Dear Friends of Wake The Arts,

Much like the month of October, November is also full of diverse artistic activity at Wake Forest. I hope it also is a month for all of you that brings time for reflection and gratitude. May the many holidays ahead bring joy and abundance to you and your families. Thank you for the ways you inspire me and our community. I look forward to seeing you soon in a theatre, gallery, or other academic learning space on campus.

Yours,

Christina Soriano
Vice Provost for the Arts & Interdisciplinary Initiatives
at Wake Forest University

See our Semester at a Glance »
What’s Happening

DeacLink: New LinkedIn Group

We’re thrilled to announce our new LinkedIn Group to connect Arts alumni and students. Do you collect art? Do you fundraise for an arts organization? We are constantly amazed by where our students go after they graduate. Successful performers, entrepreneurs, and innovators of every kind, Wake Forest Arts alumni are an eclectic crew. But the one thing they have in common is the excellence with which they carry the torch of “Pro Humanitate” into every setting they enter.

If you know of someone who should be here (including you!), please send them our way!

Join the group.
Fall Faculty and Guest Artist Dance Concert

November 17-19 at 7:30 p.m.
November 20 at 2:00 p.m.
Tedford Stage
Artistic Director: Nina Maria Lucas

The Fall Faculty & Guest Artist Concert will feature modern, jazz, contemporary and classical ballet choreography by our dance faculty and renowned guest choreographers, under the direction of Nina Maria Lucas. This fall’s concert features guest artists Liz Guerrieri (’13) and Ming-Lung Yang. An alumni from Wake Forest, Liz earned a bachelor’s degree in health and exercise science and was a member of the WFU Dance Company and the Dance Team. She works in the commercial industry as a dancer and choreographer. Ming-Lung Yang is on faculty at University of North Carolina School of the Arts and former member of the Trisha Brown Dance Company. His choreography has been presented by numerous venues across Asia, Australia, Europe and the United States.

Visit Theatre and Dance

Hopi Artist Residency

In celebration of Native American Heritage Month, the Lam Museum of Anthropology brought award-winning Hopi artist, poet, and educator Ramson Lomatewama to the Wake Forest campus for a week-long residency Nov. 7 to 12. In addition to speaking in a number of Wake Forest courses, Ramson participated in poetry readings, talks and an Indigenous Artists Showcase. Ramson’s residency is sponsored by the Interdisciplinary Arts Center, Lam Museum of Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, Department of English, Department of Art, and the Kenan Chair in the Humanities.
Wake the Arts to collaborate on the debut of ‘ArtCities’

Wake Forest University is collaborating with a new organization, Guilty by Association (GBA) that is dedicated to raising visibility for underrepresented artists nationwide. In collaboration with Wake Forest Arts, five artists from Winston-Salem and Greensboro were selected to spotlight a breadth of regional talent. Their work will be on display at the Milton Rhodes Center for the Arts with a reception on Dec. 11 from 3-6 p.m.

“Wake Forest has been an active local leader in supporting the arts in our local community, and we are thrilled to be the first partner for ArtCities. This is a unique opportunity for our students to make connections beyond the campus and we are grateful to work closely with the Winston-Salem Arts Council in this project,” said Jennifer Finkel, WFU’s Curator of Collections. Image credit: Ashley Johnson, *Mark Yourself Safe – Peanut House*, photograph, 2019.

Read more
Art Collections Focus Series: Brooke Shields remembers Keith Haring

For this Focus Series, we are fortunate to hear from Brooke Shields (P ’25), famed actress, model, and proud mother in conversation with her daughter Rowan Henchy (’25). Brooke was a close friend of Keith Haring, and she was kind enough to share memorable anecdotes of Keith and his contributions that have left an indelible mark on Pop Art.

Pictured above, dance composition students recently joined curator Jennifer Finkel to study the Haring work.

