of years that the alumnae/us must be out of school. There is no age restriction for serving on the Alumni Board; however, the College's Board of Trustees has an age limit which may restrict the service of some Alumni Trustee Representatives to the College.

In order to bring a diverse perspective to the Alumni Board and to best serve the needs of the College, the Nominations Committee will give consideration to the following criteria:

- Professional success, life achievement, leadership, and/or uniqueness.
- Commitment of service to his or her community.
- Commitment of service and giving or potential for service and giving to the Wooster community.
- Balance for regional representation from across the country.
- Balance for diversity on the Alumni Board, including race, gender, class year, international origin, and profession.
- Any special request or consideration made by the College Board of Trustees.
- Any special request or consideration made by the College President.

In any given year, the need for a balanced Alumni Board will dictate the relative weight given to these or other relevant criteria.

### **Board Member Expectations**

Alumni Board Members will serve a term of three years, which will include six biannual board meetings beginning in the fall. Members are expected to attend meetings, participate in working committees and contribute to the College with their suggestions, ideas, and recommendations.

Alumni Trustee Representatives will serve a term of three years and are eligible for re-election one time after their first three-year term. During each of their three-year terms, Alumni Trustees will attend six biannual Alumni Board meetings and nine Trustee meetings.

There is a three-year commitment for service on the Alumni Board and a maximum of a six-year commitment for service for an Alumni Trustee Representative. Candidates must be willing and able to serve the entire term. Alumni Trustees serve an important role as a bridge between the College's Board of Trustees and the Alumni Board.

Alumni may serve an additional term on the Alumni Board, particularly in the role of an Alumni Trustee or President, with a minimum of one-year sabbatical between positions on the Board.

Alumni Board members are expected to contribute to the College and give to the Wooster Fund during their term in office. Board members are also encouraged to attend regional Wooster events as they are able, serve on regional Leadership Boards, and communicate with local alumni about College activities. To continue the strength of the Alumni Board, members are expected to actively cultivate prospective nominees and submit candidates for nomination.

## **Alumni Board President**

The President of the Alumni Board is selected by the Nominations Committee from a list of candidates selected by College of Wooster staff. Upon nomination and approval, the President shall serve one year as President Elect, two years as President of the Alumni Board and The Alumni Association, and one year as Past-President. The President will attend and lead all Alumni Board meetings. In addition, the President is asked to attend Board of Trustee Meetings while serving as an Alumni Trustee.

In addition, the President will select a Committee chair who shall typically be someone who has served one year on the Nominations Committee and can serve as chair for a two-year term.

In the event of an unexpected vacancy, the Alumni Board President at his or her discretion may choose an individual to serve out the remainder of the unfinished term. In making this selection, the President will give consideration to the aforementioned criteria as well as prior service on the Alumni Board.

Adopted April 24, 2004

Amended April 22, 2005, April 21, 2007, November 14, 2009



# Distinguished Alumni Award Guidelines

## **I. Purpose of the Award**

The purpose of the Distinguished Alumni Award (the “DAA”) is to honor outstanding alumni during each Alumni Weekend. It is the highest honor given to an alumna/us by the College of Wooster.

## **II. General Qualifications for Award**

Any Wooster alumna or alumnus is eligible for consideration. Alumni are defined by The College of Wooster as any individual who has attended The College of Wooster one or more semesters. Current members of the Alumni Board are not eligible. Nominees must prove to be outstanding in their professional or volunteer vocation and/or service to humanity. An additional consideration, although not of equal weight, is their service to Wooster as an alumna/us.

## **III. Procedure for submitting nominees**

Alumni, parents, and friends are invited to submit names and qualifications of candidates for the DAA. Nominations may also be submitted directly to the College. All nominations must be received by the Alumni Office or the chairperson of the DAA Committee by March 1 in order to be considered for the awards presented in June of the following year.

## **IV. Distinguished Alumni Award Committee**

The President of the Alumni Board will appoint a chairperson and up to seven members to serve on the DAA Committee, seeking diversity of professional backgrounds. The DAA Committee will evaluate all the nominees and select up to three awardees.

## **V. Selection Procedure**

The Director of Alumni Engagement shall maintain and circulate the following information to the DAA Committee members 1 month in advance of the spring Alumni Board meeting:

- A list including the name of every candidate nominated within the last 3 years, excluding any candidate whom the DAA Committee decides should no longer be consider for the DAA (the “Master List”).
- Wooster summary, CV, and no more than 6 additional pages of support materials for each nominee listed on the Master List.

On a date chosen by the DAA Committee Chair, but no less than two weeks prior to the spring Alumni Board meeting, each member of the DAA Committee shall select up to six (6) finalists, ranked, and submit these names to the Director of Alumni Engagement, along with a list of any questions about the final candidates. The DAA Committee will convene at the spring Alumni

Board meeting and reach a decision on a list of up to 10 nominees that will be considered in more detail at the following fall Alumni Board meeting (the "Finalists"). During the spring Alumni Board meeting, the DAA Committee may also decide to remove nominees from the Master List. For any nominee removed from the Master List but later nominated pursuant to Section III of these Guidelines, the decision of the DAA Committee to remove that nominee from a prior Master List should be noted on that nominee's Wooster summary.

One month in advance of the fall Alumni Board meeting, the Director of Alumni Engagement shall maintain and circulate to the DAA Committee members the Wooster summary, CV, and additional pages of support materials for each Finalist. This information should contain the materials circulated prior to the previous spring Alumni Board meeting as well additional detailed information about each Finalist. The objective is to provide the DAA Committee members information sufficient to understand the qualifications of each Finalist. Under extraordinary circumstances, the President of the Alumni Board and/or the Chair of the DAA Committee may include additional nominees to be considered as Finalists during the fall Alumni Board meeting who were not included on the Master List during the prior spring Alumni Board meeting. On a date chosen by the DAA Committee Chair, but no less than two weeks prior to the fall Alumni Board meeting, each member of the DAA Committee member shall rank the Finalists and submit this ranking to the Director of Alumni Engagement, along a list of any questions about the Finalists.

The DAA Committee will convene at the fall Alumni Board meeting and reach a final decision on the nominees. The selections shall be reported to the entire Alumni Board at the fall meeting.

#### **VI. Notification Procedure**

Recipients of the award shall be notified through a letter from the Chair of the DAA Committee immediately following the fall meeting of the Alumni Board. The award winners receive their awards on campus during Alumni Weekend except under unusual circumstances.

#### **VII. Award Presentation**

During Alumni Weekend, the Distinguished Alumni Award recipients shall be presented with their awards by the President of the Alumni Association, the Chair of the DAA Committee, and/or other selected individuals, in a public presentation.

#### **VIII. Amendments**

Amendments to these Guidelines may be proposed by the DAA Committee and must be approved by the Alumni Board.

Adopted February 25, 1961, Amended September 9, 1967, February 2, 1975

April 19, 1986

April 29, 2000

April 21, 2007

April 30, 2010

April 30, 2011

November 12, 2011



# FAQ's about Wooster's Alumni Association

## ***What is the College of Wooster Alumni Association?***

Wooster alumni are an important part of the life of the College. Because of the College's genuine interest in its alumni, Wooster fully supports the Office of Alumni and Parent Engagement, also home of the Alumni Association. The office and the Alumni Association exist first to support the mission of the College which is to prepare students to become leaders of character and influence in an interdependent global community. We engage motivated students in a rigorous and dynamic liberal education. Mentored by a faculty nationally recognized for excellence in teaching, Wooster graduates are creative and independent thinkers with exceptional abilities to ask important questions, research complex issues, solve problems, and communicate new knowledge and insight.

Additionally, Alumni and Family Engagement seeks to provide educational, recreational, cultural, and social opportunities for Wooster alumni. The Association endeavors to maintain communication between alumni and the College and to provide alumni with opportunities to be of service to Wooster.

