Honoring Dave Shouvlin and the spirit of Pro Humanitate Wed, Oct 14, 2026 at 3:55 PM

Dear Friends of Wake the Arts,

I write to you from my office at the mid-semester point, as students are rushing by on their way to classes, rehearsals and private music lessons. The vibrancy of our arts community warms my heart as the leaves change color outside my window. The steadfast joy around me is a buoy right now as I mourn the loss of one of our most treasured alumni and supporters, **Dave P Shouvlin** ('74, JD '79). An accomplished lawyer for many years in both NC and his home state of Ohio, Dave was a selfless and quiet leader who embodied *Pro Humanitate* through his generous service to and support of Wake Forest. Dave served for many years on the Law and College Board of Visitors, where I met him 15 years ago. Together, over many discussions, and in partnership with University Advancement colleagues, we developed the **Maya Angelou Artist in Residence program** — a way Dave wanted to honor Dr. Angelou, and attract talented artists to come to campus who would work with our students and faculty, and be inspired by our community. Here is Dave — pictured with Branford Marsalis, our most recent Angelou artist. But Dave's giving did not stop there — when I was evolving the movement curriculum I created in my Neuroscience and Dance research with Dr. Christina Hugenschmidt, Dave encouraged me to trademark the curriculum, and he connected me with trademark lawyers from his firm Porter Wright Morris and Arthur LLC, who supported me in this work, pro bono.

I am grateful to have called Dave my friend, and I treasure all he did to support

me and the Wake the Arts community. I look forward to celebrating and honoring his life as we welcome the next Angelou Artist in Residence next Fall (artist to be determined soon!).



I think Dave would be really proud of all of the exciting events and opportunities coming up this month and beyond. Wake the Arts is pleased to share two new funding opportunities for our faculty colleagues in the arts: Research Grants in the Arts and Artist Residency Retreats. You will find full details on both below.

Finally, don't miss us on Friday, Nov. 6th, during Homecoming weekend. Drop by the Reynolda Hall Green Room between 2:00 and 5:30 p.m. to take five minutes and record a favorite memory of the Scales Fine Arts Center. It's been 50 years since Scales was completed, and as we celebrate this milestone, we can't wait to imagine together what the next half-century holds.



Best wishes,
Christina

Christina Soriano
Reynolds Professor of Dance
Co-Director – Wake the Arts Center
Co-Director – Neuroarts Lab at Wake Forest University

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New Funding Opportunities from Wake the Arts

Research Grant in the Arts
The Research Grant in the Arts (RGA) provides funding for creative or scholarly projects for faculty of all ranks in areas within the arts, including Theatre, Dance, Art, Art History, Music, Film, Documentary Film, and Creative Writing. Faculty in these disciplines are encouraged to apply if they have a new creative work or

arts scholarship for which they need but do not have funding.

The deadline for submissions is December 18, 2026.

More information



Wake the Arts Residency Program
Wake the Arts believes that our faculty's creative work deserves time and space to be reinvigorated. We are pleased to announce that we have reserved space for an artist residency in partnership with Trillium Arts in Mars Hill, NC. Enjoy access to studio space and Airbnb living space at no cost to you. Disciplines such as music, theatre, dance, creative writing, film, and visual art are eligible to apply.

The deadline for submissions is December 18, 2026.

More information

Wake Forest graduate Chip Thomas Jr. ('79) wins prestigious MacArthur 'Genius Grant'



Public artist Dr. Chip Thomas, a 1979 Wake Forest graduate, has received a 2026 MacArthur Fellowship — popularly known as the "genius grant." The prestigious award, presented annually by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, recognizes artists, scholars and visionaries for exceptional originality and dedication to their creative pursuits.

After graduating from Wake Forest, Thomas earned his medical degree and launched a 36-year career as a primary care physician on the Navajo Nation. During his time serving the community, he began creating large-scale public art,

transforming overlooked and neglected structures — such as roadside buildings, grain silos, and water tanks — into immersive public works grounded in Diné history and contemporary life.

“I feel my art is a form of community care,” Thomas said.

