



Dear Friends of Wake the Arts,

I bring you warm greetings and sincere wishes that 2026 is a year filled with health, happiness, and abundant arts experiences!

The new semester began last week and it has been a joy to see Scales Fine Arts Center bustling with energy, joy, and purpose.

I feel particularly grateful to be a member of the Wake the Arts tribe this year as the university recently announced their support of the **new Neuroarts Lab** at Wake Forest University. With my neuroscience collaborator and Wake Forest School of Medicine faculty member Dr. Christina Hugenschmidt, Christina and I will co-direct the new Neuroarts Lab, a new funding initiative exploring the ways the arts are a critical part of brain and body health. You can read more about this exciting work, an anchor in the Neuroscience and Society initiative, [here](#). The Neuroarts Lab's first event will be the **Arts, Health Care, and Humanities in Action symposium** on Friday, February 13, at the Intergenerational Center for Arts and Wellness at Senior Services, Inc. The symposium brings together artists, scholars, healthcare and human services professionals, clinicians, patients and service recipients, funders, and community leaders to explore the future of arts-based interventions as supportive tools in North Carolina's health care, human services, and higher education systems.

Thanks for indulging me as I also highlight two important events coming up in February: First, on Thursday, February 5th, the Wake the Arts Center will welcome new faculty from across the university to a **pre-concert reception** before the **Secret Artist Series concert** featuring mezzo-soprano J’Nai Bridges. Here, we will welcome our new colleagues and invite them to consider the ways the Wake the Arts Center can support their teaching and research. Then, on **Thursday, Feb. 12 at 5 p.m.** the Acquavella Distinguished Lecture in Arts Management speaker series will feature Jorge and Darlene Pérez (P’26) in conversation with Dept. of Art Chair Dr. Jay Curley in Broyhill Auditorium in Farrell Hall. Come hear how these extraordinary art collectors and community leaders embody the spirit of *Pro Humanitate* in their work and lives.

While there is much to celebrate in 2026, we are sad that the new year began with the loss of one of our beloved retired colleagues, Tom Turnbull. Tom was a supportive accompanist in our Music Department who recently passed after a tragic bike accident. I am grateful for all that Tom shared with the Wake Forest community, including a collaboration I was fortunate to share with him in 2011, when Tom played the piano as part of my 2011 Fall Dance Concert piece featuring vocalist Tony DeMartino ('10) who sang experts from Schubert's "Winterreise." We mourn Tom's passing and extend our condolences to his friend and retired Music faculty member Dr. Terry Radomski, whose studio Tom beautifully accompanied for twenty-five years. As memorial service information becomes available, we will share it through our social media channels.

I hope to see you in and around Scales soon. Until then, be well.

Best,

Christina Soriano

Reynolds Professor of Dance
Co-Director: Wake the Arts Center,
and the Neuroarts Lab at Wake Forest University



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What's Happening



Pro Humanitate Through Art: Jorge and Darlene Pérez on Collecting, Purpose and Community

Thursday, Feb. 12

Program: 5 p.m. | Reception: 6 p.m.

Broyhill Auditorium, Farrell Hall, Wake Forest University

Wake Forest is thrilled to welcome Darlene and Jorge Pérez (P '26) as the Acquavella Distinguished Lecturers in Arts Management—an exceptional opportunity for our students and community to be inspired by their perspectives and experiences as admired figures and philanthropists in the dynamic intersection of art, artists and commerce. Darlene is a member of the Wake Forest Board of Trustees.