## ***When was the Alumni Association founded?***

In 1873 the classes of 1871 and 1872 gathered during Commencement, at which time they started an informal organization and decided to meet annually at Commencement.

## ***Who belongs to the Alumni Association?***

Any person who has been admitted to and has attended Wooster for at least one semester (including both graduates and non-graduates) is considered a member of the Alumni Association.

## ***What is the role of the Alumni Board?***

The Alumni Board is an advisory body. It reviews and advises the staff of the College about alumni engagement programs, effective use of alumni volunteers in the areas of admissions, career services and development; determines awards and selects recipients; and provides feedback and suggestions to the College administration.

***Do members pay "dues" to the Alumni Association?***

No. The programs and efforts of the Office of Alumni and Family Engagement are fully supported by the College's annual operating budget.

***Where is the Office of Alumni and Family Engagement?***

On the first and second floor of the Gault Alumni Center.

***What does the Office of Alumni and Family Engagement do?***

The staff runs all the programs of the Alumni Association. The staff handles day-to-day communication with alumni, maintains accurate alumni information, and provides liaison support between the College and its alumni.



# History of the Alumni Association

To assist you in understanding the history and long commitment of Wooster alumni to the College it is helpful to understand the history of the Alumni Association. What follows are excerpts from Lucy Lilian Notestein's (graduate of 1911) *Wooster of the Middle West*, Volume I and II.

*Wooster of the Middle West*, Volume I, pg. 73

On this third commencement, too, there was the first attempt at an alumni organization. The members of the classes of 1871 and 1872 held a meeting, elected officers, and determined on a loose form of organization with annual meetings at commencement time.

This commencement, however brilliant, was marred by Dr. Lord's resignation. He had resigned indeed at the end of the second year, but the trustees had persuaded him to stay. The marked increase of students at the beginning of the third year had made it plain that the new college was making its place in the synods of Ohio. Yet no additions to the endowment had been made. The trustees waked to the appalling fact that a great deficit had eaten out a large slice of the original endowment. In the meantime, a financial stringency almost amounting to panic was beginning to grip the country. President Lord had seen this situation developing yet felt helpless to avoid or cure it. Worry over it aggravated an illness which had been growing upon him. When June came, his health made the resignation inevitable. After five years of rest, he regained his health and again took up work elsewhere for several years. He was a shining example of the cultivated gentleman devoted to scholarship. His chief limitation was on the side of financial management. In the three years he gave to Wooster he did nevertheless a very necessary work in guiding the college to a place of assured dignity among the colleges of the State. His resignation even this second time was not at once accepted. During the summer, however, the trustees regretfully accepted it, and proceeded to the task of finding a new president. Dr. Lord made his farewell address to the college at the time of the inauguration of Dr. Taylor on October 7, 1873 and received on that day as the first official act of the new administration the degree of Doctor of Laws. In this address he made a comment on education which was long remembered:

Within these walls, the young woman on the same terms and with the same means as the young man, may strive with him for the highest training and the noblest honors. It may not be improper for me to say that this fact, more than any other one, availed with me, to undertake at my advanced period of life, the duties of the first president of the University of Wooster. For years past, my convictions, relative to what is called the woman question, have been definite and strong, and though it would be wholly irrelevant to expatiate on the general subject here...!

hold to the perfect equality of man and woman in law, and I fully accept all the legitimate consequences of this view. These consequences would bring, I think, great social and civil benefits.

Wooster of the Middle West, Volume I, pg. 163

The organization of alumni, begun in 1873, had had a fitful existence. Still, every June for ten years had found a little group of them gathered in the library for the meeting. In June 1884, Dr. Scovel's first commencement, an unusual number had come back. They had wanted to see Wooster's new president and to take stock of him themselves. That Tuesday morning there was begun the effort toward the endowment of the alumni professorship. During the next year the Central Alumni Association of the University of Wooster was incorporated under Ohio laws. Soon thereafter a place was made in commencement week for an alumni dinner. It was held at one o'clock on Wednesday in the Music Hall. In the evening an alumni oration was regularly given in the chapel. Later the oration was dispensed with, and a supper instead held in the armory. Gradually this banquet was to take its place as the central feature of all the festivities of commencement week.

Wooster of the Middle West, Volume II, pg. 210-222

In his first year Mr. Wishart was moving cautiously, though definitely and in the right direction. The students and faculty he had already, as it were, in his pocket. But there were others. Within the first few weeks of his coming to Wooster he had announced to a group of Presbyterian ministers in Cleveland that the college must have two million more in endowment for salaries if it was to move ahead. This he had reiterated at his inauguration.

Yet he knew as well as he knew his own right hand that to be successful in any campaign for money, he must have the prior backing of Wooster's alumni; otherwise, his work would be just as futile as the cow's jumping over the moon. He knew also from the persistent prodding of some of the old alumni, almost from the moment of his arrival on the scene, that these men were still bitter over the ousting of fraternities in 1913.

At the February meeting in 1920 he had asked his trustees for a more closely-knit alumni organization and for an executive alumni secretary, full-time. Wooster had had a Central Alumni Association since the early 1880s. Once a year it met and was attended by those alumni who came back for commencement. They listened to a report about the college, made nominations for alumni trustees from the floor, attended their class reunions at noon, the alumni banquet in the evening -- a kind of glory meeting where the president made a speech and sometimes interesting announcements; and then they went home for another year or five years or maybe ten. The rest they left to an executive committee who sent out the ballots for the election of the trustees, gathered them in when they were returned, and notified the college officials of the results. Otherwise, the alumni had little contact with the college, direct or indirect. During their life at Wooster the fraternities and sororities, it is true, had furnished much of this contact through their continuing organizations. It was true, too, that The Wooster Quarterly through the years had been a binding force, but it was by subscription and only about a fourth of the alumni at any one time took it. There was no disaster pending--the president devoutly hoped--no great



dramatic moment that would of itself inspire the gathering of the clans around the college of their memories.

They needed someone who would by letters and personal contact and whatever means he could dream up make them feel that they still belonged here, that the college needed them, someone who could supply enthusiastic leadership as a dean did for faculty and students.

The alumni needed to be told, not just once but frequently, of the needs of the college, of its frustrations and of its triumphs. There was a place waiting for a man who could weld the diverse elements within a far-flung alumni body in a common loyalty. The trustees considered and authorized the seeking of such a person.

Through all that long winter and spring of 1920 Emeline McSweeney had been preparing the copy for a new alumni catalogue, the first since 1916. It was needed, for the war had intervened, and not only had four more graduating classes been entered on the rolls but many of the old addresses had been changed. Now on June first of 1920, the copy was ready, the rolls themselves, the geographical and alphabetical index, the lists of former faculty, trustees, and officers of the college. They had used this list in sending out the 3500 invitations to the Jubilee Commencement.

It was a great commencement in terms of alumni participation. Of the thirty-four students entering in Wooster's first year, nine were back. Mrs. A. E. Taylor, widow of Wooster's second president, was there, still gay, still beautiful, still with the grace of an angel. Elsie Scovel Barnett, daughter of Sylvester Scovel, sent a telegram. President Whit had come. Louis E. Holden, who recently became president of James Milliken College, was busy with his own commencement there. Paul Shorey, head of the Department of Greek at the University of Chicago, made the commencement address. At the alumni business meeting discussion centered on how to finance the new office of alumni secretary authorized by the trustees but with no provision for its expenses or the salary. Pledges toward expenses were then solicited and a life membership fee in the Association set up. 365 pledges were made. These amounted to about \$3000 for the immediate needs of the Association and \$2000 in life memberships which were to become an endowment fund, from which only the interest could be used. With these pledges as an incentive the executive committee went about hunting their victim. It would be his responsibility to develop so strong an esprit de corps among the alumni as to assure his own salary. So, he was told, at least when interviewed in the summer by the president of the Alumni Association, John McSweeney, Jr., and by the treasurer of the college when he arrived on September 7, 1920, to begin the job.

