

# WAKEFOREST

A vibrant, stylized illustration for 'The Arts Issue' of The Magazine of Wake Forest University. The artwork features a central figure in a top hat painting a rainbow, surrounded by musical notes, a guitar, a palette, and various architectural and natural elements like a large building, a church steeple, and flowers. The text 'THE ARTS ISSUE' is prominently displayed in a blue banner.

THE MAGAZINE OF WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY

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How Allison Orr ('93) worked her magic to win over a host of skeptical carpenters, custodians and landscapers to put on a show.



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**SHINING A LIGHT ON THE ARTS***By Carol L. Hanner*

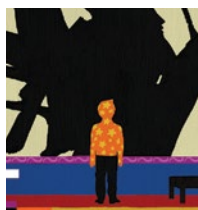
Christina Soriano aims to give every student access to a transformative experience.



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# WAKEFOREST

MAGAZINE

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## ON THE COVER

Illustration by Gina Triplett

## FROM *The* PRESIDENT

**I HAVE A SENSE THAT** maybe we need art more than ever before in our society. Our lives are cluttered and noisy and constantly moving. We don't stop to understand the profound nature of our lives, and art — great art — makes you stop and see the wonder. It grabs you by the collar and makes you focus.



Ernie Johnson, who does recycling work and performed in "From the Ground Up," welcomes Nathan and Julie Hatch to a rehearsal of the show on the Quad.

I think a lot of people who saw the performance of "From the Ground Up" on campus will never be the same in terms of how they view this campus and the people who support its maintenance. I felt it was profound and beautiful in the way it took ordinary things and tasks and made them artistic, flowing, compelling and deeply moving. It

revealed the dignity of things people take for granted, ignore and sometimes implicitly demean. In that sense, "From the Ground Up" dignified work of all kinds, particularly work with people's hands. There was great music. The performance had elements of humor, pathos and conscience.

I like a statement by poet and theologian Eugene Peterson that can be applied to art: it doesn't so much tell us what we never knew "as bring into recognition what is latent, forgotten, overlooked or suppressed." For me this is true of visual art and theatre.

This issue of the magazine is devoted to the arts and highlights "From the Ground Up" and the other ways the arts are a part of Wake Forest. For some students who were involved in music, dance or visual arts before they arrived, Wake Forest offers a major outlet for their creativity and opportunities to hone their skills. For any liberal arts student, the college experience should open up new vistas involving the arts.

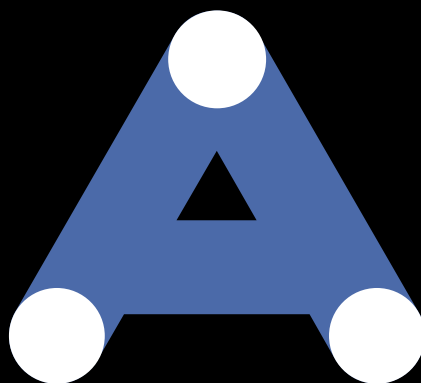
I remember taking a music appreciation class in college. To this day, when I go to New York I love to go to the symphony. It is because I have some understanding, for example, of what Baroque music is and its origins. That one college class has enriched my life profoundly. I wish for our students to have similar experiences in which the arts become a more integral part of life.

Enjoy this issue of the magazine. I hope you will have a chance to reflect on the wonder of art in your life.

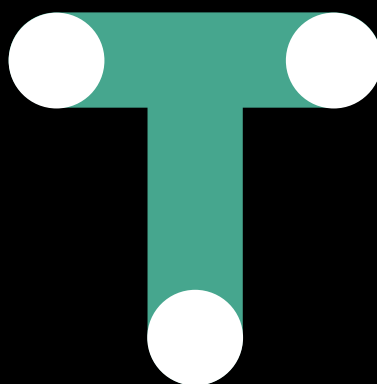
Sincerely,

*Nathan D. Hatch*





SHINING A LIGHT  
ON THE



*Christina Soriano aims to  
give every student access to  
a transformative experience.*

**BY CAROL L. HANNER**



## CHRISTINA SORIANO

*was named in 2018  
as the first associate  
provost for the arts  
and interdisciplinary  
initiatives. Her role  
involves enhancing visibility*

*of the arts and forging interdisciplinary connections through what is called Wake The Arts. She is an associate professor of dance and director of the University's dance program. She also researches how improvisational dance can improve brain health in older adults. She has choreographed works in New England, North Carolina, New York and Vienna, Austria. She is a 2019-20 Kennedy Center Citizen Artist Fellow, one of eight change-makers in a yearlong fellowship. She was instrumental in getting Allison Orr ('93) to choose her alma mater as one of three campuses supported by a grant that allows Orr to choreograph spectacular performances in which workers' movements and their equipment are put to music and dance to explain and highlight their work. Wake Forest Magazine interviewed Soriano about her goals for emphasizing the arts at Wake Forest. These excerpts have been edited and condensed for clarity.*

### **How does "From the Ground Up," the performance by the Facilities & Campus Services group as directed by Allison Orr, connect to your goals for the arts at Wake Forest?**

The biggest thing I want to stress is this is a movement. This isn't a passing fad or something that's going away after this big show. This big show is a way to highlight what's already happening, the way there is an arts community deeply connected to this campus, deeply invested in this campus and in many ways is the nucleus of this campus, and yet that is not necessarily the way that story has been told or that history's been written. Now we have a chance, I think, to say, "We're here!" There's a lot of dynamic energy on this campus, and guess what, a lot of it often comes from the visual and performing arts community that's here.

### **What is your job as the inaugural associate provost for the arts?**

My job is to highlight that work in seen and unseen ways. What are the ways behind the scenes I'm trying to elevate the work of my colleagues, the work of our extraordinary students, our extraordinary alumni? What ways am I also doing that in "seen" ways — on the Quad, with bucket trucks, right?

It's getting our communications plans organized. It's getting ramped up now that we have our talented curator of collections here, Jennifer Finkel. Now we have a communications strategist for the arts that's going to be helping curate and get together all of the assets, the stories, the content

### Why are the arts emerging now at Wake Forest?

I think it speaks to Provost (Rogan) Kersh's ('86) leadership. He has recognized that Scales (Fine Arts Center) has been, as a facility, not serving our students, our faculty, our staff, our community at the high level that we expect of Wake Forest, and it is time to revisit the way we put that work out there, and so Rogan wanted to have dedicated support toward this.

It's been his vision and his leadership.

As the campus has grown, facilities and buildings respond to the growth. We — and this is to our detriment — we're creative problem solvers, so we figure out how to make do with less, and that's what artists do well. But it's time to lift up the arts. In doing so, you have to focus on the spaces where we do our work.

I am grateful that this year the (Harold C.) Tedford Stage (in Scales) is now finally ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant. We've lost some seats in the process; however, now there are handrails walking down both sides of the aisles; there's handicapped seating. We fixed lighting in the house this year. It's just a function of we're bursting at the seams.

### What has been the role of IPLACe, the Interdisciplinary Performance and the Liberal Arts Center, at Wake Forest?

Cindy (Professor of Theatre Cynthia Gendrich) has been the director of it; she is a fearless leader, and IPLACe

has been the bedrock of Wake The Arts. (In the past eight years, IPLACe has supported 578 events within 240 separate projects, mostly with performing arts faculty and students. The events include interdisciplinary performances, guest artist visits, commissioned works, panel discussions, receptions, classroom projects, lectures, research and conference support, and intimate "salons.")

### Talk a little bit about the liberal arts engagement with the arts.

I'll do better. I'll read you a quote that came from President Hatch: "The arts invite us to look at a problem and see a solution that might not be obvious. At Wake Forest, we want these disciplines to help students hone their powers of observation, increase their capacity to empathize with others and connect with the world in meaningful ways. Our model of instruction being engaged liberal arts makes students active participants in their education, and nothing in any curriculum requires activity of mind and body more than the arts."

Every student on this campus can and should and will have a transformative art experience or access to it. It's there, and we want to make it even more affirmed and endorsed. Students who already understand how much this is steeped in their identity, they can continue to grow at a higher level in their visual and performing arts education. This belongs to you, every Wake Forest student.

"EVERY STUDENT  
ON THIS CAMPUS  
CAN AND SHOULD  
AND WILL HAVE A  
TRANSFORMATIVE  
ART EXPERIENCE  
OR ACCESS TO IT."

about what we do, who we are, how we operate and help translate that to a centralized, improved arts website so we have a more organized and clear arts calendar. If I am someone who wants to know about the arts at Wake and I'm a prospective student, that website (arts.wfu.edu) will give me the info I need that shows the vibrancy that's happening here. If I'm an alum, I can find that info.

But (my job is) also to think about what are innovations happening in the arts on campus that people don't know about. The fact that the magazine is focusing on this is a great step in that. ... I feel like I have noticed more and more arts stories. Those are our alumni. They are not one-offs, (they are) a big part of who we are. And people aren't aware of that. They don't talk about it that way when they talk about Wake Forest.

We've got to reinforce that content and do it in a strategic way and do it in a powerful way in order to really make this movement grow.





# Aha!

**The shock of encountering abstract expressionism. Playing a trombone from dad. A studio art class that upended career plans. Faculty cite these among seminal events that changed their lives, setting the arts as their destiny.**  
**BY KERRY M. KING ('85), MARIA HENSON ('82) AND CAROL L. HANNER**  
**ILLUSTRATIONS BY GINA TRIPLETT**

≡  
Praise  
of

# the Unweird

At the last minute, Page Laughlin discovered artists who modeled their intelligent, engaged lives for her.



## PAGE LAUGHLIN

HAROLD W. TRIBBLE PROFESSOR, PAINTING

Page Laughlin received her undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia (Phi Beta Kappa) and her MFA in painting from the Rhode Island School of Design. She has exhibited in galleries across the country, and her paintings are in private and public collections, including the North Carolina Museum of Art, The Mint Museum, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA).

**IT WAS MY SENIOR YEAR** — undergraduate at the University of Virginia — and I was going to law school or medical school. I took a studio art course for the first time because I had time. I try to tell students, “Do this earlier.” I went into the class, and the teacher changed my life direction radically.