Read more about the award



Setan Jawa: silent film screening with live music
Wednesday, Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m.
Brendle Recital Hall

Join the WFU Department of Music for a multi-sensorial celebration of Indonesian filmmaker Garin Nugroho’s work, featuring the iconic silent film Setan Jawa accompanied by a live score composed and performed by Peni Candra Rini (with Andy McGraw). Nugroho’s Setan Jawa evokes Javanese mythology through the genre of contemporary horror as inspired by the perennial silent film classic, Nosferatu by Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau. The film explores Indonesia’s pre-orthodox Islamic stories of the seven deals man makes with the devil to gain wealth. The live score dramatically underpins the mysticism and sensuality of Nugroho’s tale of love and sacrifice. Get there early for the WFU Gamelan Giri Murti opening act at 7:15 p.m. Free and open to the public.

Read more

Soul Sessions: Pressley Laton
Thursday, Oct. 15, 6 p.m.
Hanes Art Gallery

Get ready for an unforgettable evening with **Pressley Laton**, the 2026 MerleFest



Band Contest winner and rising alternative-country artist from Boone, North Carolina. This **Soul Session** is an invitation to slow down, lean in, and connect with this talented artist. Drawing on her experience singing in church with her mom as a child to walking away from a career in higher education to pursue music full-time, Pressley's journey is woven into every song she shares. With her highly anticipated album Wandering Kind arriving this fall, this is a chance to experience an artist on the rise in an intimate setting before the next chapter takes her even further. Come hear the stories behind the songs, feel the soul behind the sound, and discover why Pressley Laton is a voice worth hearing. This event is free and open to the public.

RSVP

Face to Face Speaker Forum with Ken Burns
Wednesday, Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m.
Wait Chapel



Our next Face to Face speaker series event is coming up on Oct. 21, featuring acclaimed filmmaker Ken Burns. Recipient of 17 Emmy Awards and two Grammy Awards, Ken Burns has directed and produced some of the most acclaimed historical documentaries ever made, including The Civil War, Baseball, Jazz, Prohibition, The Vietnam War, and, most recently, The American Revolution. Future projects include Emancipation to Exodus and LBJ & the Great Society, among others.

Students have a unique opportunity to join Ken Burns for a student-led conversation. This event is made for students by students, and is moderated by current Wake Forest undergraduates. Hosted at Wait Chapel, the event begins on Oct. 21 at 5 p.m. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. Arrive early to avoid lines and find a great seat. Backpacks and outside food & drink are not allowed.

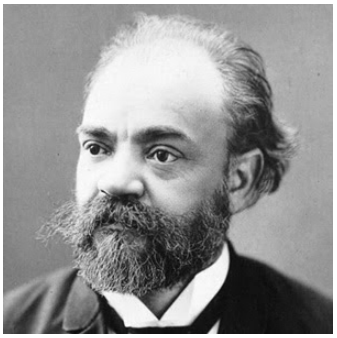
Learn more



Secrest Artists Series: Actors From the London Stage present Much Ado About Nothing
Thursday, Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m. & Friday, Oct. 23, 10 a.m.
Brendle Recital Hall
Free to Students, Faculty and Staff
Tickets available here

Experience the wit and wordplay of Much Ado About Nothing as brought to life by Actors From The London Stage, one of the world's oldest and most prestigious touring Shakespeare companies. Co-founded by Sir Patrick Stewart and featuring elite talent from the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Globe, this ensemble delivers a high-energy, actor-driven tour de force that makes the Bard's work feel immediate and accessible. Don't miss this extraordinary opportunity to see Shakespeare's timeless comedy performed with the mastery and vibrancy that only these world-class artists can provide.

Read more



WFU Symphony Orchestra Concert: Dvořák's Symphony No. 9 in E minor
Friday, Oct. 23, 7:30 p.m.
Brendle Recital Hall

The WFU Symphony Orchestra opens their season with Antonín Dvořák's Symphony No. 9, "From the New World." Written during the composer's time in America, this landmark work reflects his vision for an American classical tradition and remains one of the most beloved symphonies ever written.

