



Honors and Awards
2026



Honors and Awards

WELCOME

Dr. Jackie Krasas, *Dean, Wake Forest College and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences*

To the class of 2026 College Honors and Awards recipients,

Good afternoon, distinguished faculty colleagues, proud family members, and most importantly, our exceptional students being honored today.

As we gather here in this cherished Wake Forest tradition, I am reminded of the words of our University's motto: *Pro Humanitate* – for humanity. This phrase captures not just the aim of our institution, but the very essence of what we celebrate today.

Each of you has demonstrated extraordinary dedication to your academic pursuits. You have conducted meaningful research, written insightful papers, participated thoughtfully in discussions, and engaged deeply with complex ideas. You exemplify the intellectual curiosity and scholarly rigor that define the Wake Forest experience.

But your achievements represent more than impressive transcripts or departmental honors. They embody the transformative power of a liberal arts education – the ability to think critically, communicate effectively, and understand deeply. These are not merely academic skills, they are the means by which you be a critical part of solving the problems of tomorrow.

As you prepare to graduate tomorrow, I invite you to reflect on how your scholarly accomplishments have shaped you. Consider how the questions you've pursued, the sources you've analyzed, and the problems you've solved have expanded your understanding and refined your perspective. How have these experiences prepared you to live as Wake Forest graduates in service to humanity?

To the families here today: your support has been instrumental in these achievements. The late-night encouragement, the proud sharing of accomplishments, and yes, perhaps the occasional care package – all have contributed to the success we celebrate.

To my faculty colleagues: thank you for your mentorship of these remarkable students. Your dedication to teaching, advising, and inspiring has helped cultivate this next generation of thinkers and leaders.

And to our honorees: as you move beyond the familiar boundaries of this campus, remember that the recognition you receive today isn't simply for what you've accomplished, but for who you've become. The intellectual habits you've developed at Wake Forest will continue to serve you throughout your lives.

We are immensely proud of what you have accomplished, and we look forward with great anticipation to what you will contribute to our world in the years ahead.

MUSIC

Sonata for Timpani..... John H. Beck (b. 1933)
Riley Seezen ('26), timpani

RECOGNITION OF SENIOR ORATORS

Dr. Eric Stottlemeyer, *Associate Dean for Interdisciplinary Curricula, Wake Forest College*

Every fall semester, Wake Forest faculty nominate graduating seniors as orators; these are students, who, the faculty believe, have something significant to say about their time at Wake. This is in keeping with a tradition of senior speeches that dates back to the founding of the College in 1834 and was required of all Wake Forest seniors up until the early 1880s. Following nominations, 40 students took the opportunity to reflect on their experience here. A panel of faculty was convened to select from these the top 10 students to present orations at our Senior Colloquium. From them were selected 3 orators and the top orator for 2026 to read the oration at the Founders' Day convocation and today.

I've Seen Why the Caged Bird SingsChase Clark
As the Stakes Rise Isabella Romine
The Dangers of IndifferenceLauren Veldhuizen

SENIOR ORATION

I've Seen Why the Caged Bird SingsChase Clark



AWARDS

Dr. Andrew Gurstelle, Associate Teaching Professor, Department of Anthropology

The Department of Anthropology Outstanding Senior Award Zhanyi Qi

The faculty of the Department of Anthropology select our outstanding senior award using three criteria: the student's academic excellence across all four subfields of anthropology, the student's anthropological engagement outside of the traditional classroom, and the student's ethical application of anthropological knowledge through professional activities and community involvement. Zhanyi Qi is a model scholar whose study of human culture speaks to the totality of anthropological research. His insights and contributions have enlivened anthropology classrooms, and his extracurricular research in Nepal observed the intersections of art, religion, and economy. The melding of these efforts is a public exhibit that he curated about his research at the Lam Museum on campus. Zhanyi will pursue graduate studies in the United States in the fall.

Dr. Nikki Moore, Assistant Professor of Art History, Department of Art

The Inaugural Excellence in Art History Award Caroline Mederos

This award honors a graduating senior who embodies the core values of the Department of Art: respect, empathy, curiosity, and fairness. From intro classes to her art history honors thesis, Caroline Mederos has shown what becomes possible when close visual analysis, cultural and political history, and a commitment to social justice converge — an art history practiced, truly, in the spirit of pro humanitate. Her honors thesis on Wifredo Lam moves boldly beyond the existing literature, arguing that Lam transcends the decolonization of Cubism and Surrealism to bear witness to the strength and resistance of his own Afro-Cuban and Sino-Cuban communities.

David Faber, Professor of Studio Art - Printmaking, Department of Art

The Inaugural Excellence in Studio Art Award Makenzie Marie Lawson

This award honors a graduating studio art senior who exemplifies what it means to be an artist and an active citizen – embodying the core values of the Department of Art: respect, empathy, curiosity, and fairness. Makenzie Lawson's creative endeavors and her imaginative energies are palpable; her dedication to the making of images comes with purpose and she executes her imaginative concepts with great sureness and care. She never wavers, even while encountering the recalcitrance of any medium. Her images are recondite and she moves steadily forward into new venues with aplomb.

Dr. Gloria Munday, Charles M. Allen Professor of Biology, Director, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Program

The Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Research Award Sophia Kothari and Nathan Philip

The Award for Outstanding Researcher in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology is presented to two graduating BMB majors in recognition of their excellence in research and scholarship.

Sophie Kothari completed her honor's research in the laboratory of Dr. Katherine Albanese as the first member of this research group. Sophie developed and led all aspects of a new research project focused on engineering multi-domain fusion histone reader proteins. Sophie is both an independent researcher and a supportive member of her research group who encourages her peers with a warmth that elevates the whole lab environment. Sophie has presented her work at two research conferences, receiving awards for her outstanding presentations. Sophie will be working as a healthcare consultant before enrolling in a Ph.D program.

Nate Philip has been engaged in epigenetic research for 3.5 years in the laboratory of Dr. Ke Zhang Reid. He studied the interaction of yeast proteins that controls their movement into stress granules. Nate's mentor notes that he is not satisfied with superficial understanding and is persistent in mastering every aspect of his project. Nate has a unique combination of strong technical and writing skills that lead to an excellent honor's thesis. Nate will work in healthcare investment banking after graduation.

Dr. Katy Lack, Teaching Professor, Department of Biology

The Carolina Biological Supply Company Award for Undergraduate Research Christopher Lawrence

The Carolina Biological Supply Company Research Award is awarded to a Wake Forest senior biology major who has performed an outstanding research project. This year's winner is Christopher Lawrence, who majored in biology with a minor in chemistry. Christopher was mentored by Dr. Michael Rizzo, and his project uses bioinformatic modeling to investigate genes and cell types that may be involved in mood disorders such as major depressive disorder, bipolar disorder, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. This year, Christopher published a first-author manuscript in PLoS One in which he demonstrated the strength of multivariate genome-wide association study approaches to identify candidate genes involved in multiple psychiatric disorders.

Greg Pool, Anderson Professor, Center for Entrepreneurship

The Center for Entrepreneurship Senior of the Year Award Sophia Mayer Baltzan

The Center for Entrepreneurship Senior Award is given to a Wake Forest senior graduating with a minor in entrepreneurship, selected based on overall performance in entrepreneurship courses, engagement in entrepreneurship co-curricular programs, and overall involvement in activities designed to enrich the culture of entrepreneurship at Wake Forest. Sophie Baltzan has been an exceptional entrepreneurship student since her first year at Wake Forest excelling both academically and professionally. She was selected to be in both Deacon Springboard and Startup Lab, and represented Wake Forest at the ACC Inventure Prize. She gives back to our center and students through mentoring, being a TA in multiple classes, and is always available to assist her peers with their ventures; she embodies the Pro Humanitate spirit that our students aspire to. The Center for Entrepreneurship is so pleased to present Sophie with this award.

