



Dear Friends of Wake the Arts,

We've survived the snow-pocalypse, and Spring Break is finally on the horizon. In the past month, **North Carolina's 12 seasons** have certainly been on full display!

This month's newsletter is packed with highlights from several amazing events over the past few weeks — from the Acquavella Distinguished Lecture featuring Jorge and Darlene Pérez to the Arts, Health Care, and Humanities Symposium to J'Nai Bridges' powerful *Secret* performance and her master class. Be sure to scroll through the full newsletter to see all of the photo recaps!

I'm also excited to share some big news: the Documentary Film Program is launching a new master's degree and is currently accepting applications through March 20. The program is called the MA in Content Creation & Strategic Storytelling and it's built on the simple belief that no matter a student's major, the ability to produce professional-quality media and tell compelling, strategic stories provides a competitive edge in any field. In fact, *The Wall Street Journal* recently highlighted this growing demand in an article titled **Companies Are Desperately Seeking Storytellers**.

This is a 4+1 program, open exclusively to Wake Forest juniors, that allows students to begin graduate coursework during their senior year and complete a

master's degree with just one additional year of study. We've extended the application deadline to March 20, so if you know any juniors who might be interested, please let them know to [visit our website](#) or contact me directly!

Lastly, the fourth annual Wakeville Arts Festival will take place on March 21 — the first Saturday after Spring Break. This year's theme is Self Love and you can find out more about the event as well as sign up to participate by [visiting the Wakeville website](#).

Thank you, all, for your ongoing partnership and investment in the arts at Wake Forest! Wishing you a restful Spring Break and a wonderful second half of the semester.

Sincerely,

Chris Zaluski

Co-director, Wake the Arts Center

Program Director, Documentary Film Program



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What's Happening



Buy contemporary art for Wake Forest in New York City

Kick-Off Meeting:

Wednesday, Feb. 25, 7-8 p.m.

Benson University Center, Room 401A

We are kicking off the Reece Collection Acquisition Committee (RCAC), sometimes called the “Art Buying Trip,” soon. Even though this trip is not until Spring Break 2027, we need to start thinking about it now, as there is a course requirement in contemporary art that is satisfied by a couple of classes, including one offered in the fall. Any student NOT graduating this year (2026) — any major or year — is eligible.

In this meeting, two trip alums from different generations will briefly discuss their experiences buying art for Wake Forest, and the advisors will provide the necessary information about the requirements and the application process. We all will also try to answer whatever questions you have.

If you cannot make the meeting, email Prof. Curley at curleyjj@wfu.edu or fill out [this Google form](#).

Soul Sessions: Art as Liberation

Thursday, Feb. 26, 6-10 p.m.

Hanes Art Gallery

Hanes Art Gallery will host *Soul Sessions: Art as Liberation* in partnership with the Black Student Alliance and the Intercultural Center. The keynote, “Soular Child: Constructing Your Creative Playground” with multidisciplinary artist Arial Robinson will take place from 7:15-8 p.m. in Scales Fine Arts Center, Room 112, followed by activities in Hanes Art Gallery from 8-10 p.m.



Arial Robinson's keynote will explore approaches to creative practice and self-expression, with hands-on activities to follow. Attendees can make zines with Robinson, engage in an art activity led by the Wake Forest Women's Center, view a pop-up exhibition from ZSR Special Collections, enjoy a DJ set by Dr. Claire Crawford, and see the new exhibition, **Timely Conversations**. Refreshments will be served.

The event is free and open to the public! **RSVP and more information here.**

Celebrating Kathy Levy: 50 years at Wake Forest and the Winston-Salem Symphony

Saturday, March 7, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 8, 3 p.m.

Reynolds Auditorium

Tickets \$29 - \$96



Kathy Levy will be honored as she celebrates her 50th year with the Wake Forest University Department of Music and as principal flutist with the Winston-Salem Symphony! **On March 7-8** the symphony will perform Beethoven's joyous Symphony No. 8, plus music by Quinn Mason, two tranquil and thrilling pieces by Alexander Borodin with the Symphony Chorus, and a beautiful flute feature performed by Kathy Levy. We are grateful for Kathy's gift to all of us in the Wake Forest community: a lifetime of inspiration to keep making music.

Read more



Secret Artists Series presents Pavel Haas Quartet

Thursday, March 19, 7:30 p.m.