The choice had fallen on John D. McKee, '17. He had come back from the war, had married a classmate the year before, Ola Weygandt, and had settled in business in Barberton. He was young, enthusiastic, and energetic, and he had the advantage of having had his whole Wooster experience in the post-fraternity era. Though his background, save for his war service and the year in Barberton, had been Smithville and Wooster, he had a generous and amiable disposition which he would need through the years in fending off complaints; and he was a go-getter. In college, he had been outstanding, an able debater, winner of a Fackler medal, a member of both the Congressional and the Toastmasters' Clubs. He knew something of organizational procedures and could stand on his feet and speak.

In accepting the appointment, he took a gambler's chance, betting on himself and on the alumni. He had been in Wooster for the Jubilee commencement, and had attended the Denison-Wooster game, which Wooster won, the senior class play, the alumni business meeting, and the banquet in the evening. There he had witnessed, and shared, the enthusiasm of the old grads and the young for the new office of alumni secretary. He had been pleased with the president and had been thrilled with the announcements of that evening. A campaign for a million dollars of endowment was being launched, for professors' salaries primarily, had indeed been already launched for one morning in the spring Mr. Wishart had been called out of bed by the long-distance telephone. It was E. P. Douglass, '77, of McKeesport, Pennsylvania, one of his trustees, offering him out of the blue the first \$25,000 toward the new endowment fund. Wooster had made an appeal again after so many years to the Rockefeller General Education Board. It had offered in answer \$250,000 provided Wooster could complete the million in cash and guaranteed pledges by June first, 1921. To the alumni of an older generation, this seemed indeed like old times. In nine years, the growth of the college in attendance and in faculty had been marked; in endowment there had been little or no change. The need was urgent.

When John D. -- for that became his name to everyone thenceforth-- reported into President Wishart that September day of 1920, he was greeted warmly, but told that yet there was no office available for him. Temporarily he was set down in the trustee room adjacent to the president's office in Kauke Hall, without instructions, without assistance, without any office equipment, save the table and the chairs in the room. He soon discovered, however, that the proof was coming through for the new alumni catalogue. This he must read at once. Correcting proof was fortunately no new trade for him. He had been editor of *The Index* in his day in college.

Soon he was informed that it was now his chore to mail out the ballots for the election of the alumni trustees nominated in June. This he did, gathering in the answers and reporting to the executive committee of the Alumni Association. With a rented typewriter he next sent out penny postal cards to all the 3,500 alumni and former students listed in the forthcoming catalogue, inviting them to a Homecoming on October 23. Before doing so, however, he consulted with the Student Senate, Coach Boles, and others, and arranged that a special section in the bleachers should be reserved for the alumni that day, that President and Mrs. Wishart would hold open house after the game, and that Mr. West of the Department of Oratory would be staging a rollicking farce, at the Opera House for the occasion. Evidently the invitations had had the proper touch, for on the great day 300 alumni were on the campus, and John D. was moving among them like an old hand. The game that day was with Oberlin, Wooster's perennial enemy which had not been defeated for two years. Their team came accompanied by 500 students, a band, and cheerleaders. Four thousand persons, it was estimated, were on the field to watch. The Board of Trade band played for Wooster. Captain Walker, according to *The Voice*, did that day a "sensational job of tackling." Wooster won 19-0 and the shouts of jubilation could be heard for a mile around. The *Cleveland Plain Dealer* reported that Wooster had won "because it had by far the best team." There was still another victory, however. Before the big game, had been the 4 1/2-mile cross-country meet with Oberlin. Wooster won this too. Her top runner came in 27 minutes and 3 seconds. In the evening at the Opera House before the curtain rose on "Polly in Politics" several students with special talents entertained with readings, a violin concerto, and vocal numbers. All in all, it was literally a day and a half.

In the meantime, Mr. McLaughlin, assistant treasurer, who was taking over more and more the duties of a non-existent business manager, studied where to put the alumni secretary. Before many days after his arrival carpenters were at work on the second floor of Kauke Hall dividing and redividing the old art room, to the left as one climbed the stairway, giving a part to John D., another to the registrar's office as an addition. John D.'s room was #214, and the Alumni Association was blazoned on its door. Then came the task of collecting furniture. A table was found in the basement of the library and several old chairs in Irvin Hall. Jesse McClellan pulled out from somewhere some old cabinets for files; Chalmers Martin lent a golden oak desk and chair. A telephone was put in.

Two tasks, John D. knew, now awaited him, that of keeping records of names, addresses, death dates, and the other more pleasant one of keeping the alumni in touch with Wooster and each other, of building up their group and individual loyalty to the college. This perhaps might best be done in two ways: by enticing them back to the college on special occasions and by cultivating alumni groups wherever enough lived to allow for some sort of regular get-togethers, even though these might be only once a year. He had already ascertained that a few local alumni clubs were or had been in existence off and on, notably in Cleveland, Chicago, New York, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, and Columbus. In Cleveland the men had a regular luncheon monthly in the dining room of the Chamber of Commerce. This he and Mr. Wishart attended in late October. In November they went to alumni dinners in both Boston and New York. On the way John D. made a point of stopping in the alumni offices at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, at Yale and at Princeton to get ideas on how these were run. He had no compunctions about asking questions, for Wooster had been a charter member of the Association of Alumni Secretaries since 1913, even though it had had no secretary. The whole movement was new, for until Wooster came in, Ohio State was the only college in Ohio with a functioning secretary.

In early December the alumni catalogue came out. It was mailed to all alumni save those in Wooster. The college refused to pay the postage for those here at home. "You can get a little express wagon," said Jesse McClellan to John D., "and deliver them yourself on Saturday afternoons." This he did. Anyhow the new catalogue made each community aware of the other Wooster men and women in its vicinity, speeded up and simplified the alumni organization meetings in Ohio and elsewhere. In January Wooster clubs in both Youngstown and New Philadelphia were organized. Toledo alumni met at Grace Smith's invitation at her Tea House in the suburbs and effected an organization. So gradually the flame spread. Indeed, in the winter John D. made a trip to the south and southeast in Ohio organizing groups in East Palestine, East Liverpool, Bellaire, Cambridge, and Mt. Vernon. His budget wouldn't allow him to go far afield. In the first few months of 1921, fifteen meetings of Wooster alumni were held. In Wooster 125 persons came to the meeting at Memorial Hall. In the annual meeting in New York at the Waldorf in the spring, more than 100 were present. Soon some of the clubs began playing host to the Boys' and Girls' Glee Clubs on their trips, arranging dates for them at the local Presbyterian churches, and entertaining them for dinner or overnight. Sometimes they were asking for special guests in addition to President Wishart, Earl Dunbar, Wooster's orator, for instance, or Coach Boles and possibly a member or two of his team. (Coach Boles was known now all over the state not just by Wooster men but by all sports fans.) The Wooster women of

Cleveland had a dinner honoring Mrs. Wishart and Mrs. J. M. Vance, director of the Girls' Glee Club.

Of course, all this enthusiasm had been given impetus by the campaign for endowment already under way. The college in the meanwhile had brought in F. N. Riale, '81, of the General Education Board of the Presbyterian Church, to assist in raising money. The college was little more than a name in most of the 51,000 Presbyterian homes in Ohio. It was time for Wooster to rouse itself to the dramatic possibilities in its own everyday life and to let the people of Ohio, particularly the Presbyterians, know what of real interest was going on in this small but active college. To be sure, Wooster had made one or two attempts at getting more publicity yet had come to little. Happily, the Rockefeller Board had consented, because of the serious financial depression, to the moving of the deadline for the completion of the campaign to June of 1922; that gave time for beating the bushes near and far for contributions. The trustees had allotted \$250,000 to the Synod as its share and had assigned to the alumni an equal amount. There was need of a news bulletin to apprise the alumni from month to month not only of their responsibility but of how they were meeting this. On April first of 1921, consequently, the first issue of The Wooster Alumni News appeared. It was edited by John D. McKee, under the supervision of the Executive Committee of the college, was a four-page, three-column folder on inexpensive paper, and carried important items about the college, administration, faculty, and students, the campaign, the alumni, and the alumni clubs, as well as an editorial or two. It went out to all alumni and former students without charge. This first issue also carried a letter from President Wishart in which he told.....of a man who had been very, very sick and whose room had been literally filled with flowers from affectionate friends. There came a time when the sick man...approached convalescence and demanded sustenance. The flowers kept on coming, however, and the old colored butler, with an eye to the psychology of convalescence, said to one of the callers, "de time for flowers am past. De time for grapefruit is done come."