Dr. John Lukesh, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry

The John W. Nowell Award in Undergraduate Chemistry Katrina Hu

The John W. Nowell Award in Undergraduate Chemistry is given in memory of the late beloved chemistry Professor, Jack Nowell, and is presented each year to a graduating major who has excelled in all aspects of our chemistry program (ranging to outstanding performance in the classroom to independent research in the laboratory). This year's recipient is Katrina Hu. Katrina is an exceptional student and has distinguished herself as the most self-directed and high-performing undergraduate student that I have supervised. In just over two years, her research accomplishments have reached a level comparable to advanced graduate students in my group. I anticipate that her work will lead to several peer-reviewed publications including one as first author, a milestone no prior undergraduate in my lab has come close to attaining. Katrina will be attending Harvard Medical School this fall.

Dr. Michael Sloan, Chair, Department of Classics

M. D. Phillips Prize in Classical Languages. Zoe Hirshfeld

Matthew D. Phillips earned a degree in Greek in 1875, the same year his brother John earned a degree in mathematics. One hundred years later, in 1975, William R. Phillips (WFU class of 1960) established a fund to honor his grandfather and great uncle and to congratulate the outstanding graduating senior in Greek or Latin in Classics and in mathematics for excellent work. This year's recipient of the M. D. Phillips Prize in Classical Languages is Zoe Hirshfeld.

Zoe Hirshfeld took seriously WFU's mission: her investment and engagement in the department of classics over the last four years proved her genuine interest in learning for the sake of refinement. Zoe, you are intellectually curious, disciplined, and of an agile mind; those very characteristics that served you well in our courses, will assuredly launch you into a flourishing future. The department will miss your joyful and kind presence as we root for your every success.

Dr. Eric King Watts, Chair, Department of Communication

The Jeremy Nottingham Pro Humanitate Award Theo Berson

The Jeremy Nottingham Pro Humanitate Department of Communication Award is named after the late Jeremy Nottingham, who exemplified the spirit of Pro Humanitate with his commitment to giving and serving his communities. The Nottingham Award recognizes involvement in community engaged service within and beyond Wake Forest.

Theo Berson is impressive for his professionalism and his willingness to serve. As Executive Director of Hit the Bricks, he helped lead the organization to raise the highest amount of funds in the event's history. Theo is also an incredible ambassador for both the Department of Communication and the broader Wake Forest community outside of HTB. He consistently steps up when asked to help, especially in ways that support other students and campus groups. For example, he agreed to serve as the emcee for TEDxWakeForestU, even though he isn't a member of the organizing club. Theo still manages to be humble. Theo is out there demonstrating and doing. He gives credit to those around him without claiming any for himself. He has been heavily involved in AK Psi and as an admissions ambassador - which in itself shows he cares about our community.

Dr. William Turkett, Chair, Department of Computer Science

The John W. Sawyer Prize in Computer Science Yimin Wang and Jason Zipeng Zhang

Established in 1993 in honor of Dr. Jack Sawyer, professor of Mathematics from 1956 to 1988 and the first computer science instructor at Wake Forest, the Sawyer Prize is awarded each year to the most outstanding graduating senior in computer science as selected by the faculty. This is a significant honor and testament to the student's hard work and commitment to their education and to the Computer Science Department.

Yimin Wang is recognized for his excellence in coursework and rich contributions to research, including co-authoring of multiple research manuscripts, presentation of research at an international bioinformatics conference, and receipt of an honorable mention award in the National Computing Research Association Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher competition.

Jason Zhang is recognized for his excellence in coursework; significant contributions to department culture, including as president of the Computer Science student club, through working as a teaching assistant for computer science courses; and rich contributions to research, including co-authoring multiple research manuscripts and presentation of research at the international AAAI conference.

Dr. Andy Rodekohr, Chair, Department of East Asian Language & Cultures

Outstanding Japanese Major of the Year Avelina Axonov

*The Outstanding Japanese Major of the Year is awarded to the graduating senior in Japanese Language and Culture who has achieved academic success in our major curriculum, which includes both language learning and cultural studies courses, and has also demonstrated engagement with Japanese outside the classroom. Avelina Axonov has demonstrated her commitment to Japanese language and culture through her perfect GPA in the major; her two study abroad terms in Japan, and her enthusiastic participation in Japanese-language student conferences and speech contests. She has also helped foster a community of Japanese learners through her service in the incredibly active and awesome Japanese Studies Club. Avelina's Honors thesis project analyzes the popular anime *The Apothecary Diaries* as more than just a story of a young servant girl who solves mysteries and unravels conspiracies, but also as a critical reevaluation and rewriting of women's place in traditional East Asian society. The thesis, like Avelina herself, is imaginative, rigorous, and brilliant. The Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures congratulates Avelina on this achievement!*

Dr. Emily B. Simpson, Assistant Professor for the Study of Religions, for the East Asian Studies Program

Academic Excellence Award in East Asian Studies Gabe Feurtado

The Academic Excellence Award in East Asian Studies is presented annually to an outstanding graduating senior in the Interdisciplinary Minor Program in East Asian Studies. The recipient of the award this year is Gabe Feurtado, recognized for his dedication to rational, multidimensional inquiries into the East Asian Region, the intellectual rigor and originality of his coursework, and his active engagement in academic events related to East Asian studies at Wake Forest.

Dr. Mark Curtis, Chair and Reynolds Professor, Department of Economics

David and Lelia Farr Prize for Excellence in Economics Sophie Gunn

The David and Lelia Farr Prize for Excellence in Economics is presented to a student who has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement in economics.

Sophie Gunn has distinguished herself as one of the top economics majors in her class, combining exceptional academic performance with strong engagement in the department. She has served as a teaching assistant, participated actively in Women in Economics, and maintained one of the highest GPAs in the major. She also brought strong interdisciplinary skills to her honors thesis on commodity price shocks and fiscal capacity in rural Colombia, drawing on her Spanish major to work with multiple data sources. The project earned high honors and reflects the intellectual rigor and independence she demonstrated throughout her time at Wake Forest University.

David and Lelia Farr Prize for Excellence in Mathematical Economics Sasha Skinner

The David and Lelia Farr Prize for Excellence in Mathematical Economics is presented to a mathematical economics student who has performed exceptionally well academically.

Sasha is an outstanding student and has also been deeply involved in the department. In addition to achievements in the classroom, Sasha served as a research assistant for multiple faculty members on projects spanning environmental economics to sports economics. She also completed a URECA summer research project examining the environmental effects of acid rain reduction programs. In her senior year, Sasha earned high honors for an honors thesis on the effect of legalized online sports betting on alcohol-related traffic fatalities.

Dr. Alan Brown, Chair, Department of Education

The Linda B. and Howard S. Stern Family Foundation Award for

Outstanding Seniors in Elementary Education Sydney Elizabeth Branch and Margaret Katarina Ripsteen

The Linda B. and Howard S. Stern Family Foundation Award for Outstanding Seniors in Education honors graduating seniors who identify as education majors and minors and who best demonstrate and/or reflect the core components of the Department of Education's conceptual framework: knowledge, purpose, engagement, experience, and leadership.

