

VOICES OF CALIFORNIA | OBJECTS OF HER DESIRE | PARADISE FOUND | AN IMPROBABLE JOURNEY

WAKEFOREST

MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2019

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and Kerry M. King ('85)

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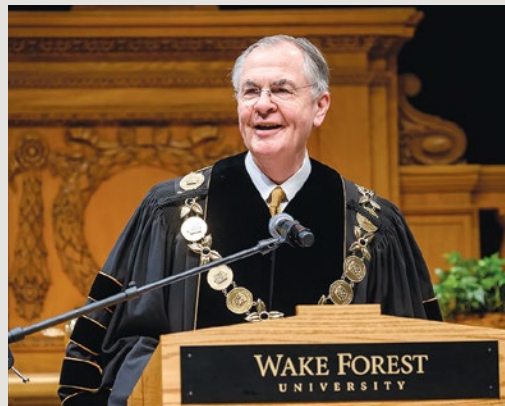
FROM *the* PRESIDENT

THE SUMMER ISSUE CELEBRATES CALIFORNIA, with its growing alumni base and new opportunities for our students.

If you look at the history of modern times, there probably has been no greater center of change than Silicon Valley. Think of the advent of computers and miniaturization, what Apple did and then Google — a whole raft of companies. The work of Silicon Valley companies is transforming the economy so that the digital world — in wonderful ways and in some cases terrible ways — impinges upon our life as screens become a dominant means of commerce and social connection.

Silicon Valley is distinct in forming our economy as is the financing behind it. Particularly at a school that largely, not exclusively, has students from the eastern side of the United States, it is valuable to give students the opportunity to experience life in California.

In the same way we are better preparing students to go into a variety of fields, whether in Washington or New York, we can look to Silicon Valley. With a great set of parents, an emerging alumni base and young alumni in San Francisco working in tech startups, we have a foundation on which we can build.



You will read about some of those enterprising Californians in this issue, and they are not just from Northern California.

It is always a pleasure to recognize our Distinguished Alumni Award winners. This year they are Anil Gupta (MBA '92, LL.D. '17), who oversees a company in India and through his charitable efforts feeds thousands of people. Donna Edwards ('80) has been an amazing public servant and nonprofit leader, and it's been tremendous to have her serve as a trustee at Wake Forest. Buck Cochran ('82), through his leadership at Peacehaven Community Farm, was influenced by the humanitarian and theologian Jean Vanier and the work of L'Arche, a network of communities Vanier founded for people with and without intellectual abilities to live and work together as peers. My wife, Julie, and I heard Vanier speak, and it was like being in the presence of a saint. It was a singular experience of grace.

At Wake Forest, our Call to Conversation movement continues as do our efforts to work across differences. We seek to build community based on deep respect and valuing each person.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mark A. Petersen".

AN *Improbable* JOURNEY

A native
North Carolinian comes
to understand the spell cast by
California — and its magic.

BY JOHN MERONEY ('94)

ILLUSTRATION BY JAKOB HENRICHS

California isn't a place, it's a way of life. That's what Ronald Reagan told me just after my sophomore year at Wake Forest. I had moved to Los Angeles for two jobs — to work for the former president as an intern, and for writer Benjamin J. Stein as a researcher.

When Reagan said that, we were standing in his personal office in Century City, in the very building made famous as Nakatomi Plaza in "Die Hard." Listening to Reagan, who moved here from Iowa when he was 26, talk about the state where he forged his destiny was powerful. From the 34th floor of his office I could see the entire L.A. basin, with its cluster of skyscrapers downtown, and edges that touched the Pacific Ocean and receded into desert mountain ranges. Having traveled from my home state of North Carolina to California often in my boy-

hood years, I thought I had a good sense of the state and what Reagan meant.

As a 14-year-old who'd become a renowned expert on "The Andy Griffith Show," I came to Los Angeles to meet one of the show's principal writers, Everett Greenbaum, a TV veteran who also worked on "M*A*S*H." He regaled me with secrets of writing in Hollywood and planted the earliest seeds of my own dream of working in the industry.

As my mid-teens turned into my late teens, I grew obsessed with politics and was fascinated by its relationship with Hollywood. I read "Dreemz," a diary by my future employer Ben Stein that memorialized his first year in California, and it became something of a primer for me. Here was a guy who graduated from Yale Law School and served as a trial attorney at the Federal Trade Commission,

CALIFORNIA
ISN'T A PLACE

HOLLYWOOD



a speechwriter in the Nixon and Ford White Houses, and a columnist for The Wall Street Journal. But then Ben moved to L.A., went to work for Norman Lear, bought a Mercedes 450 SLC and became a sitcom and film writer, actor and game show host. (Only to become most famous for his single scene in “Ferris Bueller’s Day Off.”)

During the summer when I interned for Reagan, Ben took me to my first sushi restaurant, introduced me to Malibu (where he still has a house), and showed me one of the first 24-hour gyms in the country.

Yes, I thought I had a pretty good sense of Hollywood. When I was a sophomore, I moderated Ted Turner’s tribute to the 30th anniversary of “The Andy Griffith Show” on TBS and got to visit with star Don Knotts. On a trip to L.A. after my junior year, I introduced Greenbaum and Knotts to Reagan and watched in awe as the three of them

No one would have blamed us for packing up and moving to a tranquil life on the Outer Banks, where a commute doesn’t involve a helicopter and news team. But that didn’t even occur to us.

reminisced about their salad days in the industry. In the years after college I continued exploring. I even spent two days on the Warner Bros. lot interviewing Clint Eastwood. He’s a native San Franciscan who was also elected mayor

of Carmel in 1986. (His first official act was terminating the planning board that had supported a ban on selling ice cream.) But interviews, books and vacations in postcard destinations weren’t enough to reveal the pull that Reagan described. I had to go through my own California journey to understand. I moved to the West Coast because I started researching and reporting on Reagan. Visits turned into month-long stays that turned into a full-time residency. You don’t so much move to Los Angeles as your will to leave dissipates.

W

WHAT I’VE DISCOVERED FROM LIVING

here is that everything you’ve heard is true. Odds are your server is an aspiring actor-slash-model. The crime can be as bad as “L.A. Story” portrayed with its “I’ll be your robber” and “open (gun) season on the freeway” scenes. I recognize Elliot Gould’s hippy-dippy neighbors in “The Long Goodbye” because all of us have those kinds of neighbors here. And when I get frustrated at the city I even acknowledge that what Don Draper said on “Mad Men” rings true: “Los Angeles is not what you see in the movies. It’s like Detroit with palm trees.”

After a few years, I could recognize the truth of composer Oscar Levant’s line, “Strip away the phony tinsel of Hollywood and you’ll find the real tinsel underneath.”

Yes, there’s something surreal about California, but there’s magic, too. Part of the reason it exists is because out here, you’re allowed to make it up. In fact, the name of the state is the invention of a fiction writer. In 1510, Ordóñez de Montalvo wrote about “an island called California very near to the region of the Terrestrial Paradise.” Hundreds of years later, poet William Irwin Thompson wrote, “California became the first to discover that it was fantasy that led reality, not the other way around.”

M

MY FRIEND CAROL BARBEE (’81),

showrunner and executive producer of the upcoming Netflix series “Raising Dion,” was born and raised in Concord, North Carolina, and moved to Los Angeles after Wake. She is one of many Demon Deacons here who appreciate this appeal.

“I loved California from the start,” she says. “I felt free here. It has history, but not the kind of history where the way things are normally done feels



Meroney



Meroney and Katharine Chapple Tate meet with Reagan, Greenbaum and Knotts.

too difficult to change. California is all about innovation,” she says. “It’s filled with people who left their home towns and states and countries to come do something they couldn’t do back home. It’s nice to get lost here, while you’re trying to figure out who you are and what you have to say.”

T

THERE WAS A POINT EARLY AFTER I moved here that I thought I had things figured out. While I was reporting on Reagan, I met a former studio chief who announced that my material had the elements of a great documentary. I’ll help you get it made, he said. This seemed like a dream come true.

Soon, Wake Forest alumna Patricia Beauchamp (’94) (writer of “Return to Sender,” a thriller starring Rosamund Pike and Nick Nolte) and I were hard at work on a cinematic documentary about the young Reagan in Hollywood, groundbreaking in what it would reveal about the future president’s stunning transformation from movie star to anti-communist warrior. We were being supported by Hollywood royalty such as Cecil B. DeMille’s granddaughter and Walt Disney’s daughter, who wanted the story told. We were having expensive lunch meetings at the Polo Lounge and in restaurants looking onto the Pacific.

Those lunches went on for seven years. Our lives became like “Groundhog Day.” Except in our version instead of running into “Ned — Ned Ryerson,” the aging ex-studio honcho kept asking about the project, “What is it?” and would then proceed to talk for two hours about the making of “Tootsie.” The final insult was when he encouraged a C-list director to take our script and turn it into something PBS would have passed on for being too “staid.”

No one would have blamed us for packing up and moving to a tranquil life on the Outer Banks, where a commute doesn’t involve a helicopter and news team. But that didn’t even occur to us. It was as if we were saying to California, “I can’t quit you.” But California seems to take devotion as a challenge: “I can not only quit you. I can kill you.” Out here seasons are described in apocalyptic terms. The Biblical disasters such as storms, floods, earthquakes and riots — I’ve learned they’re real here. In November, my mother-in-law’s house in Malibu burned to the ground. And during a rainstorm in February 2018, a neighbor knocked on our front door in the middle of the day to declare, “The street is collapsing!” The 100-year-old water main 10 feet from our house burst, and water was erupting through the asphalt.

What happens here is things that once appeared improbable can come true. I’m a Southern Baptist from

Winston-Salem who studied political philosophy at Wake. I moved to Washington, D.C., where I worked for Rowland Evans and Robert Novak, often wore a seersucker suit to the office and socialized at the University Club. But then I headed West. Last year, I married a native Angeleño who is Jewish and went to UC Berkeley. (Half of our wedding party was made up of Demon Deacons, though.) We now live in the Hollywood Hills under the Hollywood sign, just up the road from a Scientology Celebrity Centre. I write for *Playboy* and am also a producer. California has this kind of impact.

I

I’VE BEEN HERE LONG ENOUGH THAT

I can identify with novelist John Gregory Dunne, who was also raised in the East and then moved to Los Angeles. “I sometimes feel an astonishment, an attachment that approaches joy,” he wrote of L.A. in 1978. “I am attached to the way palm trees float and recede down empty avenues, attached to the deceptive perspectives of the pale subtropical light. ... I am attached equally to the glories of the place and to its flaws, its faults, its occasional revelations of psychic and physical slippage, its beauties and its betrayals.”

I now recognize the truth of Reagan’s distinction about his adopted state. There are moments for the Wake Foresters who live here that, if we feel ourselves not leaving, not running away, we have to admit that we love this way of life.

*John Meroney (’94) is a consulting producer on the Netflix series “ReMastered.” He is a contributing editor for *Garden & Gun* magazine and author of a forthcoming book about Ronald Reagan in Hollywood. His writing has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *The New Republic*, *Architectural Digest*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal* and the *Los Angeles Times*. He lives in Los Angeles.*



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California

By
**CAROL L. HANNER,
MARIA HENSON ('82)
and KERRY M. KING ('85)**

Image by George Byrne

I'm one of the Demon Deacons who kept saying yes to career opportunities and eventually found myself at the other edge of the continent, a world away from my birthplace of McDowell County, North Carolina. I was a resident of California from 2004 until mid-2009 in my job as deputy editorial page editor of The Sacramento Bee, which meant I traveled throughout the state and met people from all of its regions who visited our editorial board. The state enchanted me with its natural beauty and jazzed me with its innovation and diverse population. Sadly, I don't recall ever meeting a fellow Wake Forester in California — I was always looking — but years later I learned that a few had lived not even a half-hour from my office in Midtown.

Today, it's a different story. As one graduate in Sausalito told me, "Wake

Forest is a hot school here now." For the first-year class entering in fall 2008, Wake Forest received 324 applications from California high school students out of 9,050 applications overall. For fall 2018, that number rose to 558 out of 12,937. That's 4.3 percent of applications, up from 3.6 percent a decade earlier. Every year I see more Californians in the journalism class I teach and note how California ranks high among the destinations for our newly minted graduates seeking their first job. More than 2,000 of the University's alumni live in California.

What's it like these days to be a Demon Deacon on the other coast? Our Wake Forest Magazine team wanted to know. In the profiles that follow, 25 Californians tell us about their lives in The Golden State, which, beyond Wake Forest, is the *other* place they call home.

—*Maria Henson ('82)*



Serena Fisher Dugan ('94)

*Co-founder, Serena & Lily Inc.
Artist and textile designer, Serena Dugan Studio*

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WAKE FOREST WAS NOT on Serena Dugan's radar until a college tour. "I drove onto the campus, and I was sold. ... It felt like exactly what my college experience was supposed to be," she says. It moved to No. 1 on her list and never disappointed her as she aimed to become a psychologist.

Except Dugan made a detour. After earning her degree with a psychology major and communication minor, she moved to Colorado with college friends and worked at a tech firm. On the side, she found herself delighted by painting yard-sale furniture. Thinking she wasn't an artist but might like becoming a graphic designer, she enrolled in art school in Denver. "I completely jumped tracks," she says, falling in love with the core curriculum, studying art in Italy and earning a degree in fine art.

In hindsight, she says, "I chose the perfect major ... because so much of what I do is psychology."

Brand development. Interior design. Client work. Understanding customer needs. She ticks off the experiences, which are "deeply philosophical and psychological, and I am really merging that foundation with my craft, which is art."

She migrated eventually to San Francisco as a decorative painter. She launched Serena & Lily with Lily Kanter 14 years ago, first as a nursery brand, which expanded into a home and lifestyle brand with devoted followers. Today, Dugan remains on the board and is an investor, but her new playground is a light-filled warehouse studio on the water in Sausalito. She paints custom pieces and is developing a textile line.





"I want to constantly break new ground. That's my DNA, and I feel like the groundbreaking opportunity that gets me out of bed now is in redefining how we live with the arts," she says. "We are so dominated by technology and machines and a separateness. I want to introduce objects into our world that feel like they have more of a beating heart. ... More and more I think people will trust their instincts (when buying). ... It's not about exclusivity from a price point. It's not about luxury. It's about something that's more personal, and I think we all

need it. That's what is exciting me right now because that feels like a mission."

And she knows she's in the right place — California, which she calls "unapologetically first in everything." It used to be that the state was seen as "too fringe and too wild and too foreign." Not anymore. It's gaining mainstream appeal, she says, with people willing to embrace what California is about: "innovation, risk, newness and creativity."

With Dugan's instincts about craftsmanship, a given is that soul is in the mix.

JOCELYN BURTON, AN OHIO native who spent her teenage years in Richmond, Virginia, has made several cross-country moves back and forth to California over three decades. Today, she calls California home.

Burton's first job after finishing graduate studies in public policy at the University of Texas at Austin was at the California State Legislature. She later earned a law degree from the University of Chicago and embarked on a distinguished legal career in private practice and public service, including as an assistant U.S. attorney in San Francisco. She opened her law firm in Oakland in 2011.

"I'm an Oakland booster," she says. "I know in the popular media Oakland is a scary place," but that's not at all her experience, where her last neighborhood was like a big family, with all kinds of people, game nights and garden walks. In her law practice, she says, "I have people of all ages, all races, all socio-economic groups. I have C-suite-level clients. I have clients whose first language is Mongolian and others who are minimum-wage workers."



The "diversity and easiness of diversity" make California home for Burton. But that doesn't mean her Wake Forest community is any less important to her. She serves on the Board of Trustees, bringing the perspective of a lawyer who has represented victims of discrimination and as an African-American woman known during college for being unafraid to challenge the status quo. She is a 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award winner and a past member of the Alumni Council. This year, she welcomed a Wake Forest law student to be an intern at her firm.

She sees more arrivals ahead. "What's going on in the Bay Area is almost like the new gold rush," she says, pointing to how young entrepreneurs are flocking there. "There are going to be more and more Californians who are part of the Wake Forest family."

Jocelyn Burton ('80)

Founder and principal attorney, Burton Employment Law

Account manager, Google

Joseph Belangia ('14)

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IN HIS MOVES FROM Wake Forest to Boston to San Francisco, Joseph Belangia has learned that there isn't one set path that you have to follow. The biology major became an information systems fellow, then a marketing manager. Now he's an account manager at Google.

"Life is not linear; there is no A,B,C to get a job at Google, for instance," says Belangia, who moved to San Francisco to work with Google Customer Solutions almost two years ago.

"I focused less on the exact move — I never had the idea 'I need to move to San Francisco by 2017' — and more on the skills and things that I could control," he says. "Then a Google or a Facebook would be interested in me. If you develop yourself, then that's what's going to make companies interested in you, and that could make a move to Boston or San Francisco or New York possible."

Belangia's first move was a short drive from High Point, North Carolina, to Wake Forest. The first in his family to attend college, he received a Magnolia Schol-

arship. He majored in biology and planned to pursue a career in genetic research or genetic counseling until he went down a different path. An aptitude for technology led him to a part-time job in Information Systems and, after graduating, a one-year stint as a Wake Forest Fellow in IT.

After leaving Wake Forest, his IT background and his biology research skills came together to help him land a position researching and developing mobile marketing plans at Fiksu, an ad-tech startup in Boston. The business experience he gained prepared him to land a job at Google, where he helps small and midsize companies reach their customers.

Belangia says he enjoys the food scene in San Francisco and the vibe of young professionals. And he's pleased that more Wake Foresters are making the trek west. "I've noticed an uptick in alumni who graduated one or two years ago."





Richard “Rick” Gentry ('70)

President and CEO, San Diego Housing Commission



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RICK GENTRY SPENT MOST of his life in the South before moving to California a decade ago to lead one of the largest housing agencies in the country.

He oversees the San Diego Housing Commission, with 330 employees and a \$388 million budget. It serves more than 90,000 low-income residents a year through programs to provide housing and housing vouchers, rehabilitate homes and apartments, finance new housing units and assist first-time homebuyers.

Moving to The Golden State was a golden opportunity to try innovative solutions to address housing problems — such as renovating a closed historic hotel to provide housing for veterans — rather than rely on a one-size-fits-all federal housing model, he says. “I knew San Diego would be forward-looking and innovative and willing to give me a shot at pretty radical things, and that has been the case. Californians are always looking ahead. What happens here is going to happen in the rest of the country eventually.”

Gentry didn't envision a career in housing when he came to Wake Forest from Elkin, North Carolina. He planned to become a minister until he discovered that he could serve in a different way by helping people

find affordable housing. After starting his career in Greensboro, North Carolina, he led housing authorities in Austin, Texas, and Richmond, Virginia. He spent a decade in the private sector financing affordable housing in Chicago and Washington, D.C., before taking on the challenge of reforming San Diego's housing commission.

Gentry, 70, has become a leading advocate of using new approaches, including public-private partnerships and vouchers, to meet housing needs. He is frequently called on to lead national housing groups and to testify before state and national legislative committees. In 2017, he received a lifetime service award from a national housing association.

When he moved to California, Gentry packed an important ideal from his time at Wake Forest. It features prominently on the housing commission's website and publications. “Shortly after arriving here I chose our motto, ‘We’re About People,’ as a vernacular version of Pro Humanitate. Has a nice ring to it, don't you think?”

Joe Lawson ('90) and Nick Adams ('95)

TV writers

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WHAT ARE THE ODDS? Nick Adams grew up in Eden, North Carolina, and Joe Lawson, a native of Bristol, Tennessee, ate lots of barbecue in Eden and spent “a ton of time” at his grandparents’ home eight miles away.

Yet the two Deacs never met — their time at Wake Forest didn’t overlap — until they began working together in the writer’s room at ShadowMachine, an animation studio and production company in a subdued warehouse-chic building in Los Angeles. They and their team hash out the storylines and jokes for “BoJack Horseman,” a critically acclaimed Netflix animated comedy about a has-been sitcom star (a horse who walks upright and wears clothes) trying to make a comeback. Emily Nussbaum of The New

Yorker magazine called the show “one of the wisest, most emotionally ambitious and ... spectacularly goofy series on television.”

Lawson, a writer and producer, left the show for a time, and Adams was hired in the fourth season. When Lawson returned and discovered another Deac in the room, “we started sharing stories,” Lawson says. Each writer praises the other’s talent.

Lawson, whose degree in economics “has not been applied,” worked in advertising in Richmond, Virginia, when he wrote the caveman GEICO commercials — “So easy, a caveman can do it.” He sold ABC a TV show called “Cavemen” in 2007. It ended a year later, but his Hollywood career took off with “Modern Family” 18 months later. In 2017, he won the Writers Guild of America Award in animation for an episode of “BoJack.” He has written for many shows, including “Shameless,” starring Oscar-nominated William H. Macy, and “This is Us.”

Adams, a speech communication major, fell for Wake Forest in high school during a weeklong camp on campus for high-achieving African-American students. “It wasn’t like there was a bunch of Urkels, either. We were just cool kids who happened to (care) about our grades.”

In college, he had no idea what he wanted to do until two people in two weeks told him he should do standup. He loved film, TV and comedy obsessively but had never considered performing.

Later, he and his wife moved to Los Angeles so he could go all-in as a comedian, but “it’s so hard, so cutthroat.” While in



Joe Lawson



Nick Adams (and BoJack)



Arizona for his wife's pursuit of an MFA in writing, he wrote "Making Friends with Black People" (2006), a smart, funny, first-person book on race relations. [Yes, he tells a few Wake Forest anecdotes.]

Back in L.A., Adams happily gave up standup late nights and road trips for a writing job at NBC's "Perfect Couples," then "New Girl." "I got my first paycheck, and it was more than I made in all the standup that I had ever done."

The two Southerners have grown to appreciate Los Angeles' charms.

Lawson's "romantic notion" of California shattered when he saw the reality, but "I'm just really attracted to it. ... There's never a dull moment in the industry, and every single weekend you can do something exciting or you can just go hike."

Adams says he had to get "some solid ground" in his career before he could enjoy the city. "Now I'm totally a California person, totally an L.A. guy. I can't imagine myself being anywhere else."

Lawson says his greatest lesson from Wake Forest was resilience. With the intimidating caliber of students and professors, "you realize, ... 'I'm going to get knocked down, and I've just got to take the punch and get back up.' If you're not able to do that, definitely don't come to Hollywood."

Adams says the many days he and a friend held "office hours" entertaining classmates at Benson University Center prepared him perfectly for the writer's room. "We would hold court. We would joke. They would leave. Other people would come in, and I remember thinking, 'I'm good at this.'"

CEO, Preferred Hotels & Resorts

Lindsey Ueberroth ('97)

LINDSEY UEBERROTH STARTED traveling even before she was born. Her mother was a TWA flight attendant when she was pregnant with Lindsey, who grew up with the travel bug and has visited 100 countries.

Ueberroth, a Southern California native, oversees her family's Preferred Hotels & Resorts company with corporate headquarters in Newport Beach and more than 650 independent properties in more than 85 countries. She became president in 2010 and succeeded her father as CEO in 2014. The next year, she spearheaded a rebranding on what she sees as the biggest travel trend — focusing on experiences rather than resort tiers or stars. "People love to travel because they create memories and experiences that I think most people now believe are more important than things."

It worked. As president, she doubled reservations revenue and added properties in 25 new countries. In 2015, *HOTELS* magazine named her one of the world's top 10 hoteliers. *Hotel Management* magazine named her in 2017 as one of the 30 most influential women in hospitality.

Taking over for her father, John Ueberroth, was a proud moment. He is still executive chairman. "He was very good at passing the baton. He always says, 'I'm here for you.'" Her mother, Gail, is vice chairman and chief creative officer. Her brother, Casey ('01), is a board member.

Lindsey visited colleges everywhere, but two days at Wake Forest during Greek Week cemented it. (She became a Tri-Delt.) "I loved being in the South. ... The people were very friendly. I loved that it had seasons."

After graduating as a communication major, she worked as a change management consultant. She eventually returned home to the California roost to help her father with a "tailor-made change project" installing a new management system.

She still hasn't tired of traveling. (Favorite spots? India and South Africa.) But she's always happy to get back to the great weather and diverse experiences in what will always be home — California. "It just suits my personality."



IN MORE THAN 25 YEARS as an attorney, René Gilbertson saw many severe cases of child abuse and neglect. "It was difficult, having four children of my own. It was very heartbreaking."

She avoided burnout by taking one case at a time, relying on a team and realizing "that these issues were a lot bigger than your discomfort with it."

Her most rewarding work was representing minors in foster care. "Things have changed a lot since the early '90s, but at that time we had almost 60,000 children, if you can imagine, in the foster-care system in Los Angeles County. I think a lot of people agreed there has to be a better way to do this."

Public and advocacy organizations came together to push for more support, classes and counseling to try to address problems that the legal system couldn't solve.

In November, she left her job as senior deputy counsel for Los Angeles and took office as an elected judge in Los Angeles County Superior Court, seeing the bench as a new way to serve. "It's a very different experience but very rewarding," she says. Even when she has to send a young person



to jail, "you really have an ability to have an impact, or say something, an encouraging word, to motivate someone."

At Wake Forest, she served in student government and founded the Pi Omicron Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., a public-service sorority for women of color. When her boyfriend, now her husband, Jack Gilbertson (JD '92), took a position in L.A., she finished her law degree with a visiting semester at Loyola Law School. Her husband practices corporate and health care law for Dentons, a global firm.

She loves California's diversity of cultures, but North Carolina will always be home. She learned from Wake Forest and her parents in Morganton to stay true to her values: "being a good person, being kind and nice to everyone and putting family first and putting other people before yourself. ... That is what I carry with me every day."

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Los Angeles County Superior Court judge

René Caldwell
Gilbertson ('89, JD '92)



Travis Johns ('94)

Actor/writer

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TRAVIS JOHNS IS CERTAIN he would not be an actor if not for Wake Forest.

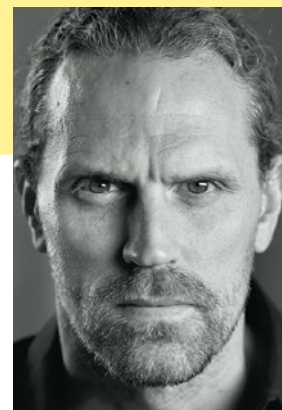
A scholarship football wide receiver from a small town in East Tennessee, he remembers sitting on the bus headed to what was then Groves Stadium. His life revolved around football and his hope to play professionally.

"It was a beautiful fall day. It was homecoming. I had about 20 people [family] in the stands. We were playing Duke. I was starting. My best friend [Jimmy Kemp '93] was quarterback. ... I remember saying, 'Enjoy this, Travis, you never know when it's going to end.'"

Johns left the game on a stretcher with a torn spleen. He flatlined twice and was unconscious for seven days. Football was over.

But something wonderful happened. Kemp urged him to study abroad in London. Johns went with Provost Emeritus Ed Wilson ('43, P '91, '93) and learned about theater and film. "I saw so many plays with Dr. Wilson, and he's such a movie buff. It was amazing being over there with him. It was tough to come back."

Johns, a speech communication major, worked for a while in a "miserable" sales job in Nashville before heading to Montana. He



was bartending when actor and writer Sam Shepard walked in, and they talked. "He's one of my heroes as far as writing."

Johns took off for Los Angeles, determined to act and write. He had never done either. It took seven years to land a paid role. Today, he has two screenplays under option and recurring roles in the "Goliath" series with Billy Bob Thornton and "Are You Sleeping?" with Aaron Paul ("Breaking Bad").

As for Los Angeles, "I've never been in a place where I love it so much one day and absolutely detest it the next," he says. Early on, "every fiber in me was saying this is too hard, this is too lonely." Marrying a local girl made all the difference. "Now there's a refuge to come to."

Wake Forest opened his horizons. For example, he met a friend's father who asked him what he was reading. "I never forgot that. I've become a voracious reader just because of that man on the campus that I didn't really know. ... And it changed my life. I'm convinced I'm doing what I'm doing because of seeing that at Wake."

Afton Vechery ('11)

Co-founder and CEO, Modern Fertility

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YOU'LL SEE AFTON VECHERY'S name in Forbes, Wired, Entrepreneur, Glamour and TechCrunch. She's on the list of panelists this year at SXSW and The Wall Street Journal's Tech Health conferences, and she's not even 10 years out of Wake Forest.

Vechery arrived on campus having created a water-quality testing business in her home state of Maryland as a high school student. She already was on fire for entrepreneurship; she never wavered. Her major was business and enterprise management with a dual concentration in new business development and new science development. She had one minor in neuroscience and another in entrepreneurship and social enterprise. Her first job out of college was working in health care private equity.

In 2013, she moved to the West Coast as "employee No. 1" hired at Autism Acumen and later served in strategic operations roles at various health startups. Backed by \$7 million in venture capital, Vechery's latest business, with co-founder Carly Leahy,

is Modern Fertility, a women's health company that offers \$159 at-home fertility hormone testing kits and aims to educate women about their reproductive health.

The 13-employee company in the Mission District has the classic startup look with a waiting area in a revamped garage and a sea of colored sticky notes on a wall near the computers. Vechery seeks to hire people with "grit, curiosity and humility." Joining an early-stage startup can be "a crazy decision," she says, because of the nonstop work when there are easier options at bigger companies. "Yes, it's crazy, but the highs are highs."

"To have that feeling of being able to see the output of your work, to build something from scratch and get it out there and get women reacting to it and giving you feedback, that feeling is really powerful and something that I find incredibly motivating," she says.

And California is a natural fit. "When you're here, every idea — it's kind of like, 'Yes! And how can we make it work?' That energy ... creates a different trajectory and level of innovation that I think is really hard to match in other areas of the country." But, she admits, "I'm biased."



*Executive vice president,
Pacific Inpatient Medical Group*

Dr. Stefani Wedl ('98)

STEFANI WEDL WAS somewhat of a novelty when she was at Wake Forest. Raised in Pleasant Hill, California, she was one of only 14 students from the state in her first-year class.

Last fall, there were 50 first-year students from California, an increase that Wedl has noticed from afar. "Now I meet alumni from California all the time and parents of current students from California," she says.

Wedl has deep California roots, but she also has Wake Forest roots beginning with an uncle, Bedford Black ('42). Wedl's mother, Carole Beatty Wedl ('71), was from Kannapolis, North Carolina, and moved to California after getting married. Stefani's sister, Dr. Courtney Wedl Pickering ('00), and brother-in-law, Dave Pickering ('00, MSA '01), live in Moraga, California.

Wedl wanted to go to college in a different part of the country, so she made the cross-country trek to Wake Forest. She

expanded her horizons when she studied at Casa Artom in Venice with Professor of Philosophy Ralph Kennedy. "I had never been to Europe before I popped into this amazing mansion on the Grand Canal. Living, eating, traveling with 20 other students really opened my eyes to the whole world."

After graduating from Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City, Wedl returned to California. She is executive vice president of Pacific Inpatient Medical Group, which provides hospitalist services in the Bay Area, and she continues to practice medicine at California Pacific Medical Center.

Wedl loves the diversity and international flavor of San Francisco. She wants to make sure her two children are prepared for a multicultural world, so they attend a private immersion school where they learn Mandarin half of each school day.

"San Francisco has a lot of the things you can get in big cities but on a much smaller scale," she says. "I love the beauty of the city, both natural and man-made. I marvel at the Victorian houses, and I never tire of views of downtown, the Bay or the bridges. Today, I drove across the Golden Gate Bridge to work. Can't beat that!"



Top executives, Digital Foundry Inc.

Brad Stauffer ('89) and Wes Stauffer ('87, MBA '96)

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Wes and Brad Stauffer

ON THIS DAY IN JANUARY, it's time to squeeze in a quick meeting with the Stauffer brothers before they fly away. They're headed to Maui to host their staff's retreat, which amounts to an extra exclamation point considering the staff already works across the street from the San Francisco Bay.

Check out the Digital Foundry website to discern the vibe of this company run by two Demon Deacons who grew up in Connecticut. Photos and their labels depict the quintessential Bay Area tech experience: "Practicing Yoga at Lunchtime," "Organized Sticky Notes," "Analog Break" (chess board), "Dunk" (basketball feats), "Digital Jellyfish Happy Halloween," "Pensive Coding" and "Light Hearted [sic] Meeting Prep." Add to the mix the dogs, bikes and "pimped-out" cubicles and computer keyboards. It's a culture that the Stauffer brothers have been careful to cultivate as leaders of this company, established by their cousin in 1992.