Read more

Women+ on the Edge of Democracy: A Collective Portrait of a Nation in Doubt and Transformation
Directed by J.K. Curry
Oct. 25, 1 p.m.
Ring Theatre, Scales Fine Arts Center

The Anthony Aston Players, the Department of Theatre and Dance, and the Wake Forest Dramalit Club in partnership with The Flynn Center for the Performing Arts and The Susan Smith Blackburn Prize to present select works from are proud to announce their presentation of select plays from Women+ On The Edge of Democracy, a groundbreaking initiative encouraging conversation about American democracy initiated by the Flynn Center (Jay Wahl, Executive Director) in Vermont and The Susan Smith Blackburn Prize (Leslie Swackhamer, Executive Director). The event is free to the public and will feature five works from Jenny Schwartz, Susan Miller, Lauren M. Gunderson, Ife Olujobi, and Heidi Schreck.

Tickets



Film Screening and Q&A with Danny Lyon
Wednesday, Oct. 28, Time TBD
Scales Fine Arts Center

On Wednesday, Oct. 28, there will be a film screening of the 2020 documentary ***SNCC*** on photographer Danny Lyon's work with the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee, followed by a Q&A with Lyon at the Scales Fine Arts Center on the Wake Forest Campus. The exhibition **Flash Point** at Reynolda House Museum of American Art debuts more than fifty gifts promised to Wake Forest by James and Wendy Agah, parents of a current student and a recent alumnus. The collection represents the largest single gift of photographs in the university's history and allows a comprehensive understanding of the civil rights

movement in the early 1960s.

Danny Lyon photographed the violence, but he was also able to elevate the organizers, planners, orators, scribes, and publicists of a complex national network of youthful patriots engaged in direct, non-violent action. For their own sake — and the nation's — they courageously pursued a course charted by Dr. King: "The way of nonviolence leads to redemption and the creation of the beloved community." The exhibition is co-curated by Phil Archer, Betsy Main Babcock Deputy Director, and Ashley Givens, adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Art. The exhibition runs through January 3, 2027.

More about Flash Point: The Civil Rights Photography of Danny Lyon

Flash Point Curator Talk
Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2-3 p.m.
Charles H. Babcock Auditorium,
Reynolda House Museum of American Art
Cost: $25 | $20 for Museum Members Join co-curators Phil Archer, Betsy Main Babcock Deputy Director, and Ashley Givens, adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Art at Wake Forest University, for an insightful look at Flash Point: The Civil Rights Photography of Danny Lyon.

In this curator talk, Archer and Givens dive into the lens of Danny Lyon, one of the most significant documentary photographers of the twentieth century. Hear their unique curatorial viewpoints and they examine how Lyon's photographs served as a flash point for social change and how their legacy continues to resonate today.

Dance Nation
By Clare Barron
Directed by Stephen Wrentmore
Nov. 4-7, 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 7-8, 2 p.m.
Tedford Stage, Scales Fine Arts Center



DANCE NATION is a jubilant and original play that is simultaneously funny, fierce, and unsettling. It delves into the terror and joy of growing up and the concept of 'female perfectionism' through the lens of competitive dance. The play follows a group of wild and curious middle-schooler dancers who fiercely navigate the boundaries of adulthood, the world, and their own identities as they strive to win the Boogie Down Grand Prix in Tampa Bay.

Finalist! 2019 Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

“A refreshingly unorthodox play that conveys the joy and abandon of dancing, while addressing the changes to body and mind of its preteen characters as they peer over the precipice toward adulthood.”

More about the show



Share your story at Homecoming
Friday, Nov.6, 2-5:30 p.m.
Reynolda Green Room (2nd floor)

Come share your voice! The Scales Fine Arts Center is turning 50! What stories do you have to share about your experience with this beloved building? At Homecoming on Friday, Nov. 6, we are recording brief video interviews with alumni and faculty who spent time in Scales over the past fifty years.