Sydney Branch is an award recipient for elementary education from Silver Spring, Maryland. Sydney majored in elementary education (licensure pathway) and minored in entrepreneurship. She served on the Department of Education's Student Leadership Council, student taught at Jefferson Elementary School, and interned as a winter financial analyst in the DC Navy Yard. After graduation, Sydney plans to complete a residency at Two Cities Church Residency in middle school ministry development and a Master's in Christian Ministry from Southeastern Seminary.

Margaret Ripsteen is an award recipient for elementary education from Berkeley, California. Margaret double majored in elementary education (non-licensure pathway) and Spanish. She has served on the Department of Education's Student Leadership Council and volunteered weekly for the past three years in kindergarten classrooms at Mineral Springs Elementary School. After graduation, Margaret will attend Harvard University for a Masters in Elementary Education before pursuing a position as an elementary school teacher.



Dr. Saami Yazdani, Professor, Department of Engineering

The Whole Engineer Award Tate Piercy

This award recognizes an engineering student that has demonstrated academic excellence, outstanding character, and embodies the values of the Engineering Department: empowerment, growth, integrity, inclusion, compassion, and joy.

Tate majored in engineering with a concentration in mechanical engineering and minored in physics. She performed research in my lab investigating methods to coat medical angioplasty balloons with sirolimus and studied abroad in London. Tate is widely recognized by her peers and faculty for her positive energy in the classroom and as a teaching assistant. She is kind and respectful to peers, instructors, and mentors, and is quick to volunteer and empowers everyone with whom she interacts. Tate will be pursuing a masters degree in aerospace engineering at the University of Florida next year.

Dr. Christopher Brown, Chair, Department of English

H. Broadus Jones Senior Award for Excellence in English Anne Jones

The H. Broadus Jones Excellence Award is given each year to a graduating senior whose work exemplifies the spirit of scholarship and dedication to the study of literature that Professor Jones modeled during his long tenure at Wake Forest.

Anne Jones is the winner of the English Department’s H. Broadus Jones Senior Excellence Award, and she is also our winner of the H. Broadus Jones Shakespeare prize, awarded to a student whose oral and written work shows the greatest insight into Shakespeare. Passionate about literature and intellectually ambitious, Anne is always trying to understand and wrestle with big ideas and their stakes. Her honors thesis sits at the cutting edge of thinking on aesthetics and race, with crystal clear prose even as it delves further and further into challenging sophisticated terrain. She is the unanimous choice of the English department faculty to be recognized as our most outstanding senior major.

Dr. Debbie French, Bitove Family Fellow, Interim Director, Environment and Sustainability Studies Program

Environmental Science Award Ardyn Smith

The Environmental Science Award is given to a Wake Forest senior graduating with a major in environmental science, selected on the basis of overall performance in ENV courses, engagement in original research, and a commitment to building a more sustainable future. While earning a double major in environmental science and statistics and a minor in economics, Ardyn has served in a variety of internship roles, including those that provided her with opportunities to improve energy efficiency and waste management in the industrial sector, aid in indoor air quality research, and participate in various field data collection efforts related to ecological monitoring and restoration. Ardyn culminated her Wake Forest studies with an honors thesis exploring the connection between socioenvironmental factors and the spread of valley fever and will begin a dual-degree graduate program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the fall.

Environment and Sustainability Studies Award Abigail Rise

The Environment and Sustainability Studies Award is given to a Wake Forest graduating senior with a major in environment and sustainability studies, selected on the basis of overall performance in ENV courses, accomplishment of original research, and a commitment to action. Abigail is double major in environment & sustainability studies and French studies. She has consistently demonstrated excellence in complex coursework ranging from climate change to water resources. Beyond her studies, she has translated theory into action as a Connect & Cultivate Leader at the campus garden and as the Greeks Go Green representative. Her leadership as the Ecology Area Director at Camp Sinoquipe earned her “Area Director of the Year” honors for overseeing vital conservation projects and student education. Abigail’s legacy of advocacy, underscored by her \$2,500 New Jersey Student Climate Challenge grant, exemplifies the spirit of sustainable leadership.



Dr. Stéphanie Pellet, Chair, Department of French Studies

The Harold Dawes Parcell Award for Excellence in French Graesyn Heimer, Charlie Kost, and Abby Rise

Established to honor the memory of a longtime colleague and department chair, the Harold Dawes Parcell Award is given to the graduating French Studies major who has the highest grade point average and a record of exceptional scholarship. This year, the French Studies Department chose to recognize three outstanding students.

Graesyn Heimer, a French studies and biology major, brings an exceptional combination of intellectual rigor and elegance to everything she does in French studies. In her study of literature, she approaches texts with openness and care, from a position of compassion and ethical consideration, without ever settling for easy interpretations. Her spoken and written French is stellar, and her analytical voice is one that her professors and peers will not soon forget. The French Studies Department is confident that her intellectual curiosity and work ethics will serve her well in her future endeavors, and we are proud to celebrate her as one of our finest students.

Charlie Kost is a French studies major with a concentration in French for business, as well as a major in politics and international affairs. Charlie is an exceptional student, and an exceptional person. During our study abroad in Dijon, he was deeply curious, open to each new experience and person he encountered. He was also incredibly easy going - a wonderful, steady presence in the group. This year, Charlie successfully completed an honors thesis in French, in which he compared the discourse of two courts (court of cassation and court of appeal) under the French Fifth Republic –a significant undertaking which bridged his two majors. Charlie presented his research at the Undergraduate Conference on Languages and Cultures at Elon University. Next year, Charlie will begin graduate studies at UCL (University College London) where he'll pursue a Master's in Applied Linguistics.

Abby Rise, one of the most dedicated and gifted students in our department, is one of our three recipients this year. A double major in French Studies and Environment and Sustainability Studies, she completed an Honors thesis in which she analyzed the conception of time in the short texts of the contemporary French writer Philippe Delerm. Her close readings of these complex writings are graceful and astute, and one of her conclusions – that Delerm finds solace in the embodied sensations of everyday experiences – is certainly fitting of our contemporary moment. It has been a privilege to watch her grow as a scholar and as a member of our community. We wish her every success as she moves forward.

Dr. Tina Boyer, Chair, Department of German and Russian

The James C. O'Flaherty Award for Excellence in German and German Studies. Lucas C. Kinney

This prestigious honor is named for Professor James O'Flaherty, a founding member of our department who served with distinction from 1947 until 1984.

Today, we honor Lucas Kinney for his outstanding achievement and dedication to academic excellence. A native of North Carolina, Lucas graduates as a double major in German and politics and international affairs. Throughout his time at Wake Forest, he has been a steady intellectual presence, serving as the treasurer of the German Honors Society (Delta Phi Alpha). His journey was marked by a formative summer studying abroad in Jena after his first year, an experience that fueled his remarkable growth. From his first days in the classroom to his sophisticated contributions in the senior seminar, we have watched Lucas evolve from a quiet, dedicated student into a scholar with astonishing fluency. His success is a testament to a tireless work ethic and a solid personal foundation. We are proud to celebrate Lucas's many contributions to our department.

Dr. Ian Taplin, Professor of Contemporary Global Studies, for the Global Trade and Commerce Studies Program

The Award for Outstanding Senior in Global Trade and Commerce Studies. Holland Rebecca Drew and Arthur Oliver Nikoloff

The Outstanding Senior Award in Global Trade & Commerce is given to a senior who excels academically in global studies, and demonstrates a passionate, active engagement with international trade economics and related global issues.