I think the aha aspect of it was, it was the first time I had really met and worked with professional artists. I’d gone to museums, but those artists were dead, or I didn’t know them. I’d had whatever art class you get in middle school and high school, but they were invariably (taught by) somebody’s mother, or they were the math teacher teaching art because it was considered just an add-on spice. I walked into a course taught by professional artists who — their practice, their living, their commitment — was to making art. I realized that they were in some ways the most engaged and intelligent people I’d worked with as an undergraduate. They showed me that making art is a way of exploring the world.

If you’re a person with a lot of curiosity, it’s a very good place to operate

within. And they weren’t weird. They hadn’t cut off their ears. They weren’t zany. They were highly intelligent and creative. They were talking about politics and the environment and philosophy and the color theory and science and observation and quantum physics and studio class. I found myself spending all my time in the studio. So, I can locate the shift. You could say it wasn’t so much aha, but maybe it was a shift where I thought, “I need to explore this. I need to find out what this is all about.”

There are no guarantees in the art world at all. (After graduation) I picked up and moved to San Francisco, because it was an area of creatives then and now. It was as far away from my traditional upbringing as it could be. ... My parents were like, “Oh, you need to go into advertising. You want to be creative, let’s go into advertising.” Then I think they held their breath for about six months, thinking I would change my mind, and I didn’t.

I was able to just get a job that paid rent. I painted in my attic. ... I finally said to my parents, “I’m doing this.

I’m not asking you to be financially supportive. You can choose to be supportive or not, but I’m going to do it,” and that was it. I think (there were) tears and probably very impassioned hanging up the phone. This is what I was saying, “I’m going to go to graduate school.” My parents called back and said, “OK. Make a list of the best graduate programs in the United States.” Not that they would pay for it, but they said, “OK,” — like “If you’re going to do it, be the best you can be. Whatever you do, do it well.”



# The Keyboard Code

**Peter Kairoff's**  
world opened  
with a beat-up  
piano.



## **PETER KAIROFF** CHAIR AND PROFESSOR OF MUSIC

Peter Kairoff has performed as a pianist and harpsichordist around the world and has been described as one of America's finest keyboard performers. He joined the faculty in 1988 and has directed Wake Forest's Casa Artom program in Venice for 25 years. He has published eight CD recordings, including works of Bach, Schubert and late-19th century American composers. A native of Los Angeles, he attended the University of California San Diego intending to become a doctor, but he later earned his master's and doctoral degrees in music performance from the University of Southern California.

**I WAS THE LAST OF** five kids, and by the time I was 13, I was the only child at home. My father, who died before I got to know him, had been a Russian opera singer. (Kairoff's father emigrated to the United States in the 1920s; he died a few months after Peter was born.) My mother was a single mom, and we were of very limited means, but she bought an old, beat-up church piano for \$30 and brought it home.

She got the local neighborhood teacher to teach me. She said, "This dot on the page means this key on the keyboard," and off we went. I remember saying to her, "I think you've just opened the whole world to me." I think I scared her. To me the aha moment was day one, minute one. This is amazing. I get it. You do this and then that, and I could somehow, already as a little kid, extrapolate, wow, if I do that, then pretty soon I'll be able to do all that other stuff.

My mother would go to the public library and check out classical LPs. I still remember how they sounded on my 10-year-old record player. That was an education in itself. Somehow, I don't know how she did it, she found an old baby grand piano that she got someone to give us. It was a name you've never heard of, but what an amazing thing. We were in a tiny, one-bedroom apartment with a baby grand piano taking over the whole living room.

I went to a pre-college music program at the University of Southern California. And you talk about aha moments! My piano lessons were next door to the room where Jascha Heifetz, the great god of violin, taught. Gregor Piatigorsky, the great Russian cellist that people would flock to from all over the world to study with, was on the other side. I had a sense of these mythic people, this whole world of European emigrés coming to Los Angeles to make beautiful music in the sunshine. I was like a kid with his nose pressed against the glass.



I still never intended to make music my career because I started late. I presumed that was for other people, the Arthur Rubinsteins of the world. At the end of college, something in me said don't go to med school yet; take a year off. I got a job accompanying at the San Diego Opera as a rehearsal pianist. The first rehearsal, in walks Beverly Sills, and she sits down on the bench next to me. She starts to sing, and I practically fell off the bench. I'd never heard anything like that. It was musically thrilling, but it was also a realization that maybe I can make a living playing the piano.

One of the reasons I love teaching at Wake Forest is that so many of my students, as gifted as they are, are

doing a thousand other things and majoring in two or three other areas. I like to think I'm keeping their love of music going. And, occasionally, some — even a few pre-meds — switch and go into music and are professional musicians now.

I realized early on that teaching and performing are part of the same thing. When I teach and when I perform, I'm revealing the inner workings of a great work of art that I love deeply. I often tell my students that music picks up where words leave off. It has a way of expressing things that can't otherwise be expressed. I feel immensely lucky to be able to live this dream that little 13-year-old me could only have guessed at.

# A Cello to Chicago

**Elizabeth Clendinning**  
persuaded her mother to  
ship the instrument, and  
soon the professor was  
enmeshed in world music.



## ELIZABETH CLENDINNING

### ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MUSIC

Elizabeth Clendinning, a specialist in ethnomusicology, teaches popular world music survey courses and Asian music and directs the University's Balinese gamelan, *Gamelan Giri Murti*, a percussion orchestra whose name translates to "magical forest." Her undergraduate degree is from the University of Chicago and master's and doctoral degrees are from Florida State University. Her research addresses space, time, cultural representation and pedagogy within transnational Balinese gamelan communities and within film and television music. She is the author of "American Gamelan and the Ethnomusicological Imagination."

**WHEN I WAS AN** undergraduate student, I took a class on musics of the Mediterranean world, and one of our assignments was to go observe the rehearsal for the Middle East Music Ensemble. And so I went, pestering my teacher with questions all the way over because we were walking together. And I said, "Well, what does it feel like to play in an ensemble?" He said, "Well, why don't you find out for yourself?"

After observing this ensemble once, I had my mother ship my cello from Florida to Chicago. I still have no idea how she did that! I began to play with this group and interact with this community ... both students and Middle Eastern community (people) in Chicago. I kept having more and more questions and more and more fun, and that's kind of how I knew that I wanted it to be my work.

The Bali (aha moment) happened a few years later — the first time that I ever saw a Balinese dance live. There was a dancer who had essentially followed her husband. He was pursuing

a doctorate in education, and she happened to hear we had a Balinese gamelan ensemble on campus. She came to demonstrate the dance, and it was so beautiful and so graceful. Then we found out she was offering a class, and I knew I had to study with her. Somehow that connection between playing and hearing the music — embodying the dance and getting to know this person — made me know that I really wanted to go to Bali. From there it just grew. It became increasingly a part of my life, both the arts and the people.

I think there are aha moments for students. That's often when someone will come up to me and say, "Professor Clendinning, I just heard whatever it was — like 12-bar blues. For the first time I can hear it now. It's in this piece of music." So, they discover something that had been hidden (but) there all along. ... That's amazing to see a student go from being more of a passive enjoyer of music to someone who really cannot only identify a definition from a textbook but identify something they've learned about in the real world.

Occasionally, I get notes from students after class ends. I remember one in particular. The student was traveling with her parents in New York City over the winter break, and (they) were traveling on the subway. There were subway musicians. She was able to stop and explain to her dad what the musician — it was a Chinese musician — was playing and what type of music it was. Seeing students be able to take something they learned in class and apply it in unexpected moments in their real life is pretty amazing.

# 'There's Lucy'

**How Mary Wayne-Thomas  
found her way to the theatre.**

## **MARY WAYNE-THOMAS**

**PROFESSOR OF SCENIC AND COSTUME DESIGN  
F.M. KIRBY FAMILY FACULTY FELLOW**



Since joining the faculty in 1980, Mary Wayne-Thomas has designed sets for 49 productions and costumes for 76 productions at Wake Forest. She has also designed sets and costumes for numerous theatre companies, including the Little Theatre of Winston-Salem and the Attic Theatre in Los Angeles. She has done a bit of everything behind the scenes — as a tailor, prop master and master carpenter — for productions around the country, including the North Carolina Shakespeare Festival, Alabama Shakespeare Festival and Utah Shakespeare Festival.



A scene from the Wake Forest University Theatre's production of "Collidescope 3.0" in 2017.

**I GREW UP IN** a small town (Philipsburg, Pennsylvania), but it was very close to Penn State, and we would occasionally see plays there. There was a community theatre in town, and my mother did costumes for the theatre. There's a story in my family which I don't remember because I was probably 3. My oldest sister was in a play in high school, "Bertha the Beautiful Typewriter Girl." She was playing Bertha, and when she walked onstage, I yelled, "There's Lucy!" That was my introduction to theatre.

In high school, I'd done some backstage work. When I was a senior I was cast in "Inherit the Wind" in a small role. The play was canceled because of (a complaint from) one

parent. Those of us who know the play felt it was not disrespectful of religion. At that point, I realized that theatre is a powerful thing. And that stuck with me.

When I started college (Penn State), I was a math major. One night, I went to see a play, "Long Day's Journey into Night," and I thought, "I want to be a theatre major." It's a powerful, moving and heart-wrenching play. It was extraordinarily well done. I was mesmerized. I wanted to be part of a world where telling a story, and telling it well, can move people and perhaps change their minds.

One of the reasons I chose Ohio State (for graduate school) was because I could do costuming. That's

where I really started studying costume design. I knew how to sew but not necessarily how you construct a costume. I came to Wake Forest because the job was both scenic and costume design in a relatively new theatre. (The theatre wing of the Scales Fine Arts Center opened in 1976.)

There are a number of shows that I've designed twice, but they're never the same. You're working with different actors. You're performing in a different time. But the bottom line is — and I always tell my students this — your goal is to help the audience understand the play.

# Shock and Awe

Inspired by abstract expressionism, David Finn learned early on that art can appear deceptively simple.





## DAVID FINN

### PROFESSOR OF ART

David Finn has taught sculpture at Wake Forest since 1987 and has presented solo exhibits in New York, London, Milan, Hong Kong and elsewhere. He has received grants and fellowships from, among others, the New York Foundation for the Arts, the North Carolina Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts. He began making “Newspaper Children,” child-sized bodies from newspapers placed in evocative installations, in 1982. He has worked in plastics, ceramics, wood, steel, wax and stone.