So, in alumni relations. In the last two years alumni have had a lot of pleasant things to say and we have welcomed them.... But I do not mean exactly that we do not relish the flowers and seek all of them you must give, but I do mean that the time for definite activity has arrived. The old institution needs more than flowers. It demands sustenance. It seeks the active cooperation of all the alumni toward the building up of its resources--academic, physical, and financial. Now or never is the period of "grapefruit"...I believe the continuity and activity of every Wooster alumni chapter will depend on its assuming a definite responsibility for a fixed objective and getting every member to work upon it. Our supreme need is your supreme opportunity. We are depending on you.

Charles F. Wishart  
March 29, 1921

The continuity of Wooster's alumni clubs did depend on their having work to do, some focal point of interest and activity. In the past in several instances, clubs that had started with apparent enthusiasm had withered away. The new alumni secretary had indeed been busy this year in a work of resuscitation as well as of acting as mid-wife to other clubs at their birth. Reminiscences were delightful at reunions but offered no incentive toward continued existence. Now the alumni had something real toward which to strive.

In the spring the executive committee of the Central Alumni Association met again taking stock of the situation thus far. Expenses had been heavier than expected during the year, and pledges toward these had fallen behind. It seemed wise, therefore, to establish annual dues of \$5 and life memberships of \$50. The new alumni secretary had done well. Not only had he seen the alumni catalogue through publication and inaugurated a news bulletin, but he had compiled files- - (three sets of them on cards) on all alumni and all former students for whom he had or had been able to find exact information. He had written personal letters to forty-three of the classes, had looked after arrangements for Homecoming, and was planning a dinner in June for all class secretaries at which he intended to outline their responsibilities and opportunities. Early in the spring he was already making sure of the alumni arrangements for commencement, an occasion to which he looked forward with some trepidation. There would be a hospitality committee to meet all trains, rooms provided, if reservations were made ahead, in dormitories and if necessary, in private homes. A thousand details confronted him as he thought of plans for the reunion classes and the alumni banquet. Besides, he must justify his existence by his report at the alumni business meeting.

When it was all over, however, he felt that something new in alumni relations was shaping up. At the business meeting of the Association, a temporary alumni council had been set up consisting of the executive committee of the Association and one member from each of the existing alumni clubs. Several new ones had been recently added, Los Angeles, Seattle, Mansfield, Canton-Alliance, Lorain, and even a club of four or five in Salt Lake City. This gave the Association more national scope. A committee chaired by Elias Compton, '81, had been appointed to draft a new constitution. One of the aims of this committee was to find a procedure for the nomination of alumni trustees. They were interested, too, in the possibility of using alumni clubs to discover and direct promising students in their local communities toward Wooster. The Association voted that a brochure showing Wooster, at its best of course, be got out for use in high schools, and that *The Voice* also be sent to a selected list of these. They had recommended also that five alumni or alumnae representing different fields be brought to the college every year for life-work conferences with students. Of course, the expenses of the past year were reviewed, and the fact recognized that to function at all adequately the Association should have for the next year a budget ranging from \$5000 to \$6000. The class secretaries, as John D. had hoped, had met and effected their own organization.

The college had ended its year (1920 - 1921) with an accumulated deficit of nearly \$45,000 of which \$15,000 had been incurred during the past year. However, preparations for the campaign were well in hand, and at the end of June the new campaign manager with his dramatic flair was on the ground. He was R. Arthur Basham, Welshman and ex-coal miner, immigrant to Canada (with ten dollars in his pocket), and member of an ambulance unit in the Canadian Expeditionary Forces. He had managed somewhere along the way to acquire a college diploma, a Reverend in front of his name, and a wife. He had been an assistant in a church in New York City, a pastor in Buffalo and Columbus, had raised half a million dollars in four months for Wesleyan College in West Virginia, and had recently been employed by the Presbyterian Board of Education to raise money. He was in short, a kind of whirlwind; he moved so fast one could hardly trail him save the smoke from his large pipe. When he came, the total pledged toward the three quarters of a million yet to be raised stood at \$84,000. It had happened One May Day in chapel that faculty and students had been so carried away in a burst of revival-style enthusiasm that they had pledged \$27,000, more than they had any reason to believe they could ever pay. There had been

miscellaneous gifts totaling \$33,000 and the town had thus far loyally come through with pledges of \$24,000. In three days in July Mr. Basham raised this latter figure to \$53,000. It was a brave beginning. But his major work right now was really that of planning. Of course, there were minor indications here and there of activity. A few more alumni clubs were formed; others held summer picnic meetings, attended by Mr. Wishart, John D., and a faculty member or two. One alumnus sent in a check for \$10,000. Ten persons would be working for Wooster in the churches of Ohio. Mr. Wishart and Mr. Basham would be seeing the possible large givers. The alumni would be divided into forty districts, each with its chairman. John D. would be giving most of his time during the year to the development of this work. To cover the existing deficit and the necessary expenses of the campaign, \$100,000 over and above the million-dollar goal would have to be raised. By the first of October a total of more than \$150,000 in pledges had come in, exclusive, of course, of the Rockefeller challenge fund.

In October of 1921, there was another Homecoming, another game, with Case, attended by some 300 alumni, another reception at the Wisharts', and another play in the evening, given by the Student Senate at the Opera House. This time, however, the Cleveland alumni had brought down with them for their first visit to Wooster 200 members of the Cleveland Presbyterian Union. Arrangements had been made with John D. that these visitors were to be given lunch at Kenarden, would then be taken on a brief tour of the college and the town, would have seats reserved for them at the game, and would afterwards be given a snack at Holden Hall before their return to Cleveland. This was but the beginning of many such visits to Wooster through the years.

At Homecoming this year, the temporary alumni council held its first meeting, with fourteen members from Wooster clubs in attendance as well as the executive committee. They approved the observance of Wooster Day on December 11, the anniversary of the fire and of the subsequent dedication of the new Wooster. They recommended that on this day Wooster clubs everywhere meet in an expression of their common loyalty. In this its first year, 1921, meetings were held on that night in sixteen cities or towns, Wooster Day was recognized also in the services of 200 Presbyterian churches.

Mr. Wishart on the eleventh had been speaking in Cleveland at the Church of the Covenant -- he spoke every Sunday at some church. A few days before, Earl Dunbar, '21, had been chosen from among forty-one candidates as the Ohio Rhodes Scholar to go to Oxford University. It was only natural for Mr. Wishart to mention this and to go on to tell something of the story of Dunbar, the boy from Tennessee, who had come to Wooster equipped, financially speaking, only with a scholarship for his freshman year and \$50 in his pocket. During college he had won one prize after another, one oratorical contest after another, until in the spring of 1921 he had come back from South Dakota, winner of the interstate, intercollegiate oratorical contest. To put himself through college he had done almost everything, had served as janitor in Kenarden Lodge where he lived, had waited tables, had sold shoes downtown, had pitched hay for a farmer, had scrubbed floors, and peeled potatoes. One day in his senior year, to encourage other boys to take the risk and come to college he put down in the form of a letter a friend how he felt about taking such a chance. He ended his story in this way:

"And it hasn't been a grind. I've had time to play a little tennis, a little baseball, a little football. [Actually, he played on the winning Varsity team.] I've gone out for debate every year. [He had

been on one of the college teams.] I've had my share of dates. I've been to almost every class party. I was president of my class one year, and even had time to dunk the freshmen! It hasn't been a grind, but a glorious game and one that pays. And I'm glad now that I didn't have any money when I came to Wooster, for when I walk down the aisle next June and get that diploma, I will know that it is something that I have worked for."

