



Greetings, Friends of Wake The Arts!

Although the cadence and rhythm of the academic year is always the same, it's amazing how summer seems to creep up unexpectedly. You take a deep breath in January, rearranging lesson plans after a surprise snowstorm, and then you blink and it's May. The beat goes on, year after year.

One of the many wonderful things about May is that it affords us the opportunity to reflect back on the successes of the past year. Indeed, the **Wake The Arts Center** has been busy! This year, we funded a record-setting 32 projects and, for the first time ever, had to shut down our submission portal because we had reached our allotted funding limit by Spring Break. We were proud to fund a broad range of interdisciplinary collaborations, from helping bring together the departments of Music, Physics, Mathematics and Engineering for **"We Play Together"** to supporting the "Young, Gifted and Black" exhibition in Hanes Gallery, **to the numerous other campus and community collaborations throughout the year.**

We believe this year's success was not a fluke, but the result of a years-long groundswell — reflecting a willingness to collaborate and a shared recognition of the arts' power to reinvigorate, illuminate, and amplify the remarkable work taking place across campus. All knowledge becomes more impactful when integrated with the power of expression, and we welcome others to join our

movement by **submitting a project proposal for AY25-26.**

Lastly, maybe you are a regular reader of this newsletter or perhaps this is the first time you've ever opened a Wake The Arts email. Regardless, we want to hear from you to get a sense of which communication channels you're using and what types of content you would like to see more of. **Please complete our year-end communication survey**, allowing us to improve and grow in the new year.

As always, thank you for your partnership and support for Wake The Arts. We hope you have a refreshing and invigorating summer, and we can't wait to see what you create next year!

Sincerely,



Christopher Zaluski

Co-director, Wake the Arts Center

Program Director, Documentary Film Program

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

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What's Happening



Spring semester with Wake the Arts

Enjoy this visual encapsulation of our vibrant and art-filled semester to get a taste of some of the excitement and energy around the arts on campus this Spring. There's a lot coming next year, so stay tuned!

[Read more](#)



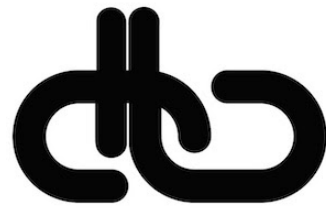
Wake the Arts Graduates: Spotlight 2025

Wake the Arts is shining a spotlight on some of our extraordinary 2025 graduates. There are so many incredible members of our arts community in the Class of 2025, 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 — 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.



[**Visit DeacLink**](#)

Wake the Arts Center accepting proposals for 2025-26 academic year

We invite you to be a part of the Wake the Arts Center! The Center supports projects that combine the arts (music, theatre, dance, art, art history, film, creative writing) with each other and/or with other disciplines, centers, and programs. We support project proposals from faculty, students, and staff that range in size from classroom visits to multi-performance events open to the WFU and greater Winston-Salem communities.

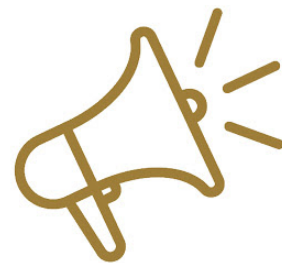


[**Submit a proposal**](#)

Communications survey

We'd love to hear from you! What do you like to hear about from Wake the Arts?

[**Take the survey**](#)



Who's Making Things Happen

Ruiying Gao named National Humanities Center Fellow

Assistant Professor Ruiying Gao has been named a National Humanities Center

(NHC) Fellow. The center recently announced the appointment of 32 Fellows for the 2025-26 academic year.

[Read more](#)



TechX Keynote Speaker KeYi Huang ('17, MB '19) talks art, creativity, and the potential of AI

TechX returns on Thursday, May 15, with a day of in-person sessions led by faculty, students and staff. This year's program highlights learning and research technologies including Museum in a Box, BioRender, and a discussion on expanding ideas of intelligence "in the age of AI." The event will kick off with a keynote by Double Deac AI artist Kyi Huang, who will speak on "Cracks Between Brush and Algorithm — That's Where the Light Gets In." Visit TechX to explore this year's program and register.



[Read more](#)

Kevin Frazier on Deacs.AI podcast

Can Artificial Intelligence and the Arts co-exist? Theatre professor Kevin Frazier riffs on how AI tools are opening doors to new forms of creativity and collaboration. In this podcast episode, he explores how artists and educators are harnessing AI to push the boundaries of design and theater, and what roles humans still play. It's a journey into the future where technology and art intertwine to create the extraordinary.



[Listen on Spotify](#)

Alissa Simone (MFA '25) wins RiverRun International Film Festival Pitchfest

Congratulations to **Documentary Film Program** MFA student Alissa Simone on her RiverRun International Film Festival PitchFest win. We are incredibly proud of the outstanding pitch presentations delivered by Alissa and fellow MFA student Naz Sayari Marcum at this year's PitchFest.



[Read more](#)

Evan Harris ('26) wins Pulitzer Center Fellowship

The Pulitzer Center has awarded a fellowship to Wake Forest University junior Evan Harris. The \$3,000 award will support reporting on the impact of overtourism on Bali, Indonesia. Studio art minor Harris credits studio art professor John Pickel for helping him hone his skills working with 35mm photography.



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