



OFFICE of FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY

PARENTS' COUNCIL FALL MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 21-22, 2020

CLAIRE AND CHRIS WILLIAMS (P'19, '22),
PARENTS' COUNCIL CHAIRS, PRESIDING

Save the date: Parents' Council Fall Meeting will be held **October 9 - 11, 2020**, in conjunction with Family Weekend. New Member Orientation will be held October 8. More details to come.

Select Highlights:

- Welcome by Provost Kersh: *Belonging and Inclusion*
- Academic/Initiative Updates
 - Wake the Arts
 - Business Analytics
 - Engineering
 - Leadership and Character
 - Wake West and Silicon Valley Practicum
 - Wake Debate
- Parents' Campaign Update
 - Campaign has receipted 70% of the goal and is up in all categories.
 - If you have not made a pledge or contribution this year, please contact Brad McIlwain, mcilwajb@wfu.edu or 336.758.3527 with any questions.
- Remarks from Lucy Porter, Senior Orator
- Recognition of graduating Parents' Council families

Presentation Highlights and Resources:

- The Council was welcomed by **Provost Rogan Kersh**, who shared an update on the University:
 - Wake Forest continues to advance the important work of belonging and inclusion.



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- At this year's Founder's Day Convocation in February, Wake Forest President Nathan O. Hatch acknowledged the University's participation in the institution of slavery. He offered an apology for how Wake Forest benefitted from the labor and sale of enslaved people. Full news release, including links to Dr. Hatch's remarks and a video of the full ceremony, can be accessed [here](#).
- Academically, we continue to navigate the shifting tides of Higher Education, pursuing more online/blended learning opportunities, enhancing learning spaces, and moving forward with piloting the residential college model as an anchor of belonging from a student's first day on campus.
- On April 23, all faculty will participate in an [inclusive teaching conference](#) featuring nationally prominent scholars.
- **Christina Soriano**, Associate Provost for the Arts and Interdisciplinary Initiatives, Associate Professor of Dance, joined by students Kamryn King ('20); Christina McGee ('21); and Donna Moseley ('20), provided an interactive presentation from **Wake the Arts**.
 - They shared about the nationally-recognized IMPROVment® program and associated research, which is founded and spearheaded by Christina. This is a multidisciplinary program, marrying neuroscience and dance/movement to bring neurological benefits to older adults with neurodegenerative diseases. The three students present shared about their experience teaching IMPROVment classes and helping with the clinical research trial.
 - The goal of Wake the Arts is to lift up the Arts on campus and in our community, and to enhance and increase the role that Arts play in each WFU student's experience.
 - [Click here](#) for the latest information on Wake the Arts, and contact Minta or Brad if you have questions.



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- We turned our attention to the School of Business, and specifically to the [Master of Science in Business Analytics \(MSBA\) program](#). **Jeff Camm**, Associate Dean of Business Analytics, Professor & Inmar Presidential Chair in Business Analytics was joined by MSBA students Nicole Onwuchekwa (MS '20); Wade Smith (MS '20); and Zoey Wang (MS '20).
 - The MSBA program is designed with the input of our corporate partners to meet their industry needs. Their feedback is clear — we need performance-ready analysts who demonstrate business knowledge and exceptional communication skills.
 - Wake Forest is uniquely positioned to provide excellent technical skills education while delivering the communication and interpersonal skills critical to success in the high-demand analytics industry.
 - The MSBA program currently boasts a 100% employment rate. The Class of 2020 has 87 students with an average GPA of 3.45, representing 61 Colleges & Universities and 32 Undergraduate Majors.
- Some members of the Parents' Council participated in a *Career Connects* event hosted by the Office of Personal and Career Development. Thank you to those who offered their expertise and time to our students!
- Olga **Pierrakos**, Founding Chair and Professor, Department of **Engineering**, brought an update from one of WFU's newest departments, located at Wake Downtown. She was joined by several Engineering students.
 - Engineering equips our leaders to solve the grand challenges of society.
 - 150 total students in the Engineering Department. 43 will graduate in May with the inaugural cohort.
 - We are the only school in the nation to embed leadership and character into the Engineering curriculum.



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- Saturday began with a **Conversation about Leadership and Character, with President Nathan Hatch and Michael Lamb**, Executive Director of the Program for Leadership and Character, Assistant Professor of Politics, Ethics, and Interdisciplinary Humanities.
 - Dr. Hatch is deeply committed to ensuring that WFU is focused on integrating education and character. His longtime motto has been “bet on people, not on strategies” and this played out in our recruiting of Michael Lamb from the Oxford Character Project.
 - Wake Forest is committed to Pro Humantiate in a real way, not as “just a slogan.” The Leadership and Character Initiative has support from the top leaders of WFU as well as from some of the world’s best leaders and scholars in the field.
 - All students have the opportunity to take classes that incorporate Leadership & Character, beginning with a First Year Seminar. Discussion groups are also offered, with 80 students participating thus far.
 - Michael Lamb and team are performing detailed qualitative and quantitative studies to measure and improve the efficacy of the Leadership & Character curriculum.
 - Lilly Endowment Inc. has awarded Wake Forest University a \$3.4 million grant to develop and expand its Program for Leadership and Character. The three-year grant will support student programming, faculty engagement and academic research. Read more [here](#).
 - Learn more about the Leadership and Character Program [here](#).
- Update on **Wake West and the Silicon Valley Practicum**, with **Andy Chan**, Vice President for Innovation and Career Development; **Rebecca Gill**, Merlo Presidential Chair in Communication and Entrepreneurship, Faculty Director, Wake West Silicon Valley Internship Program, Associate Professor Department of Communication;



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Ben King, Professor of the Practice, Director of Interdisciplinary Programs; Amy Dyckman ('21); Alondra Ramirez ('22); and Eric Wood ('21).