He hadn't mentioned that he had been a member also of the college Congressional Club. After the service Mr. Wishart received various pledges to the college endowment fund and along with them a note from a woman in the congregation asking him to call on her the next day. When he appeared, she said not a word about his address, but only "That was a wonderful boy you spoke about yesterday"; whereupon she handed him, for the college, bonds amounting to \$50,000. It was in the Severance tradition, and she was a Severance, Mrs. F. F. Prentiss.

In general, large givers in this campaign had been few. The after-the-war depression had shaken the confidence of many. Men and women were holding tightly to what they had. At their midwinter meeting the trustees had taken note of this fact and offered as individuals to go out to try to shake loose money from various potential givers. They had added strength, too, to their organization by the election of two new Cleveland trustees, A.C. Ernst and Whitney Warner of the W. H. Warner Coal Company, director of The Union Trust Company and of The Morris Plan Bank. By the first of February 1922, the total, including the initial challenge fund and nearly \$117,000 from alumni, stood at nearly \$600,000. By the first of April this had risen to nearly \$700,000. By May first another \$100,000 had been added.

An every-member drive among the alumni was set from May 15 to June 1. The alumni issue of the college Bulletin of May first carried an editorial headline: "YOUR ALUMNI DOLLARS – NO MATTER HOW MANY YOU CAN SPARE – MUST BE PLEDGED." And it quoted from the speech made by Senator John Sherman at President Lord's inauguration:

If you would have this institution of learning rise from the stone and brick in its foundation to the ideals of its founders...if you would have it the true Alma Mater of thousands.... who will look back to it as the foundation of their usefulness...? you must by study and persistent efforts endow it amply, so that literature and science may here have their ablest Professors.

By June first the alumni had raised \$214,000 of their quota. John F. Miller, Class of 1881, had offered to pay the last \$10,000, yet they still had a considerable sum to raise. During the first ten days of June, however, alumni gifts came in at the rate of nearly \$1000 a day. This was not enough. The campaign had been scheduled to close on commencement day, June 14.

A \$50,000 general drive in Wooster and Wayne County was consequently arranged from June 5-8, with Thomas Prosser as chairman. Eighty canvassers worked steadily for the three days. At the dinner meeting on the night of the eighth they were several thousand short. When this was announced several men led by Donald Dickason rose and pledged the difference. Wooster had come through again. In the meantime, \$16,000 more had been found in Cleveland.

By Tuesday morning of commencement week, alumni day, nearly everyone who arrived for the meeting of the Alumni Association was on tenterhooks. The announcement soon was made that the total now stood at \$1,064,134.04. The challenge fund and the clearing of the deficit

were covered. Yet there remained almost \$36,000 before the goal of \$1,100,000 would be reached, and the expenses of the campaign also covered. It was in a mood of hopefulness that the Association that morning transacted business. The continuation of Wooster Day was approved, the Dix plan of class reunions also. Dues were reduced to \$3 annually, \$5 for husband and wife. The budget for the alumni office for 1922-1923 was set at \$6000, two thousand of which was to go toward the expense of enlarging the monthly College of Wooster Bulletin, Alumni Number. The major work of the morning, however, was the ratification of the new constitution proposed after much study by Mr. Compton and his committee. Hereafter alumni trustees were to be nominated by a committee and elected in the spring by an orderly procedure. The constitution provided for an Alumni Council with full power to determine the policies and regulate the activities of the Association. This was to be made up of a representative from every class (term, five years), a representative from each club having a membership of twenty-five or more persons (term, one year), and members at large elected at the annual meeting of the Association (term, one year). This council was to meet twice a year. At the alumni banquet in the evening the announcement was made that only \$12,000 was lacking in meeting the final goal.

All through the morning of commencement day the campaign office was busy. At the end of the formal activities in the chapel Mr. Wishart sent for Mr. Basham and asked the audience to wait for his report. Wooster had once more gone over the top; Mrs. Cyrus McCormick of Chicago had sent in her pledge for \$10,000. Mr. Basham read the names of those whose pledges came in at almost the last moment, and many of them were alumni giving for a second or even a third time. At the end, Mr. J. E. Harris, ex '82, had telephoned to ask how much was still lacking and when they told him \$1,000, he pledged it. Altogether some 7,000 persons made up the roll of contributors. The class of 1921 had won the silver trophy cup given for the class with the highest percentage of contributors. Like Earl Dunbar they had been betting on themselves and their ability to make good all their pledges by 1925. And so, commencement ended with jubilation.





# WOOSTER

## The Wooster Fund

The Wooster Fund is the College’s annual fund. A gift to The Wooster Fund supports every program on campus and therefore is a gift that benefits every student, every day. Each year, gifts from thousands of Scots ensure that Wooster has the funding to meet its greatest need.

As we look ahead to the future, we know The College of Wooster will continue to evolve, while still holding true to the values and traditions for which we are known for. These gifts are a crucial complement to our tuition revenue and endowment, supporting every aspect of the College’s work, and allow us to be nimble and respond to emerging needs.

**2021-2022 Goal:**  
\$3.35 million

**Fiscal year:**  
July 1 – June 30

### How is my gift used?

Gifts to The Wooster Fund support all aspects of Wooster’s annual operating budget. It is not used for major construction or renovation projects.

Many donors have expressed a desire to support specific aspects of the Wooster experience that mean the most to them. With that request in mind, we are happy to provide the opportunity to select the area for which you would like to see your Wooster Fund gift applied.



### Wooster Fund Giving Societies

The Leadership Circle:

Old Main Society	\$100,000 or above
Kauke Hall Tower Society	\$50,000 - \$99,999
Ephraim Quinby Society	\$25,000 - \$49,999
Founders’ League	\$10,000 - \$24,999
Chairman’s Council	\$5,000 - \$9,999
President’s Associates	\$3,000 - \$4,999

Other Wooster Fund Giving Societies:

MacLeod Society	\$1,000 to \$2,999
Scots Clan	\$1 to \$999

### How to make a gift:

- Give a gift online through Wooster’s secure site: [www.wooster.edu/give](http://www.wooster.edu/give)
- Mail a check to The College of Wooster to 1189 Beall Avenue Wooster, OH 44691
- Call the College of Wooster's Office of Annual Giving at 330-263-2533.

**Pledges:** Make a commitment to give by creating a pledge. Annual pledges are due by June 30



# Alumni Programs, Services and Volunteer Opportunities

## PROGRAMS

### ***Alumni Weekend and Reunion Giving***

Each June marks Alumni Weekend at The College of Wooster. This is a time-honored tradition that is important to Wooster alumni and to the life of the College. Class reunions and class gifts are celebrated quinquennially (every fifth year). Annually, over 1,000 people attend Alumni Weekend to renew their connections with the College, classmates, faculty, and friends.

The Office of Alumni and Family Engagement and Annual Giving host reunion workshops on-campus each fall to assist class officers and their class reunion committees in planning their celebrations and their class giving efforts. The Office of Alumni Engagement and Annual Giving staff work closely with each class throughout the year to organize and execute the plans.

### ***Black & Gold Weekend***

Black and Gold Weekend is a traditional fall, on-campus event, organized by the Office of Alumni and Family Engagement and the Dean of Students. This new tradition combines Homecoming and Parent and Family Weekend. Usually timed to coincide with home athletic contests, this event includes opportunities for alumni athletes to participate in sporting events as well. The schedule includes academic department open houses, time with the president, special gatherings for young alumni, "W" Association Hall of Fame induction ceremony and various other activities. Also, Black and Gold Weekend is the time when special interest groups such as the band, athletic teams, and student organizations have organized reunions.

