



Dear Friends of Wake The Arts,

As is customary, we love honoring our graduating seniors in the May newsletter. Check out our spotlight below featuring some of these extraordinary students — I know you'll enjoy learning about their accomplishments and future plans as much as I did. True to form, these Wake Forest students have lived in Scales Fine Arts Center as much as they have in our science labs, athletic fields and humanities classrooms. They have dazzled with their disciplinary arts prowess and far-reaching interdisciplinary scope, bringing the arts to all corners of our campus and beyond.

The 23-24 academic year finished powerfully with art exhibits, dance concerts, and music and theatre performances. As I reflect on this year, I am reminded of several highlights: welcoming the incomparable **Debbie Allen** (the inaugural Maya Angelou Artist in Residence) to campus, celebrating 60 years of the Mark H. Reece Collection of Student-Acquired Contemporary Art with an exhibition in **Hanes Art Gallery**, and collaborating with the **Lam Museum of Anthropology** on a project bridging objects of antiquity, cultural heritage, and blockchain solutions in the context of repatriating art.

Our extraordinary students and colleagues are the reason the arts thrive at Wake Forest. As we honor our graduating seniors and retiring faculty members, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the passing of a lifelong arts partner at Wake Forest, the legendary provost emeritus **Dr. Edwin G. Wilson**. I will always

remember Dr. Wilson reading some of the British Romantic poetry he taught for over 50 years at Wake Forest at our Aging ReImagined Symposium in 2018. I am grateful that I had the gift of knowing Dr. Wilson, like so many Wake Foresters. We will miss him in our theatres and concert halls, places he often frequented with his family.

As we shift into the summer months I wish you all time for rest and joy with family and friends.

Yours,



Christina Soriano
Vice Provost for the Arts &
Interdisciplinary Initiatives



Want to see what's coming up?
See our [Semester at a Glance](#) »

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What's Happening



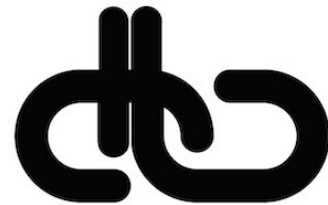
Wake the Arts Graduates: Spotlight 2024

Wake the Arts is shining a spotlight on some of our extraordinary 2024 graduates. There are so many incredible members of our arts community in the Class of 2024, and this is our attempt to highlight some of them. What makes a successful Wake Forest graduate? We think the Arts are the secret ingredient —l whether a student's major was Psychology or Studio Art, Mathematics or Music, Biology or Theatre — these students make us so proud and are destined for greatness.

[Read more](#)

Graduating Seniors and recent alumni: We'd love to feature you on DeacLink

Alums — do you or someone you know have an exciting update you want to share with our community? We'd love to feature you on DeacLink, our platform for Wake Forest Arts alumni.



[Share your story.](#)



Bringing theatre, community and education together at Speas Elementary

Wake Forest University partnered with Speas Elementary to make learning creative and engaging. Combining Theatre, Science and Education for Second Graders: Students at Speas Elementary experienced hands-on learning as part of an innovative program called “Theatre in Education.” Wake Forest students used performing arts to teach second graders lessons about science.

[Read more](#)

“Of The Times” exhibition featured in major arts publication

Art critic John Yau visited Hanes Gallery for the exhibition “Of The Times: 60 Years of Student-Acquired Contemporary Art.” Hear what he thought of the exhibition and of Wake’s one-of-a-kind student art-buying program by reading his review on Hyperallergic.



[Read more](#)

Seen and Unseen: Imogen Cunningham March 1 - June 2 Reynolda House Museum of American Art

Catch this exhibition before it closes on June 2! Embracing the times in which she lived, Imogen Cunningham (1883-1976) created images that reflect crucial movements and developments in art and



photography during her seventy-year career.

[Read more](#)

Hanes Gallery / alumna collaboration at Venice Biennale featured in New York Times

Nobody would accuse the activist-artist Dread Scott of being a diplomat. He would rather dismantle power structures than sustain them. But the “All African People’s Consulate,” he has created as a conceptual artwork along the Grand Canal during the 60th Venice Biennale has quickly become a solid gathering place for the Black community in a city that hasn’t always been hospitable to people of color.



The exhibition, curated by WFU director of galleries Paul Bright and supported by Cristin Tierney Gallery (Cristin Tierney '93), is dedicated to an imaginary union of African countries that would protect the rights of its citizens to freely move around the world.

[Read more](#)

Professor Maria Ogedengbe’s artwork on view in Venice

Artist Talk at Casa Artom:

Wednesday, May 22, 6 p.m. (refreshments provided)

Professor Maria Ogedengbe’s installation “our wife” is now on display at Casa Artom, Wake Forest University’s study abroad center in Venice, Italy. The 20-yard-long painting project is a musing on a women's hand-printed batik head-scarf (gélé) from a Nigerian wedding “uniform” and relates to the theme of this year’s Venice Biennale: “Foreigners Everywhere.” Students at Wake Forest University assisted with the project which has received support through the Dean's Office and Interdisciplinary Arts Center. Casa Artom welcomes Wake Forest University community & friends in Venice to attend a reception with a short artist’s talk & refreshments on Wednesday, May 22 from 6-7:15 p.m. — please RSVP to Aurora Alessi: alessia@wfu.edu



[Read more](#)

Documentary Film Program students win RiverRun Film Festival Pitch Fest

Congratulations to Documentary Film Program students Jack Balick (MA '24) and William Teets (MA '24) for recently winning the 13th Annual RiverRun PitchFest for their film, "Ayzoh."



The film follows Wake Forest track athlete Luke Tewalt, a prodigy distance runner adopted from Ethiopia and raised in America, and his struggle to chase Olympic dreams while searching for self identity.



Wake Forest arts and neuroscience research featured on local news

John Beck (Music), Christina Hugenschmidt (Neuroscience) and Christina Soriano (Dance) were recently featured on WXVII's video series celebrating the partners of the Intergenerational Center for Arts and Wellness.

More at WXII:

[Video 1](#)

[Video 2](#)



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