He describes his work as primarily project-based and tied to a concept rather than a medium. He is interested in socially engaged art, funeral rituals and memorials, carving, fermentation and public art and design. His “Transforming Race/Big Tent” public project, ongoing since 2011, connects art students and local high school students to discuss race and diversity and produce artwork.

**I SAW A PAINTING** by Franz Kline (1910-1962) when I was 18 that was one of those moments when I saw something that I’d never seen before, didn’t anticipate. It was really kind of shocking and awe-inspiring. I saw this in a museum (at Cornell University).

The thing that was so amazing to me was the encounter with the physical presence of this large painting, which seems to be really so spontaneous, just having such a physical impact with its scale and with its gesture.

I hadn’t had a lot of exposure to that kind of art, which is Abstract Expressionism, so it was a completely new experience. Lots of people have that kind of art experience, right? But what happened to me was I said — and I’ve heard many students say something like this — “That can’t be that hard to make, and I would really like to have a painting like that.” And that’s what got me started, to try to recreate that sense of awe and make something that could inspire that. But, of course, you know what? It’s really hard. That’s the punchline, that I’ve spent my entire life to try to create that, because it’s very elusive. I think it helps (students) get it that it’s deceptively simple.

I also used to read poetry in class, which is just, “Anybody can use these words to make something up.” They understand that having the experience of trying to make something is extremely valuable because it teaches you more about those things that you love. That’s something that you can’t get just by writing about it or analyzing it. You begin to understand, by actually writing poetry, by actually putting a brush onto canvas, those physical acts are important to understand what really can transform somebody. It actually changes the way we see things, and when you’re that age, you’re looking for that.



# Beach Boys to Bach

Composer **Dan Locklair**  
found magic in music.

## DAN LOCKLAIR

### PROFESSOR OF MUSIC AND COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE

Since joining the faculty in 1982, Dan Locklair has composed orchestral, chamber, solo and choral music that has been performed throughout the United States and around the world by, among others, the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, Slovak National Symphony Orchestra, St. Louis Symphony, Kansas City Symphony, North Carolina Symphony and Winston-Salem Symphony. “The Peace may be exchanged,” a movement from “Rubrics,” one of the most frequently performed pieces of late-20th century American organ music, was performed at the funerals of Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush.

**I STARTED STUDYING** the piano at age 6 with the organist at my home church and began playing the trombone at age 10, eventually playing in the Charlotte Symphony Youth Orchestra. In elementary school, I remember hearing the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra; that was magical, because I had never heard an orchestra. The symphony later had a competition where young people could audition to play the glockenspiel in “Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy” from Tchaikovsky’s “Nutcracker.” That was my first time onstage.

By the time I was 14, I was composing and had my first church organist post. I was 16 when my high school orchestra and choral directors performed my first pieces. I was conducting and writing church music, but I also had an interest in the Beach Boys and the Beatles. But my passion was listening to classical music. We were members of Caldwell Presbyterian Church (in Charlotte), and I loved choral music and the organ, what Mozart called “the king of instruments.” You really do learn what you might love when you’re in the midst

of hearing it. It’s simply the sound of what a well-trained choir sounds like or what a hymn or Bach played well sounds like played on the organ. You can never tell what impact that will have on a young mind.

I was fortunate to have an uncle, Wriston Locklair (a music critic and an administrator at The Juilliard School), who was an avid music lover. Even as a child, we would exchange letters, and he would send me LP recordings of Leonard Bernstein, Aaron Copland, Handel, Tchaikovsky. When I moved to New York, we went to many world premieres and concerts together.

Some aha moments you can remember exactly when they hit; others take place over a longer stretch of time. I had incredible teachers (at Mars Hill College, Eastman School of Music and School of Sacred Music at Union Theological Seminary) with high standards who taught that unless you were the best that you could possibly be, you would not be able to compete. I wanted to become the finest composer that I could be and the finest organist that I could be.



At Union, I started to craft my pieces with the smallest number of musical ideas and to think of a music composition as a journey. It has to have a beginning, go somewhere, reach a destination and end. Else the journey doesn’t make any sense. That changed my life as a composer.

Nadia Boulanger, the teacher of Aaron Copland, once said: “Do not take up music unless you would rather die than not do so.” For me, that has been a guiding credo.



# A Perfect Blend of Art and History

**Bernadine Barnes, chair of the Department of Art, found her forte through a series of fortuitous roadblocks.**

**I WENT TO** the University of Illinois (at Urbana-Champaign), and I was in the College of Liberal Arts (& Sciences) there, but I'd always had an interest in art, and I thought I wanted to become an artist. I wasn't able to declare a major in art. You really had to apply to the School of Fine (and Applied) Arts at the University of Illinois. I had to do a portfolio, and I was always scared to do it, so I stayed in liberal arts, and I'm really glad I did because I got to study psychology and anthropology and literature and languages. But I kept doing art and making art, taking classes in art, and eventually I had enough training in art to be able to teach it in high school or junior high. I had a terrible experience with my student teaching. I found out I had not much patience for middle school students. It wasn't fun.

I finished my student teaching in the middle of the year, and I didn't know what to do because it would be impossible to get a job. A professor of mine suggested, "Why don't you take a course in art history? You might like it." And I did. I realized that was really what I wanted to do (and) tapped skills, interests that I had about writing and cultural history and the way literature deals with meaning and interpretations. And the study of religions was always important to me,

## **BERNADINE BARNES**

### **CHAIR AND PROFESSOR OF ART**

**Bernadine Barnes teaches the Renaissance and Baroque periods. She is particularly interested in how artists direct their works toward specific types of viewers or buyers and how critics articulate audience expectations. Her book, "Michelangelo and the Viewer in his Time," shows how he considered settings and viewers in such works as the David and the Sistine Chapel ceiling. Her other interests include representations of women in the Renaissance, artists as entrepreneurs and cultural encounters in the Early Modern Mediterranean.**

and that still is important to me, so it was the perfect kind of liberal arts study for me.

I was always fascinated with people like Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo. When I was a kid, I actually wrote a paper about Michelangelo that my mother saved. She hardly saved anything, but she saved that and gave it to me. I think I've always just been really interested in these kinds of multifaceted, pretty heroic people.

I have a strong but unfocused ability to do art, to make things. That has absolutely influenced how I think about art history. But most of my publications are actually more about how people react to art, how they see it and criticize it and think about it. That's a really important thing, too, that when you are an artist you are trying to get something across to somebody else. What they do with it is something else maybe that you can't control. It's a really interesting communication process.



# Ballet

was  
the Ticket

**Nina Lucas was a tiny dancer when she knew where her dreams would lead her.**



## **NINA LUCAS**

**CHAIR OF DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE  
PROFESSOR OF DANCE**

Nina Lucas has been on the faculty since 1996, teaching classes that include modern and jazz dance; movement for men; history of dance; performance and choreography; multi-ethnic dance; and African American choreography. She is the artistic director of the University's Dance Company. She has a bachelor's degree in dance performance from The Ohio State University and an MFA in performance and education from the University of California Los Angeles. She has trained at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center, Phil Black Dance Studio and Martha Graham's school in New York City. In 2001, she received the University's Reid-Doyle Prize for Excellence in Teaching.



**WE WERE ARMY BRATS** while my father was in the military. We were stationed in Fayetteville (North Carolina). My mother put my sister and me in a dance class, and that was it. ... I must have been between 4 and 6, and I remember the dance class, the smell of the studio, the compliments from the teacher and just how excited I was about being in that class. Once we transferred from North Carolina to Ohio, I took two classes at Dayton Ballet School, and the rest is history. I knew for the rest of my life at a young age that I was going to be involved in the arts, specifically as a dancer.

I knew I was going to college to major in dance. I remember my dad said, "Are you sure?" And I was like, "Yes." "Don't you want to go into accounting?" I was, "No, God, no. I'm terrible at that. No, Dad. Thanks, Dad. ... I promise to make a career out of this." And I look back, and I have. It's been a part of my life forever.

I started in ballet, and then I was introduced to modern dance in the '70s. It was creative movement, and I loved the fact I could be more expressive and either mimic the lyrics of the song or make up stories through movement, but technique

was really important. ... I gravitated toward contemporary. And partly because it was really hard for African Americans in that time to be involved in ballet because you had to have that svelte, lean body, and I mean I was a tiny person, but I had quads and glutes. Not that I couldn't work that technique. It just was a kind of stereotype against African American dancers at the time that you weren't built or designed for this.

My teacher in Ohio brought in a black ballet dancer from DTH (Dance Theatre of Harlem). That (class) was hard, but having someone who looked like me and moved like me teach us a class and help us understand the technique and work with us one-on-one was really a rich experience and broke down those barriers with what you couldn't do. I think my parents being an integrated couple, my teacher — everyone I was surrounded by — was, "Break that ceiling. Break that ceiling," really encouraging us to move forward.

I love ballet to this day.

# Bargain Trombone

Stewart Carter began playing music on his dad's trombone because it was already in the house.



Music Professor David Hagy leads the pit orchestra for a performance of "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" in 2016.

## STEWART CARTER

**PROFESSOR OF MUSIC  
CHAIR, EAST ASIAN LANGUAGES**

Stewart Carter (P '02), who joined the faculty in 1982, teaches music history and music theory and directs the instrumental component of the Collegium Musicum, an ensemble performing music from the medieval, Renaissance and Baroque eras. He studies music of the 17th century and the history of brass instruments. He became interested in Chinese musical instruments a decade ago and has traveled several times to China to meet with performers, conductors and instrument makers.



**I GREW UP IN** a small town in southern Kansas. I started playing the trombone at an early age, fifth or sixth grade, because my father owned one. I don't think he had played it after college, but he had kept it. He may have trotted it out and blown a few notes when he was trying to get me interested. Part of the reason was economics; we already owned a trombone, so he didn't have to buy an instrument.

I had a very inspirational music teacher (in high school). He gave every student in the instrumental music program a private lesson every week. That got me thinking about music in a serious way, and I decided I wanted to be a high school band director.

One of my band directors in college (University of Kansas) was a mentor. He saw brass ensembles as more than just a sideline. I joined the ensemble, and we went on tour, mostly in Kansas. (At graduate school at the

University of Illinois), I was classified 1A in the (Vietnam War) draft and received an induction notice. I got my draft board to defer my induction until I could audition for The United States Army Band.