### ***Regional Alumni Programs***

Wooster gatherings are held in most major metropolitan areas throughout the country each year. Programs include the Wooster Faculty Series, cultural programs such as art exhibitions or concerts, sporting events, updates about the College by an administrator, or strictly social events to give alumni an opportunity to meet one another.

### ***Office Based Programs***

The Office of Alumni and Family Engagement engages in a variety of communication efforts with alumni. Baby bibs are sent to new parents. A Valentine greeting is mailed to alumni couples. Congratulatory notes are sent to alumni when noteworthy accomplishments are called to a professional staff member's attention. Providing effective liaison support between alumni and the campus is given strong priority in the alumni office as is the maintenance of accurate alumni information.

## **AWARDS**

### ***Distinguished Alumni Award***

Established in 1967 by the Alumni Board, this award is presented each year to two or three alumni. The award honors individuals who have distinguished themselves in one or more of the following areas: professional career; service to humanity; and service to Wooster.

### ***John D. McKee Alumni Volunteer Award***

Through the generosity of the family and friends of John D. McKee '17, a fund was established to honor the memory of Wooster's first alumni director. Each year an award is presented to an alumni volunteer who has dedicated time, talent, and energy on behalf of the College.

### ***Outstanding Young Alumni Award***

Nominees must have graduated from Wooster within the past 15 years and must have served on behalf of the College. The service may include contributions of time and/or talent and must be distinguished in both quality and quantity. The individual may also have achieved distinction in his or her career.

### ***The Sara L. Patton Stewardship Award***

This award was established in 2011 by the Alumni Board to recognize the 30 plus years of service of retiring Director of Development, Sara "Sally" L. Patton. Each year an alumna or alumnus who has established an outstanding and sustained record of giving and encouraging others to give to The College of Wooster receives this award at Alumni Weekend's annual meeting.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### ***Wooster***

Wooster, the College's alumni magazine, is published three times a year and distributed to alumni. Each magazine not only focuses on a particular theme but also features a series of departments which examine topics of special interest. The magazine routinely involves alumni as writers as well as subjects. Not only do alumni secretaries collect and prepare material for

the Class Notes section, but the magazine often includes articles written by alumni and encourages letters to the editor.

### ***Alumni e-Newsletter***

The alumni monthly e-newsletter is an easy way to keep in touch with what's happening at the College. Current events, achievements, news, and alumni profiles all help to keep you up to date. Currently, the e-newsletter is sent to more than 14,000 alumni and friends. Current parents receive a similar e-newsletter.

### ***Web Page***

Wooster's homepage [www.wooster.edu](http://www.wooster.edu), includes a button for alumni. The alumni homepage, [www.woosteralumni.org](http://www.woosteralumni.org), includes information about services and volunteer opportunities. It also has an alumni directory and numerous other services.

### ***Groups***

#### ***Black Alumni Council***

The Black Alumni Council is a Special Interest Organization of the Alumni Association. The purpose of the Black Alumni Council is:

1. To improve the Black experience at The College of Wooster.
2. To enhance the opportunities available to Blacks who attend The College of Wooster, both before and after graduation.
3. To create a vehicle for on-going communication and interaction among Black Alumni.

#### ***Wooster LGBTQ Alumni***

Through the collective's engagement and visibility, Wooster LGBTQ Alumni endeavors to strengthen and extend the College of Wooster's mission and stature and intends to serve the LGBTQ alumni and student communities by fostering relationships, harnessing support, and promoting justice.

#### ***Legal Alumni of Wooster***

The Legal Alumni of Wooster (LAW) develops relationships and fosters connections between the College of Wooster, its students, and its legal alumni and friends. LAW supports the College of Wooster's pre-law curriculum and programs, promotes the advancement of Wooster's aspiring lawyers, and provides information and mentoring to Wooster students. LAW also assists and empowers Wooster graduates working in the legal field by connecting them with other Wooster legal alumni and friends. LAW is a partner in the pre-law program's goals of preparing students to become competent and ethical lawyers.

### ***Military Alumni of Wooster***

Military Alumni of Wooster is an affinity group, founded by recent graduates, that is aimed at connecting alumni serving in the military, supporting on-campus programming, and honoring the College's long connection to our country's armed forces.

### ***"W" Association***

The "W" Association membership comprises men and women who received letters as participants in Wooster's inter-collegiate athletic program. The "W" Association now has more than 2,000 members. Founded in 1909, one of the most notable programs of the Association is Wooster's Athletic Hall of Fame. The "W" Association Board of Directors selects Wooster's most accomplished athletes for induction to the Hall of Fame each year during Homecoming. The Association's \$30,000 budget, raised from its members, supports such athletic department projects as team trips, senior awards, special projects such as equipment for the weight room, video equipment, and the purchase of banners and trophy cases. Members of the "W" Association also receive Sportsline, a newsletter about athletic programs at Wooster.

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

### ***Alumni Admissions Advocates***

Happy and successful alumni are the best advertisements of Wooster's quality. When alumni speak with prospective students and their parents about Wooster's positive influence on their lives and what the College has meant to them, alumni add a dimension to the admission process which no one else can provide. Volunteering to make such contacts benefits Wooster and the prospective students and it also gives alumni the opportunity for creative involvement with the College.

Alumni Admissions Advocates are asked to assist admissions in a variety of ways according to the needs in their home areas. Many college nights which cannot be covered by staff are handled by Alumni Admissions Advocates.

Interviews are offered by Alumni Admissions Advocates to prospective students who cannot get to the campus. Alumni Admissions Advocates send the names of young people in their communities who should receive Wooster Admissions literature. The Admissions Office provides the names of local students who inquire about Wooster to Alumni Admissions Advocates and asks them to call or write offering assistance and answers to questions. Alumni Admissions Advocates invite prospective students to dinners, receptions, and concerts when the Scot Band and Wooster Chorus are on tour. And, of course, congratulations are offered in a variety of ways once admitted students have decided to attend the College.

### ***Fighting Scots Career Connections***

Fighting Scots Career Connections Platform: Connect with current students and alumni to have career conversations and use your perspective and insights to strengthen the Wooster Alumni network. In addition, the Fighting Scots Career Connections platform provides an opportunity for alumni-to-alumni connections, a space for our affinity groups to virtually gather, and professional development webinars for continued growth.


We ask that every board member join the Fighting Scots Career Connections Platform by visiting <https://wooster.firsthand.co> and registering as an Advisor with your LinkedIn account. Setting up your profile is easy and should only take several minutes.

### ***Class Officers***

Class officers act as a liaison between their classmates and the College. Officers are elected every five years at Alumni Weekend and hold five-year terms.

### ***APEX Volunteers***

Volunteer in the Career Planning network to offer current students' advice and expertise in your field. Provide mock interviews, arrange internships, and refer job opportunities to qualified students.



# About The College of Wooster

Wooster was founded in 1866 by Presbyterians who wanted to do "their proper part in the great work of educating those who are to mold society and give shape to all its institutions." The goal of the first Board of Trustees was to "establish an institution with broad foundations and facilities equal to the best in the land, capable of preparing men and women for every department of life, for the highest walks of science and all its forms." A citizen of Wooster, Ephraim Quinby, donated a venerable oak grove set on twenty-two acres on a hill overlooking the Killbuck Valley, and the Trustees of the fledgling institution spent the next four years raising funds so that the school might open with buildings, books, a laboratory, scientific equipment, experienced faculty members, and an adequate endowment.