Brad, who was an economics major, is president, overseeing sales. He started in banking. Wes, who majored in history and English (and also played football), is chief strategist, overseeing operations, finance and consulting. His early career was in business consulting. Neither brother is a coder.

"Many companies will say, 'Oh, it's OK to work from home, and we're like, 'No, be in here,'" says Brad. "We're old school. We like to work as a group because (of) that synergy of grabbing an engineer and a senior consultant with 20 years of experience and a young recent grad. ... Put all those people together, and really good things happen."

Digital Foundry does custom software development and consulting for clients all over the world — Wes' last business trip was to Sri Lanka — and employs 45 to 60 people. It has been in the news in recent years as a partner with the global design firm IDEO in assessing how to modernize Los Angeles County's aging voting system with a human-centered design approach. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors awarded Digital Foundry a contract last year to design the software for tabulating ballots and the ballot print formats. The assignment is among several for different contractors undertaking the massive voting system overhaul.

Wes describes working with IDEO in this way: "They'll come up with something super creative, and then we have the guys who can take that understanding and then say,

‘Well, what’s actually possible out of that and in a reasonable amount of time?’ And then try to turn it around.”

Wes and Brad both extol the lifestyle of the Bay Area — the natural beauty and the attraction for competitive people looking for opportunity. Like many employers in the area, they’re always on the hunt for talent — “digitally literate folks that have incredible attitudes,” says Brad. “And tremendous curiosity, because tremendous curiosity is what will get you to go from working with an automotive company to working with a

bank to working with a voting system, all within the same day.”

He chimes in with another trait: “intestinal fortitude” to keep iterating. It can be hard, he says, but “find the company that has that same mindset, and it’s a lot of fun.”

And, as the Stauffers demonstrate, that fun is not only for the coders in the “pimped-out” cubicles with the cool keyboards. From here, at least on this January weekend, all roads lead to Maui.



IN A FLOWING DRESS of deep blue, Mary Leigh Cherry floats through the opening reception for the first-ever Los Angeles showing of the ethereal art of Argentinian Tomás Saraceno.

It's mid-January, soon after the acclaimed artist's record-attendance exhibition at the sprawling Palais de Tokyo in Paris, which gave him carte blanche to fill its entire space.

"It feels good to be able to present exhibitions like this," says Cherry, director of the new Tanya Bonakdar (Bah-NOK-dar) Gallery. Cherry, after operating her own galleries, made a career transition in 2018 to help Bonakdar, a successful New York gallery owner, expand into Los Angeles.

Cherry knows the value of opening new doors. At Wake Forest, she studied pre-med chemistry. ("I had always done science.") She loved classical art, too, and decided to combine her passions to become a conservator. But on a Student Union Art Acquisition Trip to New York City, Cherry fell under the spell of contemporary art. She wanted to work with living artists who "deal with the ideas of our time; they deal with the problems of our time; they celebrate our time; they can critique our time. It's a way to reach out to everyone."



She spent her sophomore year at Casa Artom in Venice, Italy, and returned there after graduating with an art degree to work as a teaching assistant to Tom Phillips ('74, MA '78, P '06). A native of North Carolina, she wanted to stay abroad, but work visas were scarce.

She got a job with the Santa Monica Museum of Art (now the Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles). Within a year, she had started her own gallery.

She already appreciated California's rich geography — "snow, beach, desert, whatever you want, redwoods — it's just incredible." In Los Angeles, she found an art world in line with her entrepreneurial spirit. She fell in love with the city's international culture, its sustainability focus and its secret gems. "You can live here forever and never get bored."

She sees it as a great place to live in service to humanity. "That's something Wake Forest instills in its students, and it always has."

Mary Leigh Cherry ('97)

Director, Tanya Bonakdar Gallery

Founder and principal coach, Tristar Athletes

Cliff Scherb ('01)

His company, Tristar, trains athletes, including professional world champions, and teaches coaches online all over the world. It specializes in leveraging big data with algorithms to improve performance in the most physiologically efficient ways, a tech approach that grew from Scherb's coding of his own stats to manage his diabetes during exercise. Athletes average a 30 percent increase in performance with Tristar's help, he says. Scherb also coaches diabetic athletes.

He credits Wake Forest with preparing him for his ultimate career as an entrepreneur. "All of those really difficult business school core-requirement courses were worth every minute I ever spent in them," he says. "It's just the analytical approach to things to problem-solve."

CLIFF SCHERB HAS NEVER stopped moving, even though he was diagnosed at age 9 with Type I diabetes.

His business degree helped him win a sales job after graduation at Merck Pharmaceuticals in New York City, but his boss told him a promotion would take a few years. "I was super hungry, and I couldn't sit still, so I started doing triathlons."

Soon he was racing at an elite level. He says he set a world record, since surpassed, by an athlete with diabetes in the grueling Iron Man Triathlon (2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike ride and 26.22-mile marathon).

His next move was big. He left his job "just to be happy" and started a company to coach endurance athletes. He moved it cross-country a few times before landing in Southern California to take advantage of year-round outdoor training. His wife, Kimberly, who danced in the New York City Ballet, the Rockettes and Cirque de Soleil before becoming an acupuncturist, also nudged them there to be closer to her family.

Today he works in their elegant home in Palos Verdes Estates, south of Los Angeles, with ocean and hills nearby for athlete training classes and for the 150 participants in a swim-bike-run he set up just for fun every Saturday in Redondo Beach.





AT AGE 29, MARSHALL MILLIKEN is swimming in the best of California waters.

He partners with Stephen H. Simon to oversee a consumer-oriented, sustainably-focused investment portfolio of several hundred million dollars for the Simon family through its Simon Equity Partners in San Francisco. (Simon Property Group, based in Indianapolis, is the largest retail real estate investment trust and largest shopping mall operator in the United States.)

Milliken does business with what he calls “very unassuming, smart, driven, scrappy entrepreneurs and investors” in a casual environment that he sees as typical of San Francisco. He recently spent a full day at work with a CEO while skiing in Tahoe. Then there’s that Pacific Ocean. “I take a lot of meetings on my surfboard,” he says. California has helped him realize “hey, you don’t necessarily have to be behind the phone or in a conference room to go get something accomplished.”

And accomplish he has.

After two years at BB&T Capital Markets, he had “done my East Coast time” in investment banking and looked West, closer to his home state of Wyoming. Two years into a “fantastic experience” in San Francisco at Piper Jaffray, which does middle-market consumer deals of \$500 million to \$10 billion, he was headed for burnout. He accepted the persistent calls of a headhunter who wanted to pitch him to a mystery client — the Simon family.

He likes Simon Partners’ focus on businesses committed not only to investors but to employees and the community. That can mean investing in an LGBTQ-founded and



women-owned coffee company with organic harvests, pricing transparency and health care insurance for every employee. Or it can mean choosing environmentally conscious vendors and reducing the energy use at the arena for the Simon family-owned Indiana Pacers basketball team.

Milliken credits Wake Forest’s challenging academics with preparing a “hockey player-slash-ranch hand” for “this hyper-fast-paced, dynamic, demanding environment that I’m in now.”

And he says Pro Humanitate was quietly embedded in him. In his fraternity, Sigma Chi, “we were doing our best to give back to the community and the school, all while still having a good time.”

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Marshall Milliken ('12)

Partner, Simon Equity Partners, LLC

J S Mayank (MA '07) and David Carlyle ('06)

*Writer/director
and writer/producer*

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NEITHER J S MAYANK nor David Carlyle set out to become Hollywood writers, and both were surprised at the instantaneous ease with which they became best friends and writing partners at Wake Forest and beyond.

"I knew it within just a few minutes of talking to him that he understood the world the same way I understand the world," says Carlyle, who was a senior communication major when he met Mayank, a graduate communication student, in a film class. "I think that's why we're able to tell stories together ... even though we come at it from completely different world perspectives."



J S Mayank



David Carlyle

Born David Carlyle Hancock and Mayank Gupta, they have both adopted professional names. Mayank studied economics before realizing that his passion for film could become a career. Carlyle, a Floridian steered to Wake Forest by his high school guidance counselor who is an alumna, intended to be lawyer. When he fell in love with film courses, his Wake Forest adviser urged him to go for it.

The friends moved to Los Angeles and became fans of its diverse and creative energy. Mayank had film festival success with several short films he wrote and directed. Their careers hit a high mark in 2018 with a hugely successful co-scripted political podcast called "America 2.0" in a fictional narrative format, with intricate sound effects. "We wanted people to hear it as if they were watching TV with their backs turned," Mayank says.

The podcast about a freshman congressman has a prominent cast — Patrick J. Adams ("Suits") as the lead, Laurence Fishburne ("The Matrix"), Shanola Hampton ("Shameless"), Kate Walsh ("Grey's Anatomy"), Ming-Na Wen ("Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D."), CNN Chief Political Correspondent Dana Bash and others. No one turned them down. The podcast was picked up by DAX, a digital audio advertising platform.

The core plot hit Carlyle, who took many political science courses in college, as he was listening in L.A. to a conservative talk-radio host. The host said the United States would never pay back its debt to China, that it would just “inflate it away,” Carlyle says.

“I had this lightbulb moment,” says Carlyle, whose politics, like Mayank’s, lean to the left. “We should give everyone a million dollars and ... rethink the entirety of American politics. I called J S immediately and said, ‘I have this insane idea.’ ... He’s like, ‘I don’t know if that’s a very good political idea, but it would make a hell of a good TV show.’”

They talked explicitly about Pro Humanitate as they crafted the story, Carlyle says. They wanted to entertain but also to portray politics as aspirational and hopeful again, instead of prompting people to “go ‘Ugh’ and roll their eyes,” Mayank says.

Hollywood was wary of a political TV pilot after the 2016 election, so Mayank came up with the podcast idea. He directed, and he and Carlyle produced it with Jeremy Gordon and Spencer Garrett.

They pride themselves on respectful, nuanced portrayals of both liberals and conservatives. Mayank says a young conservative in Texas “tweeted out, saying, ‘This is my favorite podcast of all time. ... Thank you for showing this other side, that there are smart points of view in conservatism ... and that we’re not just a caricature.’”



TRENT SZMOLNIK

Stephanie Bolton ('03)

*Grower communications & sustainable winegrowing director,
Lodi Winegrape Commission*

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WHERE'S STEPHANIE BOLTON? Clad in blue jeans and sporting sunglasses, she's driving her Jeep to a vineyard. There she is, up all night writing a grant proposal for grapevine virus outreach. On other days, she's hosting diplomats from France for agriculture discussions, hopping on a truck to tour nurseries, educating wine growers about marketing and, not to be overlooked, going to wine tastings galore.

In Lodi, California, Bolton is grower communications & sustainable winegrowing director at the Lodi Winegrape Commission. She is using her Wake Forest education and then some to support LODI RULES for Sustainable Winegrowing (California's first sustainable winegrowing certification program), viticulture research and the 750 farmers of Crush District 11, which consists of more than 100,000 acres of grapevines. She calls it "the perfect spot for the adventurous winemaker."

How did she get here? It started with her chemistry major at Wake Forest, with minors in secondary education and international studies and scholarships that supported her. (Of her George Foster Hankins

and Robert P. Holding scholarships, she says, "I'm ridiculously grateful" and adds, "I couldn't have asked for a better undergraduate experience.") After working in non-science jobs for several years, she pondered her hard-science background: "It all clicked." Off she went to check out her interest in wine. "I worked in the industry first. I sold wine. I worked a harvest and made sure I loved it, and then I made the decision to go to graduate school."

Later, with a master's in food science and technology and a Ph.D. in plant pathology, she applied for the Lodi job. "There's no stop button," she says. "All of my friends are farmers — I watched the Super Bowl with farmers and their children last night. There's no work-life separation, but I just realized, probably in the last week, that's what I wanted. That's why I worked so hard in school (because) I wanted to find a sustainable career that I loved, and 100 percent I have that."





THE SEEDS FOR JENNIFER LITWAK'S passion for affordable housing were planted during a study trip to the Deep South when she was a student. The trip, part of a class on social stratification taught by professors Earl Smith and Angela Hattery, included a bus tour of civil rights sites in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi.

"That trip was transformative," says Litwak, a sociology major who grew up in Maryland and North Carolina. "I think back on that trip often. It made me much more aware of different life experiences and social justice issues."

Litwak, 35, went on to earn a law degree from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, where one of her professors was Ann Scales, daughter of former Wake Forest President James Ralph Scales. After practicing law for several years in Los Angeles, she says she became a "policy wonk" on housing and homelessness.

She founded the nonprofit Housing on Merit (HOM) in 2011 to create a bridge to permanent affordable housing for

vulnerable populations. HOM co-develops bond-financed and government-supported multifamily housing projects in California, Ohio and Washington, D.C. She has managed the closing of more than \$300 million in multifamily acquisitions and overseen the development, preservation and renovation of more than 2,300 units of affordable housing. HOM also provides education, health and employment programs to residents.

Affordable housing is key to addressing social issues, Litwak says. "My passion for working with vulnerable populations started at Wake Forest. No matter what social justice issue I was working on, I came to realize that without stable housing, you can't find a solution. Housing is at the core of everything."

She argues that we need to think outside the traditional housing box. It's going to require taking risks, disrupting the traditional way of building and financing housing, and finding solutions that are scalable. "We need to offer innovative solutions to tackle one of the biggest social issues facing our nation."

Founder and executive director, Housing on Merit

Jennifer Litwak ('06)

IRA FLATOW, HOST OF National Public Radio's "Science Friday," had this to say on air about John H. Crowe in 2016: "His curiosity all these years has changed the world of medicine forever."

That's quite the worthy introduction for a scientist who has spent his life devoted to groundbreaking work concerning micro-

organisms that survive complete dehydration. He went to Southern California to earn his Ph.D. He built his career and a lab (now the Center for Biostabilization) at the University of California, Davis, beginning in the 1970s. Last year, he and his wife, Lois Crowe, received the highest honor bestowed by UC Davis for their work as a research team that helped the university become one of the top-rated biological science programs in the country.

Crowe pays tribute to Wake Forest's influence on him following the Soviet Union's launch of the Sputnik satellite in 1957. "Congress panicked," he says. "They authorized the National Science Foundation to go out and gather up the most promising young high school students they could find and take us to boot camp in science." That's how the young man from Morehead City, North Carolina, ended up in summer science camps, including one at

Wake Forest. He read about microorganisms and went to collect some. "Tardigrades (also known as water bears) were the first ones. They're such cute little animals. I fell in love with them and found out that yeah, you can dry them out; add water, and they come back to life," he says.

The teenager had no way of knowing where his curiosity about microorganisms surviving dehydration would lead him: patents, academic papers, the minting of scores of Ph.D. and post-doc students, appointments to scientific boards of companies and life-saving applications outside the lab. According to UC Davis, the Crowes' discoveries "led to inventions that are in widespread use in pharmacy, medicine and agriculture. For example, their work has enabled the drying of fragile drugs, human cells, foods and plants. Human platelets can be stored dry, improving their storage life from just five days to at least two years." (Crowe retired 10 years ago from UC Davis, and he and his wife are grandparents of a 2004 WFU graduate.)

Crowe recalls how even as a teen, "I made a big case then ... and have over and over again that curiosity-driven research is the raw material that drives applied science. If you kill curiosity-driven research that purely has no end in mind, you're going to kill off life science. ..."



John and Lois Crowe

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*Professor emeritus of molecular and cellular biology
and director emeritus of the Center for Biostabilization
University of California, Davis*

John H. Crowe ('65, MA '67)

He reflects on his days at Wake Forest — “I had a great time” — studying biology and chemistry, going to football and basketball games and enjoying fraternity life. He also became enthralled with the arts: “It was all free. Just go pick up the ticket, and I went to everything!”

“A thrill” was hearing an opera singer and meeting her backstage in Wait Chapel. “That kind of experience just had me hooked,” he says. He and his wife constantly attend arts events, from the seasons of the San Francisco and Santa Fe operas to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival to the Sacramento Ballet: “We’re seeing something two or three times a week year-round.”



VANESSA SERPAS



TRENT ERWIN



MATTHEW LEJUNE

*TV writer/producer and
general manager of ShowClix online event company*

Paul ('02) and Rachel Venuti Bullock ('02)

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RACHEL BULLOCK BEGAN looking last year for a new challenge in the technology industry. She expanded her job search outside Los Angeles when she realized her top prospects would require a two- to four-hour commute in notorious L.A. traffic.

Little did her husband, Paul, realize he would end up with an even bigger commute — almost six hours by airplane. Rachel began in September working in Pittsburgh as the general manager of ShowClix, an online event division of Patron Technology with clients in more than 20 countries. Paul flies back and forth every other week.

But they found their calling in Los Angeles. Paul wrote for “Desperate Housewives” and “Devious Maids,” was associate producer on Syfy’s “Defiance,” has sold two TV pilots and is working on another that’s still under wraps. Rachel worked for McGraw-Hill Education in L.A., moved into digital publishing and was chief operating officer at Render Media.

Paul had his turn in 2004 at instigating a move. Two weeks after Rachel joined him in New York City and started her dream internship in publishing, Paul announced he had a job on a TV show called “Ed” — in California. They weren’t married yet, but Rachel made the “leap of faith” to join him.

When she arrived in 2005, Paul had a red convertible, an apartment at the beach and a job as post-production coordinator for



“Medium,” a successful show starring Patricia Arquette. “I think we both were excited by the fact that you can go to L.A. and build your own version of the future,” says Paul.

The couple, both English majors, credit Wake Forest with giving them the courage to set off on new adventures. Rachel says her study abroad at Casa Artom in Venice, Italy, helped her see “that I could live somewhere else, that I could try something different.”

They have stayed tightly connected with the University. Paul is on the Alumni Council, and Rachel completed her term in the spring. They were co-presidents of WAKELosAngeles and have joined WAKEPittsburgh. “Every week we’re doing something related to Wake in one form or another,” Rachel says.

Wendy Young ('88, MS '89)

*Senior vice president, small-molecule drug discovery
Genentech Inc.*

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WANT TO KNOW THE SECRET of being a successful drug hunter? Perseverance, according to Wendy Young. "I've got that in spades," she says. "You get knocked down a lot. You have to get back up."

Young, a chemist by training, leads hundreds of drug hunters as a senior vice president at Genentech Inc., and she's on a "drugging the undruggable" mission. "In the world of drug discovery and drug hunting ... a lot of the low-hanging fruit has already been plucked," she says, meaning "we got really good at making certain types of medicines" through what in her business is called lock and key drug discovery.

"The key is the drug that you put into the lock, and we got really good at making these keys." What's left to conquer? "Biological targets that are much more difficult to drug." Using innovative technologies to drug those tough targets is Young's focus.

She's co-inventor of Fenebrutinib, an oral, small-molecule drug that has reached phase II clinical trials. It has the potential to treat rheumatoid arthritis, lupus and an extreme form of hives. It's just one of Young's many achievements, which she says include more than 70 papers and patents.

Her day-to-day work is nonstop: listening to reports from Genentech drug discoverers whom she manages about progress on projects, weighing in on next steps and making decisions about investments. She meets with



scientists and confers on business development. She advocates for students and women in STEM. "What's so great about my job — my career — is that it doesn't feel like a job. It feels like a hobby," she says, "because it's so exciting. I rarely watch TV because I'm so intrigued with everything that's going on at work."

Ask Young how she ended up in California, and she laughs. "Well, like every story there's a guy." She met her husband, Mark Convery, when both were in graduate school at Princeton University. A physicist, he got a job at what was then called the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center. She started her career in California in biotech companies and joined Genentech 13 years ago.

Her path from her home state of New York to her undergraduate life at Wake Forest started with her winning a music scholarship. She was a flutist. But then she met "one of my superstar mentors," Huw M. L. Davies, who taught her organic chemistry. She went in a new direction. "I thought it was putting the pieces of the puzzle together, and it just clicked."

So did California. "There's a huge environment of 'you can do this,'" she says. "'We can get this done.'"

DON'T HAVE TIME TO go to the dentist? If you live in San Francisco, Dr. Sara Creighton Boyer can roll up to your office door in a custom-designed dentist office on wheels that was described by the website Refinery29 as "Uber for your choppers."

Boyer grew up in Boise, Idaho, wanting to be a dentist. She came to Wake Forest to play on the women's soccer team and majored in health and exercise science. She credits Wake Forest's liberal arts curriculum with instilling a sense of curiosity that led her to rethink the traditional dentist's office.

She has called San Francisco home since going to dental school at the University of the Pacific. After graduating, she and a classmate opened their own practice that turned the staid world of dentistry upside down. Their sunny, plant-filled office was described as one of the coolest in the world by Inc. Magazine.

After a few years, Boyer left that practice to hit the road. She saw an opportunity to reach young tech professionals — who often won't take the time to go to the dentist — at their offices. She

used crowd-sourcing to raise money to transform a 40-foot trailer into an inviting, functional space that won accolades from the American Institute of Architects.

Her rolling office, Studio Dental, makes stops at some of the biggest names in the tech world, including Pinterest, Airbnb, Dropbox, Twitter and Uber. Operating in a city where parking is at a premium can present its share of problems. She negotiated a partnership with the city that allows Studio Dental's trailer to park on city streets; in return, she offers free dental services to the homeless.

Boyer says San Francisco was the right spot to roll out her mobile office. "It could have worked other places, but I do think San Francisco and the tech companies are particularly unique," she says. "The tech companies provide unparalleled benefits and were particularly receptive to this."

With her mobile practice firmly established, Boyer has reopened a bricks-and-mortar office in the city that she now calls home. "My friends are here — some of my closest friends here went to Wake — and my roots are here now."



Sara Creighton Boyer ('05)

Owner, Studio Dental

Considering chasing your dreams in The Golden State?

Alumni have this advice for undergraduates.

My advice to undergraduates is to be willing to make mistakes, because there's no such thing as a mistake if it leads you to next and better. My path, what brought me here, I recognize that every little piece of it added up to where I am. The job in technology. The psychology major. It might not look like it all fits, but you are creating all the puzzle pieces that are you, and eventually you get to put those together but not right away. And that journey is what it is all about. — *Serena Dugar*

The most important thing is to always believe in yourself and stay true to your values. ... Your career path changes, your family situation changes, but if your values don't change and you stay true to that, you're always going to have the success and happiness that you want for your own life. — *René Gilbertson*

Just do it. Jump in. Move out here. The cost of living is high, but there are just so many benefits that come with it, and over time ... it will work out. I would say use your connections. I have learned in life (that) relationships are everything to be successful in your career. You can't do it alone. You need other people, so reach out to other Wake grads. — *Wendy Young*

I got to meet Jack Nicholson one time. ... I asked him for advice, and he said, "I never give advice because people never take it." I would say if there's anything else you feel like you could be happy doing (besides acting), do that. ... It's too hard. If not, go full steam, don't stop. No plan B. ... You just can't expect any of it to come to you. — *Travis Fohns*

I'd say be curious. You have to be curious. — *Brad Stauffer*

Caring about humanity. I've come around to this. ... It's trying to live a life of a humanitarian without (necessarily) being out there in the thick of it. — *Mary Leigh Cherry*

If you haven't gotten your advanced degree yet and want an advanced degree, come to California and you'll find somebody here (to be your potential adviser). Or find somebody first, and then apply is the way it works as a scientist. ... Life is really very pleasant here. — *Fehr Crowe*

I think knowing who you are and staying true to yourself really comes in handy in believing that you can bounce back from really bad ego-busting situations. — *Foe Lawson*

Think broadly about your network. Then leverage it so you can surround yourself with successful people that want to ensure you succeed. — *Fennifer Litwak*

While I would never tell someone at 22 not to start a company, I think there are trade-offs for doing it at different points in life. So, I think my advice would be really think it through — look for a high-growth company where if you work really hard there's a path ahead. — *Aflon Vechery*







PARADISE FOUND

WOODY FAIRCLOTH ('90) DIDN'T FEEL RIGHT ABOUT SENDING ONLY THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS TO VICTIMS OF THE CAMP FIRE IN CALIFORNIA. INSTEAD, HE STARTED WITH ONE RV, AND WITH THE HELP OF A HOST OF HIS 'ANGELS,' HE FOUND A WAY TO KEEP ON GIVING.

by
KERRY M. KING ('85)

photography by
RANDALL BENTON



A NEW HOME IS ROLLING INTO CHICO, CALIFORNIA.

Carl Limpus, a guy with a big heart and a big pickup, is delivering a 28-foot RV, circa 2009, from central California to Chico in northern California on a bright Saturday morning in late January. He stops by the side of the road long enough for James “Woody” Faircloth (’90) and Faircloth’s 6-year-old daughter, Luna, to climb aboard briefly to drop off new sheets, pillows and a comforter in the RV’s bedroom.

Back on the road, Limpus drives to the Butte County bus maintenance lot and parks the RV under an overhang, beside dozens of county buses. Faircloth and Luna, who’ve made the trip here from their home in Denver, Colorado, follow him in a rented Toyota.



Previous page: James “Woody” Faircloth (‘90) visits a memorial to the victims of November’s massive Camp Fire in northern California, the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in the state’s history. The fire destroyed the town of Paradise and left most of its 27,000 residents homeless.

Below: Two months after losing his home in Paradise, Rodney Davis (with Faircloth and Faircloth’s daughter, Luna) is thankful to have a place to call home again, an RV parked at his workplace in nearby Chico.

A bus parking lot is hardly an idyllic setting for a home. But Rodney Davis, a soft-spoken, young-looking father of five, doesn’t seem to care. He’s eager to move his wife and three youngest children into the RV. They’ve been waiting for this day since Nov. 8 when the Camp Fire, the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in California history, destroyed their home and much of their town of Paradise. Davis was already at work here at the bus garage in nearby Chico that day as his wife frantically grabbed their children from school and raced down the mountain ahead of the flames.

“We’ve been through a lot,” he says with some understatement. “Our baby keeps asking, ‘Are the fires gone? Are we safe?’”

Davis was living in a hotel an hour away when a guy he had never met named Woody Faircloth called to offer him a free RV. An individual in Nipomo, California, 400 miles away, had donated it to Faircloth’s burgeoning quest to help the people of Paradise.

Outgoing and empathetic, Faircloth has a way of bonding with survivors, who open up to him about the worst day of their lives. “He has a heart for this,” Davis says of Faircloth. “I heard a lot of broken promises (from others). The more I talked to Woody, the more real it seemed. I saw it coming down the road, and it was such a relief. We’ll have some stability.”

Faircloth watches as Limpus and Chris Smith, another good-hearted guy with a pickup, set up the RV and give Davis a tour. Faircloth can’t stop talking about, of all things, how there’s a perfect spot for the RV because a particular overhang on a building hangs too low for tall buses to clear.

Davis has permission from his boss to park — and live — in that spot.

The day a bus bumped and scraped that low overhang was probably a bad day for the driver. But on this day, Faircloth is marveling at how the bad event for the bus driver was a good event for the Davis family. The confluence of the two events might seem unrelated in some people’s minds but not to Faircloth’s way of thinking. He sees synchronicities everywhere and perfection in the just-in-time work of what he calls “angels,” helping him bring hope — one RV at a time — to a broken community.

FAIRCLOTH, 50, IS A BIG, BURLY, teddy bear of a guy who has seemingly never met a stranger. He watched on TV with the rest of the world as the Camp Fire — named for its place of origin on Camp Creek Road — engulfed the town of Paradise, 90 miles





“I’M DOING IT BECAUSE I’VE SEEN
HOW DESPERATE THE NEED IS. I
JUST HAPPEN TO HAVE THE BEST
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— Woody Faircloth



north of Sacramento. Residents had to flee the 15 miles down Skyway Road to Chico ahead of the raging wildfire. Most had only minutes to grab their children and pets and pray that they could get down the ridge before the flames engulfed them. More than 80 people, many of them elderly, didn’t make it, trapped in their homes or in their cars. By the time the fire was 100 percent contained 17 days later, it had destroyed 14,000 homes in Paradise and left most in the town of 27,000 people traumatized and homeless.

Faircloth felt sad for all those people who had lost their homes, but what could he — one man — do? When your neighbor’s house burns down, you know what to do. But when a whole town burns down, what can you do?

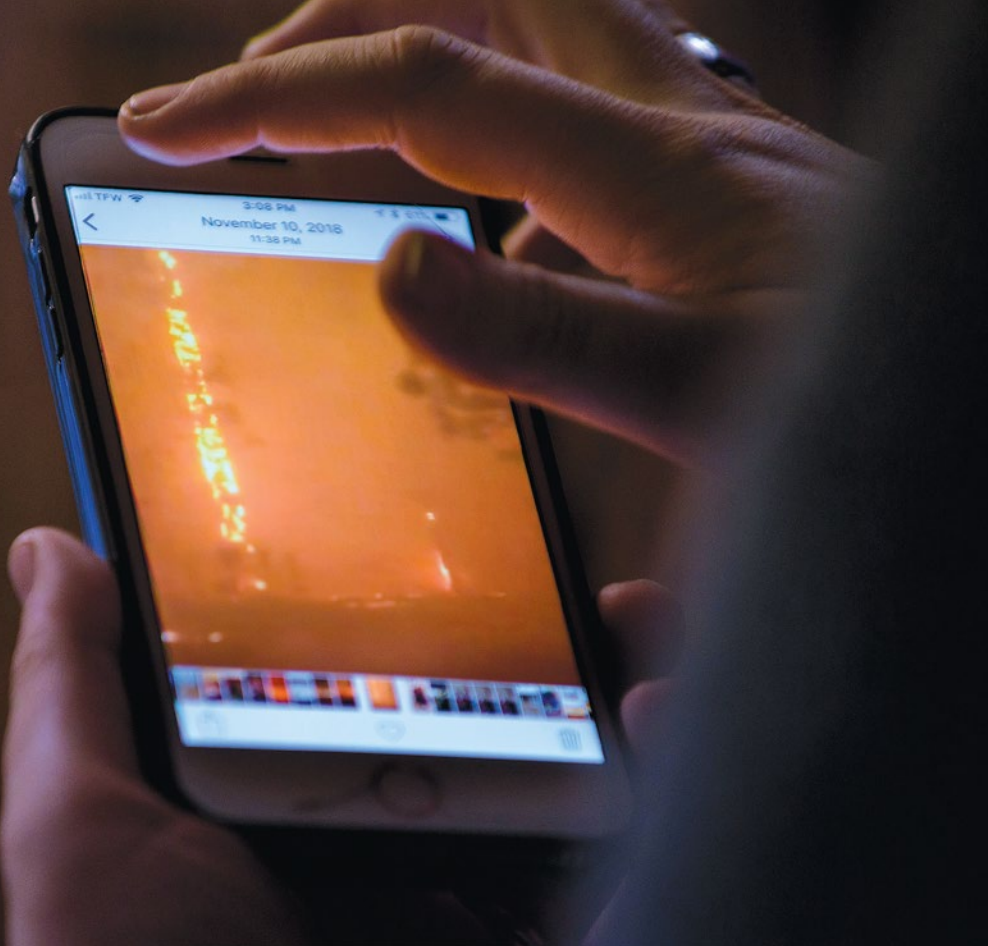
He was looking forward to a week off from his job as a national account manager for Comcast to spend Thanksgiving at home with Luna. But try as he might, he couldn’t look away from the news-casts that showed families, veterans, children with disabilities living in cars and tents in parking lots. He struggled: Should he try to help, or just send thoughts and prayers to the survivors and settle

in for a big Thanksgiving dinner and some football?

#DoSomething. It was a hashtag he adopted that week and one that marks his stance today. “If you’re in a position to help, why wouldn’t you help?” he says simply. “It’s how I was raised. These people are our neighbors, and they need our help.”

He scoured Craigslist to see what the survivors needed. Housing was No. 1 in an area with too few houses, apartments and hotel rooms even before the fire. Maybe, he thought, he could raise enough money to buy an RV to help one family.

He set up a GoFundMe page and found a 1987 Ford Econoline RV for sale on Craigslist in a Denver suburb. When the RV owner learned what Faircloth was doing, he cut the price to \$2,500, a third of the asking price. Faircloth hadn’t yet raised enough money, so he withdrew some from his own bank account. The RV owner wrote out the bill of sale on a napkin, and Faircloth and Luna hit the road for the 1,400-mile drive to Paradise.