I spent three years (with the Army Band) instead of three years in Vietnam or wherever they might've sent me. I played a lot of concerts and funerals in Arlington (National Cemetery) for soldiers who had died in Vietnam. It was just one right after the other some days. That part of it was rather depressing.

I taught public school general music for two years and decided I wanted to teach early music — from the Renaissance, medieval and Baroque eras — and the history of musical instruments, and the place to do that was in a college. Later I became interested in Chinese musical instruments. A student, Cheng "Nick" Liu ('13), and I went to China (in 2011) so that we could research Chinese folk orchestras. The orchestra uses Chinese instruments, but it's an ensemble that combines Eastern and Western elements and looks very much like a Western-style orchestra.

I tell students you should do it (pursue a career in music) if you have to do it and you wouldn't be happy doing anything else.



# Improv *Hippies*

**Sharon Andrews and her  
theatre gang ventured west  
to transform the arts.**

## SHARON ANDREWS

PROFESSOR OF THEATRE, DIRECTING AND ACTING

Sharon Andrews started teaching at Wake Forest in 1994 and directs annually for the University Theatre. She also directs and acts in other theatres and helps develop new plays. She was a founding member of Theatreworks at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, returning there to star in Henrik Ibsen's "Ghosts" on the theatre's 40th anniversary in 2015.

**I KNEW I WANTED** to be a teacher before I knew that I was going to be a theatre person. In the first grade, I was Jill in "Jack and Jill," but I got strep throat and couldn't go on. I was sorely disappointed. In seventh grade, I went to a UNCG (UNC-Greensboro) lab school. I auditioned for the school operetta, "The Flying Dutchman," and was shocked when cast in the lead role. That was a moment when I thought, "Maybe this is something that I can do."

So all through junior high and high school, I did lots of shows and community theatre. When it came time for college, we were not a wealthy family, so I went to UNCG to major in sociology and become a social worker. But I kept auditioning for shows and was so invested in the world of theatre. I transferred to Chapel Hill (University of North Carolina) and decided to go for it, to major in theatre.

A student a year ahead of me, Lewis Black, who is a well-known comedian now, hung notices on campus trees about forming a theatre company. A bunch of us signed up. We improvised ideas about growing up in the '50s, and Lewis would take

our improvisations home and write them up and come back the next night, and we would work on it until we had created a whole show. We performed at the student center, and it was a huge success. We went on tour, and one of the places we came was Wake Forest when the theatre was in the library (Z. Smith Reynolds Library). That's when I first met (now retired Professor of Theatre) Harold Tedford (P '83, '85, '90).

When we first started in Chapel Hill, the group was called Feast Family. Then the Manson family murders happened, and we decided that wasn't a good thing to call ourselves. Then we moved, all 25 of us, to Colorado Springs and called ourselves Homestead Arts Theatre. We had heard there was a little log cabin theatre for sale there, and Lewis (and others) went out to look at it. The city wouldn't let us open because of code (violations), so we wound up doing our shows in a park and a high school and a prison. We were a bunch of hippies coming to transform the arts in the town. We were passionate about theatre and willing to wait tables and do whatever we had to do. We were of the era



where we thought, "Do what you love, and food will come."

After Homestead Arts, I became a founding member of Theatreworks and taught acting for several years at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs. My life circled back to Winston-Salem, and I felt like I had hit a gold mine when I was hired to teach at Wake Forest.

I love being part of telling a story. Somewhere along the line, I learned that theatre was born out of religious ritual. It has always felt to me that theatre does have a sacred purpose, a connection between human beings' desire and need to tell our stories.

# A Springsteen

Connection

Art Professor David Lubin learned from a mentor at Rolling Stone magazine who also worked for — and taught — the Boss.



Hanes Gallery in Scales Fine Arts Center



## DAVID LUBIN

CHARLOTTE C. WEBER PROFESSOR OF ART

David Lubin's interests range across an academic landscape that focuses on American visual art, film history, popular culture, music, World War I and more. He studied filmmaking at the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts while reviewing music for Rolling Stone magazine, followed by a Ph.D. in American Studies from Yale University. His books range from "Act of Portrayal: Eakins, Sargent, James" to "Titanic," a cultural-studies analysis of the blockbuster film, to "Grand Illusions: American Art and the First World War." He received the Smithsonian Institution's Charles C. Eldredge Prize for distinguished scholarship in American art for his book "Shooting Kennedy: JFK and the Culture of Images." He was a visiting professor at Oxford University and received a Guggenheim Fellowship.

**I WAS GOING TO USC** (School of Cinematic Arts), trying to make movies. The one thing I was good at was screenwriting, but I wasn't good at any of the technical things. I was also freelancing for Rolling Stone, and I got to be friends with the music reviewer, the record editor of Rolling Stone. His name is Jon Landau. He became a mentor to me. He was only two or three years older. He was wicked smart, and he just knew everything about old American cinema. I learned more from Jon than I did from my teachers.

Shortly after I knew him, he quit his job at Rolling Stone because some new rock musician had read a review that Jon had written. The review became very famous. The review (in 1974) said, "I have seen the future of rock 'n' roll, and his name is Bruce Springsteen." And so Springsteen hired Jon to be his manager. He

became the producer of all these great albums. I was hanging out with him ... the summer before he switched over to Springsteen.

I remember we went to see some late screening of some old Hollywood film, and we went back to Jon's apartment. He started playing Motown for me. I had never really appreciated Motown music, but I remember he was playing the Four Tops, the song, "(Reach Out) I'll Be There." (Landau told me,) "It's a movie. It's a three-minute movie." He played it for me over and over again and talked to me about where the act breaks were, the things I was learning in film school about how to write a screenplay.

The way he put it was ... very much in terms of the movie we had just seen, which I think was a John Ford Western. So that was a huge aha moment for me to understand

the pop music that I listened to as a kid driving around in my car could be likened to a great Hollywood masterpiece of the '40s. That's always been that kind of territorial switching, boundary switching or code switching that I love to do in my teaching and in my lectures and in my writing. I don't know that it started there, but that affirmed for me that works of art that come out at the same time can seem very different; they're in different media, but they can also be saying very similar things and using some of the same motifs.

Springsteen came out with a biography a few years ago. I looked in the index for Jon Landau, and he talked about how Jon had taught him so much about movies and life. I thought, "Wow, well, I ended up teaching my course; he ended up teaching Bruce Springsteen."



# Begging *Worked*

It took entreaties  
and a cinematic  
trip to Norway for  
Teresa Radomski  
to finally score  
piano lessons.

## TERESA RADOMSKI

### PROFESSOR OF MUSIC

Teresa Radomski has taught in the music department since 1977, helping train undergraduates for careers in opera, musical theatre, voice teaching and choral conducting. “I love what I’m doing,” she says with obvious joy. “Every single day I learn through my students, and that’s the reason I love my work and why I don’t expect I’m going to retire.”

She has an undergraduate degree from the Eastman School of Music and master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Colorado Boulder and a fellowship in otolaryngology from the Wake Forest University Center for Voice Disorders. A versatile performer, she can be heard on three world premiere recordings: the salon opera “Le cinesi,” “Recuerdo Triste: Guitar Works of Trinidad Huerta” and “In the Almost Evening” by composer-in-residence Dan Locklair.



**BACK IN THE 1950S** every little girl had to have ballet lessons, and I was no exception. At the age of 4, I had ballet lessons, and luckily for me there was this fabulous pianist who played for our dance classes in Plainfield, New Jersey. She was from Lithuania and played great music — Chopin, Beethoven. She actually played in Carnegie Hall, so she was the

real deal. We did all our little exercises as little girls to this really fine accompanist. ... There were a lot of times you were just hanging around. I would go right to the keyboard and stand right next to her and watch her play. I was fascinated and wanted more than anything else to play piano. It’s still in many ways my first love.

Another encounter was through a film ... called “Windjammer.” I remember going as a Brownie scout or something. It was all about a bunch of sailors somewhere in Scandinavia who sailed around the world. It was basically a travelogue with three screens, and it was just really tremendous. Well, in one episode they go to Norway, and they have this huge grand piano out on the wharf, and one of the sailors happens to be a concert pianist. He sat down and played the (Edvard)

Grieg “Piano Concerto in A Minor,” which today remains one of my favorites. They had all these beautiful landscapes of Norway while he was playing a haunting, beautiful melody. And I thought, “Oh my gosh! This is what I really want to do!” So, between that and the Chopin, the Beethoven and everything I heard in dance class, I begged for piano lessons.

My parents, being cautious, waited until after about a year. I practiced on my grandmother’s piano, one of those upright things in the parlor, and then one day I came home from school, and there was a big surprise in the living room. I spent hours. HOURS. My parents, God bless them, slept through me playing to the wee hours of the morning. I’m not exaggerating. I just couldn’t stay away. There was no doubt in my mind that I wanted to be a musician.

When I auditioned as a high school student to go to college, I auditioned at the Eastman School of Music, but by that time I was also becoming interested in singing through watching television. We were really lucky in my generation. We had a lot of good shows on TV that just don’t exist anymore. “The Bell Telephone Hour,” for example, or young people’s concerts of Leonard Bernstein, where classical music was there on major stations, and everybody watched.

When I auditioned at Eastman, I played piano and also sang for them, and the person who auditioned me, said, “Hmm, maybe you should think about singing instead of piano.” So, I said, “Well, fine, whatever gets me in.” Eventually I studied both piano and voice and ultimately wound up majoring in music theory, and that was one of the best decisions I ever made because I learned a lot about music composition, the mechanics of music. I could learn both instruments — piano and voice — without the expectation of being comparable to the other prospective professionals who were in school.

SETBACKS OUTSIDE / EDISON  
INSIDE SCALES





Director of Photography **KEN BENNETT** shares a few favorite photographs that serve as defining images of the movement, spirit and multifaceted creativity abounding in the fine arts scene at Wake Forest.

Studio painting class led by Page Laughlin, art department chair and professor of painting, September 2014.