Read more

Who’s Making Things Happen

DeacLink Spotlight: Debran McClean (’93)

“Don’t be afraid to fail! Always try something; if you fail, learn from it and be persistent. Show up, be visible, and always be grateful.” Debran McClean (’93) spoke with Kaylah Bozkurtian (’22) to share her story.

Read more

Why We Give: Alexa and Ward Horton (’98)

“Showing up on campus as a freshman at any school is a daunting experience... full stop. The pressure to find your ‘family’ and create a home-away-from-home
can produce crippling anxiety, even for the most extroverted individuals. In our experience there is no better medicinal remedy for this apprehension than an artistic endeavor. Thrusting yourself into a situation where you are forced to toss aside your inhibitions and give yourself over to the experience at hand, among a group of your peers who are all in the same boat, can quickly level the playing field and alleviate the discomfort of feeling lost. Whether it be experimenting on a blank canvas, expressing yourself on a dance floor or trying your hand on a theatrical stage, having the opportunity to put yourself out there can be one of the most emboldening and rewarding experiences one can have.

As two students who found a home within the walls of Scales, and have since found career paths in the arts, we could not be more excited by the Wake the Arts initiative at our alma mater. Baked into the name itself, we believe it is essential for a true Liberal Arts institution to offer every student the opportunity to experiment with their creative impulses. For many it will be a fleeting encounter with the arts, but for some it will open up the doors to a world not thought possible. We give because we truly believe in the power of self expression and we are so thankful that our Wake Forest feels the same.”

— Alexa and Ward Horton (’98)

Piano Performances Bring Deacs Together

Dr. Larry Weng, Assistant Professor and award-winning concert pianist, and Cathy LoDuca (’95) treated us to very special performances of Chopin, Schubert and Ravel last week in Greenwich, CT. Hosts, alumni and College Board of Visitors members, Karen Hess (’94, P’26), Cathy LoDuca (’95) and Mike McKinley (’91) made possible a gathering of music and connections, and provided a stunning testimony for the vision of Wake the Arts: to elevate the power of the arts on our campus for all students no matter their field of study. Please enjoy these sights and sounds of the evening.

Would you be interested in hosting a Wake Forest musical performance in your community? Please reach out to Beth McAlhany at mcalhabd@wfu.edu

Music Major Alice Hauser (’23) awarded Rhodes Scholarship

Congratulations to piano performance major and refugee advocate Alice Hauser
(‘23) on being awarded a Rhodes Scholarship to study at England’s Oxford University beginning in the fall of 2023! She was among 32 Americans chosen by the Rhodes Trust who were selected on Nov. 12 from among 840 candidates endorsed by 244 different colleges. Hauser, from Kennebunk, Maine, plans to pursue a Master in Science in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies and a Master of Philosophy in Law, with the ultimate goal of promoting justice for populations in need. She is the 15th Wake Forest Rhodes Scholar since 1986.

Read more

Music professors present work throughout NC

Congratulations to Music at Wake Forest University’s Dr. J. Aaron Hardwick and Dr. Tim Heath, who will both be participating in the North Carolina Music Educators Association’s 2022 Conference. Dr. Hardwick will be conducting the North Carolina All-State Honors Orchestra and leading the session “Gaming and Your Ensembles — Level 2: Creating a Goal-Oriented Ensemble.” Dr. Heath will present at the session “Eight to Nine,” providing strategies and resources for band directors to inspire students, parents and administrators on the importance for students’ education and lives on staying in band from middle school to high school. Dr. Heath will co-present with clinicians Mark Norman and Philip Riggs.

Benjamin receives Hurston/Wright Legacy Award

Shanna Greene Benjamin, Professor of African American Studies, has been awarded the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award for Memoir/Biography for her publication, Half in Shadow: The Life and Legacy of Nellie Y. McKay. The Hurston/Wright Legacy Awards, named for Zora Neale Hurston and Richard Wright, celebrate Black literature in the United States and around the globe.

