



Dear Friends of Wake the Arts,

If we at Wake Forest are called to act for humanity as our motto tells us, then we may see no better way to experience what is innately human than when we join in community with one another. Throughout my first year here at Wake Forest, I have been across the country, across the state, and across campus learning what exactly makes this such a special place. I do not know the answer, by any means, but I do know that I have experienced community frequently as I have entered into Scales Fine Arts Center.

My role here at Wake Forest University is to serve as a connector of our alumni, parents, and friends who want to make their impact on the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences. Working closely with Dean Jackie Krasas, we aim to attract philanthropic support to achieve the vision she has for the College and Graduate School. The College and Graduate School is the hub of Wake Forest, as the academic home of over 5,500 (just under 5,000 undergraduate) students and 600 faculty members. It spans disciplines and domains, and embodies the very best of the liberal arts tradition. In this role, I also have the privilege of working with the College Board of Visitors (CBOV) which is made up of some of our most passionate supporters. During their spring board meeting, we had the opportunity to engage deeply and meaningfully with the arts. As we discussed the important work of the Neuroarts Lab, heard about experiential learning in theater, and understood more about student research in the arts, the CBOV got a

taste for the interdisciplinarity of it all. It culminated with **A Night in Scales**, a series of vignettes of life in the arts on a Thursday evening. It was a celebration of the vibrancy that makes Scales burst at the seams with creativity and a feeling of belonging. Take a look at the photo story for yourself! The CBOV shared with Dean Krasas and me afterwards that it was so valuable to experience faculty and students in motion and action, as it underscored the vitality of the arts to the liberal arts.

Throughout this first year, I learned a little more, every day, about the reason why so many students, alumni, parents and friends love Wake Forest. This learning happened while watching the theater department's performances of Phil Dawkin's **Failure: A Love Story**, Harold Pinter's **Old Times**, and Alanis Morissette's **Jagged Little Pill**; watching the dance department's Fall and Spring dance concerts; attending the Music Department's programs like the Giles-Harris Music Competitions, the Chamber Choir, and the **Lovefeast** Choir performance; Art Department programs like the **Acquavella Distinguished Lecture**, visiting the **Hanes Art Gallery**, and stopping by **The Bridge** to view student art that literally bridged art and science. Through all of that learning, I remain in awe of the students who strive for excellence in exploring their talent and passion while being mentored by faculty committed to sharing their expertise thoughtfully and freely.

As Dean Krasas has shared, the arts are an important part of her vision for the liberal arts experience Wake Forest is so known for. Thank you for being part of a community that brings *Pro Humanitate* to life, in ways big and small.

Best,

Sean P. Howard

Senior Director of Development for the College and
Graduate School of Arts & Sciences



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What's Happening



Commencement and breakfast with Misty Copeland

This year's commencement speaker was ballet dancer, author, and founder Misty Copeland, who made history as the first Black principal dancer at the American Ballet Theatre. Before taking the stage, Misty spent her morning sharing breakfast with our senior Dance Company members and Dance faculty — an opportunity for our graduates to connect with one of ballet's most influential contemporary figures as they step across the stage and into their next chapter.

“Pro Humanitate means using your gifts not only to advance yourself but to widen the space for others,” Copeland remarked. *“Becoming yourself is not a branding exercise. It is a lifelong process of paying attention to what kind of a human being you want to be when nobody is watching. The world does not need more people performing perfection. It needs more people willing to lead truthfully.”*

At the ceremony, program director and Professor of Dance Nina Lucas Rice hooded Copeland, who received an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree.

[Read more](#)



Art students visit the Venice Biennale

This summer, a group of WFU Art students went to Italy to explore and analyze the 61st Annual Venice Biennale. During the two-week trip, students conducted research presentations at various national pavilions and engaged in exclusive meetings with featured international artists and curators.