Holland has consistently demonstrated a high degree of competence and professionalism in all of her work. I have been particularly impressed by her presentations, which have showcased her strong communications skills and dedication to her responsibilities. It has been a pleasure to see her contribute so effectively to the program.

Nikoloff has been one of the most engaged students in CGS 260 Senior Seminar during the entire Spring semester. He is an international student from Bulgaria, who brought a truly global perspective to the discussions in class and was extremely knowledgeable on the politics of economics of Europe in general. The perspectives and information he had shared in class had enhanced the other classmates' as well as my own, learning from a first hand experience.



Dr. Shannon Mihalko, Professor, Department of Health and Exercise Science

The Paul M. Ribisl Health and Exercise Science Academic Achievement Award Henry Humphries

The Paul Ribisl Health and Exercise Science Academic Achievement Award was established to honor the graduating HES student with the highest cumulative GPA. It is our honor to present this award to Henry Humphries who is graduating with his BS in HES and a minor in history, achieving a perfect 4.0 GPA. He was selected for the highly competitive HES Honors Program, where his research examined the effects of local muscle cooling on neuromuscular function. In addition to his academic and research excellence, Henry contributes meaningfully to the department as a teaching assistant for the Advanced Anatomy Lab, where he supports student learning during weekly cadaver dissections. Henry has also been engaged in service to the community, volunteering with Campus Kitchen, and supporting patient care for underserved and uninsured populations through his work at the Community Care Clinic. Upon graduation, Henry will begin a position as a clinical research technician in the Department of Anesthesiology at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist, with plans to pursue a career in medicine.

The William L. Hottinger Health and Exercise Science Major Contribution Award Christopher Dietrich

The William Hottinger Health and Exercise Science Major Contribution Award was established to honor the graduating major who not only excels in their academic achievements, but also, for their contributions to the major and larger campus. Christopher Dietrich exemplifies what it means to excel both in the classroom and in the community. His dedication to public health is evident through his extensive volunteer work with the WF AmeriCorps program, the Community Care Center, and the Comprehensive Cancer Center, earning the admiration of everyone fortunate enough to work alongside him. He further channeled his passion into his honors research thesis by initiating the SPICE-D study, which provides biweekly food deliveries to Hispanic patients navigating food insecurity. For his commitment and contribution to civic and community engagement, Chris was also presented with the Community Impact Student Award by NC Campus Engagement. Upon graduation, Chris will begin a position as a clinical research technician in the Department of Anesthesiology at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist, with plans to pursue a career in medicine.

Dr. Megan Bennett-Jones, Director, Health Policy and Administration Program

The Michael S. Lawlor Award for Outstanding Student in the Health Policy and Administration Program Emma Thalgott

The award for outstanding student in Health Policy and Administration is named in honor of Dr. Michael Lawlor, a visionary who created this interdisciplinary minor encompassing public health, economics, and epidemiology, and is presented to the graduating student excelling in both academics and service.

Today we honor Emma Thalgott, whose intellectual curiosity, depth of character, and genuine care for others exemplifies the HPA spirit. Emma is a certified Advanced Emergency Medical Technician and Advanced Cardiac Life Support provider, first responder, Trauma-Informed Certified Labor Doula opening her own practice to support underserved women, and Spanish medical interpreter volunteering with patients experiencing poverty. Through her HPA internship with "City with Dwellings", Emma served as a resource navigator and group leader for the unhoused, and completed an honors thesis developing a framework to normalize medication data for clinical analysis. After graduation, Emma plans to pursue a masters in public health and medical school, where she undoubtedly will continue to enrich the lives of others. We are grateful for you, Emma, and so proud!

Dr. Mir Yarfitz, Associate Professor, Department of History

The Forrest W. Clonts Award for Excellence in History Thais Perez

Thais Perez exemplifies excellence in the study of history, distinguished by her commitment to rigorous research and scholarly achievement. She has earned numerous honors, including Wake Forest's Richter and URECA fellowships and participation in the Dumbarton Oaks Plant Humanities Summer Program, a Harvard-affiliated fellowship designed for graduate-level students. Her honors thesis, which examines representations of coca in botanical texts of the early Spanish empire, received the history department's paper prize.

Perez has actively shared her research at Wake Forest's student conferences and expanded her experience through an internship at the Montgomery Botanical Center in Florida, where she contributed to archival organization while advancing her own work. Her writing will appear in Dumbarton Oaks' Plant Humanities Lab website, and an article is forthcoming in Cornell University's student history journal. In recognition of these accomplishments, she has been awarded the 2026 Forrest W. Clonts Award for Excellence in History.



Dr. Víctor Hernández-Huerta, Director, Latin American and Latino Studies Program

The Award for Outstanding Senior in Latin American and Latino StudiesThais Perez

The Outstanding Senior Award for Excellence in Latin American and Latino Studies recognizes the graduating minor whose work in and outside the classroom is most meritorious.

Thais Perez exemplifies the highest standards of scholarship in Latin American and Latino Studies, with an extraordinary undergraduate research record that includes multiple forthcoming publications and archival projects at institutions such as Dumbarton Oaks and the Montgomery Botanical Center. Her thesis on how knowledge about coca moved between Indigenous communities and European scientists is especially original, showing how Spanish naturalists reshaped that knowledge in ways that reduced its cultural significance. She has consistently expanded her expertise through competitive fellowships, international research, and collaborations with faculty mentors. Faculty describe her as a dedicated, intellectually mature student whose research bridges science, intellectual history, and Latin American history in pathbreaking ways. Her acceptance into Tulane's Ph.D. program in Latin American history only reinforces how much promise she has as a future scholar.

Dr. Miaohua Jiang, Professor, Department of Mathematics

The John Y. Phillips Prize in MathematicsTianhao Xie

The John Y. Phillips Prize was established in 1975 by William R. Phillips and other descendants of Dr. M.D. Phillips of Stokes County. John Y. Phillips, brother of M.D. Phillips was a member of the Wake Forest College class of 1875. A superior student of mathematics who later studied at Richmond Hill Law School in Yadkin County, John Y. Phillips practiced law in Stokes County and also served in the North Carolina General Assembly. The John Y. Phillips Prize is awarded each year to one or two outstanding seniors in the Department of Mathematics. For 2025-2026, the Phillips Prize is being awarded to Tianhao "Jack" Xie.

Jack is a student with endless mathematical curiosity and talent. He completed multiple research projects in widely different mathematical areas, including a published paper in combinatorics, as well as an impressive senior thesis in applied math. Throughout his time at Wake, Jack asked fascinating questions of his professors that demonstrated a deep understanding of the curriculum and an ability to synthesize material. He spent a semester studying math in Budapest and will start a Ph.D. program at Rice University this fall.

Dr. Charles Wilkins, Co-Director, Middle East and South Asia Studies Program

The Darlene R. May Award for Outstanding Senior in ArabicKatherine Claybrook

This award is named after Darlene R. May, who established the Arabic program at Wake Forest in 2005 and taught with distinction until her retirement in 2021.

This year, MESAS is pleased to honor Katherine Claybrook for her outstanding achievement, dedication, and contributions to the Arabic program. In her completion of both the MESAS and Arabic minors, Katherine impressively completed eight Arabic language courses, two independent studies in the Arabic language, and a course on Arab literature in translation. Moreover, in her role as the MESAS Assistant Editor, Katherine helped write and produce the MESAS newsletter and manage publicity and social media for the MESAS program. The Arabic program is pleased to present Katherine with this award.