On September 8, 1870, Wooster opened its doors as a university, with a faculty of five and a student body of thirty men and four women. By 1915 there were eight divisions, including a medical school whose faculty outnumbered those in the college of arts and sciences. Gradually, however, the institution's definition as a liberal arts college had been evolving. In 1915 a traumatic episode occurred: there was a bitter fight over whether Wooster should establish yet another division within its structure. At first, the Trustees sided with the minority of the faculty which favored the new division, and then, after the resignation of President Holden, reversed themselves and supported the majority of the faculty which wished to devote itself entirely to undergraduates in the liberal arts. It was an angry struggle in which friends and colleagues of thirty years parted company. Speaking in Chapel in 1930, Howard Lowry, who was to become Wooster's seventh President, gave some sense of the conflict which had occurred. As he recalled it, those who had triumphed in 1915 had told his entering class in 1919 that Wooster was "not a university nor a vocational school but a college of the liberal arts. They told us to postpone for four years all training which would be directly useful and assured us that upon graduation we should be quite good for nothing. They summoned us to a way that was long and hard and full of grief. For ours was the impatience of youth and we could scarcely wait to give the world our impress. There were fortunes to be made, bridges to be built, and marriages to be contracted. We were in a frenzy to go places and do things. For many of us it meant entering seriously into debt and accepting questionable sacrifices from our loved ones, but down in our hearts we knew somehow that, if the world had in it truly educated men and women, here they were and they were worth attending to." Thus, after the great conflict, Wooster, in the words of Dean Elias Compton, gradually "lopped off one appendage after another" and became a college of the liberal arts devoting itself exclusively to undergraduates.

An aspiration for excellence marked the College from its inception. Jonas Notestein, a student in Wooster's first graduating class, wrote that "a kind of prophetic feeling possessed us all that this was to be a great institution after a time, that we were starting ideals and setting standards and that it became us to do our very best so that the after generations of students would have something to be proud of." The refrain of "something to be proud of" echoes through the years: the "habit of mastery" which became the trademark of the early faculty; the rebuilding of the College after the great fire of 1901, five buildings replacing one within a year's time; President Wishart's vigorous defense of the freedom of inquiry in a clash with William Jennings Bryan over the examination at Wooster of the subject of evolution; the practice of student research projects which led Karl Compton to work with George Bacon on x-rays in the first decade of this century; Arthur Compton's receipt of a Nobel Prize in 1927; and the establishment by Howard Lowry of Independent Study and the faculty leave program in the 1940s.

Another important dimension of Wooster's history is its early dedication to the education of women. Willis Lord, the first President, made a strong commitment to coeducation, warning the early classes that Wooster had the same expectations of its women as it had of its men and that all men and women would be taught in the same classes and pursue the same curriculum. In 1870 this was a controversial policy, and a diary of one of the students who heard the announcement on the first day recorded the following observation: "Coeducation is announced as a feature of the institution. I think favorably of it myself but hear a great many saying that it will be a failure. I have heard ten reasons this afternoon why it must fail." It did not fail, however, and women quickly assumed positions of leadership in the student body. The first Ph.D. granted by Wooster was given to a woman, Annie Irish, in 1882, and many of the early women graduates made careers for themselves in foreign missions, doing abroad what they could not easily do in this country - founding colleges, administering hospitals, and managing printing houses. Wooster's concern for the education of women has remained unabated, and more recent women graduates have entered path-breaking careers in business, higher education, and the diplomatic corps.

Likewise, on the matter of race, Wooster was clear from the beginning. The first President declared that Wooster should be a place of studies for all: "The sameness of our origin as men and women carries with it our original and essential equality. Had our national life been the true expression of our national creed, slavery would have been forever impossible. Caste, in whatever name, strikes at the soul of our humanity and liberty." The first black student, Clarence Allen, entered the College in the 1880s, and the promise of the early vision still inspires the College. Today approximately 8 percent of Wooster's student body is black, and the College is proud of its black graduates, many of whom have entered the fields of medicine, law, business, the ministry, education, government, and the social services. In 1988, Wooster's Board of Trustees created The Clarence Allen Scholarships to be awarded based on academic merit. These scholarships commemorate the achievements of Wooster's first black graduate a century ago.

Wooster has long emphasized international education. An unusually high percentage of its early graduates went overseas as missionaries, and soon not only their sons and daughters, but also the students from their schools, were enrolling at Wooster as students. There were special



houses for these students where every occupant spoke two or three languages and where friendships developed among students from Asia, Africa, and Latin America. A student living in one of these houses observed: "For much of the time, we were as far removed from the ordinary atmosphere of the surrounding Ohio farm country as if we had actually been transplanted to Asia." This international presence affected the entire campus, establishing a tradition which continues to influence the College. Today approximately 6 percent of the student body is international in origin, representing more than 30 different countries. Majors in Cultural Area Studies and International Relations, instruction in eight foreign languages, over 130 overseas programs, and the popularity of Cross-Cultural Connections Housing Program, all attest to a global awareness which is a vital part of the educational fabric of the College.

Religion also played a vital part in the creation of the College. The Articles of Incorporation specify that the purpose of the institution is "the promotion of sound learning and education under religious influences." Moreover, the College's motto - *Scientia et religio ex uno fonte* (Science and religion from one source) - emphasizes the integrated life. For its first hundred years, the College was owned by the Synod of Ohio. In 1969, the Synod of Ohio voted to release ownership of the College and its assets to Wooster's Board of Trustees, and thus today the College is a fully independent institution which, however, has voluntarily chosen to continue its relationship with The Presbyterian Church (USA) through a Memorandum of Understanding with The Synod of the Covenant.

Wooster was a college born of a faith, a faith that education ought to be concerned with the total implication of things, both with those questions which may be empirically tested and those for which there are no definitive answers. Wooster has always possessed a strong Department of Religious Studies as well as the conviction that there is something beyond men and women which may confer a sense of proportion and worth on their lives and give them purpose and direction, a faith which Arthur Compton defined as "the best we know, on which we would willingly bet our lives." The expressions of this religious spirit have been many and varied, and in each decade, there have been student projects which express the ethical concerns of the time. During the Depression, Wooster students raised funds to send a graduating senior to India to teach, a tradition which continued until the 1970s. There were rice meals to raise money to assist international students and to bring refugees to this country from Nazi Germany.

Today, approximately two-thirds of the College's students are involved in volunteer service through the Volunteer Network, an umbrella organization composed of 25-30 student groups engaged in projects ranging from recycling to raising money for local and national hunger programs, from serving the elderly and disabled to working on race relations and women's issues. Wooster's graduates have continued the tradition of being oriented toward service and finding the purpose of their lives in fields through which they can enrich the lives of others. The aspiration to join the ability to think logically with the ability to act morally, to link science with service, to educate the heart as well as the mind, was present from the beginning and continues to inform the College and its graduates today.

From the beginning, science was given a prominent place at the College because it was believed that scientific discovery could only lend greater weight to moral truth; science could, in President Lord's words, give "silent but eloquent witness to the uncreated and the infinite."

There could be no conflict between reason and faith, because of their common source, and whatever the unfettered mind found to be true would be in tune with the infinite harmony of the cosmos; the physical sciences should, therefore, be strong at Wooster. It is extraordinary, given the fierce religious convictions of the women and men who shaped Wooster and the conflict between science and religion in the late nineteenth century, to find the intensity with which these same religious convictions supported a scientific establishment at the College. There was nothing backward about Wooster's physical sciences whose early graduates included Nobel laureate Arthur Compton and his brother Karl, who became President of Massachusetts Institute of Technology. This commitment to the sciences has endured in the progressive programs of quality in the departments of Biology, Geology, Physics, Mathematical Sciences, and Chemistry, which, for example, ranks third in the nation in the percentage of its graduates who eventually receive Ph.D.'s.