Steve Nedvidek (’87) book signing
Friday, Nov. 6, 4-8 p.m.
The Bookhouse, Reynolda Village



Steve Nedvidek (’87) is reading from and signing copies of his original, award-winning graphic novel trilogy *The Jekyll Island Chronicles*. Blending bizarre and often forgotten historical fact with heavy doses of alternate history and adventure, *The Jekyll Island Chronicles* has now been acclaimed on both sides of the Atlantic, and has become known as a unique saga that can be enjoyed by both teens as well as adults. Featuring retro sci-fi design, the series vividly captures the period following WWI, injecting real villains, historic characters, original heroes, and exotic locales into a narrative that both entertains and teaches.



Secrest Artists Series: Vox Luminis performs Monteverdi's *Vespers of 1610*
Thursday, Nov. 12, 7:30 p.m.
Brendle Recital Hall

Under the meticulous direction of Lionel Meunier, Vox Luminis delivers a breathtaking interpretation of Monteverdi's Vespers of 1610 that highlights the Belgian early music vocal ensemble's signature blend of individual vocal character and seamless choral unity.

Monteverdi's Vespers of 1610 (formally titled "Vespro della Beata Vergine") is a monumental work of sacred music that bridges the Renaissance and Baroque periods. Published while Monteverdi was working in Mantua, it combines traditional Gregorian chant with innovative compositional techniques of the emerging Baroque style.

Read more

WFU Choirs Concert
Friday, Nov. 13, 7:30 p.m.
Brendle Recital Hall



The Department of Music invites you to a concert from the Wake Forest University Choirs.

Read more



VIVA VERDI!, directed by Yvonne Russo and produced by Christine La Monte (film screening and conversation) and the operatic music of Jake Heggie in concert
Nov. 16 & 17

VIVA VERDI! is an intimate glimpse into the lives of the celebrated opera singers and musicians currently living out their 'third act' while mentoring international music students who live among them at Milan's unique retirement home, Casa Verdi, built by the composer Guiseppe Verdi in 1896. The Oscar-nominated documentary showcases how music remains a source of purpose, expression, and joy well into later life. Producer Christine La Monte will share her insights on the production and impact of the film.

Then, continue the journey into opera with contemporary composer Jake Heggie, whose work will be performed in two venues. The Department of Music shares a recital from Wake Forest Music faculty and community professionals featuring the art songs of Heggie. And the Piedmont Opera hosts a double feature of Heggie's one-act operas *Another Sunrise and Before It All Goes Dark*.

The Art Songs of Jake Heggie
Monday, Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m.
Brendle Recital Hall (free event)

VIVA VERDI! film screening and panel discussion
Tuesday, Nov. 17, 4 p.m.
Intergenerational Center for Arts & Wellness (free event)

Heggie & Scheer's one act operas: Another Sunrise + Before It All Goes Dark
Tuesday, Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m.
*Piedmont Opera, Hanesbrands Theater (**tickets available here**)*



Hank Willis Thomas: High Visibility
Through Dec. 2
Hanes Gallery of Art

Conceptual artist **Hank Willis Thomas** (b. 1976) addresses themes of race, identity, history, and mass media through his multidisciplinary practice. For over a decade, Thomas has worked with retroreflective vinyl, the material used to make highway and street signs, to illuminate histories past and present. When light hits the surface of this medium, it is reflected back toward the source, like car headlights striking a traffic sign.

More about Hank Willis Thomas: High Visibility

Coming Soon

Wednesday, Oct. 14
WFU Music Film Screening: Setan Jawa
(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Thursday, Oct. 15
The I Ching and Visual Synchronicity: Works from John Pickel's intro to digital photography classreception
(5-7pm, stArt Gallery)

Chavruta: A Model For Discourse Today
(7pm-8:30 pm, MUSE Winston-Salem)

Sunday, Oct. 18
Oktoberfest Sunday Salon Concert
(3pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Tuesday, Oct. 20
Relax and Craft
(3-7pm, Visual Resource Center, Scales 110)

Wednesday, Oct. 21
WFU Wind Ensemble Concert
(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Face to Face Speaker Forum with Ken Burns
(7:30-8:45pm, Wait Chapel)