A survivor shows video of her family's escape through the flames. Driven by high winds, the fire spread rapidly. Survivors had only minutes to grab their children and pets and flee down Skyway Road to safety in Chico.

"A Thanksgiving miracle is about to happen!" Faircloth posted on social media as they headed west, driving an RV for the first time in his life. Luna, his gap-toothed co-pilot, was all in, saying, "God and Santa Claus will be proud of us."

Two days later, they arrived in Chico and gave the RV to a family of six who had been living in their car. As good as Faircloth felt to help one family, the devastation and survivors' stories were overwhelming. It was too much to take in. He had done his good deed. Now, he couldn't wait to get out of Paradise.

On the trip home, however, something unexpected happened. #DoSomething was spreading on social media. Faircloth's phone was "blowing up." Desperate survivors were pleading for help. Strangers were offering to *donate* their RVs. Friends from Wake Forest and Denver were asking how they could help. Something big was unfolding, out of his control.

THERE WAS NO STOP BUTTON. "I TRIED HARD TO FIGHT IT AND control what was happening," Faircloth says. "I just had to let go. The letting go part was the scariest part. That first night I really felt like God was involved. I was like, 'OK, I'm in. I'll do this. Show me the way.'"

It turns out, he was just getting started. "I'm not the one driving the RV," he says.

Faircloth admits that he doesn't go to church as much as his mother would like. But, he says, he must have learned something from Sundays at Reynolda Presbyterian Church when he was growing up and the faith of his parents and grandparents.

He grew up in Winton-Salem, the middle son of Bill "Big Daddy" ('64) and Becky Faircloth; "Big Daddy" is a retired longtime assistant athletic director for football. His brothers, Scott ('89, MBA '94, P '19) and Barry ('93, P '22), are also alumni; Barry Faircloth is senior associate athletic director for development at Wake Forest.

He didn't give much thought to angels before Paradise. Now he says he sees angels in everything he does. Need someone to haul RVs to Chico? Limpus and Smith raise their hands. Between them, they've hauled a dozen RVs to Chico. Need a quiet place to park some RVs? A couple open their farm and hearts to survivors with nowhere else to go. Need some toys to give to Paradise children at Christmas? Luna's classmates organize a toy drive. Need a truck to haul a donated RV from Colorado to California? A stranger tosses Faircloth his keys and says, "Take my truck."

"Who does that?" Faircloth marvels. "That is not normal behavior."

A Littleton, Colorado, attorney named Larry Zehfuss ('86) helped set up a nonprofit called RV4CampfireFamily. A friend in Denver, Anna Segur, and one in California, Julie Siegenthaler, help match donated RVs with survivors



needing a place to live. (Most of the RVs have been donated; most of the \$125,000 he's raised is being used to repair RVs if needed.) California friends Natalie Feulner and Salma Zawawi help Faircloth spread the word through social media and to news organizations. Faircloth, with his communication major on display, has appeared on The Weather Channel and Steve Harvey's afternoon talk show. "Woody operates fully and unapologetically from the heart," Feulner says.

Faircloth has learned to follow his heart and his faith. If he had listened to his doubts, he would never have left the sofa. He figures now if something is meant to happen, it will. "Every time we hit a roadblock, it gets me excited," he says. "When something bad happens, that's OK, because it opens the door to something good happening."

His faith is put to the test when Luna loses a GoPro camera in a Chico parking lot. "Yay, we lost the camera!" he says, mustering up as much excitement as he can. "Someone else must need a camera more than we do!"

TO UNDERSTAND HOW BADLY PEOPLE IN PARADISE ARE suffering, you need to see the devastation and talk with some of the survivors, Faircloth tells me as he drives us from Chico to Paradise in January. He warns me to be prepared. "When you get here and get up close, it just really puts it into perspective in a way that you can't get from television. You feel the loss here and just the total devastation. It's just overwhelming."

As we approach Paradise, he stops at an impromptu memorial on a hillside. Eighty-six handmade wooden crosses are arranged in an L-shape — one for each person who died in Paradise and the neighboring communities of Concow and Magalia. (The official death toll has since been lowered to 85.) Names and ages painted on the crosses, and on some, handwritten notes, give the bare outlines of lives lost. "Vernice Regan, age 95." "Andrew Burt, age 36: We miss you Brother. Only the good die young." "Victoria Taff, age 67: I luv u mom." The normally talkative Faircloth



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– Woody Faircloth

doesn’t say much. “That was someone’s momma or grandma.”

In Paradise, signs for KFC, Burger King and McDonald’s still summon customers, but the restaurants are gone. On one corner, the Chevron gas station is gone; across the street, the Stop & Save survived. Faircloth turns down a side street, Berry Creek Drive, and drives through the open security gates into what was The Plantation, a retirement community.

Friday, Nov. 8, started out as a normal day in Paradise. Parents took their children to school and went to work. It was garbage pickup day, and residents dutifully put their garbage carts at the curb. A few hours later, 90 percent of Paradise and most of this neighborhood was gone. Garbage carts — some melted, some with trash still inside — embossed with “no hot ashes” on the lids, still line the streets.

The devastation unfolds as far as we can see. We walk up driveways littered with nails and broken glass and melted garage doors. Faircloth picks up Luna and puts her on his shoulders. The homes on Savannah Way and Magnolia Drive are piles of ash and metal; burned-out cars sit in garages; charred washers and dryers stand above the rubble.

It’s a sobering sight. (We learn later that three people who lived here, ages 89-95, died.) “When you hear that 14,000 homes burned down, that’s just a number,” Faircloth says. “Until you see it and feel it and look somebody in the eye that’s been through it, it’s impossible to understand.”



Left and top: Most of The Plantation in Paradise was destroyed; the clubhouse and 12 of 101 homes somehow escaped the flames.
Above: A melted piece of aluminum, marked with the date of the fire, is all that’s left of this family’s Jon boat; their house was destroyed.





“IT’S HARD NOT TO
CONTINUE NOW THAT WE
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THINK WE’RE ANGELS.
I’M JUST A DAD TRYING
TO DO THE RIGHT THING
EVERY DAY.”

– Woody Faircloth



Left: Outgoing and empathetic, Faircloth has a way of bonding with survivors, like Norm Bourgeois, who open up to him about the worst day of their lives. Hearing survivors' stories and their gratitude for receiving an RV often leaves Faircloth in tears. **Below:** Two of Faircloth's "angels" opened their farm to survivors who didn't have anywhere else to park their RVs.

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"I'VE SURRENDERED
TO THE FACT
THAT GOD IS AT
WORK HERE AND
COMPLETELY IN
CONTROL, AND I HAVE
COMPLETE FAITH
THAT HE KNOWS
WHAT HE'S DOING."

— Woody Faircloth

FAIRCLOTH HAS LOOKED DOZENS OF PARADISE survivors in the eye and seen their pain. There are tears when he meets survivors and more tears and hugs when he offers an RV. How can he not help, he says, when he hears their stories: the teenager who raced up a mountain on a dirt bike and saved his grandma; the dad in a restaurant bathroom crying his eyes out as he prepares to tell his daughters that their mom won't be coming home; the single mom trapped with her three children as flames surrounded her car but, just in time, rescued by a stranger. "Every single story will rip your heart out," he says.

He has an especially soft spot in his heart for dads trying to keep their families together. He's been divorced twice and laments, "I couldn't keep my family together, and my house didn't burn down." Besides Luna, he has two sons in the U.S. Army and a daughter in high school.

Every Paradise survivor he's met has what he calls that "trauma survivor look." They look as if they are about to burst into tears or have been crying for days, he says. He's seen that look before. Three years ago, he volunteered in Greece to help newly arriving Syrians fleeing the war in their home country. "It's the same look as the Syrian refugees that had just taken a raft and barely survived the crossing of the Mediterranean and had seen the horrors of war."



Back down the mountain in Chico, Faircloth turns into the parking lot of a Lowe's home improvement store. He's been to Chico half a dozen times since his first trip, so he knows his way. He drives around to the back of Lowe's to an RV parked beside pallets of garden soil and mulch. It's home now to Norm Bourgeois, a Vietnam War-era veteran and part-time employee at Lowe's.

Bourgeois fled Paradise in a Toyota Corolla with his 3-year-old grandson and three other people. "You could feel the fire through the windows," he tells me. He slept in the car and then in a tent in the Lowe's parking lot after the fire.

Bourgeois likes to cook, so Faircloth made sure to match him with an RV equipped with a nice kitchen. It arrived right before Christmas. "That meant a lot — that I

could have Christmas with the grandbaby," Bourgeois says, as his eyes fill with tears. "It's given me peace of mind. I can put on my hat and gloves and go into work, and then have a place to come back to and relax and be able to cook."

Faircloth reminds Bourgeois, "You still owe me a plate of spaghetti," and gives him a hug.

DAWN IS BREAKING ON A COOL SUNDAY MORNING ON "the farm," a bucolic former walnut farm about 15 miles from Paradise. It's now the temporary home for about 10 RVs spread out in the large backyard. RVs aren't the only thing in short supply around Paradise; places to park RVs are almost impossible to find, too.





When the farm owner, who asked not to be identified, heard about Faircloth's efforts, she knew he was a kindred spirit. She calls Faircloth her brother; he calls her his sister.

When Faircloth was scrambling for somewhere to put an RV for a veteran and his family, she told Faircloth to bring the RV to the farm. More RVs followed. Half the RVs here now are from Faircloth's efforts, although the number varies as RVs come and go.

"I've been homeless, so this is easy for me," the farm owner says. "These people have become my family. I will always be eternally grateful to him (Faircloth) that he put these people in my path. If I hadn't met Woody, I wouldn't have met these incredible people."

A retired firefighter who tried to save his home with a garden hose lives in one RV. A single mom and two children live in another. Thomas Evans, his wife and three children — two daughters who go to Chico State and a son in high school — live in two RVs side by side. Their story is the same as those I've heard over and over. They lost everything except three dogs, four cats and — something I hadn't heard before — four chickens.

Thomas Evans, a veteran of the Panama invasion and Desert Storm, was determined not to break up his family after the fire, so they stuck together, sleeping in their car and couch surfing. "I'm not much of a churchgoer, but I believe in 'something.' *They* are the 'something,'" he says

of Faircloth and the farm owners. "It brings me to tears to think about what they've done for everyone." There are hugs and tears all around.

FAIRCLOTH'S WAITING LIST HAS GROWN TO 850 FAMILIES hoping for an RV to bring some normalcy back to their lives while they figure out the way forward. Rebuilding an entire town isn't going to be easy or quick. But thanks to Faircloth and the ones who heeded his call, 64 families left homeless by the fire now have a place to call home. The only thing Faircloth knows to do is continue what he started at Thanksgiving.

He happened to look at the Wake Forest admissions website recently and was struck by something he saw there. On the page explaining the University's motto, Pro Humanitate, the headline reads: "It's not about you." That's the lesson he hopes he has taught Luna on their 21-hour drives to Paradise.

"So many people have said to me, 'You're not even from here, why are you here?' It's hard to explain," he says. "But when you read what our motto is about, then of course I'm here."

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“GOD AND SANTA
CLAUS WILL BE
PROUD OF US.”

— Luna Faircloth



Above left: Luna, far left, plays with other children at the farm. When Faircloth breaks down in tears, it's Luna who tells him to "pull it together, Dad."

Below left: Veteran Thomas Evans (center) fought to keep his family, including daughter Zada, a freshman at Chico State, together after the fire. His family lives in two RVs at the farm. He says of Faircloth: "There are no words to thank him."

DAVID WREN'S PARADISE LOST



David Wren, an assistant teaching professor and director of the Chemistry Center, grew up in Paradise, California. In December, he read on social media about Woody Faircloth ('90) and emailed to thank him and say that "his work had a lot closer roots to Wake Forest than he may have thought."

In the Camp Fire, Wren's parents, Anthony and Marja Wren, lost their home of 38 years where Wren and his twin brother, Scott, grew up. Only a decorative teakettle remained amid the rubble. Senior Editor Kerry M. King ('85) talked to David Wren about the fire and his parents' escape. (The Wrens have since moved to Eugene, Oregon.) The professor's remarks have been condensed and edited for clarity.

Paradise has a lot of ponderosa pines, these big, tall trees. I spent my entire childhood raking pine needles. It was a small enough town where you could have free rein on your bike, anywhere you wanted to go. My parents had renovated the house, and this was going to be their forever house.

Every year we would always have fires coming up the canyon. But the fires were far enough away that they'd put them out. We never had to evacuate

when I was growing up. Since I moved, there were more and more evacuations. My parents pretty much had everything that they would throw in their car ready to go. The day of the Camp Fire they just assumed they were coming back.

My parents texted me and said that there was a fire and that it was really dark. It was dark as night. That was something that really struck me. But they were waiting to get the evacuation orders. The fire was over on the other side of town, so they were in the farthest (evacuation) zone away from the fire.

My brother (in Portland, Oregon) was on social media, and he saw people posting videos of how bad the fire was, so he told my parents to go: 'Don't wait for the evacuation orders. Just get out.'

They had about 30 minutes. They both loaded up a suitcase full of clothes. They had a safe with important things like their will and other documents. And they had a box full of pictures, childhood pictures and family pictures, the ones that are most important. My mom had some art that she took off the walls. My dad took his computers. They were expecting to maybe be evacuated for a day or two.

I'm texting my mom; they were in the car, and I kept saying send me a picture of what you're seeing. They were describing things, but my mom was so upset she couldn't even work her phone to take a picture. They were describing embers going across the road and houses burning down next to them. Traffic had been diverted so that both lanes of traffic were going down. They were going down what normally would be the way up.

We spent about two days hoping that their house had made it. I have a couple of friends who work for the utility company. They messaged me that the house was gone.

The next day (in class), I had planned a lecture for some general chemistry topic. I just scrapped it and spent the entire lecture talking about climate change. My parents had not had measurable rain at their house since May. That was never the case when I was growing up. California, and the West, (are) going to have more droughts. California is in a year-round fire season now. Climate change is not 50 years down the line. It's now. People often confuse climate and weather. 'Oh, it's cold in Texas.' I told them, 'You need to understand climate change, how important it is and why you should care about it now.' I got pretty emotional. I asked everyone to raise their hand: 'Who thinks climate change is real?' And not everyone raised their hand. I almost broke down. I wasn't expecting that. I think that was the first time I had to turn around, take a couple of deep breaths, regain some control. And that's when I realized it impacted me more than I thought.

At the beginning of every semester I ask my students to write down their hometown, what their

major is, interesting facts. Then I tell them where I'm from. Now, it's interesting: Where am I from? Where I grew up is gone. Most of the landmarks — those things that you can go back home and you get comfort in seeing — are gone. I was glad I could bring both my kids to Paradise at least once. You take that for granted. Now, I'll never be able to take my kids back to the place where I did this or did that, show them my Eagle (Scout) Project. That has probably been the hardest thing for me to deal with personally.

Far left: Scott, Anthony, Marja and David Wren.

Below: The remains of the Paradise home where David Wren grew up and where his parents planned to spend their retirement years; a decorative teakettle found in the rubble.



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF DAVID WREN

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“MY PARENTS
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WERE COMING BACK.”

GET THE FACTS UP

Wake Forest has planted its flag in the San Francisco Bay Area with the Silicon Valley Practicum. By Maria Henson ('82)

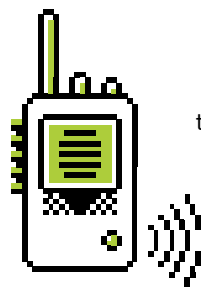
1 THE CONVERSATION

Professor of the Practice **Ben King [MBA '07]**, who oversees the popular Summer Management Program in the School of Business, was brainstorming about four years ago with Vice President for Innovation and Career Development **Andy Chan**, who travels back and forth frequently between coasts.

The Summer Management Program has been teaching what King calls "the greatest hits album" of business to poets, history majors and budding economists for 30 years. What if the undergraduate alums of the program could take what

they learned in business fluency and put the concepts into action for six weeks with a three-credit summer internship in the San Francisco Bay Area?

The idea? "Placing them in one of the most vibrant economic centers in the world, Silicon Valley, and letting them flex these new muscles," says King, also known for his courses in entrepreneurship and negotiations.

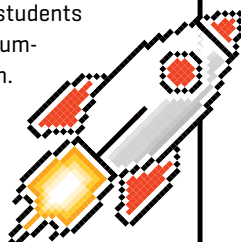


"The rationale," Chan says, "is that the students are indicating a strong interest in business, and it's also an immediate opportunity to apply what they've learned in the classroom directly." These liberal arts students doing a deep dive into

business help point to what Chan identifies as "misperception": that "you have to know how to be a programmer in order to have value, but these companies need all different types of help."

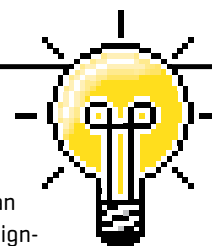
2 THE LAUNCH

The Silicon Valley Practicum began in summer 2017 with eight students who had completed the Summer Management Program. In 2018, the number rose to 10. The enrollment cap is 12. King is director of the program and on occasion visits the students; in California, Chan serves as professor of the practice and faculty-in-residence.



3 THE METHOD

The students live together at Draper University in San Mateo. Chan coaches the students, gives them assignments to write reflections and holds mini-class sessions to discuss how to apply their learning to their jobs, develop a clear career action plan and create networks. "My role ends up identifying great companies with managers who will be good mentors to our students and helping the companies think about how to best structure the work," he says. For the students, he matches them to companies by giving some but not sole consideration to student preferences. He taps the network of alumni and parents for possible placements. Internships are unpaid.





4 COMPANIES AND EVENTS



The practicum has featured visits to companies, networking events with alumni, trips to new-student receptions and a Giants game. According to one student, a highlight was witnessing startup pitches made to **Howard Love [P '18]**, a Silicon Valley serial entrepreneur, early-stage investor and author of "The Start-Up J Curve: The Six Steps to Entrepreneurial Success."

5 PARTICIPANTS

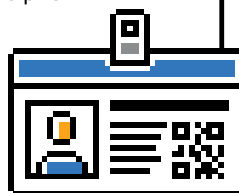
Alisha Hartley ['18] of Monroe, North Carolina, completed the Silicon Valley Practicum in 2017 as a psychology major with a minor in African studies and another in entrepreneurship and social enterprise. She calls the practicum "a great experience." She was assigned to ReBoot Accel, which helps women re-entering the workforce after a pause such as maternity leave. Hartley was assigned to customer acquisition and communications roles, including helping a closed Facebook group grow from 50 to 400 members during her few weeks in the internship.

"I learned that I can adapt, and I am one who will figure out the ropes," she says. "It solidified the goals I had for my career": working on behalf of people's personal and career development through education or technology. After graduation she remained on campus in the one-year, highly selective Wake Forest Fellows program; her assignment was Campus Life.

During his practicum in 2018, **George Wigington ['21]** of Corpus Christi, Texas, was assigned to Empowerly (then called Synocate), an online platform and service providing college and career advice to applicants. His job was pitching the company's service to potential clients — "essentially a salesman for the company, which I loved."

In Chan he found "a mentor for life," who he says "manages to fit me in every time I email him." Though he isn't sure yet what will be his major, he knows he wants to work another summer in Silicon Valley. "The vibe is young, hard-working and happy."

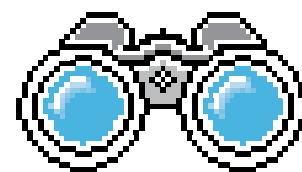
"It exceeded all my expectations," he says about the Summer Management Program and the practicum, adding, "I tell all my buddies to do it."

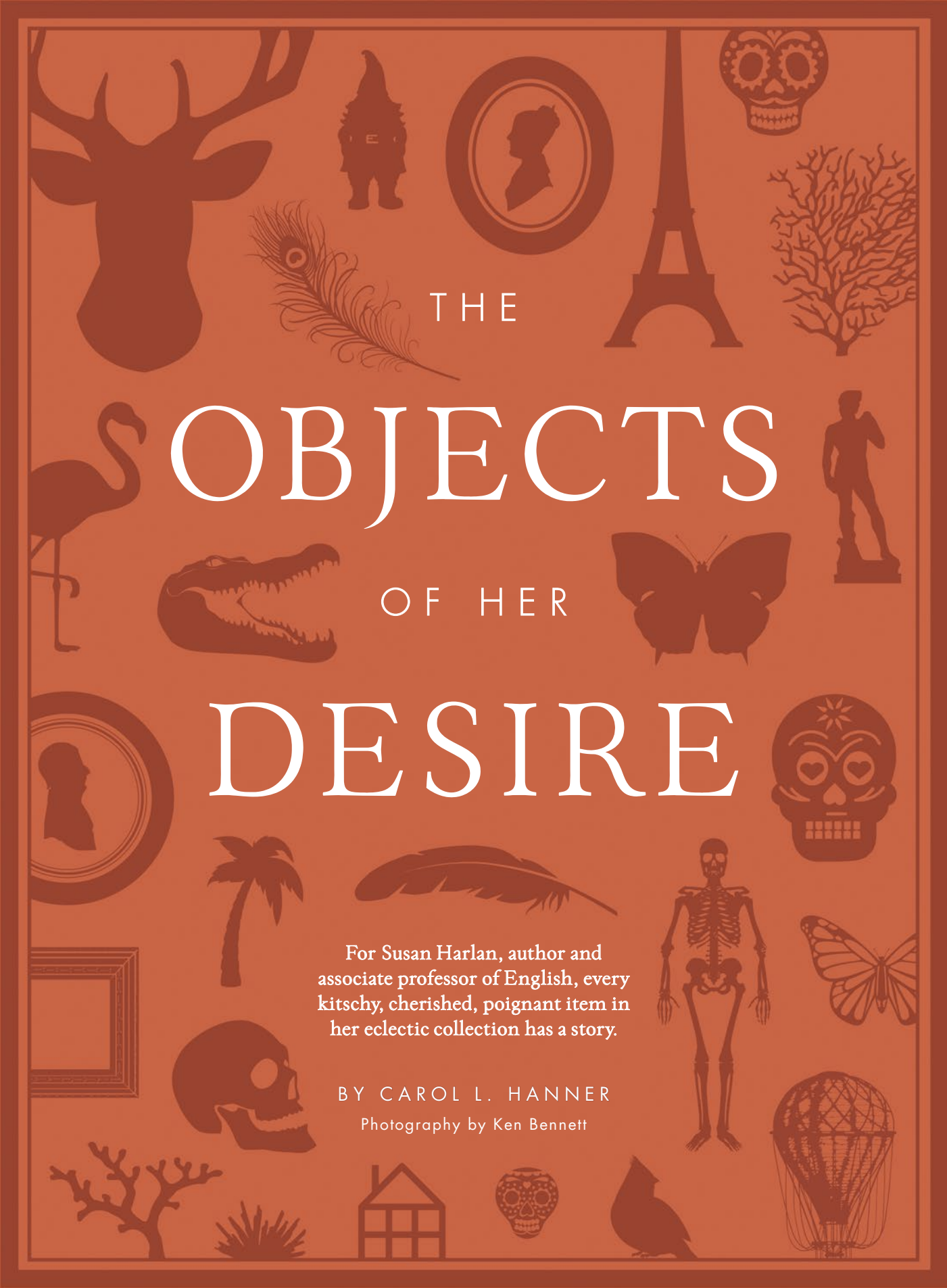


6 WHAT'S NEXT

Wake Forest has long had career treks to Silicon Valley (to Google, Facebook and Box, for example) and networking events for alumni and incoming first-year students and their parents. The Silicon Valley Practicum represents another anchor in California, which Chan says is the No. 4 place for Wake Forest students to land after graduation. (North Carolina, New York and Washington, D.C., are the top three.)

There's an appetite among Wake Forest's academic leaders for increasing opportunities for students and faculty like the study-away approach of Wake Washington in D.C. The practicum could well be a preview of an expanded academic mission on the West Coast. Stay tuned.





THE OBJECTS OF HER DESIRE

For Susan Harlan, author and
associate professor of English, every
kitschy, cherished, poignant item in
her eclectic collection has a story.

BY CAROL L. HANNER

Photography by Ken Bennett





USAN HARLAN HAS A THING ABOUT THINGS.

Step into her 2,000-square-foot home in the West End neighborhood of Winston-Salem, and you will find stacks of dishes discarded from great-grandma country cupboards and bought at flea markets. On vividly painted walls are paint-by-number canvasses — two artists' humble versions of the same painting, how lucky is that! — and yarn artwork.

In rooms upstairs hang sparkly and sassy vintage dresses, blouses and hats, at the ready for a night on the town, from the 1950s to 1980s.

For this associate English professor, author and native Californian, there is a carefully designed disorder to her collection of collections. "If there's wall space, I try to hang something up," she says.

What looks like epic clutter is anything but. The displays reflect Harlan's scholarly interests, her wry commentary on culture — kitsch, popular, early modern — and especially her love of books. You'll see them stacked with intention around the house, amid whimsical items and the collections' darker side, which beckons Harlan, too, generally with a humorous wink. Taxidermy intrigues her, and Wentworth, her mounted deer head, holds an honored spot on the wall, not far from the old-school yellow dial telephone that rings no more. Skulls of all sizes and shapes mingle with Day of the Dead skeletons, reflecting her fascination with death culture.

In her living room, she proudly opens her treasured armoire-style bar, an art-deco home to various decanters, Auntie Mame cocktail glasses and stir sticks. While her

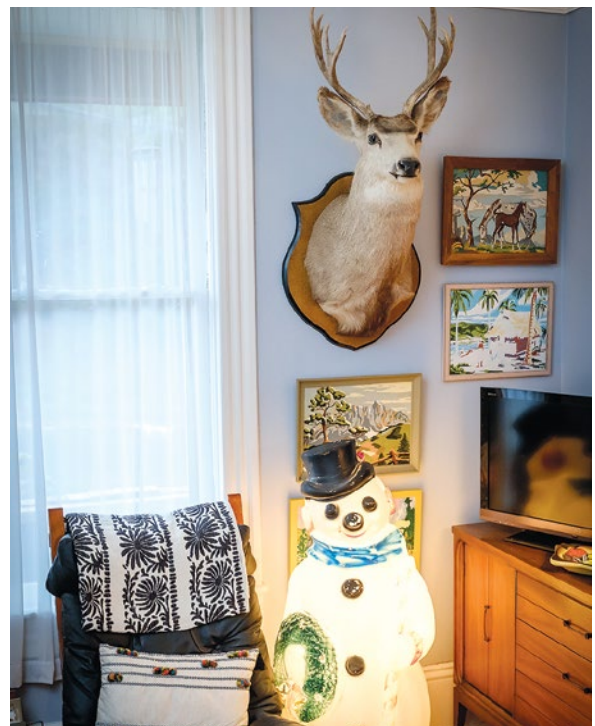


upstairs clothing collection fits with a class she taught called “A Material World: Clothing and Culture,” and her death mementoes reflect another class, “Exit Stage Left: Writing Death and Dying in Early Modern England,” she has no classes or books — yet — about drinkware.

Most of all, what occupies her house, as well as her mind, are books — everywhere, in bookcases, on the front porch, in neat, deliberately ordered stacks on the floor beside her floral upholstered reading chair. She wants these books in view. Some are new books on her to-read list. Some are classic old friends for jogging her favorite memories or inspiring an essay (often comedy and satire.)

Books are the thing of all things for Susan Harlan. She published two of her own that garnered attention in 2018.

“Luggage” consists of essays inspired by her vintage luggage collection and love of travel. It’s one of 30-plus books in a series the publisher Bloomsbury calls Object Lessons, “a series about the hidden lives of ordinary things.” She included a quirky essay on her visit to see the treasures for sale at the gigantic Unclaimed Baggage Center in Alabama. But she also wrote more serious essays, doing what she does with all objects — analyze their universality







and interpret how infused they are with meaning, memory and core human experiences and perspectives.

“Everyone has a story about their luggage or about how they pack or about what they took on a particular trip,” Harlan says.

She lets her imagination roam in an essay that begins with a house depicted in a painting she found inside a thrift-shop suitcase in Winston-Salem. The signature on it said “My old home — built 1889 — burned 1938 — painted — M.E. Redman — 1959.” What did the cryptic label mean? Why was it in the suitcase? What lay behind the object inside the object?



HER SECOND BOOK OF 2018 fused her interest in home design with her love of literature and her wicked sense of humor. She “interviewed” literary characters about how they chose design styles for famous fictional homes and castles. The book is called “Decorating a Room of One’s Own: Conversations on Interior Design with Miss Havisham, Jane Eyre, Victor Frankenstein, Elizabeth Bennet, Ishmael, and Other Literary Notables.”

“The idea for the book came to me one evening while I was doing something that I am often doing: sitting on my couch with my dog, Millie, watching a movie and drinking a Manhattan,” she says in the book’s introduction.

She was watching the 1997 version of “Jane Eyre” for the umpteenth time, enjoying Thornfield Hall, “gloomy, dark, and Gothic in the extreme, as it should be.” She loves home design, and she started to notice the candlesticks, the chairs, the rugs, the art on the walls. Thornfield Hall became a darkly funny “accidental decorating inspiration.” She began taking notes on her laptop. Maybe Jane would be interested in paint colors and cushions. “Maybe scorched-by-a-fire-set-by-your-husband’s-doomed-secret-wife is the new shabby chic,” she wrote.

The book has generated a number of feature stories about Harlan. Maris Kreizman, blogger and author of “Slaughterhouse 90210,” described it as “‘Apartment Therapy’ for bookish types and the literary characters they love, ... weird and wonderful fan fiction at its most elegant and evocative.”

And don’t forget funny — with modern memes coming out of the mouths of ye olde characters.

From a Q&A with Shakespeare's Lady Macbeth: "I know what you're going to say: It's a total violation of the codes of hospitality to murder your guest. But it's a rat race out there, and I wasn't about to just wait around for my husband to become king. We wanted to be proactive and really blue sky it. In the end, bloody murder seemed like the best option."

Where did this all come from? It began in her childhood in Sacramento.

"Sacramento is Joan Didion land," Harlan says. "So I grew up reading her, and I've always read her. ... That's definitely an aspect of California culture that I think has stayed with me. There's this kind of tradition ... It's hard to be a writer from California without thinking about Joan Didion."

Although most of her classes at Wake Forest have stemmed from her specialties in English Renaissance literature, Shakespeare, militarism, masculinity and material culture, Harlan taught her first creative nonfiction class last fall. She started with Didion on the first day.

Students read and discussed Didion's essay on keeping a notebook. Keeping a journal allows you to look back later at who you were, Harlan says. Didion's essay talks about how keeping a notebook shows "the limitations of our memories ... and what are the truth claims of nonfiction? What are the truths of our memories, or are our memories problematic?" Harlan says.

Harlan can trace her literary and writing interests to a middle-school teacher, Lauren LaMay, and then Patricia Fels, a high-school teacher who advised the student newspaper at Harlan's very small K-12 private school in Sacramento. Harlan loves Fels' sense of humor. "She's kind of sarcastic, edgy and funny and always thinking about things, always filled with ideas."

She set high standards and had strong expectations, "which is something I've tried to have in my teaching because I think it shows respect for students. I liked that she loved books. Obviously, she was a great teacher, but she was also always giving us other things to read and helping us to think of education as something that isn't just quarantined to the classroom."

Harlan resonated in a big way — even to tears — with the 2017 Didion-quoting movie "Lady Bird" about a teen in Sacramento yearning to leave and find her place in New York City. Harlan felt similarly drawn to a romanticized vision of the East Coast in movies. "It's nothing against California," she says. "A lot of people wherever they grow up feel this flight impulse or instinct to try something new and go somewhere new."

She spent a dozen years in New York, getting her bachelor's degree in English literature at Columbia University and a master's and Ph.D. in English literature at New York University. "I immediately refashioned myself as a New Yorker when I arrived," Harlan says, and she reveled in it.

Studying for her master's degree in English Renaissance theater history at King's College in London was "just absolute heaven." It solidified her interest in the material world of theater.

"IF THERE'S WALL SPACE, I TRY TO HANG SOMETHING UP."

Elaborate stage sets as we know them today didn't exist in Renaissance public theater, she says, but costumes were very important. Theater companies often inherited people's clothes, which actors used to create costumes.