The B. G. Gokhale Award for Outstanding Senior in Hindi-Urdu Fahad Janjua

This award is named after Professor Balkrishna Govid Gokhale, who established the Asian Studies Program at Wake Forest in 1960 and remained a leader in South Asian Studies until his retirement in 1990.

This year, MESAS is pleased to honor Fahad Janjua for his outstanding achievement in Hindi-Urdu and for his contributions to campus life related to South Asia. Fahad completed four courses focusing on Urdu language and literature and has achieved outstanding proficiency in the language. In his roles as both president and treasurer of the Muslim Student Association, Fahad has helped to create meaningful opportunities for cultural exchange and interfaith dialog on campus. The Hindi-Urdu program is pleased to present Fahad with this award.

Lieutenant Colonel John P. Flach, US Army, Chair, Department of Military Science

National Distinguished Military Graduate..... Reesa Faith Devers and Charles Finley "Finn" Reid

The National Distinguished Military Graduate Award is given to cadets who have demonstrated exceptional leadership, scholarship, and military skills and have shown outstanding character, discipline, and dedication to their country and their fellow cadets. They have performed in the top 20 percent of cadets in the nation. This award recognizes their commitment to the principles of duty, honor, and country, and their unwavering professionalism, courage, and selfless service.

I am delighted to present this award to Cadets Reesa Devers and Finn Reid who embody the very best qualities of a military leader and who will undoubtedly go on to make significant contributions to our nation's defense.



Dr. Jacqui Carrasco, Chair, Department of Music

Outstanding Graduate in Music.....Catherine Major

A double major in music with a liberal arts concentration and in economics, Catherine Major has excelled in her academic and performance studies in Scales. She has brought her beautiful trumpet playing and musicianship to numerous music ensembles, including The Spirit of the Old Gold and Black Marching Band, the Wake Forest University Symphony Orchestra, the Wake Forest Jazz Ensemble, Gamelan Giri Murti, and chamber brass quintets. For her senior honors project, "Endless Harmony: The Beach Boys and Their Influences", Catherine added composition lessons to her studies so that she could create a song highlighting the compositional and production techniques of this iconic group. With a continuing interest in music production, she will start the Master of Science in Management program at the Wake Forest School of Business next fall. She will also begin service in the North Carolina National Guard.

Dr. Katy Lack, Director, Neuroscience Program

Florence Robinson Outstanding Neuroscience Student AwardYiwei Tang

The Florence Robinson Neuroscience Award is given to a Wake Forest senior graduating with a minor in Neuroscience and is selected based on performance in NEU courses, engagement in research, and communication of research results.

Yiwei is a psychology major who has conducted research in the labs of Dr. Wayne Pratt, Dr. Anthony Sali, and Dr. Joost Maier. In Dr. Pratt's lab, Yiwei did her psychology honors thesis work studying the neuropharmacology of food-motivated behaviors. She presented her work in two meetings and contributed to a manuscript. In Dr. Sali's lab, she designed and carried out her own study on human emotion and attention, including programming tasks and analyzing EEG data. In Dr. Maier's lab, she used optogenetics and neural recordings in rats to study how brain circuits process sensory information. Yiwei has been accepted into a Ph.D. program in neuroscience at Emory University, where she will investigate the neural circuits underlying decision making, motivation, and adaptive behaviors.

Dr. Patrick Toner, Chair, Department of Philosophy

The Gregory D. Pritchard Award in PhilosophyCaroline Song

This award is given annually in honor of former WFU philosophy professor Gregory D. Pritchard and honors "the most deserving graduating philosophy student".

Caroline is a sharp and creative philosophical thinker who has uniformly impressed her professors with her hard work and deep grasp of complex issues. Caroline has completed a departmental honor's thesis and was last year's winner of our Gallegos-Lee prize. She will enter Harvard Law School in the fall.

Dr. Martin Guthold, Chair, Department of Physics

The William Eugene Speas Memorial Award for Distinguished Work in PhysicsAlli Swyt and

Emily Xiao

The Speas Award is given in honor of William E. Speas who taught physics at Wake Forest from 1920 to 1959. The Award is given to the graduating physics major who best exemplified Professor Speas' spirit and enthusiasm for physics.

Both of this year's award winners received outstanding grades, graduated with honors, and demonstrated a genuine dedication to, and enthusiasm for, physics.

Alli majored with a BS in physics and three minors (computer science, math, and Japanese language and culture). She performed honors research on topological insulators in Dr. Carroll's lab. Alli has been accepted into the University of Colorado for a masters in electrical and computer engineering.

Emilie majored in biophysics and English. She performed honors research on organic electronics in Dr. Jurchescu's lab. Emilie has been accepted into medical school at the University of Kentucky.

Dr. John Dinan, Chair, Department of Politics and International Affairs

The C. H. Richards Award for Excellence in Politics and International Affairs. Charlie Kost and Wednesday Smetak

The C.H. Richards Award is given to a senior graduating with a major in politics and international affairs who demonstrates excellence in the study of politics and international affairs.

Charlie Kost, one of this year's recipients, has done exemplary work in his politics classes, presented his research at multiple academic conferences and shown extraordinary dedication to college, community, and philanthropic service.

Wednesday Smetak, one of this year's recipients, has done exemplary work in her politics classes, held leadership positions in the Army ROTC program, and demonstrated impressive dedication to community and philanthropic service.



Dr. Christy M. Buchanan, Chair, Department of Psychology

The Robert C. Beck Excellence in Psychology Award Alyssa Totoro

This award, given in memory of Dr. Robert Beck, a beloved faculty member in psychology for 50 years and exemplar of the teacher-scholar ideal, is bestowed upon the psychology major with the most impressive record across three areas: academic performance (as indicated by grade point average in psychology), research experience, and community service in a psychology-related area.

Alyssa Totoro exemplifies the spirit of well-rounded excellence that the Robert C. Beck Psychology Prize was created to honor. With a perfect 4.0 GPA in psychology and involvement in seven IRB-approved research studies, Alyssa distinguished herself through academic achievement and through the initiative and intellectual curiosity that define exceptional scholarship. Beyond the classroom and lab, Alyssa founded and grew Wake Forest's NAMI chapter to over 300 members, and developed a neuroscience-based mental health curriculum now used across North Carolina middle schools. In all of her work, Alyssa has demonstrated the generosity of spirit and collaborative leadership that Bob Beck himself embodied. Faculty mentors describe her as reliable beyond measure, and someone whose warmth and intellectual engagement elevate every community she joins.

Dr. Michael Ramirez, Chair, Department of Sociology

The American Sociological Association's Departmental Prize for Outstanding Student Eli Leadham

Each year the sociology department faculty chooses a graduating senior sociology major to receive the American Sociological Association's Departmental Prize for Outstanding Student.

Eli Leadham is the recipient of this year's award. They demonstrate a strong commitment to amplifying marginalized voices, reflecting both scholarly rigor and deep personal engagement. As a Richter Scholar, Eli conducted research in Japan, interviewing atomic bomb survivors and situating their testimonies within broader sociological contexts. They have conducted other research across campus and presented at multiple academic conferences. Recently selected as a Schwarzman Scholar, Eli plans to study global affairs, further underscoring their exceptional academic achievement and future potential in sociology.