**ON PREVIOUS PAGES:**

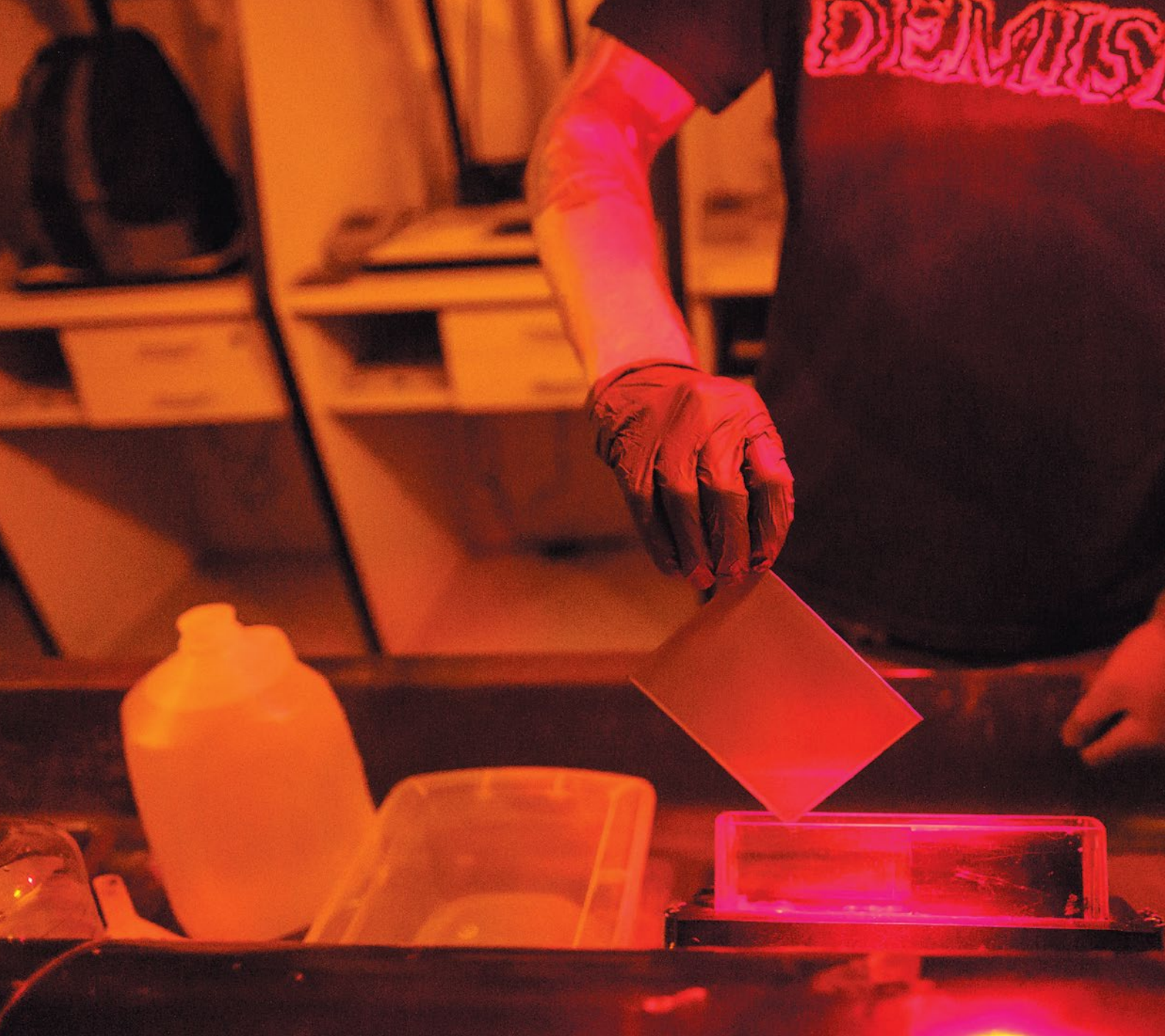
**LEFT:** Orchestra rehearsal with David Hagy, teaching professor and orchestra director, September 2019.

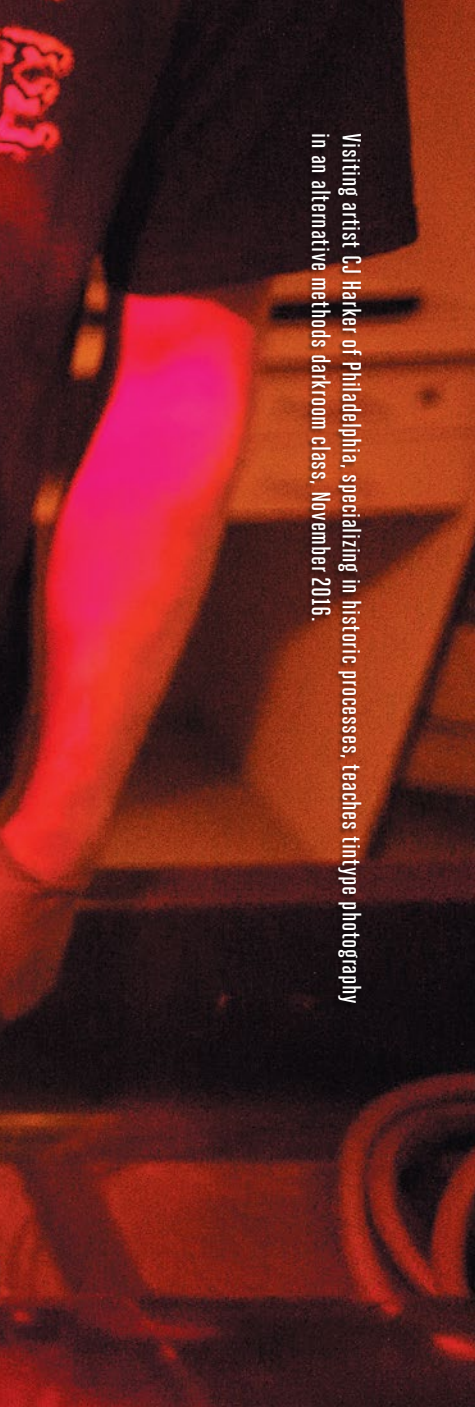
**RIGHT:** "Triptych" by Zhekai Lu ('17) draws visitors to look and listen at the opening of a Wake Forest student video art and sculpture show on Baity Street, April 2017.



Instructions:  
Take me to a place on campus  
Where you laughed  
OR  
Where you...

An installation for "Student Bodies" by students in Professor David Finn's public art class, November 2017.





Visiting artist Cu Harker of Philadelphia, specializing in historic processes, teaches tintype photography in an alternative methods darkroom class, November 2016.



Eli Bradley ('18) and Michael Kamtman, assistant teaching professor, prepare for the Wake Forest University Theatre's production of "Spring Awakening," March 2018.



Rehearsal for the gamelan concert, featuring many bronze percussive instruments from Bali, March 2019.

Creating a soapstone carving in Professor David Finn's class, March 2019.







Final dress rehearsal for Wake Forest University Theatre's production of "She Kills Monsters," September 2017.





Final dress rehearsal for the Wake Forest University Dance Company's spring concert, April 2015.



A lesson in improvisation for Joaquin Martinez de Pinillos ('22) on trumpet and Yasuhiro Nakae ('23), September 2019.





Students in the filmmaking class of Joel Tauber, associate professor who teaches video art, project their work onto the wall of the Bailey Power Plant downtown, February 2019.

# UNDER —HER— SPELL

LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION!

HOW ALLISON ORR ('93)

WORKED HER MAGIC TO WIN OVER A HOST OF

SKEPTICAL CARPENTERS, CUSTODIANS AND  
LANDSCAPERS TO PUT ON A SHOW

STORY BY  
CAROL L. HANNER ★ PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
KEN BENNETT





# ALLISON ORR '93

PRESENTS HERSELF TO  
A ROOM FULL OF SKEPTICS  
AND SCANS THE LUNCH TABLES  
FOR A RECEPTIVE SMILE.

SHE HAS COME  
TO WO  THEM.

**THESE 200-PLUS PEOPLE** keep Wake Forest repaired, running and beautiful. They have cleaned their plates, and they still have dorms to vacuum and lawns to mow before the day is done. Some stare off to the side at this luncheon in Benson University Center. Others rest an elbow on the table and put cheek in palm in the universal sign of meeting weariness.

This is not even close to the toughest crowd Allison has ever courted. This is normal, she says.

Allison is an award-winning choreographer who designs extraordinary outdoor performances

based on ordinary jobs. She has set her heart on turning the heads of the University's facilities staff.

She and her team from Forklift Danceworks in Austin, Texas, have secured grants from the New England Foundation for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts to "tour her process" for her shows, which have won acclaim for nearly 20 years. The grants will fund shows and artistic residencies on three college campuses. The first was Williams College in Massachusetts, where the dining staff showed the logistical beauty of feeding the masses. The second is Allison's alma mater.

This isn't dance like "Dancing with the Stars" or "Stomp" on a Broadway stage. It isn't like anything other artists do. Allison creates spectacular ballets of trash collectors or electrical line workers in dinosaur-sized bucket trucks reaching to the sky in unison. All of it is set to original live music, with theatrical nighttime lighting and recordings of workers' voices piped over loudspeakers telling the story of what they do and why it matters.

"Think of it as movement," she tells the employees in Facilities & Campus Services. "You're just doing what you already know how to do."

Custodians, carpenters, electricians and landscapers are not accustomed to this kind of attention. They aren't open yet to her advances.

But "the chief troublemaker," as Allison calls herself, has the relentless confidence of Casanova. She knows her dance with these performers-to-be will take its own sweet time.

But first things first.

## SETTING <sup>★</sup>THE <sup>★</sup>STAGE

**ALLISON ALWAYS DANCED** and has an MFA in choreography from Mills College in Oakland, California. She danced and choreographed as an undergrad with Wake Forest Dance Company, while she majored in anthropology and minored in women's studies. Culture fascinated her. She says





she never rolled the Quad or did “the school spirit thing.” She was staying up late figuring out how to fight racism and homelessness, rallying for women’s issues and carrying a pager for a domestic violence hotline. She was as oblivious as most students to the workers who kept her school clean and comfortable. But even then, she understood the power of community and the importance of fairness.

She says Professor of Music Peter Kairoff inspired the direction of her arts career. “It’s his fault. He started this,” she says. After graduation, she worked in 1995 as his

student assistant and nanny for his family in Venice, Italy, while he taught at Casa Artom for a semester.