Key objects set the scenes. She saw how famous props such as the skull in "Hamlet," the handkerchief in "Othello" and the ring in "The Merchant of Venice" opened a window in the spectator's mind. "You can't even think of the play without them. ... It was a very object-oriented historical moment."

After getting her doctorate, Harlan accepted a visiting position at Wake Forest in 2009, followed by a permanent tenure-track spot. After renting for most of her adult life, she bought the 1920s home in the West End and painted her walls in various colors, from royal blue to minty green. With space, the collecting ramped up.

She fell in love with the mountains, an extension of her love of the Sierras. The Great Smoky Mountains may not be as awe-inspiring, she says, "but I think I maybe like them even a little bit more, because that West Coast beauty is so sublime and overwhelming."

She and Millie will keep traveling the back roads, and she'll continue to collect: more Dollywood memorabilia ("I've written three things about Dollywood.") ... dressmaker dummies ... anything related to Paris ... snow globes ... vintage jewelry ... door knockers to put on interior doors ... tourist plates ... feathers ... a friend's tooth ... grave rubbings ... Tarot cards ... butterflies...

The possibilities are endless for a collector who sees connections.







EXCERPTS FROM
“LUGGAGE”

Luggage holds secrets. Some of these secrets belong to the trunks and suitcases, and some of them do not. They might belong to history or to a person or to nothing at all. Some of these secrets are revealed, and some remain hidden, enclosed. And perhaps we want luggage to contain secrets because bags are so suggestive. In their emptiness or fullness, they suggest more than themselves. A suitcase that is closed — not even zipped closed, but simply closed — is like a bedside table or a medicine cabinet: it is off limits. Our luggage is private, but it goes with us in public.

In Tennessee Williams’ “A Streetcar Named Desire,” Stanley rummages around in Blanche’s trunk, throwing its contents all over the room. The violation prefigures his violation of her body — it is the first of two attacks — and by manhandling her personal possessions, he makes it clear that she will have no secrets in his house. Blanche’s trunk is baggage, furniture, and character all at once, a heavy and unwieldy onstage presence that mirrors her own frail but nonetheless steely physicality.

EXCERPTS FROM
“DECORATING
A ROOM OF ONE’S OWN:

Conversations on Interior Design with Miss Havisham,
Jane Eyre, Victor Frankenstein, Elizabeth Bennet,
Ishmael, and Other Literary Notables”

Sir Thomas Malory, *Le Morte d’Arthur*

A conversation with “Arthur, king of the Britons, warrior, cuckold, and all-around nice guy”:

Arthur ... added some flair to the outdoor jousting space in the form of forged steel planters influenced by the work of David Smith and Richard Serra. “I wanted the yard to say: I am a man, and I have a blowtorch.”

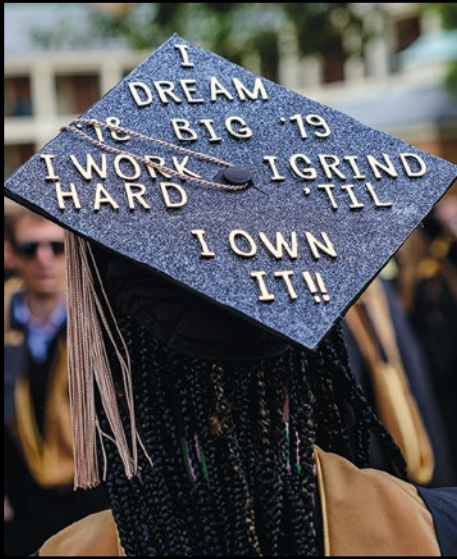
Favorite element

If you’re a warrior, you really need to mount some weapons on your walls. Otherwise, how will your visitors know what you do? ... You want to polish them periodically — and be sure to wash off the blood and guts of your enemies before hanging them.

Biggest indulgence

I designated one of the large stone rooms as a “man space” — apart from the rest of the world, which you might also say is a man space. Sometimes you need a place where you don’t have to hear about your “Honey Do” list, am I right?





COMMENCEMENT

BY CAROL L. HANNER

SEEKING TRUTH, EMBRACING LIFE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEN BENNETT

2019



RETIRING FACULTY

FROM THE REYNOLDA CAMPUS

Sarah E. Barbour, Ph.D.,
Professor of French Studies, 34 years

Robert R. Bliss, Ph.D.,
Professor of Business, 15 years

Susan H. Borwick, Ph.D.,
Professor of Music, 36 years

***R. David Coates (P '17), Ph.D.,**
Worrell Professor of Anglo-American Studies, 19 years

Ellen Daugman, M.A., M.L.I.S.,
Librarian of ZSR Library, 23 years

J. Daniel Hammond ('72, P '08), Ph.D.,
Hultquist Family Professor of Economics, 41 years

Catherine T. Harris, Ph.D.,
Professor of Sociology, 39 years

Donna A. Henderson, Ph.D.,
Professor of Counseling, 22 years

Dilip K. Kondepudi, Ph.D.,
Thurman D. Kitchin Professor of Chemistry, 32 years

Philip F. Kuberski, Ph.D.,
Professor of English, 30 years

Stanley W. Mandel, Ph.D.,
Associate Professor of the Practice of Business, 20 years

Gillian R. Overing, Ph.D.,
Professor of English, 40 years

Susan Sharpless Smith (P '04), M.A., M.L.I.S.,
Associate Dean of ZSR Library, 23 years

Todd C. Torgersen, Ph.D.,
Associate Professor of Computer Science, 31 years

Julian P. Young, Ph.D.,
Professor of Humanities, nine years

**died on Aug. 7, 2018*

FROM THE MEDICAL CAMPUS

Doug Case, Ph.D.,
Professor of Public Health Sciences, 38 years

Zheng Cui, M.D., M.S., Ph.D.,
Associate Professor of Pathology, 22 years

Larry W. Daniel, Ph.D.,
Professor of Biochemistry, 38 years

Samuel A. Deadwyler, Ph.D.,
Professor of Physiology and Pharmacology, 41 years

Allen D. Elster (MBA '99, P '10, '14), M.D.,
Professor of Radiology, 31 years

Gregory W. Evans, M.A.,
Associate Professor of Public Health Sciences, 32 years

Edward F. Haponik (MD '74), M.D.,
Professor of Internal Medicine, 22 years

Timothy M. Morgan, Ph.D.,
Professor of Public Health Sciences, 34 years

Lawrence L. Rudel (P '93), Ph.D.,
Professor of Internal Medicine, 45 years

Beth P. Smith (P '02), Ph.D.,
Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, 32 years

R. Patrick Yeatts (MD '78), M.D.,
Professor of Ophthalmology, 31 years

WAKE FOREST AWARDED DIPLOMAS to 1,982 undergraduate, graduate and professional school students on May 20 during Commencement on a mostly sunny day on Hearn Plaza. Speaker Frederick J. Ryan Jr. (P '16), publisher and chief executive officer of The Washington Post, urged graduates to think critically and seek truth, not just affirmation of their views, by listening to voices outside their own "echo chamber."

Intentional efforts to spread false information are not new in American history but have never been more widespread and dangerous, said Ryan, who came to the Post in 2014 after serving as president and CEO of Politico, which he co-founded in 2007. The Post has received multiple Pulitzer Prizes for excellence in journalism during Ryan's tenure and was twice named by Fast Company Magazine as the "World's Most Innovative Media Company."

Ryan, who received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree, said escalating efforts to suppress reporting and attack the press as "enemies of the people" create the potential for physical violence. Journalists around the world face prison or death for reporting the truth, he said. "The Founding Fathers ... saw the free exchange of information as essential to the success of a free nation."

In his welcoming remarks, President Nathan O. Hatch advised graduates to stop, look and listen, to spend a few minutes each day letting go of social connectivity and work pressures to reflect on something meaningful. "Embrace and respond to life within and around you," said Hatch. He shook hands with the 1,190 undergraduates as they crossed the stage after accepting their diplomas.

On social media, congratulations abounded. "I can't believe it, but today my hard-headed, huge-hearted brother is graduating from college!" wrote one sibling on Instagram.

Wake Forest traditions continued. Addie Folk, who majored in religious studies and will be working in the undergraduate admissions office, became a sixth-generation Demon Deacon and wore her late grandfather's class ring. At Wake Forest, she said, "I met my lifelong best friends. I was taught by professors that taught me ... how to be confident, how to be an adult and how to be a leader."

Gary Haugen, CEO and founder of International Justice Mission, received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree and gave the Baccalaureate Address on May 19 at Wait Chapel. The U.S. Department of State has recognized Haugen, an attorney, as a "Trafficking in Persons Report Hero" for his anti-slavery leadership. His human-rights organization works to protect the poor from violence throughout the developing world.

Haugen's message was to "relentlessly and uncompromisingly enjoy your life," not letting "the blasphemous and oversized Ork of fear" paralyze pursuit of your dreams or blind you to the beauty and joy that God has created. "You just need to remember the truest yearning of your heart," Haugen said.

Besides Ryan and Haugen, recipients of honorary degrees were Julius LeVonne Chambers, former director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund and former chancellor of North Carolina Central University, a posthumous Doctor of Laws accepted by Geraldine Sumter of the law firm Ferguson, Chambers & Sumter P.A.; Jeffrey A. Davis (P '18), executive vice president and chief financial officer of Qurate Retail Group, Doctor of Laws; Carla D. Hayden, Librarian of Congress, Doctor of Humane Letters; Sandra Ouellette (MS '69), president of R and S Ouellette Inc. and a pioneer in nurse anesthesia, Doctor of Science; and Philip A. Pizzo, former dean of the Stanford University School of Medicine, Doctor of Science.



PHOTO BY KERRY KING

Opposite page, center: Speaker Frederick J. Ryan Jr.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI
REFLECT

The Spirit of Wake Forest



*Three Deacons were named the 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award winners for their service to Wake Forest and commitment to Pro Humanitate at a gala dinner April 26.
The Alumni Council selects the recipients each year.*

Buck Cochran ('82)

Greensboro, North Carolina



BUCK COCHRAN remembers growing up in Troy, North Carolina, admiring the late devoted Demon Deacon Earle Connelly ('48), his father's best friend and a city leader. "I wanted to be like him, to be that kind of man," he says.

What kind of man has Cochran turned out to be? There's the résumé of accomplishments: chemistry major with Wake Forest degree, naval flight officer and mission commander, FMC Corp. chemical salesman, graduate of Duke Divinity School, associate pastor at the 2,000-member Westminster Presbyterian Church in Greensboro and obedient servant to a divine nudge to leave his church job in 2007 — for what, he did not know. It turned out to be helping establish Peacehaven Community Farm in Whitsett, North Carolina.

Cochran is executive director of Peacehaven, a nonprofit whose mission is to connect people with intellectual

and developmental disabilities to the larger community through shared living and the work of a sustainable farm. It regularly draws Wake Foresters (and residents from nearby cities) to volunteer and spend time working alongside adults with special needs. Cochran has watched the farm grow from its original 89 acres and with the completion of its home for adults with disabilities. He has watched relationships take root and the nonprofit thrive, guided by core values of compassion, sustainability and servant leadership. The Guilford Nonprofit Consortium named it nonprofit of the year in 2014.

"You should never underestimate people's willingness and capacity to serve," Cochran says. "It's been that way since Day One. Sometimes I scratch my head and think 'This is amazing.' It's this basic thing inside of us."

Beyond achievements, there's the true measure of the man: wife to Cathy, father to a daughter, Cameron, and a son, Trey, whom he credits with starting him on the journey away from the corporate world. Trey was born with Asperger syndrome; predictions for his future independence at first were dire. Today, he is a college graduate with a job in Tennessee.

Buck Cochran is a man unafraid to tear up when he talks about his family or the joy he has found as an accidental farmer, in truth sowing community and love more than vegetables. He savors the simple things at the farm — sharing a meal or walking a lap with one of the residents. An admirer of humanitarian Jean Vanier, he quotes him: "We are

not called by God to do extraordinary things, but to do ordinary things with extraordinary love."

He gives his alma mater credit for imbuing in him the excitement for learning and fearlessness about trying new things, including farming. And of its motto, Pro Humanitate, he says, "I think it means deep intention and reflection about what I'm doing with my life, where I'm called to serve, how I share that hopefully in authentic ways with those around me so perhaps that philosophy spreads a little bit. This is going to sound a little hokey, but it really means everything to me. I think it's why I'm on this planet."

— Maria Henson ('82)

Donna F. Edwards ('80)

Oxon Hill, Maryland



FORMER U.S. REP. DONNA EDWARDS, D-Md., grew up in an Air Force family that emphasized volunteering, but her dedication to public

service took firm root as a preteen candy-striper in the late 1960s at Clark Air Base in the Philippines.

Troops injured in the Vietnam War — and the bodies of those killed — made their first stop at Clark. Edwards remembers riding a bus past hangars filled with flag-draped caskets to volunteer at the hospital. There, “in my little pink-and-white uniform and little cap,” she delivered mail and read to service members, some bandaged and unable to see. “It was so powerful. ... I can feel it even now. ... I was just doing one little thing that I liked to do, which was open a book and read, but it made a difference.”

Edwards has made a difference throughout her life, and she says Wake Forest, where she is a trustee, reinforced that principle. She became the first African-American woman to represent Maryland in Congress, after a special election in June 2008. She won four full terms, leaving in 2017. Among her many legislative priorities were school meals and after-school programs in low-income areas, reducing opioid deaths and giving prisoners and former prisoners access to education.

Edwards, an English major, worked for Lockheed Corp. in NASA's Spacelab program. Later, she became a private and public-interest lawyer, then ran several nonprofits.

An interest in reducing domestic violence began as a girl, hearing a neighbor's abuse through paper-thin walls in military housing. Only years later did she realize that the neighbor's glamorous makeup and Jackie Onassis sunglasses were hiding her bruises. As an adult, Edwards volunteered for a domestic violence hotline. She later co-founded and led the National Network to End Domestic Violence and spearheaded passage of the Violence Against Women Act in 1994.

Born in Yanceyville, North Carolina, Edwards fell in love with Wake Forest after turning down a U.S. Air Force Academy appointment because women weren't allowed to fly jets. She was one of 12 black women in her first-year class, and she says she was not welcomed by her white roommate, but others embraced her and became lifelong friends. She still has their T-shirt for BABES (Bostwick A-side Basement Everlasting Sweethearts).

Wake Forest's liberal arts curriculum has helped her in big and small ways — from a comparative religion class that helped her understand the Mideast to study abroad in Salamanca, Spain, that fueled her interest in international politics.

After leaving Congress, she traveled in an RV to raise awareness of state and national parks and indulge her love of camping, hiking, biking, fishing and running. She's based in Maryland but still tours in her RV for a book project on how her travels illuminated issues such as immigration and health care. She consults, speaks and writes a column for *The Washington Post*. Is politics in her future? She isn't sure.

Her advice to students? Work hard, take advantage of every opportunity and accept the risk of failure. “I think you're not prepared to live if you're not prepared to fail.”

— Carol L. Hanner

Anil Rai Gupta

(MBA '92, LL.D. '17)

Delhi, India



ANIL RAI GUPTA grew up in India watching his father excel by doing things right — while doing what is right.

“My father was a born entrepreneur, and he really put a lot of effort, hard work into building his business completely out of scratch,” says Gupta, chairman and managing director of Havells India Limited, one of India's largest electrical equipment companies.

“In fact, our first factory was in our home,” Gupta says. “We were assembling switches and sockets during those days, and I was a 3-year-old watching that in the house.”

The senior Gupta overcame poverty and ill health to build Havells into a powerhouse, as his son tells in his book, “Havells: The Untold Story of Qimat Rai Gupta” (2016).

Anil Gupta joined Havells in 1992 after earning his MBA at Wake Forest, where he received the Babcock Award for academics, integrity and leadership. At Havells, he led the acquisition of Europe's Sylvania lighting, which was 1 ½ times the size of Havells and operated in more than 50 countries. Gupta transformed Sylvania despite the 2008 global recession and continued Havells' growth after his father died in 2014. “We've grown from a \$5 million company to a \$5 billion company in the last 25 years,” he says.

Gupta also learned from his parents that caring about others is imperative. “I remember from my childhood days ... a lot of talk on values,” Gupta says. Coming to Wake Forest was “a dream come true,” he says, and its openness to diverse cultures, team building and Pro Humanitate have guided his work and life.

In 2005, Havells began offering students in Alwar district a midday meal to alleviate hunger. “Their tummies will be full, so they can concentrate on studies,” Gupta says. The project feeds more than 60,000 students a day and has built toilets for girls in more than 300 schools. The company has reduced its environmental impact, contributed to natural disaster relief and helped restore historical monuments to boost tourism and create urban jobs, among its many initiatives.

Gupta and his wife, Sangeeta, are proud of their two children. Their son is developing high-productivity hydroponics for rural farmers. Their daughter is focused on manufacturing reusable sanitary napkins because so many Indian women lack access.

Gupta, who received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University in 2017, says Wake Forest and his father taught him that “doing good for the people, all the stakeholders, whether it's the dealers, the employees, your lenders, your investors — if you are good to them, business growth will follow.”

— Carol L. Hanner

For videos and photos, go to go.wfu.edu/daa2019.



Boyette

1



Rose

1



Anthony

2



Gladding

2



Fulp

2



Jenkins

2



Siavelis

2



Knox

2



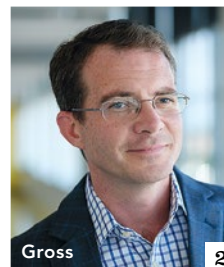
Blee

2



O'Neill

2



Gross

2



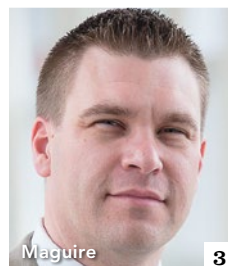
Boyd

2



Erhardt

2



Maguire

3



Aiken

4



Walton

5



Reynolds

4



Hairston

8



Mackey

9



Goldsberry (left), Hicks

10



Miller

11

1 The University presented its highest honor, the Medallion of Merit, to **Sandra Combs Boyette (MBA '95)** and **Charles "Charley" P. Rose Jr.** for their outstanding contributions to Wake Forest. They were honored at the Founders' Day Convocation in February to commemorate the University's 185th year.

Boyette, a native of Winston-Salem, served the University for 35 years, beginning in 1981 as a staff writer, then as foundation director, associate director of development and as the first director of the Office of Public Relations created in 1987. In 1988, she was appointed vice president of public affairs, the highest administrative office held by a woman. She secured and coordinated two presidential debates

on campus — Bush-Dukakis in 1988 and Bush-Gore in 2000. In 1996, she was named vice president of advancement and later served as senior adviser to President Nathan O. Hatch before retiring in 2016.

Rose, a law professor known for fostering student relationships, joined Wake Forest in 1973 after serving four years in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps and a year at the University of Akron School of Law. He received the student-voted Jurist Excellence in Teaching Award 10 times and the law school's Joseph Branch Teaching Award in 2005. He initiated the "Conversations with" series in 1999 to introduce students to prominent legal professionals, including U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and civil rights attorney Oliver Hill.

2 Also presented during the Founders' Day Convocation were: the **Excellence in Advising Award** to **Elizabeth Anthony**, associate teaching professor of French, and **Samuel T. Gladding ('67, MAEd '71, P '07, '09)**, professor of counseling; the **URECA Faculty Award For Excellence in Mentorship in Research and Creative Work** to **Errin Fulp**, professor of computer science, and **Lisa Blee**, associate professor of history; the **Award for Excellence in Research** to **Morna O'Neill**, associate professor of art, and **Michael Gross**, associate professor of engineering; the **Donald O. Schoonmaker Faculty Award for Community Service** to **Melissa Shields Jenkins ('01)**, associate professor of English.

Also, the **Jon Reinhardt Award for Distinguished Teaching** to **Peter Siavelis**, chair and professor of politics and international studies; the **Joseph Branch Excellence in Teaching Award** in the law school to Professor **John Knox**; the **Kulynych Family Omicron Delta Kappa Award** for bridging the gap between classroom and student life to **Stephen Boyd**, professor of religion; and the **Reid-Doyle Prize for Excellence in Teaching** in early career to **Robert Erhardt**, associate professor of statistics.

3 Eric Maguire, the vice president and dean of admissions and financial aid at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, joins Wake Forest on July 1 as vice president for enrollment. Maguire is known for recruiting talented undergraduates, prioritizing academic excellence and increasing diversity. He holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and a master's degree in higher education administration from Indiana University, where he also was assistant director of admission. Maguire served at Franklin & Marshall from 2000-2009, was vice president of Ithaca College's Office of Enrollment and Communication from 2009-2015 and returned to Franklin & Marshall in 2015. **Martha Blevins Allman ('82, MBA '92, P '15, '19)**, who has served as dean of admissions since 2001, will assume the role of senior assistant provost in July, a move announced in September. Under Allman's leadership, Wake Forest saw applications double, and the University became the nation's first top-30 university to make standardized tests an optional component of student applications.

4 Jane Aiken, a professor and administrator at Georgetown Law since 2007, was named dean of the Wake Forest School of Law, succeeding **Suzanne Reynolds (JD '77)**, who is leaving her position this summer and is being honored with an endowed chair funded by donors. Aiken founded the Community Justice Project at Georgetown and received the Frank Flegal Award for Excellent Teaching in 2010 and the Faculty Member of the Year Award in 2013. She served as associate dean for experiential education and then vice dean of the law center. She is a leading scholar in clinical pedagogy and has directed clinics involving prisoner rights, domestic violence, HIV, homelessness, police brutality and international human rights. She has taught in law schools at Washington University in St. Louis, the University of South Carolina and Arizona State University.

5 Jonathan L. Walton (D.D. '15), the Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and a professor of religion and society at Harvard Divinity School, was named dean of the Wake Forest School of Divinity and Presidential Chair of Religion and Society. Walton, who is Pusey Minister at Harvard Memorial Church, received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Wake Forest and delivered the sermon at the Baccalaureate Service in 2015. He is nationally known for his studies of the intersections of religion, politics and media culture. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Morehouse College and is an ordained Baptist minister with a doctorate and Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary. He was an assistant professor of religious studies at the University of California, Riverside. He will succeed Interim Dean **Jill Crainshaw ('84)**. Former Dean **Gail R. O'Day** died in September.

6 President Nathan O. Hatch announced establishment of the **President's Commission on Race, Equity and Community** to heighten awareness; encourage empathy, healing and understanding; and promote conversation and dialogue. A representative group of students, faculty, staff and external community members will convene at least monthly beginning in September to examine where the University needs to focus its attention moving forward. The commission is tasked with working toward offering specific, actionable recommendations. "Wake Forest belongs to all of us. We shape it every day with our actions and our commitment to one another. In a society where tolerance, empathy, compromise and forgiveness are undervalued, we will continue to nurture those virtues for our common good," Hatch said. "I remain committed to making Wake Forest a better place for all."

7 Atrium Health, Wake Forest Baptist Health and the **University** signed a memorandum of understanding to develop a second state-of-the-art campus of the Wake Forest School of Medicine in Charlotte. A final agreement is expected later this year. Atrium Health, a not-for-profit health care system with 42 hospitals and 900 care locations, will work with Wake Forest Baptist Health, a nationally ranked academic medical center and regional health care system across seven hospitals and more than 400 care locations. The plan is to bring together Atrium Health's clinical programs with

Wake Forest Baptist Health's clinical and research strengths.

8 Eric Ashley Hairston ('92) was named associate dean for academic advising and University associate professor, effective July 1. Hairston succeeds **Christy Buchanan (P '17, '19)**, who will return to her position as a psychology professor. Hairston, an associate professor of English and law and humanities at Elon University, coordinates Elon's independent major and has served as a prelaw, major and interdisciplinary minor adviser. He majored in English and political science at Wake Forest, where he was a Nancy Susan Reynolds Scholar. He served two terms on the Board of Visitors. He received his Master of Arts and Ph.D. in English language and literature from the University of Virginia and a law degree from the University of North Carolina.

9 The Department of English will honor **Provost Emeritus Ed Wilson ('43, P '91, '93)** by creating the **Edwin G. Wilson Distinguished Artist** program in the fall, thanks to a founding gift from the A.E. Finley Foundation. The program will sponsor one visiting creative writer per year, starting in the fall with **Nathaniel Mackey**, the Reynolds Price Professor of Creative Writing at Duke University, former chancellor of the Academy of American Poets and a Guggenheim Fellow.

10 "The Arts of Leading: Perspectives from the Humanities and Liberal Arts" was among the first major public initiatives of the Program for Leadership and Character. It featured a conversation on arts and leadership with **Derek S. Hicks**, associate professor of religion and culture in the divinity school, and **Renée Elise Goldsberry**, the Tony- and Grammy-winning star of the Broadway musical "Hamilton," and a performance by her in Wait Chapel.

11 Ellen Miller, professor of physical anthropology, co-authored a paper on her team's discovery of fossilized monkey teeth from 22 million years ago in northwest Kenya. The study, which garnered international attention, sheds light on a gap of millions of years in the fossil record of how Old World monkeys evolved. Miller gave the 2019 Poteat Lecture in April on what the fossil record for human and primate evolution tells us. The



15



Davis

17



Heilig

17



19



21



24



27

lecture honors **Hubert McNeill Poteat (1906, MA 1908, P '36, '40)**, a Latin scholar who taught from 1911 to 1956.

12 **George Saunders**, winner of the prestigious Man Booker Prize and author of "Lincoln in the Bardo" about the 16th president's loss of his young son, spoke at an event by the Creative Writing Program in the Department of English. The family of the late **Betty Jo Beeson Fitzpatrick ('50)** sponsored the event, with her daughter, **Joyce Lee Fitzpatrick (P '16)**, attending. Saunders, the recipient of a 2006 MacArthur Foundation "genius grant," worked with students during his visit. Among his advice to writers was to give every sentence the respect and attention it deserves.

13 Among the speakers sponsored by the **Eudaimonia Institute** was **Andrew Napolitano**, a New Jersey Superior Court judge, senior judicial analyst for Fox News Channel and author of seven books on the U.S. Constitution. He told the audience that when Congress cedes its power to the president, it illegally amends the Constitution by consent. In April, the institute presented **Steven Pinker**, author of "Enlightenment Now: The Case for Reason, Science, Humanism, and Progress," who contends that statistics show continuing progress on measures from poverty to happiness, despite the glum view offered by news, religion and politicians.

14 **Ron Stallworth**, a black detective in the Colorado Springs Police Department who infiltrated the Ku Klux Klan,

gave the keynote address for Black History Month. Spike Lee's 2018 "BlacKkKlansman" movie featured Stallworth's story. He told the audience he was disturbed by the resurgence and tolerance of white supremacists.

15 **Wake 'N Shake 2019** raised \$412,669.48 for the Brian Piccolo Cancer Research Fund during the annual 12-hour dance marathon on campus.

16 The **Wake Forest Wellbeing Center** received an Outstanding Sports Facility Award from NIRSA, the professional association for collegiate fitness, recreation and wellbeing. The renovation of the historic Reynolds Gym and the new Sutton Center opened fully in spring 2018.

17 **Brook Davis ('90, P '23)**, associate professor of theatre and dance, and **Kayla Heilig ('19)** received the University's 2019 Martin Luther King Jr. "Building the Dream" Awards.

18 **Christina Tsoules Soriano**, director of dance and associate provost for Arts and Interdisciplinary Initiatives, is among eight 2019–2020 Citizen Artist Fellows, chosen by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts for their positive social impact. She teaches dance to people with Parkinson's disease and has taken part in scientific studies on the benefits of improvisational dance.

19 Play-by-play announcer **Stan Cotten** received the annual Lindsey Nelson Broadcasting Award for an outstanding broadcaster who advances college football. He has

been the "Voice of the Demon Deacons" for 23 years on the Wake Forest Sports Network.

20 The **women's golf team** won its sixth ACC tournament, and **Emilia Migliaccio ('21)** won the individual title. The **men's tennis team** won its third ACC tournament in the past four years. Both teams had advanced to NCAA tournament play at press time.

21 The **Check Your Blind Spots** tour stopped by Wake Forest to give people the opportunity to learn about and explore ways to mitigate their unconscious biases.

22 Campus concerts by **The Unbroken Circle**, a Wake Forest-based old-time string band, raised more than \$28,000 for the Shalom Project to address poverty.

23 The **School of Business** hosted its inaugural Alumni Weekend in April. Events included a golf tournament, a 5K run, a State of the School Address, a workshop on developing a personal leadership philosophy, a data analytics workshop and breakout sessions on networking and career tools, as well as other fun events.

24 University Police Chief **Regina Lawson** was honored as Southeast Region Police Chief of the Year by the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators.

25 **Anna Grace Guercio ('19)**, who majored in Spanish and anthropology with a linguistics minor, interpreted Pope Francis' speech for National Panama TV at the World Youth Day 2019 in Panama. **Carlos Fasola (MA '16)** translated into English for various media, and Spanish Professor **Olgerda Furmanek** interpreted and led the interpreters who translated top-level press conferences for the Vatican and other governments.

26 Retired Professor of Education **Mary Lynn Redmond** received the 2019 Founders Award from the Southern Conference on Language Teaching.

27 **Alessandra Von Burg (P '14)**, associate professor of communication and chair of the Department of East Asian Languages and Culture, received the 2019 Engaged Faculty Award from the North Carolina Campus Compact, a coalition of 39 universities and colleges, for her teaching, scholarship and personal commitment to support refugees and immigrants.

Giving back from California

By Kerry M. King ('85)

FOR SOME CALIFORNIA ALUMNI and parents, joining one of the Wake Forest Giving Societies is a way to stay connected to the University. They might not be able to attend campus events as often as other members who live closer to campus, but they're OK with that. There are other benefits that are more important to them, such as "paying back" the opportunities they — or their children — had as students or showing that they support Wake Forest from the other side of the country.

Giving Societies require a five-year commitment to the Wake Forest Fund. Unrestricted gifts to the Wake Forest Fund support financial aid, faculty development, emerging programs for students, library and technology resources and facilities renovation.

Jan Wuertenberger Blackford ('68) knows better than most the importance of those annual gifts. When she lived in North Carolina in the 1970s and '80s, she promoted the annual funds as an alumni volunteer and president of the Alumni Council in 1980-81. She joined a Giving Society because it "felt like the right thing to do, a good way to get in the habit of providing continuing support."

But she fell out of the habit after she and her husband, Franklin, moved to California in 1996. They rejoined the President's Club last year after attending a Call to Conversation dinner. "Both of us are enthusiastic about what Wake Forest means and is doing" and wanted to support the University, she said.

"Since I was involved early on with the annual giving programs, I've always had an appreciation for the annual funds," said Blackford, a banking consultant who lives outside San Francisco. "Even living in California, I have never felt disconnected from Wake Forest. Because I felt connected, I felt it was important to join the President's Club."

Yemi Adegbonmire ('00, JD '05), who lives in Los Angeles, benefited from annual fund gifts as well as merit scholarships. She remains grateful for the mentors who made her path at Wake Forest possible, including Maya Angelou (L.H.D. '77), Barbee Myers Oakes ('80, MA '81) and Olga Valbuena-Hanson, the law school's Melanie Nutt, Simone Rose (P '16), Beth Hopkins ('73, P '12) and Denise Hartsfield (JD '91), and Forsyth County Chief Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Martin ('96, JD '99). "They instilled things in me that I didn't know that I needed at the time," she said. "That opened doors for me and made things possible."

Adegbonmire, a member of the law school's General Counsel Advisory Committee, was an entertainment lawyer at The Walt Disney Company before becoming general counsel for The Bail Project, a national nonprofit that covers bail for people in need who are awaiting trial. She credits her mother with inspiring her to join the President's Club by preaching the importance of giving back.



Wake Forest Giving Societies

Giving Societies require a five-year commitment to any Wake Forest Fund (College, School of Law, School of Business, School of Divinity, Graduate School, Student Aid, Z. Smith Reynolds Library).

Old Gold Society \$50,000+ annually
Society of 1834 \$25,000-\$49,999 annually
Founders' Circle \$10,000-\$24,999 annually
Pro Humanitate Society \$5,000-\$9,999 annually
Silver Society \$2,500-\$4,999 annually
President's Club \$1,000-\$2,499 annually (\$500 or more annually for undergraduate alumni within 10 years of graduation)

For more information on Giving Societies, visit wakewill.wfu.edu

"When I was in high school in Baltimore, my mother joined Bryn Mawr School's 1885 Society through a small donation she saved for all year. It was a goal of hers. She had a sense of pride in joining, and that's something that has stuck with me. It took me a while, but it was time to 'show up' for someone else" like previous alumni who supported her, she said.