Dr. Kathryn Mayers, Chair, Department of Spanish

The Ruth Foster Campbell Award for Excellence in Spanish Nathan Charles Whitworth

Established to honor the memory of Professor Emeritus of Spanish Ruth Foster Campbell, the Award for Excellence in Spanish is given each year to a graduating Spanish major who demonstrates extraordinary academic achievement and engagement with the languages and cultures of the Spanish-speaking world. This year's recipient is Nate Whitworth.

During Nate's time at Wake Forest, he studied abroad in Spain where he completed an internship shadowing a Spanish general practice physician, he completed an honors thesis in cognitive linguistics and presented his research at a North Carolina Linguistics conference. He volunteered regularly in the soup kitchen at Samaritan Ministries, as a medical technician at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist, and as a medical interpreter at the Community Care Clinic of Forsyth County. The Spanish department is extremely proud of Nate's achievements and delighted to present him with this award.

Dr. Staci Hepler, Associate Professor, Department of Statistical Sciences

Undergraduate Award for Academic Achievement in the Statistical Sciences Cassandra Kathleen Hung

Cassandra Hung is the 2026 recipient of the Undergraduate Award for Academic Achievement in the Statistical Sciences. Cassi is being recognized for her accomplishments in research and coursework, as well as for her strong leadership and spirited intellectual engagement in the department and beyond.

Dr. Jarrod Whitaker, Chair, Department for the Study of Religions

The John Allen Easley Award for Excellence in Religious Studies Elizabeth Marcantonio

The Easley Award for Excellence in Religious Studies, which honors Dr. John Allen Easley, former professor and chair of the department, is awarded to the most outstanding graduating senior majoring in religious studies.

The Department for the Study of Religions faculty has selected Libby Marcantonio as this year's recipient in recognition of her academic excellence in religious studies. Libby has been a consistently dedicated, thoughtful, and curious scholar throughout the major. We congratulate Libby on her academic achievements and applaud her contributions to the Wake Forest community.



Rob Eastman-Mullins, Professor of Design & Production, Department of Theatre and Dance

The Wake Forest University Senior Scholar in Theatre Abigail Parrand and Hannah Reynolds

The award for the Senior Scholar in Theatre is given to the senior theatre major graduating with the highest GPA. This year we are giving two, as Abby Parr and Hannah Reynolds are nearly tied.

Abby Parr is a quiet force of nature. She has stage managed, directed, and acted in her time at Wake, and in every class she has taken in theatre and beyond, she has done superlative work as a writer and a creator. Intelligence, kindness, and humility are Abby's most obvious qualities, but she is also someone who can wrangle a thirty-person cast of actors, a horde of backstage crew, and unruly faculty members with seeming ease. Congratulations, Abby.

Hannah Reynolds writes award-winning plays with ease, sings like an angel, writes jokes like an SNL comedian, acts with originality, and makes films filled with grit and heart. She has been an outstanding member of our theatre and dance community since her arrival on campus four years ago, and we are delighted to know she will be staying for yet another year as a fellow in the ZSR Library. Congratulations, Hannah, on your senior scholar award.

The Knox Dance Scholar Award Jillian Sondike and Savannah Rolfe

This award was established by Mr. & Mrs. Wycliffe Knox, Jr., of Georgia, in honor of their daughter Shell, who was a dancer and a graduate of class of '93. The award is given to a graduating senior dance minor and/or company member. The scholarship is based on overall academic achievement, and contributions to the Dance Program and Dance Company.

Jillian Sondike is a Presidential Scholar in Dance, majoring in health and exercise science with a double minor in biology and dance. She has one of the two highest GPAs in our program. During her time as a dance company member, she has performed in over 13 pieces of choreography by faculty, students, and guest artists. After graduation, Jillian plans to take a gap year to accumulate internship hours and apply for Physicians Assistant School.

Savannah Rolfe is a Presidential Scholar in Dance, majoring in business enterprise management with a minor in dance. She has one of the two highest GPAs in our program. During her time as a company member, she has performed in over 10 pieces of choreography, served as president of the dance company executive board, and has been a role model amongst her peers promoting trust, collaboration, and comradery. After graduation, she is heading to Berlin in May to begin this next chapter training at B12 before starting her professional career as a company member with Dance Kaleidoscope in August.

Dr. Shinsuke Eguchi, Professor, Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

The Anne Boyle Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement Neriah Sarana Olivier and Jada Nneoma Okereke

The Anne Boyle Award for Outstanding Achievement is granted annually to the graduating senior (major or minor) with the Department's highest grade-point average.

Neriah's work makes meaningful contributions to the fields of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, archival research, and politics, among others, with great clarity and depth. Most recently, she researched and wrote a paper titled "Ōlelo Hawai'i and the Historical Erasure of Hawaiian Women." Her work demonstrates exceptional analytical rigor, original thinking, and scholarly depth.

Jada has done excellent work during her time in our department, with her study of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. She is particularly concerned with populations that are often invisibilized, and affords them the attention and care they deserve. Her senior thesis on Black women in superhero fan communities, alongside her research with the Cordy Lab on the G6PD enzyme and its effects on African and African American communities, demonstrates both her intellectual range and her commitment to breaking down barriers in health care. Her work reflects many of the priorities we value in WGSS, particularly rigor, community care, and creativity.

Brad Shugoll, Director, Office of Civic & Community Engagement

The Edgar Christman Award for Service Grayson Elizabeth Weavil

Established in honor of Chaplain Ed Christman, who retired in 2003 after 49 years of service to Wake Forest, each year, the Christman Award acknowledges a senior who has engaged in outstanding service to the Winston-Salem community.

Grayson Weavil championed educational access across our community--directing Project Pumpkin and Wake Women Lead. Her leadership in the relocation of a local youth program ensured it could continue to focus on weekly mentoring, tutoring, and support for dozens of children. Grayson's leadership reminds us that Pro Humanitate is not just about service, but about building something that lasts and brings others along with you.



The Change Maker Award for Social Change Chelsea Njei

The Changemaker Award honors a student who doesn't just speak about change—but leads it. This award recognizes someone with an unwavering commitment to a social issue, inspiring others to create meaningful, lasting impact.

Chelsea Njei reminds us that creating change is not a single moment, but a commitment. It is showing up again and again, building something over time, and bringing others along with you. Through three years of leadership with DESK and Campus Kitchen, Chelsea created space where volunteers feel welcomed, valued, and motivated to return. She leaves a legacy of building bridges, strengthening communities, and creating pathways for others to lead.

Dr. Mark I Vail, President, Delta of North Carolina Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa

The Carlton P. West Phi Beta Kappa Award To be announced

The Carlton P. West Phi Beta Kappa Award was established in 1985, and honors Carlton P. West, who retired in 1975 after serving Wake Forest University as faculty member and librarian for forty-seven years. Carlton West was the person responsible for bringing a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa to Wake Forest in 1940. He then served as President of the chapter for six years and as Secretary-Treasurer for twenty-two years. The award is presented annually to the graduating senior or seniors with the highest academic average based on at least eight semesters of work at Wake Forest.

Dr. Nate French, Executive Director, First in the Forest

The William C. and Ruth N. Archie Award. Isabella Romine and Matthew Bourguignon:

The William C. Archie and Ruth N. Archie Award is given each year to graduating seniors who have shown most conspicuously a commitment to liberal learning, scholarship, and the ideals of Wake Forest College. Made possible by a grant from Dr. & Mrs. William C. Archie, Jr., the award includes a certificate and monetary prize.

