



Dear Friends of Wake The Arts,

January came and went at Wake Forest, with its blustery temps and plenty of fabulous art experiences to warm the soul. Now, as we settle into the spring semester, February is a month filled with even more invigorating events on campus. This academic year, I am fortunate to be deeply invested in a research leave, where I have been focused on furthering my research at the intersection of dance and neuroscience. Thanks to an award from the Arts Council of Winston-Salem, I am pleased to be overseeing an **Arts for Everybody** Community Project Grant, where we will launch a pilot “Arts on Prescription” program in Forsyth county. In the spirit of *Pro Humanitate*, I am proud to bring the power of the arts to our healthcare communities and be joined by a dynamic advisory board of physicians, patients, artists, and community leaders in Winston-Salem to launch this work.

This weekend, I can’t wait to see Sarah Ruhl’s play **Dead Man’s Cell Phone**, directed by my talented colleague Brook Davis. Get tickets if you haven’t already done so! And while you’re in Scales, be sure to stop by Hanes Gallery to see **Young, Gifted and Black** — offering a stunning collection of contemporary works from the Lumpkin-Boccuzzi Family Collection of Contemporary Art. Later this semester, I urge you to hold Saturday, April 5th for the return of **Wakeville** — the third annual student art festival in and around Scales Fine Arts Center! This family-friendly event features Wake Forest student-musicians, visual artists,

dancers, and thespians as well as vendors, food trucks and lots of joy. See you in Scales!

Warmest regards,

Christina Soriano
Wake the Arts Center Co-Director
Reynolds Professor of Dance



Want to see what's coming up?
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What's Happening

Young, Gifted and Black artist talk by Tomashi Jackson

Wednesday, March 5, 5:30 p.m.

Hanes Art Gallery

Young, Gifted and Black: The Lumpkin-Boccuzzi Family Collection of Contemporary Art highlights artists of African descent whose work explores identity, politics and art history. Through March 29.

[Visit Hanes Art Gallery](#)

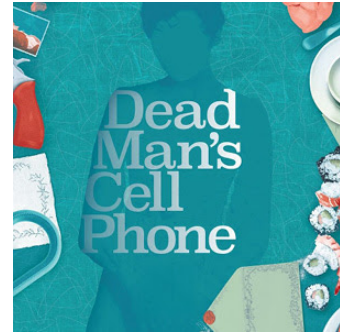


Dead Man's Cell Phone

By Sarah Ruhl, directed by Brook Davis

Feb. 13-15 at 7:30pm, Ring Theatre

Feb. 16 at 2pm, Ring Theatre



When Sarah Ruhl's *Dead Man's Cell Phone* premiered in 2007, the play questioned our connections, our disconnections, and how our lives have changed as we navigate a piece of technology that follows us everywhere, all the time. In 2025, that examination is even more profound. After Jean answers and keeps answering a dead man's cell phone, she stumbles into a complicated world of grand discoveries and adventure. Join us for a whimsical look at humanity, technology, and the life-altering importance of a good bowl of lobster bisque.

Tickets available

Secret Artists Series: Vijay Iyer Trio

Thursday, March 6, 7:30pm

Brendle Recital Hall, Scales Fine Arts Center

Described by The New York Times as a “social conscience, multimedia collaborator, system builder, rhapsodist, historical thinker and multicultural gateway,” Vijay Iyer is one of today’s most in-demand jazz musicians, and is a composer, pianist, and professor in the Harvard University music department. His honors include a MacArthur Fellowship, a Doris Duke Performing Artist Award, a United States Artist Fellowship, and a GRAMMY nomination.



About his all-star trio (including Australian bassist Linda May Han Oh and Tyshawn Sorey, MacArthur Foundation Fellowship-winning percussionist and composer), *All About Jazz* says, "the visionary musician [Iyer] leads an ensemble that formulates an exquisite redefinition of jazz's well-established instrumental concept of the piano trio."