John and Elizabeth Shaw (P '19, '21), who live in San Francisco, didn't know anyone at Wake Forest when their daughter, Margaret ('19), enrolled four years ago. Their son Henry followed two years later. They're now active members of Wake Forest's growing West Coast community and have hosted welcome parties, attended a Call to Conversation dinner and volunteered for Pro Humanitate Days in San Francisco. "Wake is truly unique in the inclusion of the entire family," Elizabeth Shaw said.

The decision to join the Founders' Circle was an easy one, they said. "Traditionally we have focused our charitable dollars on education," said John Shaw, a managing director with Merrill Lynch. "Those gifts have a huge multiplier effect; you're changing lives."



After a busy spring of alumni activities — to name just a few, Wake Women's Weekend and Camp Third Act on campus, and Pro Humanitate Days and WAKECommunity events around the country — the alumni office is already planning for a busy fall, starting with Homecoming, which is early this year (Sept. 20 and 21). One of my favorite events of the year is the annual Distinguished Alumni Awards dinner, which recognizes alumni who exemplify Pro Humanitate; you can read about this year's winners, Buck Cochran ('82), Donna Edwards ('80) and Anil Rai Gupta (MBA '92, LL.D. '17), in this issue. Finally, I'd like to thank the outgoing members of the

Alumni Council, who attended their last meeting in April, for their service to Wake Forest and fellow alumni. New members, selected to represent a diversity of backgrounds, class years and geographic locations, will join the council at our fall meeting.

— Sara Sitton Crawford ('90, P '20) | President, Wake Forest Alumni Council

LET US HEAR FROM YOU

Have a question?
Contact the Alumni Engagement Office at 800-752-8568 or alumni@wfu.edu

Pro Humanitate Day

More than 700 alumni and parents in 39 cities volunteered in their communities during the ninth annual Pro Humanitate Days in April. Most of the projects focused on food insecurity and environmental beautification.

Communities participating for the first time included Baltimore; Cincinnati; Minneapolis-St. Paul; Charleston, West Virginia; Portland, Oregon; and Maui, Hawaii. Alumni in London also participated for the first time by collecting food for a food bank.

Among the projects: volunteers served meals at shelters in Phoenix, San Francisco and New York City. Others worked at food banks in Los Angeles, Portland and Nashville, Tennessee. Alumni in Richmond, Virginia, landscaped the grounds around a homeless shelter. In Memphis, Tennessee, Wake Foresters volunteered at an animal shelter. In Winston-Salem, alumni and parents planted boxwoods in the front courtyard at Reynolda House Museum of American Art.



Palm Beach, Florida, alumni and parents volunteered at the Loggerhead Marinelife Center.

Understanding Wake Forest's History

The Wake Forest Historical Museum in the town of Wake Forest has hired a manager of academic and community learning to expand knowledge and understanding of Wake Forest's history. Sarah Soleim will work with faculty and students to develop academic programs, classes and research projects, both on the Old Campus and in Winston-Salem. Soleim, who is completing a Ph.D. in public history, has taught at N.C. State and worked at museums in Raleigh. The museum, which also includes the historic Calvin Jones House, houses a large collection of artifacts to interpret the history of Wake Forest up to the move to Winston-Salem in 1956 and the history of the town of Wake Forest.

UPCOMING EVENTS

alumni.wfu.edu

Homecoming Sept. 20-21

The Temptations will kick off Homecoming '19 during Party So Dear on Friday, Sept. 20, from 4:30–7:30 p.m. on Manchester Plaza. All Wake Foresters are invited. Undergraduate classes ending in "4" and "9" will celebrate at reunion parties on campus later that night. Signature events on Saturday include Festival on the Quad, the alumni tailgate and the Wake Forest-Elon football game.

Alumni Admissions Forum June 21 and Nov. 22

Alumni and their high school-aged children are invited to this special day hosted by the offices of Alumni Engagement and Undergraduate Admissions. Learn about the college admissions process, including applications, essay writing, interviews and scholarships and financial aid.

WAKEthe City June

WAKEthe City is a new signature event to close the academic year and recognize the volunteer leaders who make events possible throughout the year. Events will be held in Charlotte, Raleigh, Nashville, Atlanta, Chicago, New York, Houston, Denver, San Francisco, Washington, D.C., and Tampa, Florida. All alumni, parents and friends are invited.

WAKEWelcomes August

This new tradition to welcome recent graduates into the Wake Forest alumni family will be held around the start of fall-semester classes in August. Dozens of receptions will occur across the country, hosted by WAKECommunities. All alumni are invited to welcome the Class of 2019 into their local communities.

1960s

Daniel McGinn ('64, JD '67, P '90) was named to the 2019 North Carolina Super Lawyers list (employment and labor law). He is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, NC.



Lewis
('67, JD '70)



May
(MA '71)



Duck
('74)



Wilde-Ramsing
('74)



Bachtel
('75)



Meiburg
('75)

John M. Memory ('65, JD '68)

is author of "Mysteriously Missing College Courses: Important Information That Is Nearly Never Covered in a University or College Course" (Archway Publishing, 2018). Memory is a retired criminal justice professor in Columbia, SC, and a retired Army Reserve JAG LTC.

Michael J. Lewis ('67, JD '70) was named a Best Lawyer for 2019 by U.S. News & World Report. He is a senior partner and the owner of Mike Lewis Attorneys in Winston-Salem.

G. Edgar "Ed" Parker ('68, JD '71) was recognized in the 2019 Best Lawyers in America (family and divorce law). He also was selected for the 2018 North Carolina Super Lawyers list. He is a senior partner at Crumpler Freedman Parker & Witt in Winston-Salem.

Stancil Campbell ('69, MA '74) retired from American University in Cairo after 42 years of teaching theater and was named professor emeritus. He lives in Rockingham, NC.

William C. Findt III ('69) received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine from North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper. It is the most prestigious award given by the governor. Findt, who has worked in education for nearly 50 years, retired in November after serving as president of Bladen Community College since 2008. He and his wife, **JoAnne Tart Findt ('69)**, live in Elizabethtown, NC.

Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism at the National Institutes of Health. May is an internationally recognized expert in fetal alcohol syndrome and a professor in the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and an epidemiologist in the UNC Nutrition Institute.

David D. Ward Sr. ('72, JD '75, P '05, '08) was named to the 2019 North Carolina Super Lawyers list (medical malpractice). He is an attorney and co-chair of the medical malpractice group at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Raleigh.

Sigsbee W. Duck ('74, P '07) was elected president of the American Laryngological, Rhinological, and Otological Society Inc., also known as The Triological Society. The society promotes research into diseases related to the ears, nose and throat. Duck, a registered pharmacist and doctor, previously served as chief of staff at Sweetwater County Memorial Hospital in Wyoming, where he currently practices.

Mark Wilde-Ramsing ('74) led the state of North Carolina's recovery and preservation of artifacts from the sunken remains of the "Queen Anne's Revenge," the flagship of the pirate Blackbeard. Wilde-Ramsing oversaw the recovery in Beaufort Inlet from 1996 until 2012, when he retired as deputy archeologist with the state. He is co-author of "Blackbeard's Sunken Prize: The 300-Year Voyage of Queen Anne's Revenge" (UNC Press, 2018). Read more at bit.ly/2Mik7f4.

Chris Ann Bachtel ('75) was named vice president and trust officer at Exchange Bank, working out of the Trust and Investment Management office in Roseville, CA. She previously served as senior vice president and founding member of First Northern Bank's Asset Management and Trust Department, which was acquired by Exchange Bank.

Stan Meiburg ('75) was appointed chairman of North Carolina's Environmental Management Commission, which adopts rules to preserve the state's air and water resources. Meiburg directs Wake Forest's graduate programs in sustainability. He previously spent 39 years with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, most recently as acting deputy administrator.

Bill Satterfield ('75) retired after 32 years, including 26 years as executive director, at Delmarva Poultry Industry Inc., the nonprofit trade association for the chicken industry on the Delmarva Peninsula, which consists of Delaware,

the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia's Eastern Shore. He and his wife, Susan, live in Salisbury, MD.

Richard Dewitte Sparkman (JD '75, P '99) was inducted into Business North Carolina's 2019 Legal Elite Hall of Fame (bankruptcy law). He has practiced law for 40 years at Richard D. Sparkman & Associates in Angier, NC.

Sanford "Sandy" Archer ('77) celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. He was one of two founding physicians of the department and has helped train more than 40 ear, nose and throat doctors.

John M. Charles Jr. (MBA '78) was the featured artist for January and February at Waccamaw Library in Pawleys Island, SC. A painter, Charles primarily focuses on coastal and nature subjects. He retired to North Litchfield Beach, SC, in 2014 after a career at IBM and in internet sales and consulting.

Stephan Futrell ('78) was appointed by North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper as a Superior Court judge for Hoke, Scotland, Richmond and Anson counties. Previously, he was with Kitchin Neal Webb Webb & Futrell in Rockingham, NC, and was county attorney for Richmond County and city attorney for Hamlet.

1970s

Richard A. Honeycutt ('70, P '99) wrote "Acoustics in Performance" (Elektor, 2018), a guide to acoustic principles in sound systems and performance spaces. He lives in Lexington, NC.

Donald J. Kobos ('70, MA '74) was inducted into the 2018 Lone Star EMMY Silver Circle, honoring his 40 years in the broadcast industry. He spent much of his award-winning career at abc13-KTRK in Houston as a reporter and assistant news director. He is retired and has Parkinson's disease but remains active, including taking his therapy dog, Maggie Rose, to hospitals, nursing homes and schools.

Carroll "Chuck" Wall III ('70, JD '72) retired after 46 years as an attorney in Lexington, NC. He has handled cases in all 100 North Carolina counties.

Philip A. May (MA '71, P '02) received the 2018 Mark Keller Award from the National Institute on

Wake Forest Magazine welcomes Class Notes submissions from alumni. There are three ways to submit information:



STANDARD MAIL:

Class Notes Editor
Wake Forest Magazine
PO Box 7205
Winston-Salem, NC 27109-7205



EMAIL: classnotes@wfu.edu



ONLINE:

magazine.wfu.edu/class-notes/submit/



Steele
(’79)



Corbett
(’82)



Harton
(’82)



Babcock
(JD ’85)



Haas
(’85)



Langley
(’86, JD ’92)



Sorrell
(’86)



Baker
(’89, JD ’93)

Jo Sager Gilley (’78) is CEO of Overture Promotions, a promotional product and program agency in Chicago. She was an initial investor in the privately held, certified women-owned business and has served on the board of directors since 2001. She has more than 25 years of management, strategic planning and marketing experience.

Bob Singer (JD ’79) was named to the 2019 North Carolina Super Lawyers list (banking law). He is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, NC.

Jim A. Steele (’79) was appointed to the board of directors for Bookmarks, a bookstore and literary nonprofit in Winston-Salem. Steele is a jazz music announcer and producer at WSNC 90.5 FM radio.

1980s

Catherine Burroughs (’80) retired from Wells College in Aurora, NY, and is a visiting professor of English and performing arts and media studies at Cornell University. She recently published “Closet Drama: History, Theory, Form” (Routledge, 2019). She is a novelist, playwright and actress. She is on the Community Advisory Board for WFDD radio, which was affiliated with NPR by her late father, **Julian C. Burroughs (’51)**, professor emeritus of radio/TV/film.

Sarah Katherine “Kat” Burnette (’81, JD ’84) was appointed a District Court judge by North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper. Burnette, who has practiced law for more than 33 years, will preside in Franklin, Granville, Vance and Warren counties.

John D. Martin (’81) was named to the 2019 North Carolina Super Lawyers list (medical malpractice, defense). He is a trial lawyer and managing partner at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Wilmington, NC.

Theodore “Ted” Smyth (JD ’81) was named to the 2019 North Carolina Super Lawyers list (insurance law). He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Raleigh.

William T. Corbett Jr. (’82) was named partner at Coughlin Duffy LLP in Morristown, NJ. He is in the firm’s Insurance and Reinsurance Services Group, focused on insurance coverage litigation and counseling.

H. Lynn Harton (’82, P ’13), director and CEO of United Community Banks Inc., led the company to Forbes’ 100 Best Banks in America list

in 2018 for the fifth consecutive year. With 149 banking offices in Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee, United earned a top ranking in the J.D. Power U.S. Retail Banking Satisfaction Study in each of the past five years. Harton, who joined United as CEO in 2012, lives in Greenville, SC.

Jill Wilson (JD ’82) was named to the 2019 North Carolina Super Lawyers list (education law). She is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, NC.

Betsy Terry Anderson (’83) was appointed general counsel for the office of Wyoming Gov. Mark Gordon. She had been general counsel for the Wyoming State Treasurer’s Office since 2004.

Blake Absher (’84, P ’16) was promoted to assistant vice president, Wake Forest Funds, in the University Advancement office. Absher has worked at Wake Forest since 2007.

Kevin C. Black (JD ’84) was elected by the Virginia General Assembly as circuit judge of the 26th Judicial Circuit. Black began his eight-year term in May.

Suzanne Moyers (’84) won fourth place in the 2018 Writer’s Digest Annual Writing Competition, Young Adult category. Moyers is working on two novels and is a founding member of Montclair (NJ) Parents for Change, a voter registration group. Her son, Jassi Martin, joins Wake Forest’s Class of 2023 in the fall.

John W. Ormand III (’84, P ’17) was named to the 2019 North Carolina Super Lawyers list (business litigation). He is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Raleigh.

Jim W. Phillips Jr. (JD ’84) was named to the 2019 North Carolina Super Lawyers list (business litigation) and was recognized as one of the state’s Top 100 Lawyers. He also was named to Business North Carolina’s 2019 Legal Elite for litigation. He is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, NC.

John W. Babcock (JD ’85, P ’13, ’16) was named to Business North Carolina’s Legal Elite Hall of Fame (business law). He is a partner with Wall Babcock LLP in Winston-Salem.

Lee W. Gavin (’85, JD ’89) was appointed chief District Court judge for Randolph County (NC). He has served as a judge since 1998.

Jerry Haas (’85), head men’s golf coach at Wake Forest, received the Labron Harris Sr. Award from the Golf Coaches Association of America. The annual award honors a college or high school coach and Class A PGA professional who helps ensure growth of the game and represents the finest qualities of golf. Haas has led the Deacs to 31 tournament wins, including three NCAA regionals, in his 22 years as head coach.

Joseph G. Hemsley (’85) was selected for the 2019 Forbes Best-in-State Wealth Advisor list. Hemsley owns a personal financial planning practice, Ameriprise Financial Services, in Bethesda, MD.

Kerry M. King (’85), senior editor at Wake Forest Magazine, was honored with an Award of Excellence in feature writing in the District III (Southeast) competition by the national Council for Advancement and Support of Education. King was honored for “The Man Behind the Voice,” his story on **Jason Benetti (JD ’11)**, the television play-by-play announcer for the Chicago White Sox and an ESPN announcer. Read King’s story at bit.ly/2JRCKgc

William Paul Morgan Jr. (’85) is president and CEO of Capital Management Group of the Carolinas Inc., a wealth management and investment firm in Statesville and Wilmington, NC. He is serving his second term on the Statesville City Council and is treasurer of the Centralina Council of Governments.

Russell Shilling (’85) was named the first chief scientific officer of the American Psychological Association in Washington, DC, a leading scientific and professional organization representing psychology in the United States.

Joe E. Jeffreys (’86) teaches an undergraduate course at The New School in New York City called “RuPaul’s Drag Race and Its Impact.” The course studies how the hit reality TV show and other drag-themed shows and documentaries have impacted modern culture. The class was highlighted in the New York Post, various blogs and on WPIX-TV news.

D. Beth Langley (’86, JD ’92) was named to Business North Carolina’s 2019 Legal Elite (employment law) and the 2019 North Carolina Super Lawyers list of the state’s Top 50 Women Lawyers. She is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, NC.

Jeannette Sorrell (’86) and baroque orchestra Apollo’s Fire, with tenor Karim Sulayman, won a



Fannon
(‘89)



Gilbert
(‘89)



McAlhany
(‘89)



Davis
(‘90)



Flanagan
(JD ‘90)



Williams
(JD ‘90, MBA ‘91)



Baxley
(‘91)

2019 Grammy Award for best classical solo vocal album for their 2018 release “Songs Of Orpheus — Monteverdi, Caccini, D’India & Landi.” Sorrell is conductor and founding artistic director of Apollo’s Fire, based in Cleveland.

Ernest “Ernie” A. Osborn (‘87, P ‘18, ‘19, ‘21) was named to Morgan Stanley Wealth Management’s President’s Club, composed of the firm’s top financial advisers. Osborn is an executive director and financial adviser in the Winston-Salem office.

Bob King (JD ‘88) was named to the 2019 North Carolina Super Lawyers list (environmental law). He is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, NC.

Patrick W. Baker (‘89, JD ‘93, P ‘22) is city attorney for Charlotte. Baker had served as city attorney for Durham, NC, since 2008.

Brian Fannon (‘89) was named riverkeeper for the Yadkin Riverkeeper, an environmental group based in Winston-Salem that keeps watch over the Yadkin River. Fannon previously worked as a biologist, teacher and environmental educator.

James B. Gilbert III (‘89) is working with native Alaskans as a pediatrician for the Southcentral Foundation in Anchorage, AK. He lives in Chugiak, AK, with his wife, Kara, and their nine children.

Beth Dawson McAlhany (‘89) is senior director of development for the Northeast in the University Advancement office at Wake Forest.

1990

Forrest W. Campbell Jr. (JD, P ‘14) was named to the 2019 North Carolina Super Lawyers list (health care law). He is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, NC.

Edwin H. Clark has written a play “SHAME BOMB” about gun law reform. The play was performed at the Stagebox Theatre in Lexington, KY, and was also selected for a staged reading at the Fifth Third Bank Theater by the Cincinnati Playwrights Initiative.

Brook M. Davis (P ‘23), associate professor of theatre and dance at Wake Forest, was awarded the University’s 2019 MLK Jr. “Building the Dream” award. She was recognized for her volunteerism and mentorship in local schools.

Patrick H. Flanagan (JD) was named to the 2019 North Carolina Super Lawyers list (employee litigation, defense). He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Charlotte.

Jessica Tefft is the first director of digital arts at the Sawtooth School for Visual Art in Winston-Salem. Tefft, a professional photographer, is overseeing Sawtooth’s Digital Arts Studio, which teaches students how to create art using computers.

Sylvester Williams (JD, MBA ‘91) was named dean of the College of Business and Management at East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania. He has more than 30 years experience in foreign affairs, banking and education. He was most recently at Elizabethtown College as chair of the business department and in other roles.

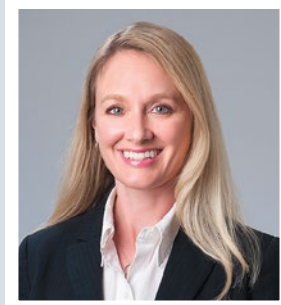
1991

Paul Allen Baxley was unanimously elected as the executive coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF), a Christian network of Baptist churches and individuals with its offices in Decatur, GA. Baxley previously held ministry positions in Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia.

Blaine Paxton Hall (PA) was appointed to the Board of Trustees for the North Carolina Medical Society Foundation. Hall, an author, public speaker, educator and consultant in gender medicine, is the founding provider of Duke Health’s adult gender medicine clinic in Durham, NC.



ALUMNI Q&A



Melanie Smith ('97) is president of WAKESanDiego and a former member of the Wake Forest Alumni Council. A studio art major originally from New Jersey, she moved to California to attend law school at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. She is a partner in the San Diego office of the law firm Selman Breitman LLP. Her husband, Evan Gibbs ('97), is director of woods in the Research and Development Department at Callaway Golf.

What do you like most about living in San Diego?

San Diego offers a nice balance of big city living (it's the eighth largest city in the United States) and a small-town community closeness. Everyone seems to only be "one or two degrees" from one another, which is very similar to the Wake Forest experience in many ways. Also, the weather obviously doesn't hurt.

What types of events do you have in San Diego?

I like to describe WAKESanDiego as "small but mighty." We aren't one of the larger groups, but we remain fairly active and enjoy getting together. We always make a point to participate in both of the annual events sponsored by Wake's Office of Alumni Engagement (Pro Humanitate Days and Lovefeast), as they keep our local alumni connected to the University and are always great experiences. We also like to have San Diego-specific events, such as a night at the local theater (when a Wake alum happened to be in town to direct a play), a day at the races, a picnic in the park and the occasional baseball game.

One of our local alums owns some escape rooms in California, and as soon as he opens one in San Diego that will be our next WAKESanDiego outing! Game watch events for football season are right around the corner. My husband and I (both big golf fans) usually buy "bottomless pitchers" of Arnold Palmers in memory of the Wake Forest legend for anyone that comes to watch the game.

How did Wake Forest influence your life and career?

(Art) professors Page Laughlin, David Faber and the late Robert Knott each left a lasting impact on me, and I will be forever grateful for their mentorship and wisdom. They taught me to be confident in my work and how to effectively communicate my viewpoint, both of which are indispensable to my success as an attorney. Overall, my Wake education taught me how to write skillfully and effectively, which obviously comes in handy for the practice of law.

Do you have any advice for recent graduates who would like to move to California?

Network! Wake Forest graduates are known to look out for our own and lift each other up. Don't be afraid to seek out favors or connections, as doors often open in very unexpected places, and it never hurts to ask.

For more information on WAKESanDiego and other alumni communities, visit wakecommunities.wfu.edu.



Lody
(MBA '91)



Harrell
(MBA '92)

Kimberley Smith Lody (MBA) was named president and CEO of Capital Senior Living Corp., one of the nation's largest operators of senior housing communities. She formerly served as president of GN Hearing North America. She received the 2018 Women in Business Award from the Twin Cities Business Journal in Minneapolis.

Jeffrey S. Whittle (JD/MBA) joined Womble Bond Dickinson LLP as managing partner to help open a Houston office. He also leads the firm's international IP energy practice group. He previously was at Hogan Lovells, a global law firm.

1992

Anil Rai Gupta (MBA, LLD '17) received a 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award from Wake Forest University. He also was named a 2019 Influential Leader by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. The designation highlights business school graduates who are visionaries in their fields. Gupta is chairman and managing director of Havells India Limited, one of the largest electrical equipment companies in India. Ten years ago he launched a midday-meal program that provides daily lunches to more than 60,000 schoolchildren in India.

Laura Crump Harrell was promoted to senior director, Alumni Engagement, at Wake Forest. Harrell has worked at Wake Forest since 2014, leading a variety of special programs and signature campus events, including Homecoming, Alumni Admissions Forum and Wake Women's Weekend.

Laura Bush Sedlacek (MA) was named to Healthcare.gov's Elite Circle of Champions, agents and brokers who have helped at least 100 consumers enroll in coverage through Healthcare.gov since the Affordable Care Act went into effect in 2013. Sedlacek is an insurance agent with Bush and Associates in Lenoir, NC.

David C. Styers is director of strategy and planning for Ascent Leadership Networks LLC in New York City. He previously was director of learning and development at the Presidio Trust in San Francisco.

1993

Donn Bullock was recognized by CRN Magazine, an IT industry publication, as a "2019 Chan-

nel Chief" based on professional achievements and strategies for driving growth and innovation. He is senior director and head of Americas Channel Sales at Fujitsu in the Raleigh area.

Allison Overbay Mullins (JD '96) was appointed by North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper to a four-year term on the Guilford Technical Community College Board of Trustees. Mullins is a partner at Turning Point Litigation/Mullins Duncan Harrell & Russell PLLC, a law firm she co-founded in Greensboro, NC. She was named one of the state's Top 50 women lawyers for 2019 by North Carolina Super Lawyers.

Rachel Weaver Paff was promoted to director of presidential advancement in University Advancement. She has worked at Wake Forest since 2010.

1994

Marc Blucas has an active career in acting, with a role in the TV series "The Fix" on ABC that premiered this spring and a starring role in a Hallmark Christmas movie, "Holiday for Heroes," set to premiere in November. He played basketball at Wake Forest. He lives in New Hope, PA, with his wife, two children and two stepchildren.

Donny C. Lambeth (MBA) of Winston-Salem was named a senior chair of the North Carolina House Appropriations Committee. Lambeth, in his fourth term representing House District 75, will lead the state budget process in the House.

Marc Palmieri is an assistant professor in the School of Liberal Arts at Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry, NY. After being drafted by the Toronto Blue Jays and attending Wake Forest on a baseball scholarship, he finished his career as the second-winningest pitcher in school history. He went on to a career as an actor, screenwriter and stage director. His play "Levittown" was a New York Times Critics' Pick. His latest play, "The Groundling," had its eighth production since premiering in 2015 in New York City. He is also guest faculty at The City College of New York's MFA program in Creative Writing.

Jennifer Van Zant (JD) was named to the 2019 North Carolina Super Lawyers list (business litigation). She was also listed in the Top 100 North Carolina Lawyers and Top 50 North Carolina Women Lawyers. She is a partner at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, NC.

1995

Edwin L. West III (JD) was named to the 2019 North Carolina Super Lawyers list (criminal defense). He was also named to Business North



Bullock
(93)



Mullins
(93, JD '96)



Paff
(93)



Blucas
(94)



Palmieri
(94)



Williams
(JD '96)

Carolina's 2019 Legal Elite list for criminal law. He is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in its Raleigh and Wilmington, NC, offices.

1996

Brian Christian Brady is working for Chandler Concrete Co. in business development and sales covering the North Carolina counties of Forsyth, Guilford, Rowan, Davie, Davidson and Surry.

Henry "Hal" L. Kitchin Jr. (JD) was named "Lawyer of the Year" for antitrust law in Business North Carolina's 2019 edition of N.C. Legal Elite. Kitchin is a partner in the Wilmington office of McGuireWoods LLP.

Kris Vess was promoted to vice president of global continuous improvement for Masonite, a door manufacturer. Vess lives with his wife and two children in Oak Ridge, NC.

Kevin J. Williams (JD) was named to the 2019 North Carolina Super Lawyers list (personal injury) for the fifth year in a row. He is the manager of the Law Office of Kevin J. Williams in Winston-Salem.

1997

Dan Katzenbach (JD) was named to Business North Carolina's 2019 Legal Elite for construction law. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Raleigh.





Lyman
(‘99)



Hostinsky
(‘00)



Gunter
(‘02)



Sims
(‘02)



Stump
(‘02, JD ‘05)



Deak
(JD ‘03)

2002

Nathan D. Gunter is editor-in-chief of Oklahoma Today magazine, the state's official magazine. It was named 2018 Magazine of the Year for magazines of 35,000 circulation or less by the International Regional Magazine Association.

1998

Coe W. Ramsey (JD) was named to the 2019 North Carolina Super Lawyers list (entertainment and sports law). He is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Raleigh.

1999

Dustin Lyman is president and general manager of Copper Mountain Ski Resort in his home state of Colorado. A former football and baseball player at Wake Forest, Lyman played five seasons in the NFL. He previously held executive roles at Famous Brands International, Vail Resorts and Dish Network.

2000

Jason W. Edsall (MD) is chief medical officer of Northern Hospital of Surry County in Mount Airy, NC. He continues to work full-time as an attending physician in the hospital's Emergency Department and as medical director of Northern's Advanced Primary Stroke Center.

Jason R. Harris (JD) has received the AV Rating from Martindale-Hubbell, a peer review rating to reflect an attorney's ethical standards and ability. He is a partner at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP (CSH Law), based in the Wilmington, NC, office. He serves as chair of the CSH Law Admiralty and Maritime Law Practice Group.

John Hendricks was hired as pitching coach for Wake Forest's baseball team. As a standout pitcher for the Deacs, Hendricks ranks as the program's all-time leader with 34 career wins and 409.2 innings pitched. He worked in Major League Baseball for nine years, most recently as the national pitching supervisor for the New York Mets.

Michael Hostinsky was promoted to partner at the Atlanta-based accounting firm Bennett Thrasher LLP. Hostinsky leads the firm's Risk Advisory Services practice.

Kelly Meachum McConnico was promoted to assistant vice president of alumni engagement at Wake Forest. She was executive director of alumni services. She has worked at Wake Forest since 2003.

2001

Amy Elizabeth Beresky has moved from Connecticut back to western Massachusetts. She continues to work in analytics for Cigna Healthcare.

Jenny Everett was inducted into the Vermont Sports Hall of Fame after her standout career as a field hockey player. She finished her Wake Forest career as the all-time leader in goals and points and earned All-American honors in 1999 and 2000. She joined the U.S. World Cup field hockey team. In 2013, she became the first field hockey player inducted into the Wake Forest Sports Hall of Fame.

Cameron Williard Hogg of Alexandria, VA, was awarded the 2018 George Washington University School of Nursing Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching. Hogg is an assistant professor in the family nurse practitioner program. She was elected president of GWU's Phi Epsilon Chapter of the Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society for 2019-2021.

Emily D. Kite is assistant dean for student affairs at the University of Wisconsin Law School in Madison.

Shannon "Missy" Sumerell Spainhour (JD) was named to Business North Carolina's 2019 Legal Elite for employment law and the 2019 North Carolina Super Lawyers list. She is a partner at Davis Hartman Wright PLLC in Asheville, NC.

J. Greer Vanderberry Jr. (JD) has received an AV Rating from Martindale-Hubbell, a peer review rating system based on an attorney's ethical standards and professional ability. He is a partner at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in the firm's Raleigh office. He is a member of the Workers' Compensation and Alternative Dispute Resolution Practice groups.

Carrie G. Vey, program director for the Family Medicine Residency Program at Halifax Health in Daytona Beach, FL, was elected vice president of the Florida Academy of Family Physicians. She also is a clinical assistant professor for the Florida State University College of Medicine Daytona Beach Regional Campus.

Lamaya Covington Williams (MALS '05) of Lewisville, NC, is vice president for Big Brothers Big Sisters Services Inc. in Forsyth and Davie (NC) counties. Williams previously served as the agency's director of operations for three years.

Kathryn "Kate" Turner Pope has published a children's book, "The Giving Crusade" (Warren Publishing, 2018) to teach young readers about kindness and the importance of giving back. Pope, a first-time author, works as a wedding and event photographer in Efland, NC, where she lives with her husband, **Andy Pope ('02)**.

Calvin Matthew Sims completed his doctorate in lifespan developmental psychology from N.C. State University. He is an instructor of psychology for Duke University's Talent Identification Program.

Bryan Starrett Jr. was named to the 2019 North Carolina Super Lawyers list (employment litigation: defense). He was also named to Business North Carolina's 2019 Legal Elite list and recognized as a Young Gun. He is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, NC.

Jacob R. Stump (JD '05) is a partner at Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick LLP. He is a medical malpractice litigator in the Charlotte office.

Gregory M. Wallace (MSA '03) was promoted from fund controller to chief financial officer (funds) at TA Associates, a global growth private equity firm. He has worked at the company's Boston office since 2010.

Ed Wright (MBA) was named Wesley R. Elingburg Distinguished Professor of Business Innovation at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC, where he has been a faculty member since 2009. He has more than 30 years of senior management experience and has launched more than a dozen new products into global distribution.

2003

Kyle Deak (JD) was named managing partner of Troutman Sanders' Raleigh office, where he specializes in financial services litigation.

Scott R. Eldridge (JD) is a senior principal with Miller Canfield PLC and resident director of the firm's Lansing, MI, office.

Benjamin David Hill (MA) was awarded Fellow status by the National Academy of Neuropsychology (NAN) and elected to the NAN board of directors. Hill is an associate professor of neuropsychology at the University of South Alabama.

David "Gil" Schuette was selected as a member of the Tennessee Bar Association Leadership Law Class of 2019. Schuette is one of four Wake Forest alumni selected for the 35-member class. He is an attorney with Sims Funk PLC in Nashville, TN.



Seedorf
(‘03, JD ‘06)

Scott M. Seedorf (JD ‘06)

was named to the Super Lawyers list of Rising Stars for the second year in a row. He is a partner at O’Donoghue & O’Donoghue LLP in Washington, DC, and the deputy general counsel of a North American labor union for plumbers and pipefitters.

