



### **Welcome back, Wake the Arts Readers!**

This is my favorite time of year when we get to introduce new Demon Deacons to the arts at Wake Forest and welcome back familiar faces to the halls of Scales Fine Arts Center. We are refreshed and galvanized from summer explorations and ready to tackle the work of a new academic year.

And what a year do we have planned!

The **Secrest Artists Series** will present five internationally acclaimed performing artists, beginning with Soweto Gospel Choir on Sept. 25 just prior to Family Weekend. Their joy-filled concert, "Peace," features a mix of South African freedom songs and traditional spirituals, along with the spirited music of artists like Aretha Franklin, Harry Belafonte and more!

The **Theatre Department** begins their season with **Failure: A Love Story** directed by Jonathan Herbert, Sept. 19-28 on the Tedford Stage.

In October, **Hanes Art Gallery** will open a new exhibition featuring new work by Studio Art faculty members Molly Kaderka and Rudy Shepherd.

I look forward to a fantastic fall semester and encourage you to continue exploring the arts at Wake Forest with us!

Best,



## Hayden Barnes

Director, Secret Artists Series

Executive Board Member, Wake the Arts Center

**Follow Wake the Arts Events on your Google Calendar**

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## What's Happening



### Kicking off Fall Semester

We're so excited to welcome you back to a new academic year! We've been all over campus the past two weeks welcoming new and returning students, faculty

and staff as we gear up for a year packed to the brim with nonstop arts activity. And don't forget to **subscribe to our Google calendar** to stay up to date with the latest events!

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## Creativity Edition of Wake Forest Magazine

Read the Creativity Issue of Wake Forest Magazine in its latest installment. You'll see fantastic stories about **Spurge Carter ('14)**, **Sarah Slappey ('06)**, and **Professor Leigh Ann Hallberg, among others**. A great tribute to the unstoppable creativity and excellence of our Wake the Arts community.



**[Read the online edition](#)**

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## Wake the Arts Center: Past and Upcoming Events

The Wake the Arts Center has already funded eight events this semester and new **proposals** keep coming in! Below are some of our coming events:

### Walking the Frame: Film, Storytelling, Art, and Social Justice in Southern Italy

*July 1-5*

This interdisciplinary study abroad project in Sorrento, Italy (June-July 2025) immersed students in Southern Italy's culture through the Social World Film Festival, site visits to Procida and Ischia, and encounters with music, poetry, and visual art. Guided by faculty from Wake Forest, Notre Dame and St. Mary's College, students created original projects — video essays, digital zines, and hybrid storytelling —that connect place, narrative, and justice.

### “Deac Beats” at New Deac Week

The “Deac Beats” drum circle invited students to sit down and play with a group for as long as they wished over the course of an hour. Many new students left the drum circle in conversation with a person they did not know before sitting down. It was a great way for the energy of the arts to help kick off a new stage of life.

**[More on Instagram](#)**

New student orientation can be a time of both excitement and anxiety for students. The "Deac Beats" drum circle invited students to sit down and play with a group for as long as they wish over the hour. Many new students left the drum circle in conversation with a person they did not know before sitting down. A

great way for the energy of the arts to help kick off a new stage of life.

## **The Comeback: A BSA Pep Rally**

*Sept. 1*

“The Comeback” is a high-energy, arts-infused back-to-school Pep Rally hosted by the Black Student Alliance, designed to unite the campus community and celebrate the vibrant creativity and excellence of Black students at Wake Forest. This dynamic evening will feature a powerful lineup of student voices and leaders, including Vice President of Campus Life Dr. Shea Kidd Brown, and a student-led fashion show that showcases Black joy, style, and cultural expression.

## **Resistencia Film Festival**

*Sept. 15 to Oct. 15*

The Resistencia Film Festival, scheduled to take place from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, 2025, is an interdisciplinary and community-centered event that brings together students, faculty, staff, and the broader Winston-Salem community. Through a curated selection of films by Latin American filmmakers, the festival will engage audiences in critical conversations around immigration, healthcare access, environmental justice, and cultural identity. In addition to screenings, the festival will feature discussions with filmmakers, scholar panels, and service-oriented programming that reflect Wake Forest’s values of engaged learning and *Pro Humanitate*.

## **Symposium on Interdisciplinary Health Care**

*Feb. 13, 2026*

The Wake the Arts Center is spearheading a free, one-day symposium that will bring together artists, healthcare professionals, scholars, and community leaders to explore how the arts and humanities can support health care and education in Forsyth County. Centered on the Winston-Salem Arts Council–funded “Arts on Prescription” pilot study, the event will share findings, highlight national models, and spark conversations about expanding arts-based care programs locally and beyond.