She eventually returned home for a job as a social worker, then went to graduate school in dance before ending up in Venice again in 2001. Kairoff happened to be there for the summer. The beauty and strength of the gondoliers who traveled the Venetian canals entranced Allison. She wanted to choreograph them, but this elite all-male group fended off all outsiders, especially a young American woman.



Custodian Judy Dunovant, above, practicing moves in front of Wait Chapel as the lead figure in the finale, let her personality emerge as she grew more comfortable with the routines.

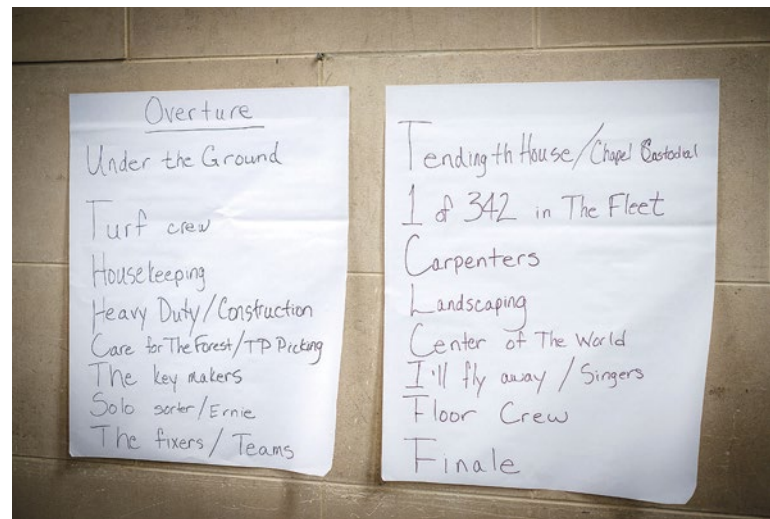
Many workers initially shied away from volunteering to perform, but they gradually opened their arms to Allison.



Kairoff encouraged her to persist, even though gondoliers, he says, “won’t talk to you, won’t work with you.” She spoke Italian. She took rowing lessons. She befriended one gondolier, then another. She beguiled eight of them. Together, they produced a show in 2003 and an encore in 2004.

“Allison got in there, and they’re still talking about it in Venice,” Kairoff says.

No group since the gondoliers has proven more difficult to win over, she says. Not the firefighters, the trash collectors or the electrical line workers. Not the professional female baseball team in Japan or the Elvis impersonators. Not the swimmers and workers at the disintegrating community pools in Austin. The mayor of Austin called the three-year pools project “an extraordinary opportunity for residents, artists and civic and community leaders to work together to explore and address equity and access issues.” A city budget official happened to attend a show, Allison says. The result was a small fee hike that will produce more than \$1 million to repair and save the pools.



A documentary called “Trash Dance” about Allison’s show with Austin sanitation workers won awards at the SXSW film festival, the Full Frame Documentary Festival and more. It led The New York Times to call Allison in an admiring review “a skinny live wire who finds rhythm in routines and elegance in the everyday.”

She is writing a book about her process, which follows a similar arc each time. First, she sets the foundation with institutional leaders.

At Wake Forest, Associate Provost for the Arts Christina Soriano finds out about Allison’s NEA grant and asks her to create a performance at Wake Forest. Soriano already knows Allison because Kairoff had suggested they connect. Soriano teaches and studies dance and its impact on people with Parkinson’s disease, so she fell immediately for Allison and her community focus.

By 2017, Allison, Soriano and Theatre Professor Cynthia Gendrich meet in a tiny office in Scales Fine Arts Center to begin cooking up the show, which workers will dub “From the Ground Up.” Gendrich secures an additional grant from the New England Foundation for the Arts for the October 2019 show.

Soriano and Gendrich see the performing arts and campus workers as a perfect marriage for a university intent on celebrating and expanding its arts community and supporting inclusiveness.

“What I know is that the performing arts are especially good at encouraging empathy, and when you watch or listen to people doing virtuosic things, your respect for them expands,” Gendrich says. She is founding director of IPLAcE, the Interdisciplinary Performance and the Liberal Arts Center, which supports and organizes arts events on campus and sponsors Allison’s show.





“YOU’RE GOING  
TO  
MAKE SOMETHING  
THIS COMMUNITY HAS  
NEVER SEEN BEFORE.”

— ALLISON ORR



From left, landscaping workers Kevin Cook, who works at Graylyn, Chris Boston and Mark Agee.

Signing up John Shenette, vice president of Facilities & Campus Services, to back the show is easy. He and Stephanie Poskin, director of facilities support services & operations, take on the jigsaw puzzle of logistics and cost as they would for any major campus event — while also scheduling their workers to participate.

“When you talk about challenges within higher ed, this is an opportunity to showcase the importance of the human capital,” Shenette says. “My only request is that we do it better than anybody else has done. We want to set the bar.”

Shenette says most outdoor performances take place on Manchester Plaza. But Allison wants the Quad, and resisting Allison is futile. “We tell most groups ‘no,’” Shenette says, “but this is the iconic place. It’s an indication of how important this is.”

## ● ● ● ● OPENING ● ● ● ● MINDS AND HEARTS

**WITH SUPPORT FROM** the top, Allison begins her charm offensive from what indeed is the ground up.

She makes six visits to campus, away from her husband, 12-year-old daughter and 8-year-old son, to conduct six artistic residencies with students and faculty. On each visit, she packs her schedule to meet custodial, maintenance & utilities, landscaping, construction and waste reduction workers.

She tags along with dozens of workers. Shadowing isn’t the right word, because she doesn’t stay in the background. She hauls trash. She cleans bathrooms. She hammers. She straps on the 12-pound portable vacuum pack. She needs to feel the movements to choreograph scenes faithful to the nature of the work, and she wants to know her campus partners and build their trust.

Allison wants to do everything the workers do. If she could, she would rappel out of a tree like arboriculture

workers will do in the show. “I wanted to rappel down the chapel,” she says, but not even she can sweet-talk OSHA.

She especially loves trucks and big machines. Her head swivels and her voice jumps an octave every time she spots an oversized vehicle. “Oh, that’s a street sweeper. Is that yours? Awesome!”

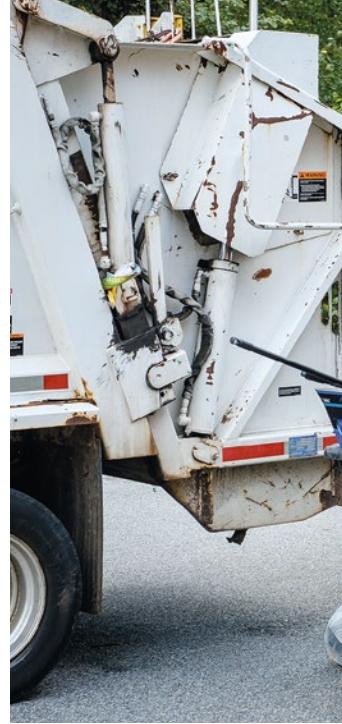
When the construction team tests out its biggest rigs on the Quad, Allison woo-hoos as a forklift reaches high against the backdrop of Wait Chapel’s spire. “Cool! I wanted more shock and awe!”

## WORKING — HER — MAGIC

**SHE ADMITS TO** facilities workers that she basically “tricks them” into signing up for this project — not with deception, but by enticing them into helping in small ways that lead to big ways.

“Just come to a meeting to throw around ideas. You’re not signing up. We have some ideas. Some bad ideas. We want your good ideas,” she says. “You’re going to make something this community has never seen before.”

Eventually, she asks staffers to help block out some storyboarded moves, no commitment. She wins over informal leaders in every group to share the love. She repeats many times that they will be paid. They’ll rehearse during regular hours or receive overtime. She dangles the time-honored hook — free food.





At left, in September 2018, Allison shadows workers, carrying out trash from Luter dorm with custodian London Thomas, left, and sanitation employee Roger Roberts.

Bottom: In January 2019, Allison shadows arborists, from left, Travis Asbury, Gustavo Montes and team leader Jim Mussetter as they show off their Telehandler that will rise high in front of Wait Chapel for the performance.



Hugh Brown (P '09), a master carpenter with 37 years on campus, speaks softly but regularly slips in jokes on his colleagues. In one scene, he notes in his slow drawl that carpenters "like to measure 'twice't' but cut just once."



Allison makes a special effort to visit Spanish-speaking custodial employees (she's fluent, thanks to four summers in Latin America). She meets Doris Lopez, a quiet custodian who grew up in Ecuador and began working at Wake Forest a few months earlier. When Allison hints about the show, Lopez demurs. She says she's too new to Wake Forest.

## FALLING IN LOVE

**ALLISON IS WOOLING** employees, but she's the one falling in love.

She bonds with landscaping team leader Chris Boston. "He has the biggest heart," she says.

His team mows, weeds and edges. Boston says they avoid mowing too early or making noise during exam times so students can sleep and study. "You have to respect the babies."

He loves the outdoors, and like Allison, he loves equipment — mowers, spreaders, even street sweepers. Grass-seeding is six weeks away, and "I cannot wait. I jump on the plugger; I won't get off of it."

In her standard jeans, T-shirt, sneakers and a Deacon ball cap, Allison learns from the custodial staff the secrets to good vacuuming as well as the down-and-dirty secrets of dorm life. She sees how much they care about the students. Judy Dunovant, a 24-year veteran, says one student last year never acknowledged her when she cleaned his bathroom. "At the end of the year he came up with some flowers and some candy, and I said, 'What's this for?' He said, 'You used to brighten my day.' He was a sweetheart."

Allison plumbs the workers' stories, as do her high-energy associate artistic director, Krissie Marty, and her assistant choreographer, Gretchen LaMotte. They observe the maintenance team responding with 911 efficiency to streams of calls about broken lights and leaky toilets.

The third-shift team educates Allison about how they unload their equipment, carry out a lobby's worth of furniture, clean and wax the floors and return it all to normal before disappearing like elves in the night. The rapid-response team laughs about the plagues of the wee hours — blood, dog feces, human feces, vomit, broken glass.