Carolyn "Kit" Wilkinson Thomson was recognized for 15 years of federal service in the Defense Intelligence Agency. She is a senior analyst in the agency’s Asia Pacific Regional Center in Washington, DC.

2004

Lazetta Rainey Braxton (MBA) received a "See It, Be It Role Model" award in InvestmentNews’ 2018 Excellence in Diversity & Inclusion Awards. She also received a "Heart of Financial Planning" award from the Financial Planning Association. Braxton is the founder/CEO of Financial Fountains LLC in Baltimore. Her financial advice has been highlighted in The Wall Street Journal, Money Magazine, CNBC and other media outlets.

Ben R. Norman (JD) was named to Business North Carolina’s 2019 Legal Elite for litigation. He is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, NC.

G. William Perry (MAEd ‘05) was selected as a member of the Tennessee Bar Association Leadership Law Class of 2019. Perry is one of four Wake Forest alumni selected for the 35-member class. He is an attorney with Butler Snow LLP in Memphis, TN.

Jonathan L. Slaughter (MD) was awarded a five-year, \$3 million research grant from the National Institutes of Health to study ways to provide better care for preterm infants by early prediction of a common condition that limits blood flow through the lungs. He is a researcher and neonatologist at Nationwide Children’s Hospital and The Ohio State University in Columbus, OH.

2005

Bradley P. Kline (JD) was named a 2019 North Carolina Rising Star by North Carolina Super Lawyers. He is a partner at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Charlotte, where he specializes in worker’s compensation law.

Robert H. Meek III has left active duty after almost nine years in the U.S. Army’s Judge Advocate General’s Corps. He is a staff attorney on the



Kline
(JD ‘05)



Murray
(JD ‘05)



Riley
(‘05)



Barnes
(PhD ‘06)



Champlin
(‘06, MBA ‘15)

Central Legal Staff for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces in Washington, DC. He continues to serve in the Army Reserves as a team leader in the 10th Legal Operations Detachment.

Megan S. Murray (JD) has opened her own practice, The Family Law Offices of Megan S. Murray, in Hazlet, NJ. She was selected as the 10th female attorney in New Jersey to be an affiliate of the Matrimonial Lawyers Alliance of New Jersey.

James Riley is playing for the Tacoma (WA) Stars in the Major Arena Soccer League. The former Deacon standout has played pro soccer since 2005, including with the Seattle Sounders of the MLS during three consecutive U.S. Open Cup seasons. He retired from the MLS in 2015 and spent time as a broadcaster before returning to competitive play.

2006

Amber Pittman Barnes (PhD) was promoted to head of global medical writing at UCB Biosciences Inc., a biopharmaceutical company in Raleigh. She oversees a global team of 25-plus medical writers.

Susan Payne Carter was promoted to associate professor of economics at the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY.

John Champlin (MBA ‘15) joined Wake Forest’s Office of Alumni Engagement as the director of engagement programs, collaborating with alumni around the world. Previously Champlin worked in the University’s Professional Development Center.





Pinson
(‘06, JD ‘09)



Fiorilla
(‘07)



Kane
(JD ‘07)



Senter
(‘07, JD ‘12)



Eggert
(MALS ‘08)



Peck
(JD ‘08)



Kirby
(JD/MBA ‘09)



Chesson
(JD ‘10)

Meredith A. Pinson (JD ‘09) was named a partner at McGuireWoods LLP in Charlotte, where she specializes in labor and employment law.

2007

Audrey M. Calkins was selected as a member of the Tennessee Bar Association Leadership Law Class of 2019. Calkins was one of four Wake Forest alumni selected for the 35-member class. She is an attorney with Ogletree Deakins in Memphis, TN.

Louis "Lou" Fiorilla was named partner at the Atlanta office of Burr & Forman LLP. Fiorilla practices financial services and commercial litigation.

Patrick M. Kane (JD) was certified as an appellate specialist by the N.C. State Bar Board of Legal Specialization. Kane is a partner at Fox Rothschild LLP in the firm's Greensboro, NC, and Charlotte offices.

Anna Love of Winston-Salem completed her Ph.D. in Italian studies at Indiana University Bloomington and teaches Italian at Elon University and High Point University.

Courtney Epps Read (JD ‘10) was selected as a member of the Tennessee Bar Association Leadership Law Class of 2019. She is one of four Wake Forest alumni selected for the 35-member class. Read is an attorney with Watson Roach PLC in Knoxville, TN.

David A. Senter Jr. (JD ‘12) was named a shareholder at Young Moore and Henderson, a law firm in Raleigh. He has been recognized as a Rising Star by North Carolina Super Lawyers the last three years.

2008

M. Lynne Eggert (MALS) is associate professor and director of the Radiation Therapy Program at Augusta University College of Allied Health Sciences. Eggert also was named a faculty scholar by the Chancellor's Office of the University System of Georgia.

Nicholas L. Embrey completed his Ph.D. in economics at the University of Virginia. He is an economist for the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) in Washington, DC.

Laura Finley Howell was appointed vice president and general counsel for Comfort Systems USA, a leading provider of commercial and industrial HVAC services. Howell has worked for Comfort Systems since 2014, previously serving as associate general counsel.

Margaret McGowan Mabie received her MA in economics from the University of Southern California in 2018.

Erin Comerford Miller (JD) is a full-time photographer after a decade of practicing law. She specializes in interiors and architecture and is based in the Charlotte area.

Clint S. Morse (JD) was named a Young Gun in Business North Carolina's 2019 Legal Elite listing. He also was named a Rising Star in the 2019 North Carolina Super Lawyers list. He is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, NC.

Antonia "Toni" Peters Peck (JD) was named to Business North Carolina's 2019 Legal Elite. She is a partner in Nelson Mullins' Raleigh office, where she specializes in health care law.

Chad R. Ziepfel (JD) was named to the 2019 Ohio Rising Stars list by Super Lawyers. He is a partner at Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP in Cincinnati, where he specializes in white-collar criminal defense.

2009

Kristin Henderson (CRNA) is an assistant professor and director of simulation for the Center for Experiential and Applied Learning at Wake Forest School of Medicine. She graduated from the Nurse Anesthesia program.

Kristen M. Kirby (JD/MBA) was named a partner at McGuireWoods LLP in Raleigh, where she specializes in public finance transactions.

Elena Meadows (CRNA) is pursuing her doctorate as a member of the inaugural Doctor of Nursing Practice class at Wake Forest's Nursing Academic Program.

Benjamin J. McMichael is an assistant professor of law at the University of Alabama School of Law in Tuscaloosa, AL.

Elizabeth "Lizzie" Ward helped propel her Winston-Salem company, Sunshine Beverages, to

a 200 percent increase in grocery sales in 2018. Ward serves as president of the company, whose energy drinks are sold across the Southeast, including at Lowes Foods, Food Lion and Publix.

2010

Benjamin S. Chesson (JD) was named to Business North Carolina's 2019 Legal Elite. He is a partner at Nelson Mullins in Charlotte, where he practices business and product liability litigation.

Angelia Duncan (JD) is a partner in the Atlanta/Charlotte offices of Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP. She specializes in business and employment matters.

Neubia L. Harris (JD) opened The Law Office of Neubia L. Harris PLLC in Raleigh. Harris practices education and juvenile law.

Clark D. Tew (JD) is a partner at Pope McMillan law firm in Statesville, NC. His primary focus areas are civil litigation, employment matters and appeals.

2011

Ryan Hilton (MBA) is director of finance for Biscuitville Fresh Southern, a Greensboro (NC)-based fast-food chain in North Carolina and Virginia. He previously worked as senior finance manager for Advance Auto Parts.

Elliott W. Isaac completed his Ph.D. in economics at the University of Virginia. He is an assistant professor of economics at Tulane University in New Orleans.

Afton Vechery was named to Forbes' 2018 "30 under 30" list for consumer technology. Vechery is co-founder of a San Francisco-based startup, Modern Fertility, which offers low-cost fertility tests and helps women better understand their fertility earlier in life.

2012

Katherine Barber-Jones (JD) was named a 2019 Rising Star by North Carolina Super Lawyers. She is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Raleigh, where she specializes in state, local and municipal law.

Megan Bosworth Hoyt was named assistant director, Alumni Personal and Career Development, in the Office of Personal and Career Development at Wake Forest. She previously worked in University Advancement at Wake Forest.

Jasmine M. Pitt (JD '15) is president of the Forsyth County Bar Association Young Lawyers Division for 2018-2019. She also was selected to the North Carolina Bar Association's Leadership Academy Class of 2019. Pitt is an attorney with Bennett Guthrie Latham PLLC in Winston-Salem.



Harris
(JD '10)



Hoyt
('12)



Pitt
('12, JD '15)



Sadler
(JD '14)



McClaren
('15, MAM '16)

2013

Dana Mullen Graber (JD) was appointed senior director of global packaging regulations for the Plastics Industry Association in Washington, DC. She will lead the association's programs that relate to the safety of plastic packaging. She was previously regulatory counsel for the Food Marketing Institute.

2014

Jenica Erin Cassidy (JD) joined Lerch, Early & Brewer in Bethesda, MD, as an associate in elder law with its estates/trusts practice.

Mattie DelVecchio is manager of enterprise brand marketing at Hilton's corporate headquarters in McLean, VA. She has worked with the Hilton brand since 2016.

Brandon E. Heffinger (JD) joined the law firm of Smith Anderson in Raleigh, practicing a wide range of business litigation. Previously, he was a lawyer in the Charlotte office of a global law firm. Before law school, he served as a major in the U.S. Marine Corps and still serves in the Reserve.

Brittany Whitaker Lavis (MBA) is chief financial officer of Tenet Healthcare's Detroit Medical Center. She previously was CFO of Tenet's Southern California Group of seven hospitals.

P. Bradenham "Brad" Michelle IV joined the immigration practice group at McCandlish Holton PC, a law firm in Richmond, VA. He earned his law degree from the University of Richmond School of Law.

Ashley Sadler (JD) was named to the Rising Stars in the Mortgage Industry by the Massachusetts Mortgage Bankers Association. Sadler is business and compliance counsel for CATIC, a title insurance underwriter.

Kristin H. Smith (JD '17) is a staff attorney with the National Veterans Legal Services Program in Washington, DC.

Douglas C. Tsao (JD) joined Williams Mullen law firm as an associate in the Raleigh office. Tsao, who holds a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of North Carolina, advises clients on intellectual property issues, including patent litigation.

Paula Wells (MDiv) is co-pastor of Second Reformed United Church of Christ in Lexington, NC. She is sharing pastoral duties with her husband, the Rev. Jim Luck, an adjunct teacher at Wake Forest's Divinity School. Luck has served as the church's interim pastor for the past three years.

2015

Blake M. McClaren (MAM '16) is assistant director of Enrollment Management Recruiting at the Wake Forest School of Business.

Daniel Harrison Segall is pursuing his dreams as a musician and songwriter in Nashville, TN, performing as Dan Harrison. His first single, "Nowhere Bar," was released in 2019 and is available on Spotify.

Chaowei Zhu (MA) is assistant dean for global initiatives in Wake Forest's Graduate School of Arts & Sciences. Zhu oversees planning and managing international promotion and development and building relationships with global institutions. He has 15 years of teaching and leadership experience in higher education.

2016

Hannah Elizabeth Duane joined the University Advancement team at Wake Forest as project coordinator for the Call to Conversation series.



This is leadership.

Wake Forest is proud to welcome three new leaders to our Board of Trustees.

Follow these leaders and more at

wakewill.wfu.edu

#WakeWill

A legend retires and a Deacon returns

For Ron Wellman, his first visit to Wake Forest, in 1984, was a baseball game. The second, four years later, was a football game.

"On both of those occasions, Linda and I walked around campus, and both of us said, 'What a neat place. This place is beautiful. Wouldn't it be neat to be at a place like this?'"

Wellman got that opportunity in October 1992, when he was named Wake Forest athletic director. Not even a decade had passed since those campus visits that, no matter the score, charmed him and his wife: the time he was the baseball coach who won a doubleheader over Marvin "Skip" Crater's Deacons and the other when he was an athletic director who watched his Illinois State football team lose to the Wake Forest team coached by Bill Dooley.

Now, Wellman was a Deacon. He succeeded Gene Hooks ('50, P '81), who retired after 28 years. During Wellman's first year on the job, he met an impressive senior destined to become Wellman's own successor.

This year, after nearly 27 years, Wellman (P '98, '01), has retired as athletic director, handing the reins to that young man: John Currie ('93).

"It has been an incredible privilege to serve as your athletic director," said Wellman, who announced his retirement in March and stepped down May 1. "This University has provided my family an outstanding opportunity to develop relationships with so many phenomenal coaches and student-athletes, as well as faculty, staff and community members."

Wellman, 71, was the longest-tenured athletic director in Division I and a national leader in intercollegiate athletics. He was named the College Athletic Director of the Year in 2007-08 in *Street & Smith's Sports Business Journal*.

During his tenure, Wellman led Wake Forest to new heights in championships,

facilities and financial support. Wake Forest won five team and seven individual national titles and 24 ACC championships and emerged as a national powerhouse in golf, tennis, men's soccer and field hockey.

"Ron has led Wake Forest athletics with grace, integrity and a commitment to excellence without pretension," said



Wellman, top, and Currie

Wake Forest President Nathan O. Hatch. "He has overseen the most successful period in our athletics history, currently ranking first in the Directors' Cup in the ACC while achieving a student-athlete graduation rate of 94 percent."

At a news conference in March, Wellman recalled that shortly after he was hired in 1992, athletic department

staffer Julie Griffin ('69) gave him a gold Deacon head lapel pin. "I have worn this Deacon head for 27 years, and I've worn it proudly for 27 years. No, you're not getting it," he told Currie. "But I found my Deacon's brother, and John, you get the brother," he said as he "pinned" and embraced his successor.

Currie's Wake Forest story began in 1989 in Kitchin 304B, a room Currie visited, much to the surprise of its current occupant, before the news conference. His story "continues today with a chapter that I could never have imagined as an 18-year-old freshman," Currie said. "The best of everything I have in my life — my wife and family, my professional values, my career and my friendships — begins with Wake Forest."

After graduating as a history major with a minor in political science, Currie was assistant director of the Deacon Club and assistant athletic director. He left for the University of Tennessee in 2000, where he rose from assistant athletic director for development to executive associate athletic director.

He was named athletic director at Kansas State University in 2009 and led the Wildcats through eight years of academic, athletic and fundraising success. In 2013, he was named the Under Armour Athletic Director of the Year and received the Bobby Dodd Athletic Director Award.

Currie returned to Tennessee in 2017 as vice chancellor and director of athletics. After leaving later that year, he taught at Columbia University in New York and was a consultant for the University of Texas at Austin. Currie and his wife, Mary Lawrence Hibbits Curry ('96, MSA '97), have three children, Jack, Virginia and Mary-Dell.

"This is a dream come true," Currie said. "It's the biggest challenge of my career to follow a legend like Ron and fulfill the hopes and aspirations of my fellow alumni."



Wellman's retirement capped a 48-year career in college athletics. A native of Ohio, he was a pitcher at Bowling Green State University, where he earned his undergraduate and master's degrees. From 1971 to 1981, he was a teacher, coach and, for five years, athletic director at Elmhurst College in Illinois. He was head baseball coach at Northwestern for five seasons and athletic director at Mankato State University (now Minnesota State University, Mankato) for one year. From 1987 to 1992, he was athletic director at Illinois State.

During Wellman's tenure leading the athletic department, Wake Forest won numerous national and conference titles. In May 2018, Wake Forest won three national championships in eight days with a team title in men's tennis and individual titles for Petros Chrysochos ('19) in men's tennis and Jennifer Kupcho ('19) in women's golf.

The men's soccer team won the national championship in 2007 and has been to five of the past 13 College Cups. Field hockey has appeared in 10 Final Fours in the past 19 years and won national titles in 2002, 2003 and 2004. The men's and women's golf teams are perennial national contenders. The football program, which won the ACC title in 2006 and played in the Orange Bowl, has made seven bowl appearances in the past

13 seasons and has won three consecutive bowl games in the last three seasons.

Also, under Wellman's leadership, Wake Forest raised more than \$400 million for athletics. Since 2008, Wake Forest has invested \$250 million to build athletic facilities that are now among the best in the country, including McCreary Tower at BB&T Field; McCreary Field House; the Arnold Palmer Golf Complex; the Sutton Sports Performance Center; the Shah Basketball Complex; and the Wake Forest Tennis Complex, which hosts the ATP's Winston-Salem Open. The University has made improvements to Spry Stadium, Kentner Stadium and the Doc Martin football practice fields.

The University also purchased the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum and the David F. Couch Ballpark from the city of Winston-Salem.

Wellman noted that his family has grown up at Wake Forest. Two of his daughters, Nicole Rice ('98, MD '04) and Melissa Norman ('01, MAEd '04), are double Deacons, while daughter Angie Lynde works at the School of Business.

"We have been so proud to be a part of this family, this University," Wellman said. "I can't tell you how much I look forward to the future of this department. I'm as excited about the future as I have been at any point in my career."

"Ron has served Wake Forest true to the same principles by which he lives his life: faith, family and character. He has exemplified what Wake Forest stands for on and off the field and has enhanced Wake Forest's reputation nationally."

GERALD F. ROACH ('80, JD '82, P '09, '12)

CHAIR, WAKE FOREST BOARD OF TRUSTEES

"Ron has been an enormously respected and impactful leader in college athletics for decades. Wake Forest, the Atlantic Coast Conference and college athletics have benefited from his value-driven leadership, integrity, vision and consistency of purpose."

JOHN SWOFFORD

COMMISSIONER, ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE

"For 27 years, Ron has been one of the most exceptional leaders in college sports. He has overseen unprecedented success in the Deacon athletics program both on and off the field, and led the largest facilities building program in college sports the past decade. Ron is widely regarded in our industry as the benchmark for leadership, courage and achievement."

BEN C. SUTTON ('80, JD '83, P '14, '19)

CHAIRMAN, TEALL CAPITAL
FOUNDER AND FORMER CHAIRMAN
AND CEO, IMG COLLEGE

"If you look at Ron Wellman's full body of work, I'm not sure any athletic director in the country has done as well as he has. If Ron is not the most-respected athletic director in the country, then he is certainly in the top 10."

MIKE HAMRICK

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS,
MARSHALL UNIVERSITY



Johnson
(MSL '17)



Kryst
(JD/MBA '17)



Escalante
(JD '18)

Liron "Lee" Sheetrit (MBA) opened Pokeatery, a restaurant in the Epicentre in Uptown Charlotte that specializes in poke, a raw salad found in Hawaiian cuisine. The restaurant is the first East Coast location of Pokeatery, a franchise based in California.

2017

Allyson "Ally" Haran is a member of the North Carolina Courage, a National Women's Soccer League team based in Raleigh. Haran previously played with UMF Selfoss, a top professional team in Iceland. She started 66 games as a defender at Wake Forest and served as team captain her junior and senior seasons.

Meghan R. Holland (JD) was awarded a year-long Public Policy Fellowship with The Fund for

American Studies in Washington, DC. Holland is legislative counsel for U.S. Rep. Ralph Norman, R-S.C.

Jennifer M. Johnson (MSL) joined the Raleigh office of Riddle & Brantley LLP. She focuses on civil litigation and tort law.

Cheslie C. Kryst (JD/MBA) was named Miss USA 2019 in May and advances to the Miss Universe competition. She was previously named Miss North Carolina USA. While in law school, she was on the team that won the 2017 American Association for Justice Trial Advocacy Competition. She is an attorney at Poyner Spruill LLP in Charlotte.

2018

Katherine Didier Escalante (JD) joined the civil litigation team at Hedrick Gardner LLP in Charlotte.

Allison H. Greene (JD) is an associate attorney for Robert Peirce & Associates in Pittsburgh. Greene previously worked for the Allegheny County (PA) District Attorney's Office and the Innocence and Justice Clinic at the Wake Forest School of Law.

Thomas C. Nash of Belleair, FL, was awarded a Richter Scholarship from Wake Forest to examine efforts to integrate Māori medical practices

into the westernized health care system of New Zealand. He presented his research during a conference in South Korea.

Mike J. Stephens (JD) joined Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP as an associate in the litigation practice group in the firm's Nashville, TN, office. As a student, he was executive editor of the Wake Forest Law Review and a board member for the Wake Forest Moot Court.

Marriages

John Meroney ('94) and Meredith Davis-Williams. 3/17/18 at the Frederick Loewe Estate in Palm Springs, CA. They live in Los Angeles. The wedding party included Patricia Beauchamp ('94), Paul Bullock ('02), Chadwick D. Davis ('95), Greg Everett ('93) and Eric A. Surface ('92).

John Claude Barden ('02) and Hope Clapp. 7/25/15 in Winston-Salem. They live in Rural Hall, NC. The wedding party included Andrew G. Daugherty ('02), Peter J. Duquette ('02) and Timothy J. Kennerly ('02). William J. Watson ('98) officiated. The parents of the groom are John Frederick Barden ('70) and Deborah Hodge Barden ('70).

Amber Sands ('04) and Martin Grant Erskine. 6/6/18 in Summerfield, NC. They live in Durham, NC.

Jill Christine Bader ('05) and David Joseph Thompson. 1/5/19 in Nashville, TN, where they live. The wedding party included Jill's brother, Eric Bader ('10).

Annie Lausier ('05) and Michael Chrien. 9/22/18 in San Francisco. They live in San Mateo, CA. The wedding party included Katherine Bontrager Quinlan ('08).

Colleen Tremont ('07) and Justin Matthew Coons. 3/2/19 in Charleston, SC. They live in Southern Pines, NC.

Jean Chua ('09) and Wes Griswold. 11/11/18 in Asheville, NC. They live in St. Petersburg, FL. The wedding party included Allison Emrey ('15) and Nannette Hill ('09).

Kyle Louis Sullivan ('09) and Amanda Theresa Smith. 12/15/18 in New York City. They live in San Francisco.

Darla Beam (MSA '10) and Derek Pastwick. 9/22/18 in Cornelius, NC. They live in Mooresville, NC. The wedding party included Brendan Dawal (MBA '13).

Katie Hayes Harrell ('10) and **Joe Edward Abernethy ('10)**. 3/16/19 in Winston-Salem. They live in New York City. The wedding party included Claire Matlack Carucci ('10), Charlie Falck ('10), Katie Hoge ('10, MD '14), John Moody ('10) and Ryan Wilde ('10).

Megan Bosworth ('12) and **Cody Hoyt (MBA '14)**. 11/3/18 in Winston-Salem, where they live. The wedding party included Alex Alleman (MBA

↔ *Before you were* ↔

**PIONEERS, LEADERS,
VISIONARIES, HUMANITARIANS,
RULE BREAKERS, RISK-TAKERS
AND CHANGE MAKERS
— YOU WERE DEACS. —**

➤ *And you always will be.* ◀

Congratulations, Class of 2019.

loyaldeac.wfu.edu



'14), Paige Bosworth ('13, MBA '17), Sydney Bailey Dolias ('12), Megan Donovan ('12), Emma Hart ('12), Freida Hirsch ('12), Mika Ike ('12), Sarah Josey Lyon ('12) and Hardin Patrick Warren ('12).

Anthony DePalma ('12) and Gretchen Kaiser ('13). 3/2/19 in Kiawah Island, SC. They live in Charlotte. The wedding party included Laughlin Kane Allen ('12), Jack Bartlett ('12, MSA '13), Alyssa Brigeman ('13), Ben Fish ('12), Bridgitt Staudt Holbrook ('14), Chris Tropeano ('09) and Hailey Voges Tropeano ('09).

Rachel Elizabeth Eason ('12) and John Christian Keller ('12). 10/27/18 in Lookout Mountain, GA, where they live. The wedding party included Stephen Eason ('15), Brian Keller ('15), Lauren Essler Attkisson ('12), Nilam Patel ('12), Charles "Chuck" Roe ('12) and Paul Eason ('84, P '12, '15).

Abigail Gensch ('12) and Henderson Trefzger ('12), 5/4/19 in Winston-Salem. They live in Arlington, VA. The wedding party included Andrew Amari ('12), Eleanor Morales (JD '10), Francisco Morales (JD '11), Michael Kane ('11), Mandi Yohn Shoemaker ('12) and Morgan Miller ('12).

Kaitlyn Marie Hudgins ('12) and Lawrence Christopher Blume (PhD '14). 11/2/18 in Jamaica. They live in Alexandria, VA. The wedding party included Allison Alexander ('12), Chris Fox ('12), Dana Mayer Fox ('12), Lindsay Cook Mertz ('11), Allison Owen ('12), Lindsay Hurley Steinmetz ('12) and Megan Massey Tang ('12).

Patrick Christian Fisher ('13) and Molly Clements. 12/29/18 in Oklahoma City, OK. They live in Washington, DC.

Allison Hudak ('13) and Kenneth Taylor Zacks ('13). 12/8/18 at Lake Martin, AL. They live in Atlanta. The wedding party included Kinzer Black Barrett ('14), Dan Jandreau ('13, MSA '14), Andrew Kamphake ('13), Drew Lacaria ('13), Graham Rich ('13), Quinn Corey Scanlan ('13), Katie Schroeder ('13), Brad Vonick ('14) and Ben Zacks ('16, MD '21).

Patrick William O'Rourke ('13, MSA '14) and Aubrey Joy Ramsdell ('16, MSA '17). 10/27/18 at Reynolda Gardens in Winston-Salem. They live in Greensboro, NC. The wedding party included Jacob Blackwell ('13, MD '17), Tyra Clemmenson ('15), Alex Firan ('13), Tyler Hollifield ('16) and Meredith Richardson Miller ('16).

Sarah Riedl (JD '13) and Brandon Clark. 1/26/19 in Chicago, where they live.

Nicole Ann Weiler ('13) and Christopher Robert Caliguire ('14). 12/1/18 in Hanover, MA. They live in Hoboken, NJ. The wedding party included Alison Caliguire ('15), David Caliguire ('17), Margaret Rodgers Chick ('13), R. Connor Chick ('13), Robert Ciarrocca ('14, MAEd '15), Thomas Lautenbach ('14), Blake Taylor ('13), Ryan Taylor ('14) and Stacey Wilson Walker ('13, MAEd '16).

Bridgitt Elizabeth Staudt ('14) and Hayden Scott Holbrook ('14, MD '18). 3/9/19 in Charleston, SC. They live in Memphis, TN. The wedding party included Alex Adcock ('14),

Evander Britt ('14, MD '18), Gretchen Kaiser DePalma ('13), Jordyn Glaser Eby ('14), Hadley Heindel ('14), John Holbrook (P '08, '14), Lindsay Miranda ('14), Maggie Pyle ('14), John Allen Riggs ('14, JD '18), Brianna Pellicane Staudt ('09), Brian Staudt ('09), Amy Holbrook Turk ('08) and Stephen Turk ('08).

Anne "Blythe" Roberts ('14) and Ian John McNerney ('15), 2/2/19 in Palm Beach, FL. They live in Washington, D.C.

Kristen Young ('14) and Landon Ridder ('14). 7/6/18 in Chatham, MA. They live in Boston. The wedding party included Courtney Andrews ('14), Sam Boswell ('14), Hilary Burns ('14), Matthew Chinn ('14), Matthew Dolan ('15), Will Robinson ('14), Ryan Trerotola ('14) and Rob Young ('09, MSA '10).

Katherine "Katie" E. Franklin ('15) and Evan J. Schwed ('15). 9/29/18 in Boston. The wedding party included Christina Baddar ('15), Peyton Barr ('15), Alex Buchholz ('15), Noland Griffith ('15), Grace Hartley ('15), Sarah Kosakowski ('15), Roshni Shah ('15) and Jordan Schuler ('15).

David Dukes Jr. (JD '18) and Mary Nalley. 12/15/18 in Greenville, SC. They live in Columbia, SC.

Births

Keeley Patricia Chorn ('99) and David Dallas Miller, Dallas: a daughter, Ellen Patricia. 4/8/18. She joins her brothers, Pierce Thomas (5) and Lawther James (3).

Emily Elizabeth Jameson ('00) and Dennis Earl Anderson, Medford, MA: a son, Ian Edward. 10/10/18. He joins his brother, Emmett James (2).

Karen Vucic Keys ('00, MSA '01) and Justin Keys, Winston-Salem: a son: Calder Denton, 9/7/18. He joins his sister, Cecilia Ann (12).

Neal Edward Dunlap ('01) and Ellen Riggs Dunlap ('03), Louisville, KY: a son, Mercer Riggs. 7/21/18. He joins his brothers, Everett Jeffrey (8) and Hewitt Austin (3), and sister, Clara Rebecca (6).

Emily D. Kite ('01) and Curtis Jones, Monona, WI: a son, Sebastian Bohlayer. 4/27/18

Ellison Craig Laskowski ('01) and Chris Laskowski, Washington, DC: a daughter, Marin Ella. 02/7/17. She joins her brother, Malcolm (10).

John Claude Barden ('02) and Hope Barden, King, NC: a daughter, Ruth Ann. 10/9/18. She joins her brother, John Lee (2).

Noelle Shanahan Cutts ('02) and Kyle Thomas Cutts ('02), Shaker Heights, OH: a daughter, Cecily Gwen, and a son, Ellis Roepke. 1/11/19. They join their brother, Titus Kyle (4).

Laura Teeter Teetermoran ('02) and Patrice Moran Teetermoran, Annapolis, MD: twin daughters, Harper Rose and Riley Margaret.

12/31/18. They join their sister, Grace (30), and brothers, Jack (26) and Parker (24).

Kate Farber Gold ('04) and Daniel Gold, Old Brookville, NY: a daughter, Farrah Dawson. 5/30/18. She joins her sisters, Stella (6) and Tess (3).

Elizabeth Yakaitis Lapczynski ('04) and John Anthony Lapczynski, Annapolis, MD: a son, Jack Anthony. 2/8/19. He joins his sisters, Olivia Jane (5) and Cameron Elizabeth (2).

Allison Scanlan Abbott ('05) and Brent H. Abbott Jr. ('05), Greenville, SC: a daughter, Sophie Rose. 4/11/18. She joins her brothers, Walker (4) and Tyler (3).

Jane Bianchi ('05) and Bill McGibony ('06), Tampa, FL: a daughter, Josephine Florence. 10/26/18. She joins her sister, Sally (3).

Preston Fletcher Deans ('05) and Brandon Deans, Denver: a son, Beau Alexander. 3/12/18. He joins his brothers, Fletcher Nathaniel (6) and Deacon Christopher (4).

Alissa VanDeventer Floyd ('05) and Daniel Floyd, Winston-Salem: a son: Grady Barent. 12/28/18. He joins his brothers, Donovan (4) and Brennan (2).

Christina Stockamore Martens ('06) and David John Martens, Washington, DC: a son, Thomas David. 1/25/19. He joins his brother, Henry Walter (2).

Charles Peyton ('06) and Andrea Whitley Peyton (PA '11), Tampa, FL: a daughter, Whitley Anne. 01/04/19. She joins her brother, Robert (2).

Nicole Longa Vieira ('06, MSA '12) and Jason Vieira, Charlotte: a daughter, Eliana Josephine. 1/31/19

Daniel David McCoy ('07) and Stacy Wigmore Epstein McCoy ('08), Durham, NC: a son, Connor James. 1/6/19

Amanda Warco ('07) and Eric Haseltine, Brooklyn, NY: a son, Remy. 11/25/18

Lauren Hanny Wilson ('07) and Hadley Kitchin Wilson ('08), Durham, NC: a daughter, Kathryn Mills. 2/27/19. She joins her sister, Madeline Hanny (2).

Meredith Lisle Goebel ('10) and Michael Goebel ('10), Cincinnati: a daughter, Lillian Lisle. 9/11/18

Bryan Goolsby ('10) and Samantha Besaw Goolsby ('11), Charlotte: a son, Camden Paul. 10/25/18

Julie Reisz Haines (PhD '11) and Nathan Haines (MD '11), Winston-Salem: a son, Everett Nathan. 9/26/18. He joins his sister, Caroline (2).