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### **Secrest Artists Series: Soweto Gospel Choir**

*Thursday, Sept. 25 / Family Weekend!*

*7:30pm, Wait Chapel*

With their concert entitled “PEACE,” the multi-Grammy and Emmy Award-winning Soweto Gospel Choir returns to North America to perform a joyful program of South African freedom songs, traditional spirituals and some classics. The inspirational concert will also feature the spirited music of Aretha Franklin, Harry Belafonte, Peter Gabriel, Kate Bush, Leon Cohen and more! Formed in 2002, the Choir was created to celebrate the unique power of African gospel music and have been heralded by Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu, Barack Obama, and Oprah Winfrey. Soweto Gospel Choir excites audiences worldwide, uplifting the soul and spreading joy through its earthy rhythms, rich harmonies, brilliant costumes, and infectious spirit. It’s perfect for the entire family!

**[Read more](#)**

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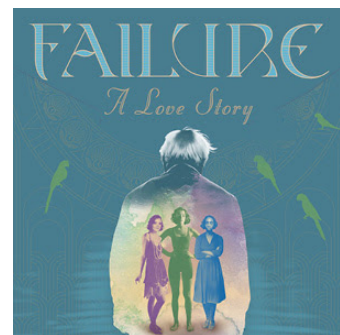
### **Failure: A Love Story**

*by Philip Dawkins, directed by Jonathan Herbert*

*Sept. 19-20 & 25-27 at 7:30pm*

*Sept. 21 & 28 at 2pm*

*Tedford Stage, Scales Fine Arts Center*



In Philip Dawkins’ tender and theatrical tale, time is slippery, love is unpredictable, and death is just around the corner. Lyrical, funny, and unexpectedly moving, Failure is a story about living, loving — and dying — in 1920s Chicago.

**[Read more](#)**

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## **A conversation with 'Maya Angelou Artist-in-Residence' Branford Marsalis**

*Nov. 9, 2025*

*4pm, Brendle Recital Hall*

*Free admission*

Join us for a conversation with Maya Angelou Artist-in-Residence and jazz musician Branford Marsalis moderated by Department of Music Chair Jacqui Carrasco and Associate Teaching Professor of Education Ali Sakkal, a former student of Marsalis.

Jazz musician Branford Marsalis has been named Wake Forest University's 2025 Maya Angelou Artist-in-Residence. Marsalis, a globally celebrated artist known for his unparalleled contributions to jazz, classical music, film, and Broadway, will bring his vast experience and creative spirit to the Wake Forest campus.

The Maya Angelou Artist-in-Residence Award was established to bring world-renowned artists to campus for engagement with students, faculty, staff and the wider community. In 2023, the residency's inaugural year, Emmy award-winning director and producer Debbie Allen was the first honoree. The residency is awarded every two years.

**[Read more](#)**

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## **Music and Leadership**

Mark your calendars for the **Future of Music Leadership**, Oct. 1-3, co-sponsored by the Department of Music and the Program for Leadership and Character at Wake Forest University.

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## Who's Making Things Happen

### Laura Minton ('11) named Acquavella Director of University Art Galleries and Collections at Wake Forest

We're thrilled to welcome Laura Minton ('11), who will oversee the newly renovated Charlotte and Philip Hanes Art Gallery, the stArt Gallery for student art, and University Collections. Her work will guide the care, interpretation, and presentation of Wake Forest's permanent collections while fostering innovative exhibitions and educational opportunities for students, faculty, staff, and the broader community. As an undergraduate art history major at Wake Forest, Minton discovered her passion for curating during an internship at the Reynolda House Museum of American Art.



"Laura's return to Wake Forest is a perfect homecoming," said John Curley, professor and chair of the art department. "She has a rare gift for making complex art accessible and engaging, and she will create exhibitions and programming that resonate across our campus and throughout the community. Laura understands what makes Wake Forest special, and I'm excited to see how she will invigorate our campus with her innovative vision for the visual arts."

[Read more](#)



### David Lubin on CBS Morning News, NPR, Wall Street Journal and People Magazine

As the film "Sunset Boulevard" celebrates its 75th anniversary, Art Professor Emeritus David M. Lubin's new book, "Ready for My Close-Up," is grabbing

national attention. Get the inside story on this Hollywood classic.

