



## Dear Friends of Wake The Arts,

April at Wake Forest is always overflowing with dynamic visual and performing arts events, and this year is no different. I am so proud of the tenacity of our students (particularly graduating seniors) and our faculty as they share culminating experiences, adapting to less-than-ideal circumstances with grace and ingenuity. In April, we celebrate the Theatre Studio Series, the Spring Dance Showcase, the many senior recitals and ensemble performances in Music, the Student Art Exhibition in Hanes Gallery and many other interdisciplinary arts events.

I also write with a heavy heart as the Wake Forest community mourns the loss of beloved dance instructor Robert Simpson. Robert taught Social Dance classes at Wake for over 20 years and inspired many students across the university. He passed away on April 14, 2021 after a long battle with cancer. We will miss him dearly. Robert's obituary can be found here, as well as this [beautiful senior oration by Cameron Silvergate '17 who shared his memorable experiences in Robert's class.](#)

Yours,

**Christina Soriano**

*Associate Provost for the Arts & Interdisciplinary Initiatives at Wake Forest University*

Follow us:



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## Look What's Happening



### Giles-Harris Music Competition Winners

Over the past 44 years, the [Giles-Harris Competitions in Musical Performance](#) have grown into a major event for Wake Forest's pianists, singers and instrumentalists. This year, the performances were recorded on video, and the talent on display was as impressive as ever. Check out this year's winners below.

[See the Winners](#)

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### Community Ballet

It would be difficult to find a better embodiment of *Pro Humanitate* than the Community Ballet program. Begun in the early 80s by Professor Brantly Shapiro, it's a rare combination of affordable community resource, rich student leadership opportunity, and driven passion project elevating the highest standards in ballet.

[Learn More](#)

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## Telephone Game

How does a dance become a painting, or a monologue become a piano performance? In the summer of 2020, a game of translation began among artists around the world. Wake Forest's brilliant Presidential Scholars in Art, Theatre, Dance, and Music joined in and created a new branch in this international conversation. Follow along with these wonderful experiments as they translate ideas and emotions from one medium to another.

[Experience the game](#)

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## Holding the Mirror Up To NATURE

a video production directed by Sharon Andrews

Available on [theatre.wfu.edu](http://theatre.wfu.edu)

*April 16-25, 2021*

“This is not about saving our planet, it's about saving ourselves.” - David Attenborough

This video production aims to point to examples of how theatre, both past and present, holds the mirror up to NATURE and more specifically how it has illustrated and responded theatrically to environmental crises and the human beings responsible.

[Learn More](#)

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## Two Gentlemen of Verona

“No indoor gatherings? Alright, let's perform outside, in natural light, with only minimal scenery. After all, that's how they did it at the Globe.” - Emma Szuba ('21), assistant director

[Learn More](#)

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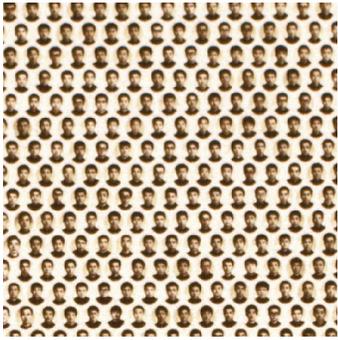


## IMPROVment® Introductory Workshop

An interdisciplinary community of artists and healthcare professionals led by Christina Soriano recently guided over 30 participants through an introductory workshop of the IMPROVment® method for scientific research and community class development. Join the IMPROVment@ team on Thursdays for free virtual movement classes at 5pm EDT. Info can be found at [improvement.wfu.edu](http://improvement.wfu.edu).

[Learn More](#)

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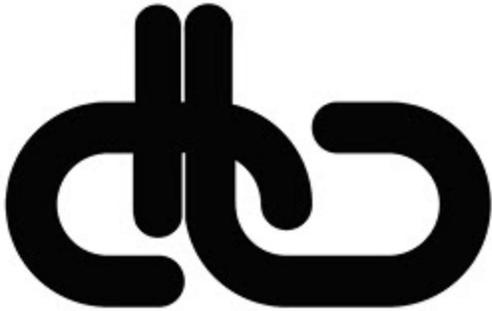
## Virtual Exhibition: Human Connection

Curated by Caroline Miller ('21), *Human Connections* aims to highlight the presence of human connection in life, and the impact of the ongoing global spread of COVID-19. The viewer is invited to contemplate personal experiences of human connection, in addition to contemplating the experiences of the work's subjects.

[See the exhibition](#)

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## Who's Making Things Happen



### Liz Shumate ('10)

“Networking is critical, and what goes the extra mile is showing a genuine interest in people and what they do, not just what they can do for you. Try to establish a personal connection with others and follow up with them periodically to check in. When it comes to interviewing and applying for jobs, know your worth and don't be afraid to pursue an opportunity that pushes you outside of your comfort zone.”

[Read More](#)

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### Eric Slotsve ('14)

Read about Eric Slotsve's ('14) career moving from art history major at Wake Forest to business consultant in Copenhagen.

[Read More](#)

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## What's Next



### **Still I Rise: The Female Voice in Creation**

*Friday, May 7, 7:30 pm - Sunday, May 9, 9:00 pm*

Join the Wake Forest University Concert Choir under the direction of Dr. Christopher Gilliam as they perform choral music from multiple eras written by leading women composers of their time. ***Still I Rise: The Female Voice In Creation*** concert features music by African American composers Rosephanye Powell and Alysia Lee, as well as compositions by multiple LGBTQ+ artists, among others. The concert will premiere Friday, May 7 at 7:30pm and will be available through Sunday, May 9 at 9:00pm.

[Learn More](#)



### **SUAAC Reveal Event**

*Wednesday, April 28, 6pm*

Immerse yourself in learning about the 2021 Student Union Art Acquisition Committee's selection of artworks. Every four years, this unique student committee purchases important contemporary art for the University Collection. We'll be revealing the chosen works and explaining why they were selected. Admission is free of charge.

[Register Here](#)

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## **2021 Student Art Exhibition**

*April 23 – May 17, 2021*

The 2021 Student Art Exhibition will feature artwork by Wake Forest University undergraduate student artists selected by a jury of studio art faculty. Included works often represent a variety of media including painting, prints, drawings, sculpture, photography, video, and installation art.

[Learn More](#)

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## Celebrate Reynolda: A Virtual Celebration

Saturday, April 24, 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Combining the best of Broadway with the best of Reynolda, this year's virtual *Celebrate Reynolda* will pair performances from hit shows such as *Sound of Music*, *The Secret Garden*, and *Ragtime*, among others, with Reynolda's collection of American art. This short film will premiere on Saturday, April 24 at 7 p.m. on [Artarie](#), a new website designed to stream the best in arts and culture events direct to you. All funds raised support Reynolda's efforts to make art, learning, and nature accessible to all who visit, through educational programming, free admission for nearly one-third of guests, and a thriving landscape, ready to be explored.

[Learn More](#)

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### The Role of the Arts in a Post-Pandemic World

April 27, 6:30 - 7:45 pm

The Veritas Forum presents "**Meaning and Purpose: The Role of the Arts in a Post-Pandemic World**" featuring Professor David Hagy, Associate Provost for the Arts Christina Soriano, and moderated by Dean Walton (School of Divinity).

[Register here](#)

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