

UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP



Dr. Nathan O. Hatch, President

Dr. Nathan O. Hatch became Wake Forest's 13th president on July 1, 2005. While at the helm, U.S. News and World Report named Wake Forest 23rd among 281 national universities – the highest ever ranking for the University.

As chief executive of the University, he has spearheaded comprehensive strategic planning efforts and strengthened Wake Forest's distinctive commitments to the teacher-scholar model and the education of the whole person.



Dr. Rogan Kersh, Provost

Dr. Rogan Kersh became the fifth provost in Wake Forest history when he was appointed the University's chief academic officer in July 2012. In addition to overseeing Wake Forest's undergraduate and graduate academic programs, Dr. Kersh serves as professor of political science, keeping one foot in the classroom as a dedicated teacher-scholar in Wake Forest's unique one-on-one approach to education.



Dr. Penny Rue, Vice President for Campus Life

Dr. Penny Rue joined Wake Forest University as Vice President for Campus Life and Professor of Counseling in July 2013, with broad responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of students and their education outside the classroom.

Dr. Rue served as Vice Chancellor-Student Affairs at the University of California, San Diego for six years. She previously served as Dean of Students at the University of Virginia, as Senior Associate Dean of Students at Georgetown University, and as Georgetown's Director of Student Programs.

Earlier in her career she held posts at the University of Maryland and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her doctorate is in Counseling and Personnel Services from the University of Maryland, where her research focused on a conceptual study of community on the college campus. Rue has taught in the San Diego State University Master's Program in Student Affairs and in the Higher Education doctoral program at the University of Virginia. She has a Master's degree in Student Personnel Services from The Ohio State University and an A.B. magna cum laude in English and Religion from Duke University.

In 2011, Dr. Rue was named a Pillar of the Profession by the NASPA Foundation. In 2017, she was chosen to serve as the most distinguished volunteer leadership role in her field – Board Chair-Elect of NASPA, the leading association for student affairs professionals.

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Dr. James Raper, Assistant Vice President for Health & Wellbeing

In his role as Assistant Vice President for Health & Wellbeing, Dr. James Raper oversees and supports departments related to Health & Wellbeing for the university. These include: Campus Recreation, Office of the Chaplain, Learning Assistance Center & Disability Services, Student Health Service, University Counseling Center, and the Office of Wellbeing. The Health & Wellbeing team of offices work closely together to provide services and support across the eight dimensions of wellbeing.

Dr. Raper joined the Wake Forest University community in 2002 as a clinician in the University Counseling Center (UCC). Since that time he has served in a variety of leadership roles in the UCC, including as Director from 2014-2019 where he provided strategic implementation of mental health promotion and outreach, counseling to students, clinical supervision, and crisis response. As the Chief Mental Health Officer for the University, Dr. Raper provided counsel to the Wake Forest University administration, faculty, and staff around mental health and related strategic planning. Dr. Raper also led the development of the WFU CARE/Threat Assessment Team in 2009, was a co-chair from 2009-2014, and continues to serve as a member of the Team.

Dr. Raper is a Licensed Professional Counselor-Supervisor in North Carolina, and holds a doctorate in Counseling and Clinical Supervision from Syracuse University. He focused a portion of his doctoral coursework on crisis management in higher education, and completed a research dissertation entitled: *The Relationship Between Educational, Clinical, And Personal Exposure To Suicide, And Suicide Intervention Skill*. Dr. Raper has also co-authored a book chapter entitled: *Suicide Assessment and Intervention, Crisis and Disaster Response, Managing Stress and Avoiding Burnout*. In addition, Dr. Raper also holds a master's from Wake Forest University in Community Counseling, and a bachelor's degree in Religion from Colgate University. He has held adjunct teaching positions in graduate programs at Wake Forest University and Syracuse University, and has been asked to share his expertise in both suicide assessment and intervention and clinical supervision at the national and international levels.