Thursday, Oct. 22
Actors From the London Stage: "Much Ado About Nothing"
(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

SECAC Open House
(5-7pm, Hanes Art Gallery)

Friday, Oct. 23
WFU Symphony Orchestra Concert: Dvořák's Symphony No. 9 in E minor
(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Tuesday, Oct. 27
Guest Artist: Awadigan Pratt, piano
(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Wednesday, Oct. 28
Danny Lyon Curator Talk with Dr. Ashley Givens
(2pm, Charles H. Babcock Auditorium, Reynolda House Museum of American Art)
Cost: $25, $20 for Museum Members

Thursday, Oct. 29
Chavruta: A Model For Discourse Today
(7pm-8:30 pm, MUSE Winston-Salem)

Student Showcase Recital
(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Saturday, Oct. 31
Organ Spooktacular
(1pm-3pm, Reynolda House Museum of American Art) Free with admission

Tuesday, Nov. 3
Guest Artist Voice Recital: Joshua Conyers, baritone
(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Caroline Culp Alumni Lecture
(5pm, Scales 103)

Wednesday, Nov. 4
Dance Nation
(7:30pm, Tedford Mainstage)

Caroline Culp: Alumni Coffee Chat
(11am, Scales 110)

Thursday, Nov. 5
Dance Nation
(7:30pm, Tedford Mainstage)

Drinks @ Dusk
(6-9pm, Reynolda House Museum of American Art)
$30 | Ages 21+ only

Friday, Nov. 6
Dance Nation
(7:30pm, Tedford Mainstage)

Saturday, Nov. 7
Dance Nation
(2pm, Tedford Mainstage)

Dance Nation
(7:30pm, Tedford Mainstage)

Sunday, Nov. 8
Dance Nation
(2pm, Tedford Mainstage)

Learning From the Navajo Nation: Meet and Greet + Beading Workshop
(3-5:30pm, Lam Museum of Anthropology)

Monday, Nov. 9
Faculty Recital: Caryn Greco, soprano
(6:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Wednesday, Nov. 11
Learning From the Navajo Nation: beading, creative design, traditional games
(6-7:30pm, Wakerspace)

Thursday, Nov. 12
Vox Luminis: Monteverdi's Vespers of 1610
(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Friday, Nov. 13
Learning From the Navajo Nation: Cooking Up Connections Club
(6pm - 8pm, Lam Museum of Anthropology)

WFU Choirs Concert
(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Sunday, Nov. 15
Gamelan Giri Murti and WFU Steel Ensemble
(3pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Monday, Nov. 16
The Music of Jake Heggie
(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Tuesday, Nov. 17
Viva Verdi screening
(4pm)

Relax and Craft
(3-7pm, Visual Resource Center, Scales 110)

Wednesday, Nov. 18
Let it Show: reception and art sale
(5-7pm, stArt Gallery)

Thursday, Nov. 19
Student Chamber Music Concert
(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Fall Faculty & Guest Artist Dance Concert
(7:30pm, Tedford Mainstage)

Friday, Nov. 20

WFU Jazz Ensemble
(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Fall Faculty & Guest Artist Dance Concert
(7:30pm, Tedford Mainstage)

Saturday, Nov. 21
Fall Faculty & Guest Artist Dance Concert
(7:30pm, Tedford Mainstage)

Sunday, Nov. 22
Fall Faculty & Guest Artist Dance Concert
(2pm, Tedford Mainstage)

Wednesday, Dec. 2
Professor Emeritus Recital: Music of Morton Feldman: Louis Goldstein, piano
(8pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Thursday, Dec. 3
Face to Face Speaker Forum with Michael Schur
(6-7:15pm, Wait Chapel)

Friday, Dec. 4
Holiday Gala: WFU Woodwinds & WFU Symphony Orchestra
(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Sunday, Dec. 6
2026 Lovefeast Service
(7pm, Wait Chapel)

Tuesday, Dec. 8
Faculty Recital: Larry Weng, piano
(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

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