- The [Silicon Valley Practicum](#) is a new program expanding on the great success of the Summer Management Program (SMP). This internship program is designed for students who have completed the SMP, and provides hand-on, real world work experience in the Bay Area. Students are supervised by Professor Andy Chan, working 4 days a week in their internship placements, and receive personal mentoring and coaching from Andy each Friday.
- Learn more about the Summer Management Program [here](#).
- Think *Hard, Talk Fast: Debate at Wake Forest*, with **Jarrold Atchison** ('01, MA '03), Associate Professor of Communication and Director of the Debate program, and Debate students
 - Wake Debate continues to be a powerhouse program, nationally recognized and incredibly competitive.
 - Wake Debate is tied with Harvard for the most wins in the past 10 years.
 - Wake's team has won two National Championships, and finished in the Final Four six additional times.
 - There are 28 Debaters on the team.
 - The concept of an engaged Liberal Arts education is built on the idea that learning is not simply memorization and regurgitation, but on deep critical thinking skills, consideration and understanding of all perspectives.
 - Learn more about Wake Debate [here](#).
- **Mike Smith '89, P'21** presented the **2020 Parents' Campaign Report**.
 - Campaign has receipted 70% of the goal and is up in all categories.
 - Parents have contributed 23% of the total for the Wake Will Lead Campaign, with Parents' Council members making up 52% of all Parent unrestricted support.
 - Currently 53% of the Parents' Council are members of a Giving Society.



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- There are two new designations within the Wake Forest Fund as options for how you can direct your support, Beautiful Campus and Career Readiness (OPCD).
- Goal each year is 100% Parents' Council participation in the Wake Forest Fund.
- Thank you to everyone who has made a gift or commitment to the Wake Forest Fund and/or have supported a restricted program as part of the Wake Will Lead Campaign this year.
- If you have not made a pledge or contribution this year, please contact Brad McIlwain, mcilwajb@wfu.edu or 336.758.3527 with any questions.
- **Lucy Porter ('20), Senior Orator**, shared her speech “**Knowing No.**” Read the speech in the Daily Deac [here](#).
- **Minta McNally ('74, P'02, '06)**, recognized the families of graduating Seniors. Thank you all for your leadership and commitment to Wake Forest. We wish your graduates the best in their next chapters, and are looking forward to seeing the great things that they accomplish.

Parents' Council "Class of 2020"

Margaret and Dewey Awad (P'20), Alex Awad ('20)
 Sue and Ken Bartee (P'20), Justin Bartee ('20)
 Jennifer and Oray Boston (P'20), Mara Boston ('20)
 Louise and Tim Brown (P'20), Elizabeth Brown ('20)
 Heather and David Bumsted (P'20), David Bumsted Jr. ('20)
 Debbi and Richard Burston (P'20), Joe Burston ('20)
 Valerie and Jeff Cohen (P'20), Amanda Cohen ('20)
 Missy and David Condo (P'03, '20), Helen Condo ('20)
 Elena and John Coumantaros (P'20), George Coumantaros ('20)
 Cheri De Vos (P'20), Jessa De Vos ('20)
 Tanja and James Dixon (P'15, '20), Emily Dixon ('20)
 Rebecca and Barron Fletcher (P'20), Claire Fletcher ('20)
 Betsy and Berthold Frowein (P'20), Teddy Herman ('20)
 Patty and George Grunebaum (P'20), Annabel Grunebaum ('20)



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Jessica Lowrey and Jeff Habib (P'20), Piper Habib ('20)
Kim and Brad Hayes (P'20), Sally Hayes ('20)
Helen and Garrett Horsley (P'20), Margaret Horsley ('20)
Jane and Pete Hunsinger (P'13, '17, '20), Olivia Hunsinger ('20)
Susan and Tim Jensen (P'20), Sean Jensen ('20)
Angie and John Joyce (P'20), Jack Joyce ('20)
Kelley and John McCauley (P'20), Emma McCauley ('20)
Kristi and Mark McCombe (P'20), Erin McCombe ('20)
Jane and Jay McGraw (P'06, '20), Virginia McGraw ('20)
Deirdre and Claudius Modesti (P'20), Liam Modesti ('20)
Liz and Phil Neugebauer (P'20), Ben Neugebauer ('20)
Jen and Sean O'Scannlain (P'20), Rowan O'Scannlain ('20)
Sonya and Robert Stevanovski (P'20), Aspen Stevanovski ('20)
Laurie and David Thiemann (P'14, '18, '20), Lilly Thiemann ('20)
Ann Van Meter (P'20), Libby Mohn ('20)
Liz and Preston Walsh (P'18, '20), Connor Walsh ('20)
Leslee and Craig West (P'17, '20), Mary Glenn West ('20)
Nicole and Darrin Williams (P'20), DJ Williams ('20)

- **Save the Date for the Fall meeting of the Parents' Council, October 9 -11, 2020**, in conjunction with Family Weekend. New Member Orientation will be held October 8. More details to come. For any questions, please contact:

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