Read more
Christina Soriano presents at International Dance Medicine Conference

Christina Soriano was invited to present on “Mindful Movement as a Diagnostic Tool” at the International Association for Dance Medicine and Science’s 32nd Annual Conference held in Limerick, Ireland.

Read more

Mark your calendar

x9: exponents | WFU art dept studio faculty artist conversations

Through Dec. 8

Join us for artist talks in association with “x9: exponents,” the Art Department Studio faculty exhibition in Hanes Gallery. For the first time in seven years, the gallery is exhibiting the painting, sculpture, drawing, photography, illustration, bookmaking, and video works of nine current and recent faculty members. This exhibition runs through December 8.

Upcoming talks:

Zaire McPhearson Nov. 29, 5 p.m.

More about x9

Secrest Artists Series: Stewart Goodyear
Tuesday, Nov. 15, 7:30 p.m.
Proclaimed “a phenomenon” by the Los Angeles Times and “one of the best pianists of his generation” by the Philadelphia Inquirer, Stewart Goodyear is an accomplished concert pianist, improviser and composer. Goodyear has performed with, and has been commissioned by, many of the major orchestras and chamber music organizations around the world. Stewart Goodyear will perform his acclaimed piano transcription of Tchaikovsky’s complete Nutcracker Ballet.

More about the event

Wake Forest University Jazz Ensemble Concert
Thursday, Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m.
Brendle Recital Hall

The Wake Forest University Music Department invites you to a concert given by our Wake Forest University Jazz Ensemble. All are welcome to this concert! This performance is free and open to the public.

More about the event

Gamelan Giri Murti and Chinese Ensemble Concert
Friday, Nov. 18, 6 p.m.
Brendle Recital Hall

The Wake Forest University Music Department invites you to a performance of our Gamelan Giri Murti Balinese Ensemble and Chinese Ensemble. All are welcome to this concert! This performance is free and open to the public.

More about the event

WFU Wind Ensemble
Sunday, Nov. 20, 3 p.m.
Brendle Recital Hall

The Wake Forest University Music Department invites you to a performance
from our incredible students in our Wake Forest University Wind Ensemble.

Learn more

“Let It Show” at stArt Gallery
Reception: Thursday, Dec 1, 5-7 p.m.
Nov. 21 - Dec. 10
stArt Gallery

“Let it Show!” is the annual holiday student art exhibit at the stArt gallery located in Reynolda Village. The gallery features art created by Wake Forest students and allows students to gain experience in the visual arts market by giving them a space to professionally showcase and sell their work.

Visit the stArt gallery

Messiah Sing-a-Long (with NC Baroque Orchestra)
Monday, Nov. 28, 7-9 p.m.
Brendle Recital Hall

All are invited to join this Messiah Sing-Along, accompanied by the fabulous North Carolina Baroque Orchestra with Wake Forest University student soloists. It’s sure to be a great deal of fun — please join us! Admission is free and open to everyone! Sign up below.

Purchase tickets

Sign up

Gallery Talk: Zaire McPhearson
Tuesday, Nov. 29, 5 p.m.
Hanes Art Gallery

Sculpture professor Zaire McPhearson will discuss her work currently on display
in x9 | exponents the WFU studio art faculty exhibition in Hanes Art Gallery.

Learn more

WFU Symphony Orchestra: Spirit of Romanticism
Thursday, Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m.
Brendle Recital Hall

The Wake Forest University Music Department and Wake Forest University Symphony Orchestra invites you to celebrate the winter season with iconic selections from Tchaikovsky’s Nutcracker Ballet alongside the brilliance of Mendelssohn’s “Reformation” symphony.

Learn more

Guilty by Association Reception
Sunday, Dec. 11, 3-6 p.m.
Milton Rhodes Center for the Arts

Join us for a reception celebrating the work of the five artists from Winston-Salem and Greensboro who were selected by Guilty By Association to spotlight a breadth of regional talent.