Register



Wake Forest Expands Leadership in Neuroarts Through Global Collaboration, Community Partnership, New Research Investments, and Prestigious Recognition

“Pioneering a new field takes visionary leaders who are curious, collaborative, and willing to work across boundaries to break down long-standing silos,” said Kim McAllister, Vice Provost for Research, Scholarly Inquiry, and Creative Activity. “That spirit defines NeuroArts at Wake Forest and sits at the very heart of our Neuroscience and Society initiative, one of the University’s areas of academic distinction. Our NeuroArts leaders, Professors Christina Soriano and Christina Hugenschmidt exemplify what is possible when scientific rigor, creative practice, and a deep commitment to human well-being come together. Today, we are pleased to share several important updates that reflect Wake Forest’s expanding role in this global movement, our growing impact in the Winston-Salem community, and the momentum created by our faculty’s leadership and vision.”

On February 13, we are hosting a symposium “Arts, Health Care, and Humanities in Action.”

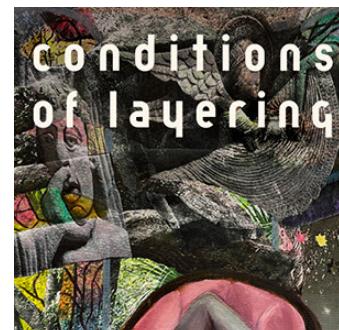
[More information here](#)

Conditions of Layering at stArt gallery

Jan. 20-Feb. 7

Reception: Jan. 22, 5-7 p.m.

stArt.rv, 122A Reynolda Village



Conditions of Layering is an exhibition of works created by students in Molly Kaderka’s intermediate and advanced painting classes, ART 212 and 213, in the Fall 2025 Semester. These works are selected from a pair of assignments: in the first, students were instructed to create an initial collage, then use this collage as a reference while painting. The second assignment encouraged students to synthesize their experience in collage and painting to create mixed-media works. By way of these assignments, students are able to gain experience working with novel perspectives, parsing and reparsing images, and expand out of straightforward representation. stArt gallery is now open on Saturdays! This semester’s stArt hours are Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

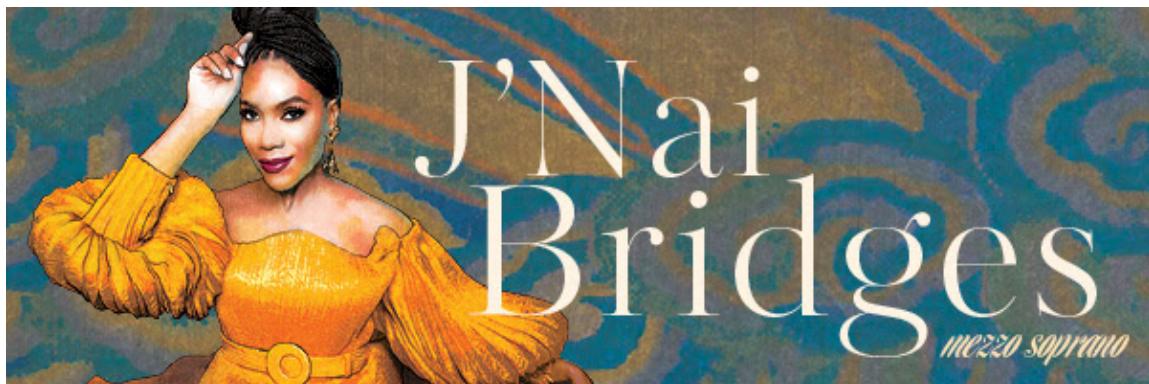
[Learn more](#)

Timely Conversations at Hanes Art Gallery

Jan. 29-March 21

Reception: Jan. 29, 5-7 p.m.

This selection of artworks from the **Wake Forest University Art Collections** showcases contemporary artists who explore the interconnected themes of history and time. Artworks are presented in dynamic pairs to spark unexpected connections and dialogue on a wide array of global topics including those related to identity, art, archival erasure, and the environment. Here you will encounter works by artists like Robert Colescott and Glenn Ligon, who employ vastly different artistic styles to reexamine race in American history. Martine Gutierrez and Shahzia Sikander address dominant Western art historical narratives of the body to expand and destabilize the canon. Suchitra Mattai and Jay Lynn Gomez offer layered perspectives on labor informed by their personal histories of migration. These combinations bring together paintings, photographs, and mixed media works by artists deeply engaged with different time periods, cultures, and art movements. The juxtapositions encourage us to reconsider the past through the present and to reflect on our collective and individual experiences. Conversation is highly encouraged but not required. [Read more](#)



Secrest Artists Series: J'Nai Bridges, mezzo soprano

Thursday, Feb. 5, 7:30 p.m.