[Read more from Professor Rudy Shepherd](#)



WFU Choirs Tour the Pacific Northwest

The Wake Forest University Chamber Choir recently completed its first-ever tour of the Pacific Northwest, performing in Seattle, Portland, and Eugene for alumni, families, friends, and community audiences.

[Read more](#)

Teacher-Scholar Legacies: Joanne Inkman

For more than three decades, Dr. Joanne Inkman has been an inspirational teacher-scholar in the Wake Forest Department of Music. She has nurtured

piano and music students of all levels and performed with consummate artistry as the accompanist for the WFU choirs and in annual solo and chamber music recitals.

[Read more](#)



Improv and Character Development: Student actors simulate ethical and legal situations

The “Improv and Character Development” (THE 290) course came from an idea that was originally developed by the Program for Leadership and Character in the Professional Schools and Wake Forest’s Department of Theatre and Dance in May 2025. Each semester, theater students would take part in client simulations with law students who attended character-focused courses. Student actors would play a role — say a high-profile CEO facing a possible lawsuit from an employee — and the law students would engage them as attorneys, balancing empathy and professionalism to successfully engage with them.

[Read more](#)

[Watch the video interview with Theatre professor Brook Davis](#)



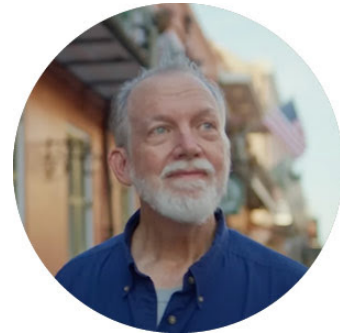
Wake Forest Fellows

Eleven 2026 grads will return to their alma mater as Wake Forest Fellows. They will work throughout the campus community. Of these eleven, four are arts students: **Jane Alexander**, **Fina Dooley**, **Catherine Clark** and **Hannah Reynolds**. Congratulations!

[Read more](#)

Michael Kamtman featured in “This Land” documentary

Theatre professor Michael Kamtman is featured in CNN’s new documentary miniseries *This Land*, as a descendent of President James Monroe. Timed to commemorate the country’s 250th anniversary, *This Land* explores how the United States expanded from a fragile experiment along the Atlantic coast into a nation spanning an entire continent, revealing extraordinary sacrifices and untold personal accounts that dramatically reframe the story. Powerful, personal interviews with descendants of historical figures who lived through these pivotal moments offer direct, emotional connections between past and present. Through these voices, the series examines how ambition, conflict and power redrew the map of America, and how those legacies are still felt today.



[Watch the video](#)

Alumni spotlight: Tripper Clancy ('02)

“Breaking into a creative field takes several things. Talent. Persistence. And luck. Talent is something you can work at and hone. Persistence is entirely up to you.

Luck is a little bit out of your hands, but the more you can put yourself out there and let people know what you're passionate about, the more luck you'll make for yourself." Tripp Clancy ('02) shares his journey as a screenwriter in LA.



[Read more](#)

Carly Galbreth ('27) works with NYC's Flux Theatre

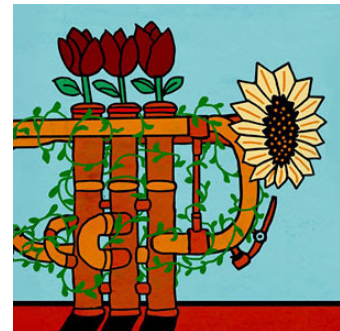
Congratulations to Theatre student Carly Galbreth ('27), who is currently working with Flux Theatre in NYC as Associate Production Manager for their production of Fear & Wonder. The show runs June 11-27, 2026.



[Read more](#)

Music Carolina 2026 features Wake Forest faculty members

Make Music Carolina SummerFest part of your summer! Enjoy intergenerational dance and music as Wake Forest is featured once again at this annual regional music festival. This year, Music Carolina's 18th season, features over 60 performers, including Jacqui Carrasco (Department of Music) and Christina Soriano (Department of Theatre and Dance) — more about their performances below.