These are the memories of the past to which the College is entitled: "the habit of mastery," the faith in liberal learning, the commitment to "put its students in the way of great things," the commitment to offer studies for all regardless of sex or race, the international and religious dimensions of the College, and the strong commitment to the physical sciences. As Jonas Notestein understood more than a century ago, "It is our glory to dwell, to make a home and to become a part of an order which will go on after our time is finished." Wooster and its more than 21,000 graduates have inherited this inspiring tradition. In a visit to Wooster, Robert Frost once said that if you had to love something, you could do worse than to give your heart to a college, and that those who attend Wooster have a sense of belonging to a succession of generations originating in the past and stretching into the future.

## **INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION AND MEMBERSHIPS**

The College is authorized to grant degrees by the State of Ohio Board of Regents. It is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA). The College of Wooster has been an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Music since 1947. The College's Teacher Preparation Program is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). The College's program in Chemistry is approved by the American Chemical Society.

The College is an institutional member of the American Council on Education, the Association of American Colleges and Universities, the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Ohio, the Association of Presbyterian Colleges and Universities, the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, the Five Colleges of Ohio, the Great Lakes Colleges Association, Inc. (GLCA) and the Global Liberal Arts Alliance, the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, the National Collegiate Athletics Association, and the Ohio Foundation of Independent Colleges, Incorporated.

## **LOCATION**

Wooster is in north-central Ohio. Cleveland is about 60 miles northeast, Columbus 90 miles southwest, and Pittsburgh 120 miles east. Five principal highways run through Wooster - U.S. Routes 30 and 250, and State Routes 3, 585, and 83. Bus service connects Wooster with all parts of the country.

By air, Wooster may be reached through either the Cleveland or Akron-Canton airports. Cleveland-Hopkins Airport is about 50 miles northeast of the campus, while Akron-Canton is about 35 miles east and north. The Wayne County Airport is about 5 miles northeast of Wooster and has a 5,200-foot paved east-west runway. A city of 26,000, Wooster is the county seat of Wayne County. It has representative industrial activity and is the business center for a rich agricultural district. The College grounds, comprising some 240 acres, are in a residential section about a mile north and east of the public square. On the south side of town is the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, an integral part of The Ohio State University.

### **Fast Facts about The College of Wooster**

Founded on December 18, 1866

Located in Wooster, Ohio, a community of 26,000, approximately 55 miles southwest of Cleveland

Campus: 240 acres

Academic calendar: Semesters

Degrees conferred: Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Music, and Bachelor of Music Education

Full-time faculty: 172

Full-time faculty holding Ph.D. or equivalent terminal degree: 96%

Student-faculty ratio: 10 to 1

Total enrollment (2021-22): 1,929

- 53% women, 47% men
- 24% U.S. students of color
- 17% international
- 32% Ohio, 68% non-Ohio
- 48 states and 68 countries represented

Students living on-campus: 99%

Tuition, fees, room & board (2021-22): \$68,600

Students receiving financial aid: more than 85%

The average financial aid award for students applying in 2021-22 was over \$47,000. Students who are Pell Grant recipients: 19%

Athletics: 23 intercollegiate teams (NCAA Division III)

Nickname: Fighting Scots

Number of Alumni: 24,000 (approx.)

## **Mission & Vision**

### ***Mission Statement***

The College of Wooster is a community of independent minds, working together to prepare students to become leaders of character and influence in an interdependent global community. We engage motivated students in a rigorous and dynamic liberal education. Mentored by a faculty nationally recognized for excellence in teaching, Wooster graduates are creative and independent thinkers with exceptional abilities to ask important questions, research complex issues, solve problems, and communicate new knowledge and insight.

### ***Vision Statement***

Our collective endeavor is to prosper as a distinguished independent liberal arts college, to thrive as a vigorous intellectual community, and to create a reputation that reflects our achievements. We seek to be leaders in liberal learning, building on our tradition of graduating independent thinkers who are well prepared to seek solutions to significant problems, to create and communicate new knowledge and insight, and to make significant contributions to our complex and interdependent world.

## **Core Values**

### ***Education in the Liberal Arts Tradition***

We believe that the most valuable approach to undergraduate education engages each student in a course of study that cultivates curiosity and develops independent judgment, creativity, breadth, depth, integration of knowledge, and intellectual skills in the tradition of liberal education tuned for the contemporary era.

### ***A Focus on Research and Collaboration***

At Wooster, faculty and students are co-learners, collaborating in liberal inquiry. Our faculty's commitment to excellence in teaching is nationally recognized for enabling students to realize their full potential as engaged scholars. We embrace unique pedagogical principles at Wooster: that research and teaching are integrated forms of inquiry, and that faculty and students share a common purpose in their pursuits of knowledge, insight, and creative expression.

## ***A Community of Learners***

Wooster is a residential liberal arts college. As such, we believe the learning process unfolds on our campus and beyond, in conversations in classrooms and residence halls, libraries and studios, laboratories and on playing fields, and through the relationships that develop between and among students, faculty and staff and which endure long after graduation. We recognize that the very process of living together educates, and that much of the learning that is part of our mission takes place through artistic expression, the performance of music, theater, and dance, athletics, community involvement, and in the myriad student organizations that infuse vitality in campus life. We embrace a holistic philosophy of education and seek to nurture the physical, social, and spiritual well-being of our students.

### ***Independence of Thought***

We are a community of independent minds, working together. We place the highest value on collegiality, collaboration, openness to persons and ideas in all their variety, and the free exchange of different points of view. We vigorously champion academic freedom and seek to sustain a campus culture where the understanding of each is made more complete through an on-going process of dialogue with others who think differently.

### ***Social and Intellectual Responsibility***

As a community of learners, we hold ourselves to high standards of sound evidence, careful reasoning, proper attribution, and intellectual and personal integrity in all activities of teaching, learning, research, and governance. We recognize the privilege of being able, collectively, to pursue the mission of the College. We therefore seek to extend the benefits of learning beyond the campus and beyond ourselves, endeavoring to analyze problems, create solutions, exercise civic and intellectual leadership, and contribute to the welfare of humanity and the environment.

### ***Diversity and Inclusivity***

Wooster actively seeks students, faculty, and staff from a wide variety of backgrounds, starting places, experiences, and beliefs. We believe that achieving our educational purpose is only possible in a diverse community of learners. Therefore, we value members who bring a diversity of identities and beliefs to our common purpose, and who reflect a diversity of voices as varied as those our students will engage upon graduation.

## **Graduate Qualities**

Graduates of the College should demonstrate the following personal and intellectual capacities for:

### ***Independent Thinking, through the ability to:***

- Engage in critical and creative thinking
- Devise, formulate, research, and bring to fruition a complex and creative project
- Embody the intellectual curiosity, passion, and self-confidence necessary for life-long learning
- Appreciate and critique ideas, values, and beliefs including their own

***Integrative and Collaborative Inquiry, through the ability to:***

- Synthesize knowledge from multiple disciplines
- Actively integrate theory and practice
- Engage in effective intellectual collaboration

***Dynamic Understanding of the Liberal Arts, through the ability to:***

- Understand disciplinary knowledge in arts, humanities, social sciences, mathematics, and physical and natural sciences
- Evaluate evidence using methodologies from multiple disciplines
- Demonstrate quantitative, textual, visual, and digital literacy
- Employ deep knowledge, insight, and judgment to solve real world problems

***Effective Communication, through the ability to:***

- Exhibit skill in oral, written, and digital communication
- Engage in effective discourse through active listening, questioning, and reasoning

***Global Engagement, through the ability to:***

- Understand the histories, causes, and implications of environmental and global processes
- Engage with the global community through knowledge of a second language and culture
- Display self-reflective awareness of their roles in diverse local and global communities

***Justice and Civic/Social Responsibility, through the ability to:***

- Understand and respect the diversity and complexity of human identities, including but not limited to race, class, gender, sexuality, ability, culture, and religion
- Actively promote equity and inclusion
- Demonstrate ethical judgment and work towards a just society
- Exhibit a commitment to community, civic engagement, and serving others