Brendle Recital Hall, Scales Fine Arts Center

Two time Grammy Award-winning American mezzo-soprano J'Nai Bridges, known for her “plush-voiced mezzo-soprano” (The New York Times), and “calmly commanding stage presence” (The New Yorker) has been “marked out at an early stage as a singer headed for top flight” (Financial Times), gracing the world’s leading operatic and concert stages “with a voice both voluptuous and statuesque” (The New York Times). Ms. Bridges’ concert at Wake Forest University will be an all-French program featuring works by composers such as Ravel, Bizet, Chausson, Duparc, Berlioz, and Debussy.

[Read more](#)



Old Times by Harold Pinter

Directed by Cindy Gendrich

Feb. 6-7 & 12-14 at 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 8 & 15 at 2 p.m.

Ring Theatre, Scales Fine Arts Center

Old Times. Harold Pinter's three-person masterpiece about jealousy, sex, and the power of memory. Gripping. Elusive. Funny. Elemental.

Audience Notice: No late admission for these performances.

Theatre and Dance, Spring 2026:

- **Old Times:** Feb. 6-15
 - **Alanis Morissette's Jagged Little Pill: The Musical:** April 3-12
 - **Spring Student Choreographic Concert:** April 23-26
-

Afrofuturism: From Sun Ra to Wakanda

BLACK PANTHER (2018)

Saturday, Feb. 7, 2 p.m.

Brendle Recital Hall

Free Screening ([RSVP](#))



SPACE IS THE PLACE (1974)

Thursday, Feb. 12, 6 p.m.

a/perture cinema

Tickets \$15



“Afrofuturism: From Sun Ra to Wakanda” is a two-part film series exploring the influential genre through screenings and panel discussions of Space is the Place (1974) and Black Panther (2018). This collaboration between **a/perture cinema** and Wake Forest University will bridge academic and community audiences to illuminate the enduring power and cultural significance of Afrofuturism. We invite you to engage in conversations that connect these two landmark films, showcasing the movement’s evolution and its ongoing relevance in arts, culture, and society. All are welcome.

[Read more](#)

Documentary Film Program Launches New 4+1 Master's Degree

We're excited to announce the launch of a first-of-its-kind 4+1 MA program in Content Creation & Strategic Storytelling. Available exclusively to Wake Forest juniors, this accelerated program allows students to begin taking graduate-level courses during their senior year and complete a master's degree with just one additional year of study.



No matter a student's major, learning to produce professional-quality videos and tell compelling, strategic stories is a skillset that will give them a competitive edge in any field. [Click here to learn more and apply](#). Applications are due Friday, March 6.

Who's Making Things Happen

Alumni spotlight: Drew Droege ('99)

Playwright, comedian, and actor Drew Droege ('99) continues to make a fearless mark on the Off-Broadway scene. His latest comedy, *Messy White Gays*, which just closed, extended the sharp satirical universe he built with his previous hits *Bright Colors* and *Bold Patterns* and *Happy Birthday Doug*. Featuring a five-person ensemble (including Droege himself), the play explored a couple who murders their boyfriend on a Sunday morning but then quickly realizes they must hide the body in preparation for a brunch. Having studied Theatre and English at Wake, Droege has built a career defined by comedic precision and bold storytelling. Check out the site for **[Messy White Gays](#)**.