Night and Day

Saturday, Aug. 15, 7:30 p.m.

Intergenerational Center for Arts and Wellness

Vocalists Martha Bassett and Wesley Charles lead the evening with expressive interpretations and rich vocal artistry, joined by an outstanding ensemble of acclaimed musicians. Pianist Federico Pivetta provides elegant accompaniment and inventive improvisation, while trumpeter Ken Wilmot and violinist Jacqui Carrasco add warmth, brilliance, and lyrical flair. Bassist Matt Kendrick and drummer John Wilson anchor the performance with dynamic rhythms and classic jazz swing.

Intergenerational Dance Workshop

Sunday, Aug. 16, 2 p.m.

Intergenerational Center for Arts and Wellness

Director/choreographer Christina Soriano leads a workshop inviting participants to experience improvisatory movement. Open to all ages and abilities.

More at musiccarolina.org

Summer events around town:

1Love Festival

June 25-27

Founded by WFU School of Divinity's Rev. Dr. Melva Sampson and her partner Darrick Young, 1Love Festival includes a concert featuring Joshuah Campbell (Director of University Gospel Choir at Wait Chapel and Director of Worship, Music & Arts at Wake Forest School of Divinity) along with other brilliant artists celebrating the African diaspora.



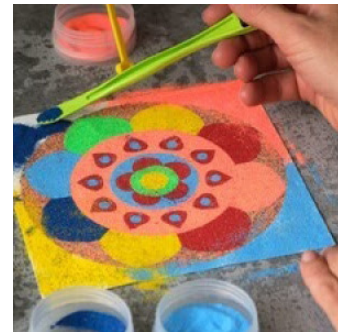
Tickets

Mandala Workshop

July 12, 2-4 p.m.

Lam Museum of Anthropology

Join us at the Lam Museum to explore the history of mandalas and their connection to Buddhism. This engaging session will introduce different types, materials, and symbolic iconography of mandalas. It will also highlight the use of mandalas across other religious traditions. Participants will have time to practice techniques and, once comfortable, will design and create their own sand mandala. This workshop is offered in conjunction with the exhibit Seeing as Practice: Entering the World of Thangka. This workshop is designed for adults and children ages 10 and up.



Tickets \$25 per participant (\$20 for Lam Museum members)

International Black Theatre Festival

July 27 - August 1

The International Black Theatre Festival returns to Winston-Salem with performances and cultural events citywide. The events below will take place on campus:



Terry Steele Sings Luther Vandross (Ebony Repertory Theatre: Los Angeles, CA) Brendle Recital Hall, \$60

Wednesday, July 29, 8 p.m.

Thursday, July 30, 8 p.m.

Friday, July 31, 8 p.m.

Saturday, August 1, 8 p.m.

Terry Steele, a two-time Grammy Award nominee and two-time ASCAP Award winning songwriter, has toured internationally as a professional recording artist, including concert performances in Russia, Japan, China, Germany, Brazil, Jamaica, Israel, and England. Here in the US and abroad, his music has touched the hearts and souls of millions of Luther Vandross fans. Terry is the co-author of Luther's Grammy Award winning song "Here and Now". Directed by Wren T. Brown.

The Legend Of Buster Neal (North Carolina Black Repertory Company: Winston-Salem, NC)

Harold C. Tedford Mainstage, \$45

Tuesday, July 28, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, July 29, 8 p.m.

Thursday, July 30, 2 p.m.

Friday, July 31, 8 p.m.

Saturday, August 1, 2 p.m.

Saturday, August 1, 8 p.m.

Set inside the Neal family home in Louisiana and moving fluidly across time — from 1950s Carville to present-day New Orleans — the play reveals the complex lives, realities, and dreams of four generations of Black men during the civil rights movement and in contemporary America. Written and directed by Jackie Alexander.



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