College faculty from across disciplines choose students for this prestigious award. While many strong candidates were nominated, these faculty were inspired not only by your GPA, but also by your commitment to research, your strong work ethic, your leadership and your service on this campus and in the larger community.

Isabella has been an asset to the Wake Forest Russian program since she joined it, contributing to our classes and raising the program profile both on campus and abroad. Isabella has used the opportunities afforded to her by Wake Forest to gain a true liberal arts education, taking—and mastering—a wide variety of subjects, and becoming a genuine world traveler, experiencing the riches of human cultures both through theoretical study here on the Reynolda Campus, and through practical, hands-on immersion around the world.

Along with her academic activities, Isabella has held several internships in government service, using her Russian skills and her journalism training to monitor Russian-language media sources and provide support to journalists across the former USSR who had been unjustly detained. Isabella also spent time in Moldova with the National Security Language Initiative for Youth. Throughout her undergraduate career, Isabella has been guided by the questions that emerged from her time in Moldova: How can we speak to one another across linguistic, cultural, and political divides?

I cannot think of a student better suited to represent the Wake Russian program, the ideals of pro humanitate, and Wake Forest University overall. I am confident that Isabella will make Wake Forest proud of her future accomplishments wherever she might be in the world!

Matt has been one of the most genuinely engaged students I have taught in my thirty years at Wake Forest, and I believe he exemplifies the commitment to liberal learning, scholarship, and the ideals of Wake Forest that this award is meant to honor.

Matt was a student in my class. The kind of intellectual engagement he brought to that course is rare. He came to each meeting with questions that were noticeably more sophisticated than what I usually encounter — questions that pushed past the surface of the readings and into the assumptions underneath them. His curiosity was genuine, his thinking was independent, and he treated ideas as things that mattered. That, I believe, is what liberal learning is about.

Matt lives pro humanitate in ways that extend beyond the classroom and the lab. On his own time, he has been building a comprehensive mental health care services directory for foster parents in Winston-Salem and surrounding counties. He has carried his research skills directly into this project: locating key information efficiently, double-checking its veracity, and organizing it to maximize accessibility and use. The result is a database of more than 100 services that will help foster families more easily access support when they need it. He has done this work, as he does everything else, without fanfare or ego.



ADDITIONAL AWARDS

Critical Language Scholarship	Evan Harris and Isabella Romine
Fulbright Research Scholarship to Argentina	Lourdes Lopez
Fulbright ETA Scholarship to Indonesia	Evan Harris
Fulbright ETA Scholarship to Spain	María Fernández
Goldwater Scholar	Cassandra Hung and Mai Soliman
National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Honorable Mention	Olivia Delgado
Schwarzman Scholar	Eli Leadham
Truman Scholarship	Eli Leadham
Udall Scholarship Honorable Mention	Roksanna Keyvan
Yale Conservation Scholar	Roksanna Keyvan
The Art Department Distinguished Service Award	Blair Amy Newsome
Elton C. Cocke Scholarship in Biology	Bennett Haara
Walter Flory Outstanding Student in Biology	Jessica Behrendt
Outstanding Scholar in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	Sierra Smith
Grant Madison Backerman, American Institute of Chemists Foundation Undergraduate Student Award	Philip R. Hadjipetkov
The Royal Society of Chemistry Certificate of Undergraduate Excellence Award	Leo Liu and Jackson Connor Phillips
The WFU Chemistry Departmental Certificate of Undergraduate Excellence Award	Samuel M. Feder, Melody Mina Moossavi, and Elodie S. Wardle
The ACS Division of Inorganic Chemistry Undergraduate Award in Inorganic Chemistry	Jason Zhang
The ACS Division of Physical Chemistry Undergraduate Award in Physical Chemistry	Leo Liu
The ACS Division of Biological Chemistry Undergraduate Award in Biochemistry	Yuran Chai
The ACS Division of Analytical Chemistry Undergraduate Award in Analytical Chemistry	Elodie S. Wardle
The ACS Division of Organic Chemistry Undergraduate Award in Organic Chemistry	Philip R. Hadjipetkov
Blackbyrd Scholarship in Chemistry	Gregory Cabezas
The Harton Scholarship for the Chemical Industry	Mary Emma Holland Hauser
Joe and Sue Newhall Scholarships in Chemistry	Philip R. Hadjipetkov, Jackson Connor Phillips, and Labrini Panagopoulos
Joe and Charles Fields Chemistry Scholarships	Jose Luis Mangahas Policarpio, Leo Liu, and Dhruvi Patel
Andronica Award in Classics	Grace Bauer
Classical Association of the Middle, West, & South Award for Outstanding Accomplishment	Tabitha Surin
Society for Classical Studies Outstanding Student Award	Livi Webster, Katrina Hu, and Zoe Hirshfeld
Academic Merit Award in Communication	Jack Perez and Juliana Simonfalvi
Patty Lanier Service Award in Communication	Chase Clark and Dimarvin Puerto
Christen Balady Award for Outstanding Critical and Creative Media Student (Communication)	Hannah Reynolds and Zimo "Summer" Xu
Japanese National Honor Society	Avelina Axonov, Eli Leadham, Yan Luo, Ken Noguchi, Rohan Patel, Luke Qin, Alli Swyt, and Ran Tao
National Collegiate Chinese Honor Society	Emily Lawrence
Outstanding Minor in Chinese	Annabelle Huyghe

Outstanding Minor in Japanese	Alli Swyt
Order of the Dogwood Award from the North Carolina Japan Center	Eli Leadham, Rohan Patel, Alli Swyt. and Ran Tao
Linda B. and Howard S. Stern Family Foundation Award for Outstanding Seniors in Schools, Education, and Society	Elizabeth “Betsy” George
Claire and Dan Hammond Economics Award for Leadership and Service	Minxing (Mike) Liu
John C. Moorhouse Economics Paper Prize	Yikuan (Kevin) He
Michael Lawlor Macroeconomics Prize.....	Zach Hansen
Innovation Award in Engineering	Jacob Louie
Pro Humanitate Engineer Award.....	Scarlett Johnson
Bashir El-Beshti Prize in Renaissance Studies in English	Lexi Dean
Beulah Lassiter Raynor Scholarship in English	Kenley McClure and Emily Meinert
Claudia Kairoff Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Service in English.....	Neriah Oliver
DA Brown Award for Excellence in Creative Writing in English	Bella Santos
Doyle Fosso Scholarship in English	Lauren Carpenter and Sincere Fielder
Emily Crandall Shaw Scholarship in Liberal Arts in English	Nina Clayton
H. Broadus Jones Shakespeare Prize in English	Anne Jones
H. Broadus Jones M.A. Student Award for Excellence in English	Mary Rhodes
H. Broadus Jones Memorial Scholarship in English	Lucas Betancourt
Jerry B. and Callie Irene Stone Award Honoring Professor Alonzo Kenion Fund for English	Jan Hutcherson
Justus & Elizabeth C. Drake Scholarship in English	Julia Knowles
Bynum G. Shaw Prize in Journalism	Miriam Fabrycky
Bynum G. Shaw Prize in Journalism (Finalists).....	Evan Harris, Andrew Braun, and Zoe Kane
The Center for Entrepreneurship Senior Achievement Award	Theo Daniel Berson
The Beulah Lassiter and Kenneth Tyson Raynor Scholarship in Mathematics	Jali Safiya Gill, Cassandra Kathleen Hung, Amy E. Sepucha, and Chen Flora Yi
Barry and Anne Griffin Driggs Scholar in Mathematics.....	Tianhao Xie
Walter Low Tatum Scholarship in Mathematics.....	Cassandra Kathleen Hung, Tianhao Xie, and Scott Zhao
Robert N. Shorter Medieval Prize in Medieval & Early Modern Studies Program	Emily Meinert
Christian Cappelluti Memorial Scholarship in Music	Annee Bess Blair, Sarah Bo, and Marley Schwarz
K. Wesley Lacy, Jr. Music Scholarship	Catherine Major, Riley Seezen, and Lauren Veldhuizen
Louise Cochrane Boteler Prize for Pursuit of Excellence in Music	JP Schmidt
Braswell Student Leadership Award in Philosophy	Lucas Betancourt
The Joseph B. Currin Award in Religious Studies	Soany Alejandra Aguilar
G. McLeod Bryan Pro Humanitate Award for Community in Religious Studies	Alyssa Grace Hernandez
American Council of Teachers of Russian (ACTR) Post Secondary Russian Scholar Laureate Award.....	Isabella Romine and Graham Milligan
The Department of Sociology Community Engagement Award	Isabela Meeker
Harold C. Tedford Award in Theatre and Dance	Carly Galbreth
The Henry and Dyeann Jordan Scholarship in Theatre and Dance	Aderinola (Nola) Adepoju, Carly Galbreth, Mary Caroline Kolar, John Mark Stowers, and Callie Wittmann