Dan Locklair's Sing to the World secular choral collection available now

England's Convivium Records will release American composer Dan Locklair's *Sing to the World* secular choral collection, performed by The Phoenix Consort, Adam Whitmore, conductor, with pianist Iain Farrington. This album, distributed by Naxos, brings together a collection of secular choral works by Locklair, renowned for his gift of weaving words with expansive, harmonious and lyrical music.



Drawing on texts by poets as diverse as Robert Frost, Walt Whitman, W.B. Yeats, Phillis Wheatley, Christine Teale Howes, John Gillespie Magee, Jr. and Rabindranath Tagore, these pieces explore themes of love and loss, nature and freedom, moments of reflection and resonant events, always with a voice deeply rooted in American culture. Spanning more than three decades, the works range from intimate unaccompanied choral partsongs to expansive cantatas, all commissioned by a range of ensembles, youth choirs and choral societies.

Dan Locklair is Composer-in-Residence and Professor of Music Emeritus at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

[More about the release](#)

In Memoriam: Tom Turnbull

It is with deep sadness that we share the news of Tom Turnbull's passing following a cycling accident. Tom was a cherished friend and a genuinely warm,

joyful presence to all who knew him. He was also a deeply supportive collaborator and a gifted musician. As accompanist for Terry Radomski's studio in the music department, Tom was far more than an exceptional pianist. He was consistently generous, steady, and kind — someone whose presence brought reassurance and encouragement to students and colleagues alike.

Remarkably energetic, Tom remained physically, mentally, and musically active throughout his life. He had just celebrated his 75th birthday in December.



Coming Soon

Wednesday, Jan. 21:

Collaborative Bookmaking: Finding New Ways to Tell a Family's History
(3pm-4:15pm, ZSR Library-625)

Thursday, Jan. 22:

Conditions of Layering Reception
(5pm-7pm, stArt Gallery, Reynolda Village)

Thursday, Jan. 29:

Timely Conversations Reception
(5pm-7pm, Charlotte and Philip Hanes Art Gallery)

Thursday, Feb. 5:

New Faculty Welcome Reception with Wake the Arts Center
(6pm-7:15pm, Scales M201)

J'Nai Bridges, mezzo soprano-Secrest Artists Series
(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Friday, Feb. 6:

Old Times
(7:30pm, Ring Theatre)

Saturday, Feb. 7:

Afrofuturism: From Sun Ra to Wakanda-Black Panther film screening
(2pm-5:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Old Times
(7:30pm, Ring Theatre)

Sunday, Feb. 8:
Old Times
(2pm, Ring Theatre)

La Bande á Franck
(3pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Thursday, Feb. 12:
Pro Humanitate Through Art: Jorge and Darlene Pérez on Collecting, Purpose and Community
(5pm, Broyhill Auditorium-Farrell Hall)

Afrofuturism: From Sun Ra to Wakanda-Space is the Place film screening
(6pm, a/perture cinema)

Old Times
(7:30pm, Ring Theatre)

Friday, Feb. 13:
Arts, Health Care, and Humanities in Action: Symposium
(8:30am-4:30pm, The Intergenerational Center for Arts and Wellness, at Senior Services, Inc.)

Old Times
(7:30pm, Ring Theatre)

Saturday, Feb. 14:
Old Times
(7:30pm, Ring Theatre)

Sunday, Feb. 15:
Valentine's Student Music Salon
(2pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Old Times
(2pm, Ring Theatre)

Tuesday, Feb. 17:
WFU Wind Ensemble Concert

(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Thursday, Feb. 19:

Silviu Ciulei, guitar

(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Friday, Feb. 27:

Concerto Competition Winners Concert

(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Thursday, March 19:

Faculty Authors and Artists Celebration

(3:30pm-5:30pm, ZSR Library-Ammons Gallery, Room 401)

Pavel Haas String Quartet-Secrest Artists Series (7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Saturday, March 21:

Wakeville 2026 (12pm-5pm)



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