Allison studies the intricate work by the locksmith team of Sloan Cole, David Moore, Kobak Taylor and manager Mark Mayberry. At least one is on call, 24/7, 365, to help locked-out students or ensure campus security by quickly replacing damaged doors or locks. They are a sardonic bunch, but they take to Allison on the first date and start planning their own scene. Allison is stoked.

She is drawn to one of the most respected and admired men in maintenance, master carpenter Hugh Brown (P '09), a quiet man who will retire in March after 37 years, which means he was on campus in Allison's undergrad time. She learns that one of his daughters outed his singing ability by sending facilities a video of him rocking "Blue Christmas" in an Elvis costume for his church holiday program. This makes him a marked man for Allison.



From left, locksmiths David Moore, Kobak Taylor and Sloan Cole show their workspace chock full of keys and parts.

“HELLO,  
★

FELLOW

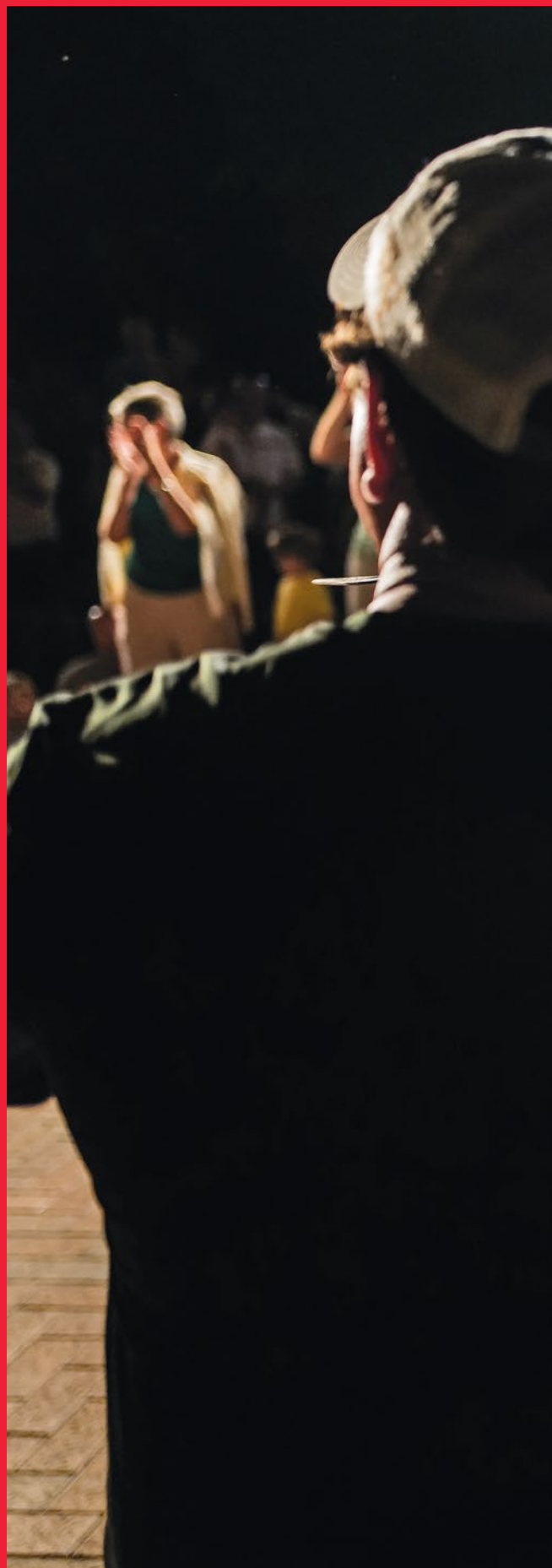
ROCK  
STARS.

ARE WE

NERVOUS?”

—JOHN  
SHENETTE

VICE PRESIDENT OF  
FACILITIES & CAMPUS SERVICES



Landscaper Damian Campbell  
rocks the Quad.







Her parents imbued a devotion to community-building. Her father, a civil rights activist, helped her with an eighth-grade project on why her neighbors sent their children to private schools. “It was definitely modeling of ‘How are you a citizen in the world? How are you in service and — it sounds hokey — giving back?’”

A worker washing windows in the cafeteria inspired her first dance piece in graduate school. “I thought, ‘Oh, my gosh, that’s the most interesting choreography I’ve seen all year.’”

She sees movement as a common bond among humans, and she believes everyone is inherently creative. Her work aims to create opportunities for relationships, for empathy, for acknowledging each person’s value, for altering perspectives and enriching lives.

“I’m convinced that every problem in the world could be solved if we just understood each other.”

## WHO IS ALLISON ORR?

**LIKE SO MANY** Wake Foresters, Allison has pulled threads from disparate interests in her liberal arts education and woven them into a perfect combination of her interests and values.

At the core is work. Her own is vigorous. On campus, she often starts before sunrise and continues through the night. Back in Austin, she sketches performance ideas and juggles multiple projects. Moving and dancing have always burned off her copious energy, she says.

Work defined Allison’s family of fifth-generation Texan Protestants. “I come from a long line of people who hold work in high esteem and appreciate a job well done,” she says.

Her father, an attorney, reached affluence by the time she was in high school, but her grandparents were farmers. “I like to say that we might not have greeted each other warmly or lingered over meals, but what we like to do is work together. That’s how we connect. You don’t stand around too long without my mom asking you to do something.”

Her grandfather, a big figure in her life, “was the epitome of a tall, big-talking Texan,” and she absorbed his art of conversation. “My grandfather could talk to a park bench.”





Custodian Doris Lopez, who is from Ecuador, was slow to warm up to the idea of performing, but by the third show, she was boogeying with her broom in the finale.

## SHOW ★ DAY ARRIVES

**NO IDEA IS TOO BIG** for Allison, and some days are discouraging as she pushes against the protective walls around working-class groups. But she camouflages doubts with smiling energy.

In September, Marty distributes layout maps of the Quad to custodial employees blocking out moves at Wait Chapel. Dunovant, a lead player, studies it and remarks, “Wow, you guys have done a lot of work.”

Allison responds: “Yes, we do work hard. Thank you for noticing.”

That’s the same answer workers give Allison when she asks what they want the campus to know about them.

Good humor and hugs increase with each rehearsal. During a brainstorming session, mild-mannered Brown offers up a few sly jokes: “For music we could use ‘Take This Job and Shove it.’”

Allison talks on her cellphone one evening with her husband, Blake Trabulsi. He asks if it’s turning out as she expected. “Yes, it is,” she tells him. “I knew what I wanted it to look like from the first time I stood on the Quad. I’m so proud of them.”

In the week before showtime, performers work until 9 p.m. to rehearse with the band under nighttime lighting. Many are exhausted, including Allison, who is red-faced in the heat wave that still bakes the Quad. But spirits soar.

“Hello, fellow rock stars,” says Shenette. “Are we nervous?”

“Nah, we got this,” custodian Cynthia Wilson responds.

By the first 7 p.m. show on Oct. 3, the sky turns pink with a romantic crescent moon over the Quad arch. Purple theater lights bathe Wait Chapel’s columns. Allison has lured 70 workers to perform 15 scenes, and virtually every facilities employee is helping in some way. Students, faculty, staff, their families and the public amble to the bleachers and lawn space for 1,000 spectators. As the crowd grows each night for the three performances, workers move the bleachers farther back to open more lawn seating along the Quad’s middle sidewalk, a main stage.

After a rousing first blast by the eight-piece band of Austin, Wake Forest and Winston-Salem musicians, the carillon tolls a solemn welcome. Matthew Bennett walks the ground to locate underground wires. Tommy Crews and Ron Whitlock explain the ubiquitous cables and pipes running underneath campus. “Everybody’s walking on something. You’re walking on power,” the voice-over booms from loudspeakers on the Quad. The metaphor is apt; facilities staff are as critical, and often as invisible, as this grid.

The band kicks into high-energy riffs. Ali Sakkal, an associate teaching professor in education, wails on his saxophone. Boston and the turf crew on mowers speed onto the lawn. They spin, whirl, crisscross in near-misses and even pop a wheelie. The crowd cheers. Youngsters go wide-eyed and wiggly with excitement. The big forklifts and backhoes, still to come, are a 4-year-old’s dream.

Custodian Doris Lopez — yes, she finally fell under Allison’s spell — and five colleagues roll out their yellow-and-red cleaning carts, wheeling around in unison, spinning their mops and juggling toilet paper rolls as they groove to the beat.



The band includes saxophone player Ali Sakkal, associate teaching professor in the Department of Education.





Composer Graham Reynolds of Austin, Texas, directs the gamelan performers.

“  
This once-in-a-generation  
artistic happening exemplifies  
the intersection of arts and our  
wider campus that is a hallmark of  
our **Wake The Arts** initiative.  
As we seek compelling ways to engage  
all our students — and faculty and  
staff — in genuinely meaningful arts  
experiences, “**From the Ground Up**”  
will long be remembered as  
a singular advance on that effort.

— PROVOST ROGAN KERSH ('86)





Above from left, custodians Cynthia Wilson, Bernard Clowers, London Thomas and Brenda Wall show their expert juggling.

Ron Mitchell, left, demonstrates his floor cleaning skills in the night crew's scene. In the voice-over, William Washington tells of a student's accidental dorm fire. "Common sense should tell you that plastic doesn't belong in an oven. Maybe he was just hungry and not thinking," Washington says with a chuckle.



Arborist team leader Jim Mussetter cuts an imposing figure with his chainsaw, but he has a soft heart for trees. His team plants a new tree on average every two days.

From left, fleet workers Mark Shouse, Bruce Avelar and Mark Beckerdite turn the art of changing tires on a golf cart into a comedy routine.



Allison captures hearts (and airs the groundskeepers' top gripe) with the voice-over by Jim Mussetter, the University arborist. As with all the voice-overs, Allison uses unscripted recordings of her conversations with workers.

Mussetter, a sturdy 6-foot-2 oak of a man, declares his love of trees. "We do everything we can do to protect them and nurture them. Some of them I consider like my children."

He wishes victories could be celebrated with a different tradition than rolling the Quad and its trees with toilet paper. The grounds team spends two hours picking up shreds after each Deacon sports win, then a half-hour to an hour a day as the bits litter the Quad for weeks.