Read more

Sick-Amour: A Love Story

a film by Joel Tauber

Screening & Reception: March 3
Scales Fine Arts Center
Film Screening: Room 102
Reception: Scales Lobby



Sick-Amour: A Love Story (2024) celebrates the forlorn and lonely Tree that Joel Tauber adopts in the middle of a giant parking lot in front of the Rose Bowl Stadium in Pasadena (CA, USA). The 77-minute documentary — which was filmed over the course of 18 years — paints a multi-faceted portrait of the Tree via a series of interviews with experts in different fields; while it chronicles Tauber’s efforts to improve the Tree’s life. Tauber waters the Tree with giant water bags, installs tree guards to protect it from cars, builds giant earrings to celebrate its beauty, lobbies to remove the asphalt beneath its canopy and to protect it with a ring of boulders, and helps the Tree reproduce. Then — years later — shocking tragedy occurs, and Tauber is forced to reconsider what it means to love the Tree.

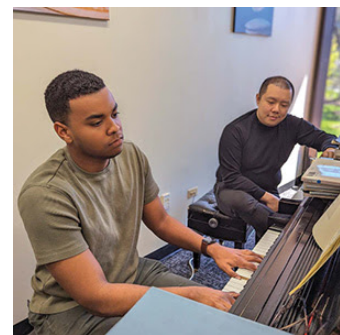
[Read Joel’s essay in Wake Forest Magazine](#)

[More about the screening](#)

Who’s Making Things Happen

Scales of possibility with Roscoe Bell (’23) and Dr. Larry Weng

“Dr. Weng... taught me something profound about approaching life’s obstacles: Observe, understand and then proceed with intention.” Hear from Roscoe Bell (’23) about his life-changing relationship with piano mentor Larry Weng.



[Read Roscoe’s piece](#)

Alumni collaboration across generations

“I learned a lot about life — when you have an age difference between two people,

you bring different things to the table.” **Documentary Film Program** student Parker Beverly (’23, MFA ’25) and Warren Anderson (’74) are two alums from different generations working together to tell stories.

Read the story



Full Circle: Alexander Lloyd Blake (’10) reflects on returning to campus

As part of Wake Forest and Winston-Salem State University’s annual collaborative celebration to honor the legacy of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., **Secret Artists Series** presented Tonicity, vocal ensemble, led by Alexander Lloyd Blake (’10). Hear about his experience and watch a few highlights from the performance.



Photos and video

Orchestra Director to lead Munich Radio Orchestra in program featuring video game music

Orchestra Director and Assistant Teaching Professor of Music J. Aaron Hardwick will lead the Münchner Rundfunkorchester (Munich Radio Orchestra) in a performance of “Let’s Play,” a concert dedicated to video game music. Hardwick’s research on gaming music suggests performance of video game music by symphony orchestras has and will continue to open new pathways for listening, performance and composition that is increasing audience engagement. The concert, to be **broadcast live** via the Bayerischer Rundfunk (BR) network.



In April, the show comes to campus for **“We Play Together,”** an extraordinary three-day event blending music, gaming, and academic exploration. Stay tuned for more.

Read about the program

Wake Women Podcast: Christina Soriano and Dr. Christina Hugenschmidt

Through their groundbreaking research on the integration of dance and neuroscience with Parkinson's patients, professors Soriano and Hugenschmidt investigate the ways movement can change the way your brain works. This episode breaks down the science behind movement and shares ways movement can inspire daily living.



[Listen on Spotify](#)

Faculty art on display

Ship/Shape: Page Laughlin and David Finn

Through May 4

Blowing Rock Art & History Museum

Emerita faculty Page Laughlin (Painting) and David Finn (Sculpture) present SHIP/SHAPE — a dynamic exhibition featuring more than 20 paintings and sculptures that explore and delight in the various manifestations of ships as image, symbol and metaphor. Although at first glance the two artists' work might appear radically different—in medium, use of color, physicality — on closer examination strong parallels emerge.



[More about the exhibition](#)

Phenoms: Leigh Ann Hallberg

Through Oct. 19

Reynolda House Museum of American Art

In her Phenoms series, artist Leigh Ann Hallberg creates large-scale abstract paintings inspired by her journey through local landscapes, including the Reynolda landscape. Hallberg, who has taught painting at Wake Forest University since 1999, chose a square format for the series, which she says leaves

the viewer's understanding of the work open — the abstract painting is neither portrait nor landscape. Instead, it is a pretend space in which the viewer is able to reconsider and reimagine their experience of nature through the works.