Brendle Recital Hall, Scales Fine Arts Center

The Pavel Haas Quartet is revered across the globe for its richness of timbre, infectious passion and intuitive rapport. Performing at the world's most prestigious concert halls and having won six Gramophone and numerous other awards for their recordings, the Quartet is firmly established as one of the world's foremost chamber ensembles. Their program Czech Avant-Garde & Dvořák features works by Kaprálová, Martinů, and Dvořák. Free with WFU ID.

[Read more](#)



Wakeville Arts Festival 2026

Saturday, March 21, noon-5 p.m.

Scales Fine Arts Center & Davis Field

Wakeville Presents: Arts Festival “Self Love” on Saturday, March 21. Wakeville is a student-led, interdisciplinary arts festival at Wake Forest with a focus on sustainability. There will be many creative offerings in and around Scales Fine Arts Center and Davis Field, including music, dance, theater, visual art, film, comedy and more.

[More about Wakeville 2026](#)

A Concert of Indian Classical Music

Saturday, March 28, 6 p.m.

Carswell Hall, Room 111

Hindustani slide classical guitar maestro Rhitom Sarkar will perform Indian Classical music, coinciding with Wake Forest's Migration Studies conference.



In Case You Missed It



Arts, Health Care, and Humanities in Action

This one-day symposium gathered artists, scholars, healthcare and human services professionals, clinicians, patients and service recipients, funders and community leaders to discuss the future of the arts and humanities as a supportive tool in North Carolina's systems of health care, human services and higher education.

[View the photostory](#)



Jorge and Darlene Pérez: Acquavella Distinguished Lecturers in Arts Management

Jorge (P'26) and Darlene (P'26) Pérez brought a packed Broyhill Auditorium to their feet on Feb. 12 as the 2026 Acquavella Distinguished Lecturers in Arts Management. Jorge started his career building affordable housing in Miami before transforming the city's cultural landscape — forging communities through both real estate and art. Darlene, a Wake Forest Trustee and health practitioner, leads the Miami Cancer Institute's healing arts program — bringing art into

medical settings. Together, they've championed Latin American and African diaspora artists and proved that art can heal and collecting can be an act of social justice. Students walked away inspired and empowered. *Pro Humanitate* in action.

A special moment to start the evening was Trustee and alumnus Alex Acquavella's announcement of the 2026 Arts Ambassador Award presented to newly retired Professor of Business Gordon McCray. From 2004 to 2015, Gordon co-taught Management in the Visual Arts, which he developed alongside Professor emerita Peggy Smith, then Chair of the Art Department, and refined with other department colleagues. He created something remarkable: A course that recognized business and art as complementary disciplines.

[View the photostory](#)

The Art of Observation: Drawing Plants as Creative Research

Wake Forest University students in the Art 218 Life Drawing class, taught by Prof. Lydia Smith in the Herbarium of Winston Hall, studied and replicated fern specimens from around the world in a course enhancement funded by the Wake the Arts Center.



[Read more](#)

Who's Making Things Happen

Nikki Moore: Dedalus Foundation Senior Fellow

We're delighted to share that Assistant Professor of Art, Nikki Moore, has been awarded The Dedalus Foundation's 2026 Senior Fellowship for her forthcoming book "Experts in the Fields: Art, Architecture, and Aesthetics at the Mexican Origins of the Global Green Revolution, 1924-1972." The Dedalus Foundation, founded in 1981 by Robert Motherwell, supports the public understanding and appreciation of modern art and the principles of modernism. This is a major honor that we are thrilled to celebrate.



[Read more](#)

Alexander Blake ('10) and Tonality take home another Grammy

Alexander Blake's vocal group Tonality have officially become two-time Grammy award winners.



“Tonality is deeply honored to share in this moment alongside an extraordinary community of artists, collaborators, and supporters who made this journey possible. Under the direction of Alexander Blake ('10), alongside the remarkable Scorchio Quartet and so many gifted collaborators, Nomadica has been a true labor of love. We felt it was important to speak directly to those who have supported this work and shared in the journey with us.”

Tonality performed in Wait Chapel last January as part of our Secret Artists Series. [Read about it here.](#)

[Join Alex behind the scenes at the Grammy Awards.](#)

J'Nai Bridges teaches master class to vocal students

Three time Grammy Award-winning American mezzo-soprano J'Nai Bridges performed for a rapt audience as part of this year's Secret Artists Series. She also conducted a master class and Q&A with Wake Forest vocal students Blythe Green ('27), Isabela Meeker ('26), Tyndall Talley ('28), and Sasha Logue ('27).



[See the photostory](#)



Dance Team wins at Universal Dance Association at Walt Disney World Resort

Congratulations to the Wake Forest University Dance Team, coached by Annie Forbes, on their Universal Dance Association win!