The Hugo Award for Theatre Design	Carly Galbreth
The James Dodding Award in Theatre and Dance	Carly Galbreth, Ziqi Huang, and Senya Li
The Johnnie Collins III Drama Scholarship in Theatre and Dance	Paige Harrell and Lauren Summers
The Marie Bagby Award for Service in Theatre and Dance	Maya Roth
The Miller/Horsman Scholarship in Theatre and Dance	Noey Johnson and Kenley McClure
Senior Service to the Department of Theatre and Dance	Alyssa Cheng, Gabby Miller, Taylor Nisbet, Maggie Payne, and Caleb Walsh
Shouvlín-Blaisdell Funding in Theatre and Dance	John Mark Stowers
Elizabeth Phillips Award in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies	Paige Susan Nahlin Distefano
Mary DeShazer Award in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies	Neriah Sarana Olivier

MORTAR BOARD

Laine Caroline Abbinante	Christopher Paul Julian	Chelsea Lynn Ivers	Priya Leela Mendiratta
James Franklin Brooks	Dietrich	Charles Sumner Kost	Henry Charles Ji-Hoon Neck
Melinda Mae Jane Cheatham	Josephina "Fina" Navarro	Carter Cole Kowalski	Thais Cristina Perez
Claire Elisabeth Colin	Dooley	Minxing "Mike" Liu	Lindsay Elizabeth Spears
Abigail "Abby" Bette Deuter	Rush Olon Forquer	Alexa Diane McKay	Olivia Eloise Soutanian

BETA GAMMA SIGMA

Jane Bostick	Harshit Gupta	Andrew Palme	Megan Sullivan
Buddy Brewer	Ravi Ingle	Rohan Patel	Elizabeth Unger
Nicholas Clark	Jacqueline Johnson	Emmet Phelan	Alex Warren
Nathan Deiuliis	Zander Khan	Aidan Rogers	Elizabeth Scarlet Whaley
Landon Ellis	Carter Kowalski	Louis Rusconi	Maggie Willer
Shane Faraher	Alicia Maginn	Claire Scarcella	Alex Winter
Kayla George	Charlie Martin	Evelyn Scinto	
Lilly Grundy	Ali Norris	Maddie Shannon	
Anna Grzymyski	Meghan O'Shaughnessy	Bjorn Sjogren	

OMICRON DELTA KAPPA

Theo Daniel Berson	Mary Emma Holland Hauser	Allison Little Norris	Sierra Azlyn Smith
Danielle Madison Britton	Cassandra Kathleen Hung	Clara Elizabeth O'Connor	Olivia Marie Spalitto
Alyssa Jo Cheng	Roksanna Keyvan	Andrew Reynolds Owen	Julia Rosemarie Valente
Paige Elizabeth Crawford	Nicholas Edward Knobel	Abby Katharine Parr	Lauren Elizabeth Veldhuizen
Olivia J. Delgado	Makayla Leigh Kohler	Dhruvi A. Patel	Grayson Elizabeth Weavil
Laine Ellen DeNatale	Charles Sumner Kost	Benton Michael Phillips	Olivia Grace Webster
Christopher Paul Julian	Grace Amelia Kotchen	Jackson Connor Phillips	Elizabeth Scarlet Whaley
Dietrich	Carter Cole Kowalski	Hannah Diane Reynolds	Nathan Charles Whitworth
Payton Dawn Evans	Lourdes Maria Lopez	Margaret Katarina Ripsteen	Amaya Gabrielle Williams
Ellison Grace Falkowski	Celeste Cecilia Lynch	Isabella Elizabeth Romine	Andrew Michael Woodard
Samuel Marrin Feder	Taylor Marie McGrew	Maxwell Pasquale	Scott Yong Zhao
Amelia Eve Frey	Shaan Juthani Mehta	Schellhammer	
Morgan Amanda Gfroerer		Madelaine Boyce Shannon	



PHI BETA KAPPA

Ann Foust Bailey	Katrina Hu	Mariana Padilla	Jillian Sondike
Grace Bauer	Cassandra Hung	Zoe Panzer	Caroline Song
Jessica Behrendt	Henry Humphries	Abigail Parr	Annabeth Stancil
Matthew Bourguignon	Meredith Janay	Nathan Dev Philip	Molly Steur
James Brooks	Fahad Janjua	Foster Pierce	Olivia Sullivan
Joseph Bruno	Katherine Page Jernigan	Carrigan Pitts	Cassielle Sweda
Luciana Caicedo-Dussan	Ethan Kastelic	John William Reilly	Allison Paige Swyt
Andrew Jackson Carson	Carmen Kelcourse	Hannah Reynolds	Yiwei Tang
Kevin Check	Roksanna Keyvan	Margaret Ripsteen	Julia Valente
Micaela Creo	Carter Kowalski	Abigail Rise	Elodie Wardle
Charlotte Grace Foxx	Isabel Lagnado	Isabella Romine	Lane Westerlund
Elizabeth George	Jacob Louie	Maxwell Schellhammer	Daniel Winter
Ella Glaze	Makenna McCoy	Luke Schlabach	Tianhao Xie
Margaret Allspaw Glover	Shaan Mehta	Lauren Schofield	Susan Yan
Mia Gosling	Katie Mehuys	Marshall Seezen	Jason Zhang
Sophie Grayson	Lila Mercurio	Bjorn Sjogren	Scott Zhao
Zachary Hansen	Catherine O'Connor	Sierra Smith	
Graesyn Heimer	Clara O'Connor	Mai Soliman	



WAKE FOREST COLLEGE

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY

Wake Forest College began in 1834, with an initial class of just 16 young men. Today, about 5,500 undergraduates and more than 540 premier teacher-scholars comprise the cornerstone of our collegiate university, Wake Forest College. Wake Forest remains dedicated to maintaining the highest standards of education and to preparing our students for life in a challenging, global environment.

To watch the ceremony or view the full program, please visit:
college.wfu.edu/student-resources/honors-and-awards-ceremony