Christopher Falzon ('11) and Alexandra Paetow ('12), Maplewood, NJ: a daughter, Adelaide Marie. 6/25/18

SENIOR ORATION

How one student found his place — and a home — at Wake Forest

By David Ajamy ('19) | Photos by Ken Bennett

The annual tradition of the Senior Colloquium dates back to the re-opening of Wake Forest College in 1868, following the Civil War. Every year, outstanding seniors write essays in a competition, and some are invited to present them as speeches at gatherings of the University and the broader community. I've always found the tradition inspiring. I want to share a splendid essay that reminded me of the true bonds of community and the power of supporting our students with financial need. I can assure you that many of us in the audience were touched by this student's remarks and his willingness to share his vulnerability.

—Maria Henson ('82)

Prior to coming to college, no one beyond my immediate family knew much about my time growing up.

No one knew the full extent of my family's hardships. No one knew the truth, the reality of our daily lives. No one knew of the nights we slept in the car, and no one knew we were homeless for so many years.

The most people knew was that we were from a low-income bracket, but no one knew that every morning before

school, we would drive to the BP gas station on Hawthorne Road to use its lone bathroom to wash my hair.

They didn't know we went to the Harris Teeter on Cloverdale to use the restroom at night. They didn't know we spent nights searching for a place to park the car, hoping we wouldn't get caught or bothered while we slept. I had to lie about everything — not only to preserve my family's dignity, but also because if anyone knew, I would lose everything: I'd lose my family and my life.

While many people can't and will never be able to understand this idea or experience, those nights were safe for me. Those nights were when I was truly me. We would sleep in our cream 1985 Nissan Maxima: My dad in the driver's seat, my mom in the passenger, Juliet, our old Doberman, on the floor in the back, and then me in the backseat. My family was a pack. We had each other's backs — and we always will.

Given my past, I never thought I would attend college. While my parents told me that we would figure out a way, I didn't believe it. I especially never thought I would attend Wake Forest. Wake was the rich-kid school — seclud-

ed and not meant for me. Nonetheless, I found my way here.

While my family is fortunate to have a home and more financial stability today, those days of sleeping in the car will always stay with me. Yet, I knew I had to go on. So as I started to think of my life post-high school, I knew a furlough from education wasn't a possibility. This decision was rooted in both my love for learning and because of my parents' teaching that framed college as the avenue out of poverty. Even though Wake didn't seem to be where I could belong, I applied to be close to my parents and home. To my surprise, I not only got in, but got in without financial worry. This is a gift I will forever be grateful for. But, I still was in a daze: How was I going to Wake Forest, a place I never even dreamed of?

It wasn't until my first day on campus that all the changes set in. While still in Winston, I was gone. Like many of us, I was away for the first time. Here I was, at college.

Just as I thought I would never find myself at any college, I thought I would never love Wake, never feel at home. My home was where my people were, 12 minutes away.

But I was wrong. I found my people here, and, in turn, I found a home. I built memories on this campus, and I found love and support I never thought I deserved. I felt safe and accepted.

I think it's important to say Wake isn't perfect, and I must acknowledge how my privileged identities have helped me navigate my time here. But what makes this place the way it is are the people. It was at Wake that I found the people who made this place my second home.



Because of this circle of warmth and acceptance, I have stopped the lies, stopped the act and have been at peace with being truly me. I have been vulnerable and true to my past. And as a soon-to-be graduate, I know that I have been able to feel this way because of one particular weekend my first year.

It wasn't until fall break of my first year that people knew of my past. Prior to the weekend, no one knew anything. It was during those three days that I began to feel ready to finally share my truth. To my surprise, my first time sharing my past was to a room of 60 people; some I knew, others I didn't.

I will never forget that moment. I trembled as I began, tears rolled down and somehow, I told them. And they listened without the judgement I always expected. I told them secrets that I had thought I would have to live alone with forever. I was scared to my core, but in no way was I ashamed in that moment. I felt empowered and loved.

And that love came and continues to come from so many. It was during that weekend that I found some of the most wonderful people I've ever met. I found some of my best friends, and my family grew. No longer was it just my immediate family — now I had Zach, Chizoba, Hannah, Erica and many more. My life changed because of that weekend, because of the BRANCHES Social Justice Retreat.

I am forever indebted to the student organizers and the Pro Humanitate Institute (PHI) for that weekend. In my four years here, I always find my mind going back to that weekend. I never really registered why, but now I see that my ability to share my truth there has impacted me in ways I am just now understanding.

It was during the drafting of this speech that, for the first time, I really began to fully feel the bearing those couple of days had on me. That weekend and the people there will forever stay in my heart. It was then that I finally felt like myself, that I felt like David in a place without my parents. Coming to Wake Forest enabled me to finally be true to myself.

After BRANCHES, I found myself delving into social justice and involvement within PHI — doing all I could to promote justice in our community. My future changed because of Pro Humanitate. It was through our school's motto that I found people devoted to improving each other, and the world. *(continued on p. 94)*



Being on this campus empowered me to understand myself, and in turn, to understand what I want to do in life. My life is and will always be about promoting change — for I want to live a life for humanity.

I now see that this campus — its students, faculty and staff — did what my parents did and still do. They protected, nurtured and made me feel safe. But they also pushed me to reflect and become a better activist, a better student, but mostly, a better person.

Just like those days sleeping in the car, I fall asleep every night in my bed at Wake, in my home, feeling safe, loved and thankful. No longer do I worry about shame — because this is my story. This is my life. And it all started because of that weekend, but mostly, because of you all.

I say this, but still many of my close friends are unaware of my past while others probably only know of me

for my poofy hair and love for Moe's Southwest Grill. So to have this opportunity to share a part of me with you all means a lot. And while I am full of joy, I am still in shock — because here I am, almost four years later, sharing my story with a lot more than 60 students. Life is truly unpredictable.

So, while I never thought I would be here, never thought I would be graduating from college, I truly never thought I would be sharing my truth.

Being on this campus, I have gained something I never thought I would have. I have a home beyond home — a pack beyond my family — and a place I will always treasure.

—
David Ajamy II ('19) was a politics and international affairs major and a journalism minor. He was a regular contributor to the Old Gold & Black, the student newspaper.



Eric Steven Neal (MAEd '17) and Hannah Neal, Walkertown, NC: a daughter, Emerson Renee. 2/8/18

Deaths

Harvey Earl Brown ('42), Feb. 24, 2019, Charlotte. The son of a Baptist preacher, Brown was a member of First Baptist Church in Charlotte for nearly seven decades, serving as a Sunday School director, teacher, deacon and trusted counselor to many of the pastors. He is survived by five children, nine grandchildren, including **Stephanie Jolley Mitchell (MA '04)**, and nine great-grandchildren.

William "Larry" Highfill ('43), Nov. 28, 2018, Raleigh. He taught religion and philosophy at Mars Hill, Stetson and N.C. State universities. He served as a Sunday School teacher and deacon at Pullen Memorial Baptist Church. After retiring, he was a docent for the North Carolina Museum of Art and volunteered for the Emmaus House homeless shelters. He is survived by his wife of 72 years, **Hilda Austin Highfill ('47)**, three children, including **David Highfill ('80)**, seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

John Price Thomas ('43), June 13, 2018, Elkridge, MD. He retired from the U.S. Army and taught high school for many years in Florence, SC. He volunteered for his church, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and Gideons International.

James R. Horner ('45), Dec. 26, 2018, Vassalboro, ME. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II aboard the USS Wenatchee in the Asia-Pacific Theater. He was a private school administrator in New Hampshire, Ohio and North Carolina for 35 years before retiring from Durham (NC) Academy in 1988. He enjoyed golfing, jogging, telling jokes and traveling with his wife of 70 years, Barbara Horner. He had perfect attendance as a Rotarian for 30 years.

Lloyd S. Liles ('46), Oct. 31, 2018, Columbia, SC. After serving in the U.S. Navy, he worked as an executive at Southern Bell. In retirement he was heavily involved in leadership roles with the United Way. He was an animal enthusiast who made several African safari trips and a traveler who visited all Seven Wonders of the World. He was preceded in death by his parents, sister and brother, **Edmond H. Liles Jr. ('41, P '70)**.

Sarah Miles Johnson ('47), Feb. 3, 2019, Raleigh. She taught English and Spanish for 25 years in Warren and Wake counties and at St. Andrews Presbyterian College in Laurinburg, NC. She retired after 18 years from the library at St. Mary's College in Raleigh. She was an active member of St. Giles Presbyterian Church for more than 51 years.

Mildred Morton Archer ('48), Jan. 29, 2019, League City, TX, and Albemarle, NC. She was a beloved math and chemistry teacher at several high schools and later worked as a pharmacist at Medical Pharmacy in Albemarle.

Sarah Brinkley Belew ('48), Jan. 2, 2019, San Antonio, TX. She taught in Wyoming and Nevada before relocating to San Antonio and working for the Social Security Administration. After raising a family with her late husband, William, she earned a master's degree and began teaching English.

David Henry Fuller Jr. ('48, MD '52), July 2, 2018, Nashville, NC. He was a member of Kappa Sigma and the Spirit of the Old Gold and Black Marching Band. He was predeceased by his wife, **Elizabeth "Betsy" Valentine Fuller ('51)**.

Bernard B. Hollowell (JD '48), Dec. 26, 2018, Bayboro, NC. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps in England during World War II. His legal career in Pamlico County spanned five decades, including as county attorney and school board attorney for 40 years. He had a private practice with his wife of 69 years, Marybelle, as his secretary. He was instrumental in forming Minnesott Golf & Country Club in Arapahoe, NC, and was active at Bayboro United Methodist Church. He is survived by his four children, including **Steven E. Hollowell (JD '89)**, seven grandchildren, including **Matthew E. Lee (JD '06)**, and six great-grandchildren.

Doris Rose Morgan ('48), Jan. 30, 2018, Winston-Salem. She served as minister of education in two churches, then worked across the state for the North Carolina Baptist State Convention in Raleigh for 28 years, training children's ministry leaders, leading conferences and organizing programs. She was preceded in death by her parents and three brothers, including **Henry Albert Morgan ('48, P '69, '71)** and **William G. Morgan ('53)**.

Iris Lynam Sheets ('48), Jan. 20, 2019, Greensboro, NC. She was the Azalea Festival Queen and Miss Wilmington (NC) in 1950. She was runner-up for Miss North Carolina. Presbyterian Church of the Covenant in Greensboro, which she attended for 62 years, gave her its "Women of the Church Lifetime Membership." She volunteered extensively in the community. She is survived by her husband of 66 years, **David Smith Sheets ('52)**, whom she met on a blind date at Wake Forest, two daughters, two grandsons and a sister.

Helen Harrington Bowman ('49), Jan. 23, 2019, Thomasville, NC. She spent nearly three decades as a secretary/receptionist and loving listener to the disadvantaged young people at Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, where she lived and worked alongside her husband of 72 years, the late Fred Thurston Bowman. She loved cooking, singing in the church choir and playing handbells, organ and piano.

Felix Creighton Germuth ('49), Jan. 23, 2019, Chapel Hill, NC. She was in the first class of women to attend Wake Forest. She was a mother, homemaker, pet lover and proud Southerner who enjoyed reading about history and politics and believed in equal rights for all. She was a competitive duplicate bridge player, earning the status of Life Master.

Robert Horace Jones ('49, JD '52), Oct. 26, 2018, Dunn, NC. He served as a U.S. Air Force

J. DONALD COWAN ('65, JD '68)

Life Trustee



Don Cowan, a well-known trial lawyer and longtime alumni volunteer leader, died April 1, 2019, in Raleigh. He was 75.

Cowan was named to the board of trustees in 1994 and served three terms before being named a life trustee in 2009. He also served as president of the law alumni association and on the law school alumni council. In 2010, he established the Don Cowan Family Scholarship for Wake Forest law students.

Cowan began his legal career as a captain in the U.S. Army JAG Corps in South Vietnam and Germany. He spent

more than three decades at Smith Moore law firm in Greensboro before joining Ellis & Winters. He was a past president of the North Carolina Bar Association and Legal Aid of North Carolina. He received the state bar association's highest award for service in 2014 and was consistently recognized as one of the top trial lawyers in the country.

Although he often represented Fortune 500 companies in civil cases, his most famous case may have been handling pro bono for 19 years the appeals of Willie Brown, a North Carolina man sentenced to death for first-degree murder; Brown was executed in 2006. Cowan received the Greensboro Bar Association's Pro Bono Award for his work on that case and other capital cases.

Cowan is survived by his wife, Sarah, a son, Coleman Cowan (JD '95), a daughter, Duren Banks ('94), and three grandchildren.

aerial photographer during World War II. He practiced law in Harnett County (NC) and co-founded Jones & Jones law firm with his son, **Cecil B. "Bo" Jones ('86)**. In addition to Bo, he is survived by his wife, Peggy, sons Robert Jr. and **Jonathan Jones ('92, JD '95)**, nine grandchildren, including **Lydia Jones ('19)**, two great-grandchildren and a sister.

William F. McBrayer ('49), Nov. 16, 2018, Rutherfordton, NC. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He practiced dentistry in Rutherford County (NC) for nearly 40 years and was a former president of the Isothermal Dental Society. He enjoyed golfing, fishing and spending time outdoors.

Benjamin Franklin Strickland ('49), Feb. 8, 2019, Boone, NC. He retired as a professor and dean of the Reich College of Education at Appalachian State University. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, **Lois Snyder Strickland ('50)**, five children, nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Lacy Wilson Blue (JD '50), Dec. 5, 2018, Huntersville, NC. He served in the U.S. Army in Europe during World War II and practiced law in North Carolina and federal courts for more

than 50 years. He was an avid reader, a church deacon at First Presbyterian in Charlotte and a passionate Wake Forest fan. He is survived by his wife, Joyce, and two children, Thomas and **Carolyn Blue ('83)**.

Elizabeth Hutchins Grigg ('50), Nov. 9, 2018, Concord, NC. She taught gifted students in the Gaston County (NC) Schools for more than 35 years. She enjoyed writing and poetry and was a member of Gardner Park Garden Club. She was preceded in death by her husband, **Rev. Robert B. Grigg Jr. ('50)**.

John Robert Lackey ('50), Nov. 16, 2018, Knoxville, TN. He served on a submarine in the Pacific Ocean in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He worked as pastor in the United Church of Christ for 50 years in Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee and advocated for racial justice, interfaith cooperation and the LGBTQ community. He received the Religious Service Award by the Knoxville Roundtable of Christians and Jews. He was a poet, photographer, painter, hiker, nature lover and world traveler.

James Matthew Lambert ('50), King, NC, Feb. 2, 2019. He served as a pastor for more than 20 years in numerous North Carolina

churches and was chosen in 1965 as North Carolina Rural Minister of the Year. He served the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina as an area missionary for northwestern counties and later assisted pastors in retirement planning. He loved overseas mission trips, choir singing, camping, hiking, cycling and travel.

Boyce C. Medlin ('50), Dec. 25, 2018, Raleigh. He served in the U.S. Army. He worked in education for most of his career and served as a commissioner for the town of Wake Forest, NC. He is survived by his two children, four grandchildren and a sister, **Dorothy "Dot" Ogburn ('64, P '88)**.

Harry Eugene "Gene" Washburn Sr. ('50), Nov. 7, 2018, Boiling Springs, NC. He handled aviation ordnance in the U.S. Navy during World War II, earning the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon, the American Theater Ribbon and the Victory Medal. He was a teacher, coach and assistant principal in his native Cleveland County (NC).

Nancy Smith Davis ('51), Nov. 28, 2018, Raleigh. She was retired from the Wake County (NC) Public School System.

Eleanor "Joyce" Jackson Janke ('51), Nov. 11, 2018, Chesapeake, VA. She was a teacher, assistant principal, principal and administrator and an instructor for the University of Virginia Extension Program. She was preceded in death by her first husband **Clarence Lane ('49)**, her husband Howard "Bud" Janke, and siblings **Roger Jackson Jr. ('51)** and **Faye Lynam ('53)**. She is survived by four daughters, eight grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and two sisters, including **Kathryn Tyler ('59)**.

James Hardy "Brother Jim" Johnson ('51), Nov. 9, 2018, Asheville, NC. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. He spent more than 50 years as a Baptist pastor in South Carolina, Texas and North Carolina. He taught at Fruitland Bible College in Hendersonville, NC, and preached on the Billy Graham radio station, WMIT. He was honored as "Citizen of the Year" in 1964 by the Tabor City (NC) Chamber of Commerce.

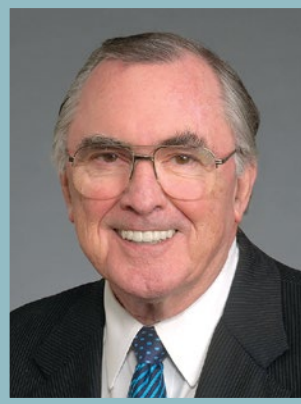
Harvey Raine Pearman Jr. ('51), Jan. 19, 2019, Greensboro, NC. He was a chemist for Lorillard Tobacco for 32 years before taking up woodworking in retirement. He was a charter member and deacon at Lawndale Baptist Church in Greensboro. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, **Martha Lou Holton Pearman ('50)** and their four children, including **Mary Brock ('76)**, eight grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Henry Vernell Vick ('51, MD '55), Oct. 8, 2018, Tarboro, NC. He was a physician and active member of First Baptist Church of Tarboro. His brother, **John "Bernie" Vick ('53, MD '57, P '81, '84, '86)**, died Jan. 5, 2019.

Lloyd Mermon Abernethy Jr. ('52), Feb. 3, 2019, Monroe Township, NJ. He served two years in Germany in the U.S. Army. He taught history and was department chair and interim dean of the college at Arcadia University near Philadelphia during his 42 years there. He received

DR. RICHARD JANEWAY

Emeritus Professor of Neurology, Dean and Executive Vice President of Wake Forest Baptist Health



When Dr. Richard Janeway retired in 1997 after more than two decades leading the School of Medicine, a newspaper account summed up his career: "The Bowman Gray campus is a monument to Janeway's vision and powers of persuasion. He dominates the medical center with his force of will and grand vision."

Janeway, who died March 17, 2019, was the driving force behind the transformation of the medical school from a small, regional school into a sprawling, nationally recognized academic medical center and health

care system. He was 86. He was predeceased by his wife of 54 years, Katherine (MAEd '79), and survived by his second wife, Nancy; three children, including Elizabeth Hallyburton ('85); eight grandchildren, including Claire Moll Juneau ('11); and one great-grandchild.

A native of Los Angeles, Janeway was a child actor who appeared in nearly 70 films, including The Little Rascals series. After his family moved to New Jersey, he became a state champion swimmer. He graduated from Colgate University and the University of Pennsylvania's medical school. In the early 1960s, he was a flight surgeon and captain in the U.S. Air Force in England.

A neurologist, Janeway came to what was then the Bowman Gray School of Medicine in 1963 for a three-year fellowship, and he joined the faculty in 1966. He was named dean in 1971 and served as dean and later executive dean until 1994. He was named vice president for health affairs in 1983 and executive vice president for health affairs in 1990.

Under Janeway's leadership, the medical school experienced tremendous growth. The number of students, faculty and staff dramatically increased. The medical center became the leading employer in Forsyth County. New educational offerings, clinical services and research programs raised the school's national profile. The school was renamed the Wake Forest University School of Medicine in 1997.

Janeway also led a \$200 million building program, the largest in the medical center's history, that included the 12-story Clinical Sciences building that was named in his honor. He also laid the foundation for Wake Forest Innovation Quarter, the research park in downtown Winston-Salem where the medical school's education programs are now located.

Janeway received the Medallion of Merit, the University's highest award, in 2000. Then-President Thomas K. Hearn Jr. praised Janeway as "one of Wake Forest's greatest visionaries and leaders for his work to make the dream of a world-class medical center a reality."

Memorials may be made to the Richard Janeway, MD, Scholarship Fund, Wake Forest Baptist Health, P.O. Box 571021, Winston-Salem, NC 27157-1021.

the Faculty Outstanding Service Award when he retired in 1999. He was an avid tennis player, carpenter, author and abstract artist. He was predeceased by his father, **Lloyd Abernethy ('26)**, his first wife, **Suzanne Keith Abernethy ('52)**, and sister, **Gloria Norwood ('49)**.

Robert Sidney Beal ('52), Nov. 22, 2018, Athens, GA. He served in the U.S. Air Force. He operated a food bank for 25 years and was involved in politics. He loved playing tennis, working in the yard and planning reunions for his class of 1948 at Albemarle (NC) High School.

Max Alfred Eller ('52), Jan. 14, 2019, Lillington, NC. Eller was a pitcher for the Wake Forest baseball team that won a silver medal in the first Pan-American Games in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He was drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals but instead entered Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, became a minister and served as a chaplain in the U.S. Navy for 30 years. He is survived by his wife, **Doris Stroud Eller ('54)**, three children and three grandchildren. He was a member of the Samuel Wait Legacy Society.

Daniel H. Jolly ('52), Jan. 29, 2019, Fayetteville, NC. He was a member of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Greensboro, NC, and pastored throughout the state, touching countless lives.

Frances Westbrook White ('52), Dec. 13, 2018, Wilmington, NC. She was a teacher for 39 years, mostly in New Hanover County (NC). She was a longtime member of First Baptist Church of Wilmington. She is survived by her husband, **Brightie E. White Jr. ('53)**, three stepchildren and five step-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her sister, **Mary Moyle ('50)**.

Harry Joe King ('53), Dec. 23, 2018, Bluffton, SC. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War and was an active reserve in the U.S. Marine Corps. He held executive roles at various banks, opening and merging 94 banks in the Southeast. He then worked in health care, opening a private home health agency in South Carolina. He retired as president of Healthcare Consultants Inc. He led a variety of civic groups.

John Bernard "Bernie" Vick ('53, MD '57), Jan. 5, 2019, Greenville, NC. He served in the U.S. Navy. He was a leader in bringing cardiovascular surgery to Pitt County Memorial Hospital and served as chief of thoracic surgery for 13 years. He trained many residents at East Carolina University's Brody School of Medicine, which named an annual teaching award in his name. In retirement he became a state champion badminton player in the Senior Olympics. He was preceded in death by his brother, **Henry V. Vick ('51, MD '55)**. He is survived by his wife, Naomi, and their three children, **Robert Vick ('81)**, **Susan Jameson ('84)** and **Mary Cavanagh ('86)**.

John Irving Brooks Jr. ('54), Jan. 12, 2019, Tarboro, NC. He served in the Army Medical Corps in Germany. He practiced medicine in Tarboro for 35 years and was a clinical professor at the UNC School of Medicine. In retirement, he volunteered full-time for Habitat for Humanity. He

was named "Citizen of the Year" in 2000 by the Tarboro-Edgemont Chamber of Commerce and received the North Carolina Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service in 2003. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, **Martha "Motsie" Brooks ('55)**, two children and a grandson.

William "Ray" Cowan ('54, MD '57), Dec. 5, 2018, San Antonio, TX. He served in the U.S. Air Force for 34 years, retiring in 1986 as director of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. His many military awards included the Department of Defense Medal for Superior Service. He worked as a pathologist at Hilton Head (SC) Hospital. He loved photography, traveling, skiing and fixing things.

Hunter Lee James Sr. ('54), Nov. 22, 2018, Winston-Salem. He was a journalist and author who covered the civil rights movement for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, the Greensboro News & Record and the Baltimore Sun. At the Winston-Salem Journal and Sentinel, his editorials helped win the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service in 1971. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Mary Ellen, three children, including **Michael ('85)**, two grandchildren and a brother, **Kerry Michael ('65)**.

Harrill "Gene" Washburn Sr. ('54, MD '58), Dec. 9, 2018, Boiling Springs, NC. He was a physician in the U.S. Army in Germany and owned Boiling Springs Medical Associates. He was a deacon and moderator at Boiling Springs Baptist Church in Shelby and served on the Board of Trustees for Gardner-Webb University. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Billie, and three children, **Charlene Washburn ('83)**, **H. Gene "Rusty" Washburn Jr. ('87, MD '94)** and Sherry O'Shields, four grandchildren, including **Corey Jo Washburn ('16, MA '17)**, and a sister.

Willis "Bill" Powers Holding Jr. ('55), Dec. 23, 2018, Cary, NC. He served in the U.S. Army for two years and the Army Reserve for four years. He worked at the Belk-Tyler stores for 17 years in eastern North Carolina before starting Interstate Catalog Sales in his native Rocky Mount, NC. He later worked in real estate and earned "Salesman of the Year" in 2003.

Donald Gray Long ('55), Nov. 10, 2018, Winston-Salem. He served two years in Europe in the U.S. Army. He worked at R.J. Reynolds, Hanes Hosiers and Sara Lee. After retiring, he and his wife, Joyce, began a real estate career in Winston-Salem. He enjoyed boating and singing in the choir at Bethel United Methodist Church.

Barbara Corn McCraw ('55), Jan. 8, 2019, Hendersonville, NC. She operated a nursery out of her home for more than 20 years before becoming nursery director for 27 years at Mud Creek Baptist Church, where she was a member. She enjoyed reading, her family and volunteering for Friends of Carl Sandburg at Connemara, which supports the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site in Flat Rock, NC.

Gilbert Elwood Smith ('55), Oct. 30, 2018, Arlington, VA. He served in the U.S. Air Force for five years and worked in health care administration in

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the Washington, DC, area. For 20 years, he was the executive director of the National Registry of Certified Chemists.

Emile F. Magri ('56), Jan. 9, 2019, North Hampton, NH. He played football at Wake Forest. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was an entrepreneur, with businesses in taxi service, dry cleaners, pizza, rental units and condos. He ran seasonal businesses, including a pancake house, hotel and gift shop in Hampton Beach, NH, and York Beach, ME.

Louis A. Burney ('57, JD '59), Dec. 19, 2018, Wilmington, NC. He served in the U.S. Army in Austria. He practiced law for more than 50 years in the Wilmington area, primarily at Burney Burney & Jones, and served as president of the New Hanover County Bar Association. He was a member of many civic organizations and Temple Baptist Church, serving as a deacon and trustee. He was preceded in death by his father, **John J. Burney (JD '26)**, brother, **John J. Burney Jr. ('50, JD '51)** and a granddaughter.

John "Jack" T. Coates III ('57), Sept. 8, 2018, Saluda, NC. He was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity and served in the U.S. Navy. He retired after running a successful insurance business in western North Carolina. He served on the Historic Saluda Committee.

John Abbott Graebing ('57), Nov. 1, 2018, Steubenville, Ohio. He played football and hockey for the Demon Deacons before joining the U.S. Coast Guard for four years. He retired after 25 years in sales at Browning Bearing & Chain in Cleveland, worked at Enterprise Rent-A-Car in North Carolina, then returned to Ohio in 2008.

Bruce Alden Ketner ('57), Dec. 24, 2018, Salisbury, NC. He was a dentist in the U.S. Navy and retired from the U.S. Navy Reserve. He operated a dental practice in Salisbury for 40 years. He was active in civic groups, was a long-time member of St. John's Lutheran Church, volunteered his dental services and delivered Meals on Wheels. He traveled to all 50 states, 48 in his RV. He is survived by his wife, daughter, two grandchildren and a brother, **William Don Ketner ('57)**. He was predeceased by his son.

Edna Freemon Helms ('58), Nov. 30, 2018, Winston-Salem. She taught seventh grade at Moore School and worked at Stein Mart. She was active in many organizations, prepared meals at Samaritan Ministries soup kitchen and was active at Centenary United Methodist Church. She is survived by her husband, **Jefferson "Jeff" Helms ('58, MD '62)**, four children and 12 grandchildren, including **Kristopher Joel Keiser Jr. ('11)** and **Abby E. McCall ('16)**, and her twin brother, **Wally "Wally" Freemon Jr. ('60)**.

Jack David Hester ('58), Dec. 20, 2018, Kernersville, NC. He served in the U.S. Air Force, fulfilling his greatest passion: flying jets. He worked in varying roles with the federal government for 35 years, including with the U.S. Civil Service Commission and the Federal Aviation Administration.

John Carl Mick ('58), Jan. 21, 2018, Little Elm, Texas. He played on the football and baseball teams at Wake Forest and was a member of the ROTC Cadet Association. He served in the U.S. Army and was a vice president for Corbin Ltd. clothing company.

Carole Barger Blossom ('59), Feb. 7, 2019, Hampstead, NC. She taught students with learning disabilities and retired as an assistant principal at Wallace Elementary School in Wallace, NC.

Louis "Frank" Burleson Jr. ('59, JD '64), Jan. 28, 2019, Jackson, NC. He served in the U.S. Army. While in law school, he became a contributing writer and editor for the Winston-Salem Journal. He practiced law in the Murfreesboro (NC) area for nearly 50 years. He was preceded in death by his wife of 42 years, **Helen Hicks Burleson ('60)**, and brother, **Richard Lee Burleson ('60, MD '64)**.

Carolyn Tolbert Jordan ('59), Feb. 3, 2019, Statesville, NC. She retired as a teacher in Iredell County (NC) and took up soapmaking. She enjoyed biking trips and teaching Sunday School at the churches where her husband, **G. Carroll Jordan ('59)**, was pastor. She is survived by her husband, three children, including **Stephanie Jordan ('88)**, two grandsons and two brothers, including **Homer B. "Buddy" Tolbert ('63)**.

Hannah Lee Miller ('59), Nov. 1, 2018, Charlotte. She was the editor of the Old Gold & Black student newspaper. She was a reporter and editor for the Shelby (NC) Star and an editor for the Charlotte News and The Charlotte Observer. Later, she was a freelance writer and taught English at UNC Charlotte and Central Piedmont Community College. She loved photography and animals and worked with Room in the Inn, a citywide program to shelter homeless people.

Jimmy Tyree Bowman ('60), Dec. 9, 2018, Wilmington, NC. He served in the U.S. Army before enrolling at Wake Forest, where he was president of Sigma Pi fraternity. He was an insurance adjuster for Crawford & Company in Fayetteville, Sanford and Durham, NC, and a worker's compensation manager for Duke University Medical Center, retiring in 1996. He loved tennis, running races and spending time with family.

Lawrence "Doug" Douglas Foust ('60), Jan. 7, 2019, Suffolk, VA. He held various management positions in the Social Security Administration before retiring in 1996.

Robert "Bob" Burns Hicks ('60), Feb. 2, 2019, Walstonburg, NC. He retired after managing his family's Farmers Oil Co. and Farmers Gin & Mill Co. hardware store. He was an active member of Walstonburg Christian Church and served on the town board.

George William Coan Mountcastle (JD '60), Jan. 23, 2019, Winston-Salem. He ran his own law practice in Winston-Salem. He was captain of the golf team at UNC Chapel Hill and played on the PGA Summer Tour. He traveled to England and Scotland nearly 20 times and Ireland 12 times to

play golf. He loved the arts and supported the Winston-Salem Symphony.

William Rufus Phillips ('60, MA '63), Dec. 22, 2018, Dalton, NC. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict, studying Russian and spending a year in military intelligence at the NATO School in Germany. He taught English at Winston-Salem State University for 30 years before retiring in 1998. He established the M.D. Phillips Prize at Wake Forest, awarded annually to the outstanding senior in Greek or Latin, in memory of his grandfather, **Matthew Dalton Phillips (1875)**. He also established the John Y. Phillips Prize, awarded annually to the outstanding senior in mathematics, in memory of his great-uncle, **John Y. Phillips (1875)**. He was predeceased by his mother and father, **Albert Rufus Phillips (1913)**. He is survived by his wife, Kay McGee Phillips, a son, two sisters, including **Anne R. Phillips ('58)**, and a brother, **John Dalton Phillips ('49)**.

James Murray O'Neal ('61), Feb. 1, 2019, Supply, NC. He was a systems engineer for IBM, a certified public accountant and a homebuilder in Raleigh before retiring to the North Carolina coast.

Julian Patrick Porter Jr. ('61), Nov. 14, 2018, Chesterfield, VA. He retired as an award-winning teacher from the Chesterfield County (VA) Public Schools. He was the creator and executive producer of "Battle of the Brains," a televised academic quiz show that airs in the Richmond, VA, area. He also was a professional piano player.

Jimmy "Wayne" Thomas ('61), Jan. 25, 2019, Rural Hall, NC. He served in the U.S. Army in Korea. He worked for the federal government and in real estate and tax preparation.