Wake Forest Dance Company member and Dance team member Isabella Weidman ('27) writes: “This season was an incredibly special one for Wake Forest University Dance Team. Competing on the Universal Dance Association stage allowed us to showcase our work and represent the Deacs on the most well renowned stage in college dance. Working alongside our two assistant coaches, Wake Dance Team alumni Mia De Jong and Sarah Binkley, was especially meaningful as they have witnessed the program’s growth firsthand and poured so much love back into it. I’m grateful for the ways the Dance Company and dance team communities have complimented each other in a way that has fostered growth and creativity for all members. I am beyond grateful that my professors and coaches have allowed me and supported my involvement in both company and team. It has created a well rounded and diverse college dance experience for so many of us not wanting to cut off our concert or competitive dance performance opportunities in high school.”



Here are the links to the dances:

- [Jazz](#)
- [Gameday live](#)

Roksanna Keyvan ('26) presents research in London

Over the past two weeks in London, Roksanna Keyvan participated in a series of research and advocacy engagements focused on girls’ human rights. She spoke at

the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom before an international delegation of ministers and policymakers on youth-led policy advocacy where she shared a legal research tool she developed – the Girls’ Human Rights Index Tracker – that is now being adopted pro bono by law practitioners. She also served as the research lead on a newly published submission with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights examining the Marshall Islands’ nuclear legacy and proposing accountability and education reforms.



Roksanna is the lead organizer of this year’s **Wakeville Student Arts Festival**. Don’t miss it on March 21st.

Alina Vinokur (’29) Wins First Place at Youth American Grand Prix

Congratulations to Wake Forest Dance Company Member Alina Vinokur for winning first place at the regional **Youth American Grand Prix** competition, held in the DeMille Theater at UNCSA.



[Watch Alina’s winning performance](#)

Coming Soon

Wednesday, Feb. 25

Through Our Eyes reception
(5-7 p.m., stArt.dt - Wake Downtown)

RCAC Informational Meeting - for those interested in the NY Art Buying Trip
(7 p.m., Benson 401A)

Thursday, Feb. 26

The Soul Sessions: Art as Liberation - Hanes After Hours
(6-10 p.m., Hanes Art Gallery)

Submission due to Three to Four Ounces literary magazine

Friday, Feb. 27

Concerto Competition Winners Concert
(7:30 p.m., Brendle Recital Hall)

Saturday, Feb. 28

Young, Gifted and Black: Variations on Black Joy (BSA Formal)
(8-10 p.m., University Activity Space)

March 3

Art Community Night - Fall Semester Launch Party
(6-8 p.m., Scales)

March 7-15

Spring Break

Thursday, March 19

Faculty Authors and Artists Celebration
(3:30-5:30 p.m., ZSR Library - Ammons Gallery, Room 401)

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

Saturday, March 21

Wakeville 2026
(Noon-5 p.m.)

Sunday, March 22

Student Recital: Isa Meeker, soprano
(3 p.m., Brendle Recital Hall)

Saturday, March 28

Giles Harris Music Competitions
(10 a.m.-5 p.m., Brendle Recital Hall)

Thursday, April 2

Evan Richey, cello and Peter Kairoff, piano
(7:30 p.m., Brendle Recital Hall)

Friday, April 3

Alanis Morissette's Jagged Little Pill: The Musical
(7:30 p.m., Tedford Stage)

Saturday, April 4

Alanis Morissette's Jagged Little Pill: The Musical
(7:30 p.m., Tedford Stage)

Wednesday, April 8

Alanis Morissette's Jagged Little Pill: The Musical
(7:30 p.m., Tedford Stage)

Thursday, April 9

Alanis Morissette's Jagged Little Pill: The Musical
(7:30 p.m., Tedford Stage)

Friday, April 10

Alanis Morissette's Jagged Little Pill: The Musical
(7:30 p.m., Tedford Stage)

Saturday, April 11

Alanis Morissette's Jagged Little Pill: The Musical
(7:30 p.m., Tedford Stage)

Sunday, April 12

Alanis Morissette's Jagged Little Pill: The Musical
(2 p.m., Tedford Stage)

Wednesday, April 15

“Ways of Knowing” sound installation
(5 p.m., Scales 102)

Thursday, April 23

Hanes Gallery Reception: Student Art Exhibition
(5-8 p.m., Hanes Art Gallery)

Thursday, April 30

Senior Toast - Art Department
(3 p.m., Scales Lobby)



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