**CBS Saturday Morning**  
**Wall Street Journal**  
**NPR**  
**People**

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### **Creative Journeys at Wake Forest with Parker Beverly ('23, MFA '25) and Sofia Trujillo ('25)**

This episode of the Wake Women podcast explores the creative journeys of two Wake Forest students, Parker Beverly and Sofia Trujillo, as they discuss their experiences in the arts, the importance of supportive faculty and family, and their unique projects focusing on women's stories. The dialogue highlights the transformative power of a liberal arts education and the courage it takes to pursue a career in the arts. We explore the interconnectedness of generational experiences, the significance of community in personal journeys, and the power of storytelling, particularly in uplifting women's voices. The discussion highlights the responsibility that comes with creative expression, and the aspirations of these two very creative women as they envision their futures. Through their artistic endeavors, they aim to create meaningful impact and foster understanding across diverse backgrounds.



**Listen on Spotify**

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### **Music faculty member John Beck receives 2025 Cam Busch NOAH Arts in Health Award**

Professor John Beck was awarded First Place in the 2025 **Cam Busch NOAH Arts in Health Awards** "Effect of Interactive Group Drumming on Psychosocial Outcomes for Hospitalized Individuals in Behavioral Health: A Pilot Study Integrating Music-Based Interventions with Recreation Therapy" in the Arts Transforming Environments category.



**More about the NOAH Arts in Health Awards**

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## Coming soon

### **Thursday, Aug. 28:**

stArt: **New Works** RECEPTION

(5pm-7pm, stArt Gallery Reynolda Village)

### **Tuesday, Sept. 2:**

**Fall Involvement Fair**

(3:30pm-6pm, Poteat Field)

### **Thursday, Sept. 11:**

BRC Gallery Exhibition: Digital Stamp Carving and Block Printing | Selections from Bryan Ellis's Class Spring 2025

(Sept. 11-Dec. 11, Farrell Hall Suite A05 / Brockway Recruiting Center Gallery)

### **Friday, Sept. 12:**

BRC Gallery Exhibition: Digital Stamp Carving and Block Printing RECEPTION

(5-7 pm, Farrell Hall Suite A05 / Brockway Recruiting Center Gallery)

### **Friday, Sept. 19:**

**Failure: A Love Story**

(7:30pm, Tedford Stage)

### **Saturday, Sept. 20:**

**Failure: A Love Story**

(7:30pm, Tedford Stage)

### **Sunday, Sept. 21:**

**Failure: A Love Story**

(2pm, Tedford Stage)

### **Thursday, Sept. 25 (Family Weekend):**

Secrest Artists Series: **Soweto Gospel Choir: "Peace"**

(7:30pm, Wait Chapel)

**Failure: A Love Story**

(7:30pm, Tedford Stage)

### **Friday, Sept. 26 (Family Weekend):**

**Failure: A Love Story**

(7:30pm, Tedford Stage)

### **Saturday, Sept. 27 (Family Weekend):**

**Dan Skidmore, violin and Mary Ann Bills, piano**  
(7:30pm-9:00pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

**Failure: A Love Story**  
(7:30pm, Tedford Stage)

**Sunday, Sept. 28 (Family Weekend):**

**Failure: A Love Story**  
(2pm, Tedford Stage)

**Monday, Oct. 1:**

stArt: **Evan Harris exhibition** opens  
(Oct. 1- 25, stArt Gallery Reynolda Village)

**Tuesday, Oct. 2:**

stArt: **Evan Harris exhibition** RECEPTION  
(5-7 pm, stArt Gallery Reynolda Village)

**Tuesday, Oct. 7:**

**WFU Wind Ensemble Concert**  
(7:30-8:30pm, Scales Fine Arts Center)

**Monday, Oct. 13:**

**Lumbee Storytelling**  
(10:00am-2:30pm, Lam Museum of Anthropology)

**Thursday, Oct. 16:**

**World Cultural Festival**  
(4:30pm-7:00pm, Upper Davis Field)

**Saturday, Oct. 18:**

**WFU Choirs: Alumni Reunion Concert**  
(4pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

**Tuesday, Oct. 21:**

Secrest Artists Series: **Christian McBride, bass, & Brad Mehldau, piano**  
(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

**Friday, Oct. 24:**

**WFUSO Concert with Poet Ishion Hutchinson, Composer David Kirkland Garner, and UNCSA**  
(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

**Monday, Oct. 27:**

stArt: **Open Studio Week** exhibition opens  
(Oct. 27-31, stArt Gallery Reynolda Village)

**Tuesday, Oct. 28:**

stArt: **Open Studio Week** exhibition RECEPTION  
(5-7 pm, stArt Gallery Reynolda Village)

**WFU Music Student Showcase Concert**

(7:30pm-8:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

**Friday, Oct. 31:**

**Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery**  
(7:30pm, Tedford Stage)

**WFUSO Halloween Concert**

(5pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

**Saturday, Nov. 1:**

**Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery**  
(7:30pm, Tedford Stage)

**Sunday, Nov. 2:**

**Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery**  
(2pm, Tedford Stage)



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