Sidney "Sid" Wilson Winslow ('61), Oct. 24, 2018, King, NC. He retired from the U.S. Army after 21 years, which included tours in Korea and Vietnam, where he earned the Bronze Star. He worked on the Patriot Missile System and received the Legion of Merit. He retired to King, drove a school bus and became the maintenance man at YMCA Camp Hanes, retiring after 22 years. He enjoyed mission work and volunteering.

Bobby J. Burton ('62), Jan. 31, 2019, Winston-Salem. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict. He retired from AT&T Corp. and worked for Modern Machine & Metal Fab. He was an active member of Ardmore Moravian Church.

Ronald "Gene" Edmundson (JD '62), Feb. 18, 2019, Oxford, NC. He was a member of Phi Delta Phi fraternity at Wake Forest. He practiced law in Oxford for 53 years and received the Jaycees' Distinguished Service Award. He played golf all over the United States and overseas.

Francis "Frank" B. Fishburne Jr. ('62), Jan. 3, 2019, Asheville, NC. Fishburne competed as the No. 1 tennis player at both Mars Hill University and Wake Forest. He worked at IBM for five years before returning to his family's Fishburne Equipment Co. in Asheville. He then spent decades in the financial industry, including Morgan Stanley. He led many civic organizations and served on

the Pack Square Conservancy board, which spearheaded renovation of a downtown public park.

Richard Oleen Harrison ('62), Oct. 29, 2018, Hoschton, GA. He spent six years in the U.S. Marine Corps and worked in the HVAC industry. He was a devoted Little League coach, husband, father and grandfather.

DeVon Wilkes McSwain ('62), Dec. 17, 2018, Mooresville, NC. He served in the U.S. Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve and Navy. He was a mail carrier for the U.S. Postal Service for 30 years, retiring in 1992 to enjoy baseball, golf, reading, his grandkids and living on Lake Norman.

Douglas R. "Butch" Tyree Jr. ('62), Nov. 29, 2018, Waynesboro, VA. He was the founder of United Servo Hydraulics Inc., headquartered in central Virginia.

Charles Reece Davis Jr. ('63), Nov. 13, 2018, Winston-Salem. He was a member of Delta Sigma Phi. He was an administrator at Integon Insurance for more than 30 years. He enjoyed golf and antique shopping with his wife, Mary. He is survived by his wife, three sons, Mark, Bradley and **Steven Davis ('96)**, and nine grandchildren.

Charles R. Lamb Jr. (MD '63), Nov. 19, 2018, Chester, VA. He served in the U.S. Navy for four years and was a physician aboard vessels overseas. He worked 35 years at Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond, VA, retiring in 2001 as chief of physical and rehabilitative medicine.

Peter J. Manning ('63), Jan. 5, 2019, Worcester, MA. He played varsity football and was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha. He played defensive back for the Chicago Bears before being traded to the Canadian Football League, where he was a three-time All Star. He was an assistant coach at Florida State University and The University of Texas El Paso. He lived by the words, "Love God, do what you want."

Johnsie Russell Markham ('64), Feb. 9, 2019, Wilson, NC. She was director of the Wilson Crisis Center, helping those affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, substance abuse or other problems. She volunteered with numerous organizations. She enjoyed traveling abroad and singing a nightly bedtime duet of "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" with her husband of 59 years, **Coleman Cain Markham ('60)**. She was a member of the Samuel Wait Legacy Society.

Earl Wayne "Billy" Scripture Jr. ('64), Nov. 11, 2018, Columbia, NC. An All-American outfielder, he led the baseball team to ACC championships in 1962 and 1963. After a nine-year pro career, he became a minor league manager for the Kansas City Royals and later an instructor for the Royals and Pittsburgh Pirates. He was inducted into the Wake Forest Sports Hall of Fame in 1987. He is survived by his wife, Belinda, a daughter, granddaughter and brother, **Joe Scripture ('71)**.

Gary Lou Seager ('64), Jan. 14, 2019, Canandaigua, NY. He taught history and government for 31 years in the Newark Central Schools in

TIMOTHY C. PENNELL ('55, MD '60)

Professor Emeritus of Surgery, School of Medicine



Dr. Timothy Pennell, a distinguished surgeon and administrator, died April 13, 2019, in Winston-Salem. He was 85.

Pennell spent nearly four decades at Bowman Gray School of Medicine and North Carolina Baptist Hospital (Wake Forest Baptist Health) before retiring in 2004. He received the Medallion of Merit, Wake Forest's highest honor, in 2005.

In addition to his clinical practice, in which he touched many lives, he was professor of surgery at the medical school and chief

of professional services at Baptist Hospital. He also was director of the international health affairs office for two decades and led outreach efforts to establish exchange programs with schools in other countries. He also traveled abroad as a medical missionary.

Locally, he helped create sports medicine programs for the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools and founded the first free medical church clinics in North Carolina.

Two funds at the medical school are named in his honor: the Timothy C. Pennell International Fellowship Fund for medical professionals from other countries and the Pennell Pro Humanitate Vitae Fund to support volunteer medical service in less-developed countries.

He is survived by three children, Cliff Pennell ('79), Melanie Broyhill and Jennifer Gortney; nine grandchildren, including Penn Broyhill (JD '13); four great-grandchildren; and a sister, Mary George Brewer ('57). He was preceded in death by his wife, Jacquelynne, and parents, George (LLB 1914) and Madeline Pennell.

New York. He was a lifelong Yankees fan, but he loved watching his great-nephews, Kyle and Corey Seager, play baseball for the Seattle Mariners and L.A. Dodgers.

Mary "Peggy" Margaret Claunch ('65), Oct. 24, 2018, Westminster, CO. She worked in child protection with Boulder County (CO) Social Services, earning numerous awards for her work before retiring. Her passions included hiking, playing the piano, walking her dogs and volunteering with hospice.

James Richard Glymph ('65), Dec. 3, 2018, Isle of Palms, SC. He was a member of Theta Chi and served in the U.S. Navy Reserve. He worked in medical sales and served on the board for Oconee Medical Center in Seneca, SC. He was a deacon, elder and trustee of Fair Play Presbyterian Church.

Conway W. Henderson ('65), Jan. 9, 2019, Boiling Springs, SC. He taught political science at the University of South Carolina Upstate in Spartanburg, SC, for 30 years and wrote several textbooks. He was a talented handyman, an animal lover and a steadfast family man.

Rebecca "Becky" McCarley Salter ('65), Nov. 29, 2018, Wilmington, NC. She raised two sons and supported her husband's career in nine moves around the country. She loved collecting seashells and spending time with two groups of special ladies, "The Squirrels" and "The Floozies." She is survived by her husband of 53 years, **William L. Salter ('65)**, her sons and four grandchildren.

Frank Richard Till ('65), Feb. 10, 2019, Fayetteville, NC. He retired in 1983 as a major in the U.S. Army, serving as a rifle company commander in Vietnam and receiving the Silver Star Medal, Purple Heart, Bronze Star Medal for valor, Combat Infantryman Badge and Ranger and Special Forces Tabs. He spent the next 20 years at The Fayetteville (NC) Academy as an instructor, upper school director and assistant headmaster. He was preceded in death by his wife of 50 years, **Glenda Cannon Till ('64)**, whom he met in history class at Wake Forest, a sister, **Joanne Littleton ('55)**, and a daughter. He is survived by a daughter, a sister and five grandchildren.

Richard Allen Todebush ('65), Nov. 19, 2018, McDonough, GA. He retired as operations manager at the JCPenney plant in Forest Park, GA. He was a member of the Samuel Wait Legacy Society.

Wiley Porter Wooten ('65, JD '68), Dec. 8, 2018, Burlington, NC. He was clerk of court in Alamance County (NC), then practiced law at Vernon Law Firm in Burlington for 46 years. He was chair of the Family Law Section of the North Carolina Bar Association, assisted in rewriting the state's equitable distribution law and lectured across the country on family law. He helped bring world-class art exhibits to Alamance County. He served on the Wake Forest Alumni Council.

Joyce Young De Rodriguez ('66), Jan. 15, 2019, Jalisco, Mexico. She was a member of the Fideles Society at Wake Forest. She is survived by her sister, **Carolyn Young Nelson ('63, P '93)**.

Ralph Harris Ferrell III ('66), Dec. 1, 2018, Baltimore. He was a banking executive and later founded a consulting company, Ferrell & Associates. He helped launch EnerBank in 2002. He was a founding board member of the Parks & People Foundation and was active in civic activities. He was predeceased by his parents, **Ralph (1907, MA 1908, JD 1910)** and Cornelia Ferrell.

Kenneth Jackson "Jack" Nelson ('66), Jan. 4, 2019, Roswell, GA. He worked in the logistics industry, serving as president of Spartan Express Trucking and COO of Allied Systems Holdings Inc. before retiring. Friends say he was the most dependable and trustworthy person they knew and that he could tell a wicked joke.

John "Rod" Penry Jr. ('67, JD '71), Feb. 14, 2019, Lexington, NC. He was an attorney in private practice for 37 years before being appointed as a judge for North Carolina District 22A, retiring in 2017. He is survived by his wife, **Phyllis Sturdivant Penry (MAEd '71, JD '75)**, two children and two grandchildren.

Jack Kendrick Talbert ('67), Dec. 2, 2018, Archdale, NC. He served in the U.S. Air Force. He worked in sales, real estate, land development, "boataminiums," marinas and yacht clubs. He enjoyed beach music, shagging, boating, fishing and spending time with family. He is survived by his wife, Shari Humphrey Talbert, three children, eight grandchildren and two brothers, including **John B. Talbert Jr. (MBA '73)**.

Gary Ogburn Tally ('67), Dec. 30, 2018, Ennice, NC. He served in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Everglades in the 1950s. He was a chef in Winston-Salem before his teaching career. He was an English teacher and wrestling coach in the Yadkin County (NC) Schools for more than 30 years. Family members say his favorite saying was "never stop learning."

James Hawley McKinnon Jr. ('68), March 11, 2018, Wilson, NC. He was a minister in churches throughout North Carolina and for nearly three decades at First Presbyterian Church in Wilson. He was active in community service, starting a meal delivery service at his church and receiving the Service to Mankind Award from the Sertoma Club of Wilson. He retired in 2006 but preached part-time, including from his scooter at Bethany Presbyterian Church until a week before his death.

DONALD H. WOLFE

Professor Emeritus of Theatre



For 32 years, Don Wolfe welcomed many a student into the magical world of theatre. Whether on the makeshift stage on the top floor of the Z. Smith Reynolds Library in the '70s or on the MainStage in the Scales Fine Arts Center in the '80s and '90s, Wolfe gave many students their first roles, a lifelong passion for theatre and, for some, careers as actors or directors.

Wolfe, who retired in 2000, died March 1, 2019, in Winston-Salem. He was 84. He is survived by his wife, Nancy, one daughter and two granddaughters.

A native of Illinois, Wolfe graduated from Southern Illinois University and received his doctorate in theatre from Cornell University. He joined the Wake Forest faculty in 1968 in what was then the Department of Speech Communication and Theatre Arts.

Wolfe, along with Harold Tedford (P '83, '85, '90) and the late James Dodding, built theatre into a thriving program, both on the stage and in the classroom. Wolfe directed 36 plays — from "A Man for All Seasons" in 1968 to "Arcadia" in 1999 — took students to see plays in London and chaired the department for many years.

Former students remembered him on Facebook as a mentor, teacher and friend who always had a smile on his face and a joke to share. "Every awkward theatre kid should be so lucky as to have someone like Don Wolfe in their life while they are finding their way," wrote Joyce Gist Lewis ('93).

"Just to be in Don Wolfe's presence was to be enveloped in a feeling of gentle assurance and comforting warmth," wrote Paul Batchelor ('80). "If I manage to touch as many lives as he did, then I will consider mine a life well-lived," wrote Bruce Beck ('72).

Memorials may be made to The Little Theatre of Winston-Salem, 419 N. Spruce Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101 or thelittletheatreofws.org.

Dale Dean Glendening Jr. ('69, JD '76), Dec. 27, 2018, Decatur, GA. He served in the U.S. Army before entering private practice as an attorney. Later, he was appointed as an administrative law judge and traveled extensively as a member of the judges' national bargaining team.

Jerry Deams Hoyle ('70), Dec. 10, 2018, Kings Mountain, NC. He worked in the Cleveland County (NC) Schools for 38 years as a teacher, assistant principal and principal. He was named teacher of the year and four times as principal of the year. He also was executive director of Communities in Schools in Cleveland County and a member of the Cleveland County Board of Education. He is survived by his wife, daughter, sister and brother, **Charles Hoyle ('75)**.

David Haynes Smith ('70), Oct. 15, 2018, Raleigh. He came to Wake Forest to play basketball but was injured. He was involved with theatre and Pi Kappa Alpha. He was a stockbroker in Raleigh and later joined Wachovia Investment Management in Winston-Salem. He also lived in Sarasota, FL, and most recently Richmond, VA.

James L. Wilson (JD '70), Dec. 7, 2018, Siler City, NC. He was a Babcock Scholar. He practiced corporate law for Southern Railway in Washington, DC, before setting up his law practice in his native Liberty, NC. He also was Liberty's town attorney. He co-owned an international pet food company based in Great Britain. He and his late wife, Peggy, owned eight convenience stores in Alamance and Randolph (NC) counties. He was honored as "Businessman of the Year" by the Liberty Chamber of Commerce and "Man of the

Year" by the Liberty Rotary Club. He served on the Deacon Club board of directors.

Charles H. Harp IV (JD '72), Feb. 12, 2019, Lexington, NC. He served in the U.S. Navy. He was a lawyer for 47 years in Davidson County (NC) and a former president of the Denton Lions Club. He is survived by his wife, Myra, two sons, Patrick Ivan Harp and **William Russell Harp ('90)**, and three grandchildren.

Robert Carroll Montague Jr. ('72), Dec. 10, 2018, Durham, NC. He lived in Stovall, NC, and retired from Suntrust Bank, formerly Central Carolina Bank, having worked in Oxford, Chapel Hill, Roxboro and Durham, NC.

Alfred "Ray" Singleton Jr. ('72), Feb. 5, 2019, Matthews, NC. He was a commercial loan officer, a longtime Rotarian, a volunteer with United Way of Central Carolinas and a board member for Hospice of Union County (NC), which honored him with a leadership award.

Edmund "Ed" Cody Burnett Jr. ('74), Dec. 2, 2018, Roanoke Rapids, NC. A psychologist beloved by patients and colleagues, he was director of outpatient services at Riverstone Counseling & Personal Development and at Five County Mental Health Authority. He retired from private practice in 2015.

Jon B. McPhail ('74), Jan. 2, 2019, Alpharetta, GA. He was a gifted litigator, primarily in mortgage and property law. He worked to protect green spaces and natural resources as a board member of Milton Grows Green and other organizations. He enjoyed playing golf, arguing with friends about sports, listening to Warren Zevon and walking his dog with his wife of 58 years, Martha.

Richard "Rick" Hopper Robertson Jr. (MD '74), Dec. 23, 2018, Florence, SC. He was retired from private practice as a highly respected gastroenterologist for more than four decades. He was a lifelong member of Leaksville United Methodist Church in Eden, NC.

Robert Steven "Steve" Smith ('74), Feb. 16, 2019, Wilmington, NC. He was a CPA in Wilmington for more than 25 years. He was a member of Ogden Baptist Church.

Devere "Roger" Rogers Smith ('74), Nov. 23, 2018, Monroe, NC. He studied after graduation at the Sorbonne School in Paris. He was a superintendent for various construction companies. He was a hunter, fluent in French and an active member of the Monroe (NC) Historic Commission.

Claude "Murray" Bartley (MS '75, PhD '78), Oct. 23, 2018, Conover, NC. He was a professor at Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine, where he earned his medical degree.

He was an anesthesiologist with Western Piedmont Anesthesia in Hickory, NC, from 1991 until he retired in 2004.

Thomas Lee Martin ('75), Nov. 19, 2018, Orlando, FL. He was an economics professor at Clemson University, then the University of Central Florida, specializing in international economics. He enjoyed creating ceramic pieces, gardening and cooking with his wife, Patricia.

James Harry Scales ('75), Jan. 5, 2019, Myrtle Beach, SC. He played football at Wake Forest. He worked in the concrete sealing and waterproofing business and owned JMB Sealants LLC.

Michael Edward Morrisett ('76), Nov. 6, 2018, Virginia Beach, VA. He was a database architect at Newport News Shipbuilding – Huntington Ingalls Industries, the designer, builder and refueler of U.S. Navy aircraft carriers.

Julia "Julie" Flack Phipps ('76), Feb. 8, 2019, Raleigh. She was a nurse in hospitals throughout the Southeast, then spent 25 years as a systems analyst and manager in the Information Services department at WakeMed. She loved reading, quilting and sewing and was a longtime member of Providence Baptist Church in Raleigh. She was predeceased by her parents, Hazel and **Talmage "T.D." Flack Jr. ('51)**.

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Sam. E. Wait
THE SAMUEL WAIT LEGACY SOCIETY

William "Bill" Samuel Britt ('77, JD '80), Nov. 24, 2018, Lumberton, NC. He practiced law with his late father and brother at Britt & Britt law firm and later on his own. He was preceded in death by his parents, **Margurete and Evander M. Britt Jr. ('48, JD '50)**, and his twin brother, **Evander M. Britt III ('77, JD '80)**. He is survived by his sister, **Margurete "Peggy" Britt (JD '85, P '17)**, sister-in-law, **Mary Heaphy Britt ('83, P '14)** and two sons.

Margaret Brown Hallquist (MAEd '77), Oct. 25, 2018, Knoxville, TN. She taught at high schools in Burlington, NC, and Sand Springs, OK, and home-schooled her children in Oak Ridge, TN. She was home-school administrator for the Christian Academy of Knoxville for 15 years before retiring.

Marshall Dean Freedman (PA '78), April 10, 2018, Ellicott City, MD. He was a doctor in internal medicine for Columbia Medical Practice. He enjoyed music and cheering on the Baltimore Ravens and Orioles.

Harold "Rick" H. Reddick Jr. ('78), Feb. 20, 2019, Durham, NC. He was a broker and an avid reader known for his sense of humor and engaging personality. He was predeceased by his father, **Harold Reddick Sr. ('49)**. He is survived by his wife, Kelly, and his mother, **Mattie Greene Reddick ('48)**.

Staten Langbourne Wilcox (JD '78), Nov. 25, 2018, Charlotte. He was an attorney for 40 years, specializing in personal injury law.

Terrence "Terry" John Moore ('79), Feb. 16, 2019, Brick, NJ. He was vice president of Maloney & Curcio Inc., a plumbing supply company in Linden, NJ. He was a former officer of the American Society of Plumbing Engineers. He loved golf, his church and the music of Led Zeppelin, Eric Clapton, the Rolling Stones and Bob Seger.

Michael Anderson Helms ('82), Oct. 6, 2018, Waldorf, MD. He played basketball at Wake Forest. He became an anti-drug spokesman for the North Carolina Department of Corrections' "Think Smart" program.

William "Scott" Sapp ('82), Jan. 19, 2019, Hong Kong. He was a journalist at the Philadelphia Inquirer and joined CNBC as a founding employee. He moved to Hong Kong in 1995 as a producer for CNBC Asia before going into public relations. He worked for 19 years in communications for Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEX). He is survived by his mother, brother and sister, **Cynthia Sapp Greer ('92)**.

J. Robby Gregg Jr. ('83), Dec. 17, 2018, Washington, DC. He spent much of his life championing equality and respect for all individuals, becoming a nationally recognized diversity expert and supporter of LGBTQ rights. He was chief operating officer of the National Black Justice Coalition. In 2018, he received a Friend of the Forum award from The Forum on Workplace Inclusion at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis. He loved to travel and collect art.

Charles Leo Record (MD '86), Dec. 1, 2018, Kernersville, NC. A physician for 27 years, he retired from Novant Health Kernersville Family Medicine, which was co-founded by his late father, **Leo Record (MD '64)**. He is survived by his wife, Kristi, two children, his mother, a sister and a brother, **Glenn Allen Record (MBA '98)**.

William "Bill" Roger Schmitt ('86), Jan. 19, 2019, Winston-Salem, formerly of Hampton Bays, NY.

Jill Daugherty Shipman ('87), Jan. 12, 2019, Raleigh. She played on the Raleigh D'Feeters soccer team and played volleyball on scholarship at Wake Forest. She was a counselor at UNC Rex Hospital, director of RexAware for hospital employees in the Employee Assistance Program and later a counselor at UNC Rex Cancer Care in Raleigh. She coordinated KidsCan!, which supports children of cancer patients.

Suzanne "Suzie" Telleys Clark ('90), Feb. 21, 2019, Scottsdale, AZ. A high school All-America basketball player, she played for Wake Forest and was inducted in 2015 to the Herndon (VA) High School Sports Hall of Fame. She worked in the legal and real estate fields in Scottsdale.

William "Bill" R. Eckbreth (MBA '90), Sept. 12, 2018, Tavares, FL. He was an engineer.

Michael Joseph Randall (JD '90), Dec. 22, 2018, Lutz, FL. He was a TV reporter and anchor in the Tampa Bay area for 12 years before enrolling in law school. He was a prosecutor in Hillsborough County (FL) and later served as general counsel to the Pasco County sheriff. He loved traveling with his wife, Sherry, particularly to national parks and historic sites.

Dwayne Deon Brown ('91, MBA '97), Dec. 1, 2018, Philadelphia. After lettering in football at Wake, he worked in the finance industry before pursuing his dream to start a sustainable fuels company.

Jeffery Alan Patty (MBA '94), Jan. 14, 2019, Belden, MS. He was the director of quality at Ashley Furniture in Ecru, MS. He was a sports car enthusiast who loved carpentry, traveling abroad and being outdoors.

Joseph Craig Peery Jr. ('95), Jan. 10, 2019, Cary, NC. He came to Wake Forest as a Carswell Scholar in debate. He was a financial adviser for more than 20 years. He was a lifelong member and leader in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He is survived by his wife, **Julie Roberts Peery (MA '95)**, five children, his parents, a sister and a brother. A daughter preceded him in death.

Mary Sartor Bartholomew (MALS '99), Feb. 12, 2019, Winston-Salem. She was a flight attendant and real estate agent and worked for Wake Forest and the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools. She was preceded in death by her husband, **Robert T. Bartholomew ('57)**, executive director of the Deacon Club. She is survived by her daughter, **Sallie Bartholomew Capizzi ('89, MALS '03)**, son-in-law **Robert Nunzio Capizzi ('94, MBA '01)** and two grandchildren.

Christopher Chase ('03), Dec. 5, 2018, Pottomac, MD. He was a high school teacher and swim coach before his journalism career as a sports writer for Yahoo, Fox Sports and USA Today. He was a founding member of For The Win, an award-winning USA Today column that publishes stories readers can share on any device.

Jonelle "Jodi" C. Simmons (MDiv '03), Jan. 6, 2019, Raleigh. She was a high-school French teacher and later worked in computer research centers across the country, including at Harvard and Wayne State universities. After divinity school, she was a chaplain for Durham Regional Hospital, Duke Homecare & Hospice and Durham VA Healthcare.

Matthew Clark Zonghetti ('14), Jan. 17, 2019, Mansfield, MA. He was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha and played on the club lacrosse team at Wake Forest. He worked in real estate investment. His passions included skiing, travel, hiking, football, lacrosse, the New England Patriots and his dog, Bodie.

Matthew Griffin Mancuso ('15, MSA '16), Nov. 16, 2018, Boston. He was a tax specialist with PricewaterhouseCoopers and served on the company's digital team. He loved exploring, from skydiving to kite-flying, and traveling and volunteering internationally.

Friends, Faculty, Staff, Students

Wendall Keith O'Steen, Jan. 1, 2019, Jacksonville Beach, FL. He was a professor and chair in the Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy at Bowman Gray School of Medicine until retiring in 1993. He served in the U.S. Army Infantry during the Korean War and was an Eagle Scout.

Henry "Jeff" Jefferson Smith Jr., Oct. 27, 2018, Oxford, OH. He taught in Wake Forest's Babcock Graduate School of Management from 1998 to 2006 and served on the Faculty Senate. As a professor, he was known for his wisdom, encouragement and open-door policy. He also taught at Georgetown and Miami of Ohio universities.

Ivo van de Rijn, Aug. 24, 2018, Winston-Salem. He was professor emeritus of microbiology and immunology at Wake Forest University School of Medicine. He had a distinguished career as a researcher, teacher and trainer of scientists, with significant research into rheumatic fever, strep throat infection and kidney disease.

Kay Michael Wienberry, Oct. 26, 2018, Durham, NC. She worked in the football office at Wake Forest for many years before moving to Florida, California and Virginia, then to Durham to be near her only granddaughter.

'I HAVE TO KNOW IF I CAN MAKE IT'

Marc Blucas ('94) took the long shot from sports to Hollywood, and he nailed it

By Carol L. Hanner

On paper, Marc Blucas says, he never should have made it to where he is now.

Blucas ('94) was a small-town boy from Butler, Pennsylvania, who played basketball on scholarship for Wake Forest, graduated with a business degree and played abroad, but he soon set his course toward law school. He also had a partnership with NASCAR great Dale Earnhardt Sr. to start a company advising professional athletes on contracts, endorsements and financial planning, with the help of Bern Beatty (P '88), now a professor emeritus of business.

Then Blucas got a phone call from John Justus, who was the University's sports information director. A filmmaker needed a basketball player for "Eddie," a 1996 movie shooting in Charlotte. He got the part. "And then the cliché happened. I caught the bug."

Blucas gave up law school, even though he had never acted. He gave up flying to races in Earnhardt's private jet to work together on their business plan. He gave up the world of sports that had been his passion since childhood. "On paper, I'm the dumbest person on the planet," Blucas says, laughing. "I had everything you could want ... teed up for me, and I chose something where I had no experience, no relationships, where I knew no one."

But it worked. He has a successful acting career. He plays the romantic interest of star Robin Tunney in a TV legal drama called "The Fix," which premiered in March on ABC. In February, he filmed a Christmas special in Connecticut for Hallmark Movies, where he has had multiple starring roles. His long filmography includes playing Riley Finn on the TV series "Buffy the Vampire Slayer."

Blucas lived for about 14 years in Los Angeles but moved seven years ago to a 15-acre farm in rural Pennsylvania, where he lives with his wife, Ryan Haddon Blucas. She is a former producer who is now a hypnotherapist and life coach. They live in a 300-year-old renovated farmhouse with their two daughters, 5 and 7, and Ryan's two teens from an earlier marriage.

Blucas says he loved Los Angeles after the first difficult year. "From 25 to 35, it was a great place to be. I was single. It's the heartbeat of the industry I was in, and I needed to learn it and make the relationships."

But after five years, he was already imagining an exit strategy. He missed East Coast seasons and the marking of time. Tax credits and technology dramatically dispersed film locations, giving him the freedom to live away from L.A. He met Ryan, and she, too, was ready to leave California to be closer to her family.

Blucas knows his pursuit of acting seemed crazy when he started. He had tried for small theater roles at Wake Forest, but the sports arena always trumped the stage. "We're playing Duke, and I'm 'Hey, (theater) guys, I can't make it. I got to go get my (butt) kicked by Grant Hill tonight.'"



Acting psyched him up in the same way basketball did. "It's just an energy and the excitement of having the pressure to perform certain things," he says. Live sports events change spectators' emotions, and so does storytelling. And he liked the challenge. Acting is "one of the hardest businesses in the world to break into," Blucas says. "It was almost the same decision that I had coming to college. ... I wasn't the Rodney Rogers ('94) and Randolph Childress ('95, P '20) where you know you're going to be a star." He told himself he knew he would be a role player at best, "but I have to know if I can make it."

If acting ever becomes tiresome, he'll stop. He has other skills, thanks in part to Wake Forest's liberal arts education, exposure to diversity and a concern for "turning out good human beings." He learned "the best way to solve a problem or to have success is through communication and surrounding yourself with the right people."

He hopes his kids will find the same inspiration. "Wake athletics does a really cute thing, and when a former player has a kid ... you get a national letter of intent," Blucas says. "They think it's a joke, but I'm holding them to it."

Here to say that moving and shaking leads to growth (and “Jeopardy!” championships)

By Pidge Meade ('89)

DEAR OLD WAKE FOREST — I haven't been on your beautiful campus for almost 30 years. Google Maps tells me that now, as I write this, I am 2,743 miles from the Scales Fine Arts Center. But if I close my eyes, I am there.

There were many reasons I chose to come to Wake, and one of them was that I wanted to experience living somewhere other than the Midwest, where I was born and raised (shoutout to Carbondale, Illinois!). So I headed South — and life in North Carolina opened my eyes to all kinds of new experiences: food, language, manners, the fervor of NCAA basketball fandom and so much more.

But I was uncomfortable at first — I didn't know the lingo or the customs, and in my all-women's dorm I was a fish out of water. I was a foul-mouthed, opinionated, sweatpants-clad lefty feminist in a sea of polite and gracious former debutantes. Now that's a great setup for a sitcom, but for actual living? I didn't know if it was going to work out so well.

Spoiler alert: It did. And not just because I learned to drink sweet tea and say y'all. As in “Y'all goin' to see the Deacs play tonight?”

Being willing to be uncomfortable helped me expand as a human being — to stretch and grow. By making a radical change of location and spending time with people with different paths and perspectives, I learned as much outside the classroom as I did inside. And I learned a ton inside those classrooms — blossoming in my strengths (Theatre! Humanities!) and cultivating grit as I studied things I wasn't skilled at (I'm looking at you, biology and statistics). All that hype about the value of a liberal arts education — it's for real. Take it from me, a bona fide “Jeopardy!” champion.

Stretching and welcoming the uncomfortable — that became a template for my life beyond Wake Forest. For grad school I traveled northeast to an urban setting for my MFA in acting



(hello, Pittsburgh!) where there were challenges with weather and learning to parallel park on steep grades. I embraced the culinary adventures of pierogies and eating french fries on a sandwich. Y'all gave way to yinz, as in “Yinz gonna watch da Steeler game tonight?” Grad school itself was an object lesson in discomfort. Highly competitive. Lots of blunt feedback.

Spoiler alert #2: I wasn't the second coming of Meryl Streep.

Next came a big geographic leap to the Pacific Northwest. Not for school, not for a job, but for (gulp) love. Eating lots of feminist crow, I moved cross-country for a guy named Dave who was finishing up his theatre master's at the University of Oregon. I experienced the joy and the challenge of cohabitation and all the teachings a grown-up relationship has to offer. I learned totally new concepts like composting and discovered my inner John Audubon persona who loved spending time hiking (Me? Hiking?) in the rain-purified hills and forests of “God's Country.”

Then there was this thing called the dotcom boom. Dave and I, with our four theatre degrees between us, made the totally logical move to finding work in the tech world as we charted new territory in the San Francisco Bay Area. Discomfort abounded as I navigated all



the idiosyncrasies of corporate life and cubicle etiquette along with the daily adventure of a California freeway commute.

Twenty-three years later I am still here in The Golden State with opportunities every day to expand and lean into the unknown, right where I am. Just a few months back I made the career switch from technical writer to culture designer and leadership coach. I regularly engage in activities I once scoffed at: meditation, yoga, personal growth retreats. I have even shaken up the one constant of my life: performing. Instead of playing characters from the theatrical canon, I now write my own material. That's about the biggest stretch imaginable — being myself onstage. Yeah, the venues don't hold a candle to the Scales Fine Arts Center, but if I close my eyes....

—
Pidge Meade ('89) received an MFA in acting from the University of Pittsburgh and is a certified leadership coach through the Conscious Leadership Group. She has worked at Visa for 23 years in a variety of roles. She appeared on “Jeopardy!” from Oct. 10-12, 2016 (total cash winnings of \$33,001). She lives in Pacifica, California, with her husband, Dave, also a “Jeopardy!” champion. No one will play Trivial Pursuit with them.



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She did it!

Jennifer Kupcho ('19) has shown little girls all over the world what's possible.

For the first time in history, Augusta National Golf Club hosted a women's tournament, and on April 6 Kupcho won it, lifting the winner's trophy to bestow a kiss upon it at the Augusta National Women's Amateur. It was a nationally celebrated achievement for the then-student-athlete who entered the tournament as 2018 NCAA champion and No. 1 in the World Amateur Golf Ranking.

AP PHOTO/DAVID GOLDMAN