More about the exhibition

Coming soon:

Thursday, Feb. 13:

Dead Man's Cell Phone, by Sarah Ruhl
(7:30pm, Ring Theatre)

Friday, Feb. 14:

Dead Man's Cell Phone, by Sarah Ruhl
(7:30pm, Ring Theatre)

Saturday, Feb. 15:

Dead Man's Cell Phone, by Sarah Ruhl
(7:30pm, Ring Theatre)

Senior Recital: Jacob Kathman, trombone

(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Sunday, Feb. 16:

Dead Man's Cell Phone, by Sarah Ruhl
(2pm, Ring Theatre)

Flute Fest

(3pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Deacs Like Me: Mentors and Mentees Tour

(4pm-5pm, Hanes Art Gallery)

Tuesday, Feb. 18:

Film screening: "We Are, Because We Were"
(6pm-8pm, ZSR Library Auditorium 404)

Wednesday, Feb. 19:

Clue Night @ Reynolda House

free for students – food, music art, mystery
(5-7pm, Reynolda House Museum of American Art)

Tuesday, Feb. 25:

WFU Wind Ensemble

(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Wednesday, Feb. 26:

Faculty Recital: Mathilde Handelsman

(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Thursday, Feb. 27:

“As one incapable of her own distress”: Hamlet, Storytelling, & Public Health Outcomes, presentation by Professor Stephen Wrentmor

(5:30pm, Wake Downtown Auditorium - Room 4802)

Friday, Feb. 28:

Concerto Competition Winners Concert

(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Sunday, March 2:

Presidential Scholar Recital: Nora Resk, soprano

(3pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Monday, March 3:

Film screening and discussion: “Sick-Amour: A Love Story”

(5:30pm-8pm, Scales 102 | Reception: Scales Lobby)

Film screening: “We Were Here: The Untold History of Black Africans in Renaissance Europe”

(5pm-7pm, ZSR Auditorium)

Wednesday, March 5:

Artist Talk by Tomashi Jackson

(5:30pm, Hanes Art Gallery)

Thursday, March 6:

Secret Artists Series: Vijay Iyer Trio

(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Hanes After Hours

(5:30pm-8pm, Hanes Art Gallery)

Monday, March 17:

Guest Artist Recital: Dr. Yevgeny Yontov, piano

(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Wednesday, March 19:

30th Anniversary Screening/Discussion: Hoop Dreams

(6:00pm, Byrum Welcome Center)

Saturday, March 22:

48th Annual Giles-Harris Music Competitions

(10am-3pm)

Tuesday, March 25:

Film Screening: Rising Hope

(5pm–7pm, Benson University Center, Pugh Auditorium)

Wednesday, March 26:

Secret Artists Series: Thomas Dunford, lute

(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Friday, March 28:

WFU Choirs Concert

(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Saturday, March 29:

“Young, Gifted and Black” exhibition closes

(Hanes Art Gallery)

Tuesday, April 1:

Senior Project Presentation: Alexandra Eliasek

(7pm, M304)

Friday, April 4:

The Tempest, by William Shakespeare

(7:30pm, Tedford Stage)

Saturday, April 5:

Wakeville Interdisciplinary Arts Festival

(10am-4pm, Scales Fine Arts Center)

The Tempest, by William Shakespeare

(7:30pm, Tedford Stage)

Exhibitions

- **Young, Gifted and Black,**
Hanes Art Gallery (Through March 30)
- **Between Worlds / The Hands of the Maker: Mike Liu and Kalina Namikas,**
stArt Downtown (through March 21)
- **A Surreal Mirror: Student Painting and Collage Exhibition**
Brockwell Recruiting Center - Farrell Hall
(through April 28)
- **Reynolda House Museum of American Art:**
 - **Leigh Ann Hallberg: Phenoms**
(through Oct. 19)
 - **Andrew Wyeth at Kuerner Farm: The Eye of the Earth**
(Feb. 15-May 25)
- **Lam Museum of Anthropology:**
 - **Home: The Exhibit**
(through April 12)
 - **Poems Made to Wear: Traditional Colors in East Asia**
(through Aug. 16)



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