"I heard it described once that we're covering the trees with the dead skin of their brothers and sisters. That's the perfect way to put it. ... It's taking away from our main purpose of caring for the trees," Mussetter says as orange-vested workers gather the paper pieces.

Allison hits a creative jackpot with the University's gamelan, a Balinese instrument of gongs and cymbals. The locksmiths roll out two door frames, hang two doors and install locks in them to the perfect tick-tock of the gamelan's percussive metallic tinkling.

In "Solo Sorter," Ernie Johnson, a one-man recycling operation who never misses a chance to make a friend, tugs at hearts again with his voice-over. "Every bag is an experience," he says to laughter from those who have seen the Monday morning fallout from a party weekend. As he sorts each bag, one banana peel or slice of pizza can condemn the whole bag to the landfill.

"The frustrating thing is to open up bag after bag and see that it's contaminated," Johnson says. "I'm passionate about my job and getting it done, and getting it done

right. Everything I do, I do from the bottom of my heart, and I do it with strength. I do it with love, and I do it with conviction. And that's me."

Allison sits with the band, directing through her radio headset to her team and the student stage managers who cue performers. She grins and shimmies with the music. The light show, directed by award-winning designer Stephen Pruitt, grows tighter each night. Allison and composer Graham Reynolds work symbiotically. Allison taps him at scene changes, and Reynolds, who plays wicked keyboards, flashes hand signals to the band for volume or points of emphasis. He wrote the original score, with styles that range from what he calls "retro film jazz with a dirty, slow beat" to earworm-inducing saxophone and violin riffs.

A string of white maintenance vans lines up at the chapel, headlights beaming and hazard lights blinking at the crowd. Two flatbed trucks, fitted with mini versions of a dorm room and an office, roll to the middle sidewalk. As radio dispatchers call for service, the vans streak to the flatbeds in a growing frenzy of workers changing lights, fixing an overflowing toilet, replacing a broken mirror. "Over in Reynolda Hall there's an office that is too hot," the dispatcher's radio crackles. The audience giggles, knowing that's where the University's top administrators take the heat.

In a quiet scene called "The Center of the World," poignant violins play as foreman Benny O'Neal and carpenters Kevin Badgett and Ben Venable show how workers identify the center point of Hearn Plaza.

"We set up 13,000 chairs on the Quad for Commencement. It takes us 2 ½ days," says the voice-over from general superintendent J.L. Bolt (P '10). "All the work we do at facilities is to get the student to graduate and walk across this field. We help prepare them to go off into the world."



Custodians roll off the “stage” after their scene. From left, Bernard Clowers, London Thomas and Brenda Wall. (Not pictured Mike Downs, Doris Lopez and Cynthia Wilson.)

The performers and crew, right, prepare to say grace before the dinner and cast awards the night of the final performance.

In photo below, the cast takes a bow.

As the violins transition into fiddle music, the scene that follows is the closest thing to a traditional arts performance — the gospel song “I’ll Fly Away,” performed by Brown, the singing carpenter, in the lead with custodians Teresa Bowles, Sharon Taylor, Brenda Wall and Michael Woodard. Allison wanted a religious song with an Appalachian feel. The choice evokes images of students taking wing, as well as Brown’s impending departure from Wake Forest.

The carillon and swirling neon lights cue the finale. The front door of Wait Chapel swings open, and a solitary backlit figure emerges. It’s Dunovant.

“We are facilities,” her voice-over pronounces. “We are definitely the backbone of the University.”

Dunovant, broom in hand, walks to the music’s beat, moving down the Quad. In twos and fours and eights, ever-larger groups flow out of the chapel doors, each person holding a tool of the job. They form an army, yet no one blocks another from the audience’s view, as Allison directed. Eventually, all stand aligned before the audience, in one row.

To a standing ovation, they hold hands as Allison leads them in three Broadway bows.

Afterward, in a buzz of warm feelings, landscaper Boston praises Allison and her team. “We were hot and aggravated, and she put up with our mixed feelings and mixed signals. They were patient with us.”

Many echoed Boston’s bottom line: “It really means a lot to be appreciated.”

At the cast party Saturday night at Campus Gas, carpenter Kevin “Squirrel” Badgett can’t stop grinning. “I was so excited I couldn’t sleep. I couldn’t wait ’til tonight to do it again. I want to do it again Monday.”

Allison reminds the group that they drew her to campus for the first time since she graduated in 1993. “You have made Wake Forest a different place for me, and I’m forever grateful. What you’re doing is a gift. We’re changing the world. It may not feel like it, but something you do will strike people, and they will change how they see things.”

Leaving behind new relationships to go home isn’t easy, Allison says, but she’ll stay in touch and won’t forget any of her loves.

After all this time, she’s still friends with the gondoliers.

Each project amazes her as it slowly gels into unforgettable moments.

“Every time, at some point, it all comes together, and magic happens. Every time,” she says. ★

## MORE OF THE SHOW



Ken Bennett’s photo gallery of rehearsals and performances at [bit.ly/2p4Uzqa](http://bit.ly/2p4Uzqa)

A Wake Forest story and video at [bit.ly/2VQWz17](http://bit.ly/2VQWz17)

Full recording of the show at [bit.ly/2pG4YZk](http://bit.ly/2pG4YZk)

"IT MAY NOT FEEL LIKE IT,  
— BUT —

**SOMETHING YOU DO**

**WILL STRIKE PEOPLE, AND**

**THEY WILL CHANGE**

**HOW**

**THEY SEE THINGS."**

— ALLISON ORR



# STUDENTS SHADOW WORKERS BEHIND THE SCENES

**'You know they're there, ... but you don't realize how much goes into it day by day'**

BY CAROL L. HANNER  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEN BENNETT

**XUAN "CATHY" LU** was "super nervous" about venturing into the grungy mechanical world where electrician and maintenance man Rob Hager works every day.

Lu, a junior majoring in accountancy and mathematical statistics, and two classmates tagged along a few hours each week with Hager in a project to shadow Facilities & Campus Services workers. Students in classes by David Phillips, associate professor of interdisciplinary humanities, and Ivan Weiss, assistant professor of the practice in journalism, documented the experience in video, photos and essays.

Lu says she never imagined making building repairs, and she assumed "that the facilities staff don't like the students, and students can't get along with facilities people."

Not so, she found. She and juniors Sophia Tompkins and Kaley Vontz discovered mutual respect with Hager, whom Vontz called "super charismatic."

"I'm a chatty Cathy. I can talk to anybody," says Hager, a self-described hillbilly from West Virginia who has worked at Wake Forest for 10 years.

"I like the parents I meet mad (about a problem he can fix during move-in) and five minutes later we're buddies. I wouldn't trade it."

Lu says in her class reflections video that she was grateful to get out of her comfort zone as a student from China who mostly interacts with faculty and students. She appreciated Hager's philosophy of supporting students who could accomplish great things one day.

"We help each other get along where we're going in life," Hager says. "You may become president. ... One of these people may cure cancer. ... When you graduate, that's an accomplishment for me and for us."

Not that the job is easy. Hager and his 13 colleagues on his residential maintenance team cover more than a million square feet of space. "Lots of things can go wrong. We spin a lot of plates."

He enjoys reassuring parents that their children will have what they need to stay safe and comfortable — from lights to hot water to smoke alarms. While interactions are his favorite part of the job, he says, "the non-interaction, I think, is the most beautiful part of it. Our motto is 'This is Disney World' ... because we come in and do a lot of things while you're at class, we'll get out of your room, and you're good."

Tompkins, a psychology major with minors in Spanish and entrepreneurship, says Hager's excitement about the work made it easy to want to jump in and learn how to switch filters and clean gauges. "It was really greasy, and we got super messy, but he saw that all three of us were willing to put in the energy, the time and effort to try to do it and get it right."

Cynthia Wilson, a custodial team leader, says having senior Elizabeth Bunn shadow her and others showed Bunn how much they do. "We do care about





From changing light bulbs to getting greasy, from left, juniors Sophia Tompkins, Xuan "Cathy" Lu and Kaley Vontz jumped right into the fray with Rob Hager (also opposite page). Vontz says, "I was telling all my friends these crazy facts (about electrical and maintenance work), and they were like, 'Why do you know all this?' And I said, 'I don't know, but I'm glad I do.'"

**"YOU MAY BECOME PRESIDENT. ...  
ONE OF THESE PEOPLE  
MAY CURE CANCER. ...  
WHEN YOU GRADUATE,  
THAT'S AN ACCOMPLISHMENT  
FOR ME AND FOR US."**

**— ROB HAGER**

**ELECTRICIAN AND MAINTENANCE WORKER  
FOR CAMPUS RESIDENCES**

them, and we want them to help us keep it clean. If we work together, we can do it. ...

"I had a good group in Palmer and Piccolo dorms. I call them my babies. A couple came and gave me a big hug, told me I made their babies feel good away from their moms."

Bunn, a German and communication major with a minor in journalism, discovered that she and Wilson attended the same high school in Raleigh. Bunn saw how hard the custodians work. "You know they're there, and you wake up every morning and your bathroom is clean, but you don't realize how much goes into it day by day, ... and that's one thing you don't have to focus on."

"They're here for the students, and all they really want is to be recognized, not in the sense of, 'Oh, my goodness, you're so amazing,' just a hello on campus," Bunn says.

Weiss and Phillips created the classes at the request of IPLACe, the campus interdisciplinary arts group that sponsored the October outdoor performance by facilities workers directed by Allison Orr

(93). Orr shadowed employees to prepare her choreography, and students who helped with the production also shadowed workers.

Weiss says students connected with workers in strong ways. "It's a huge theme going through our whole society now of who do we really see? How do we relate to each other? What are the boundaries of that relationship?"

Phillips says, "I really enjoyed seeing (a shift) in the class members because suddenly they were not just looking at the world around them in new ways, but they were looking at themselves in new ways," Phillips says. "And for me, that's the most important part of something that's transformative — if your understanding of who you are personally in the world can evolve in constructive ways."

Phillips says students' perspectives changed. "They will never look at another service worker again in the same way. They will see a person; they will not see a title or some sort of service identity. They'll attempt to look beyond that."



Senior Elizabeth Bunn, right, loved getting to know custodians, including Cynthia Wilson. "We're so stressed with classes, it's really easy to forget the people behind the scenes making it all run," Bunn says.

# A F I E R Y V I S I O N

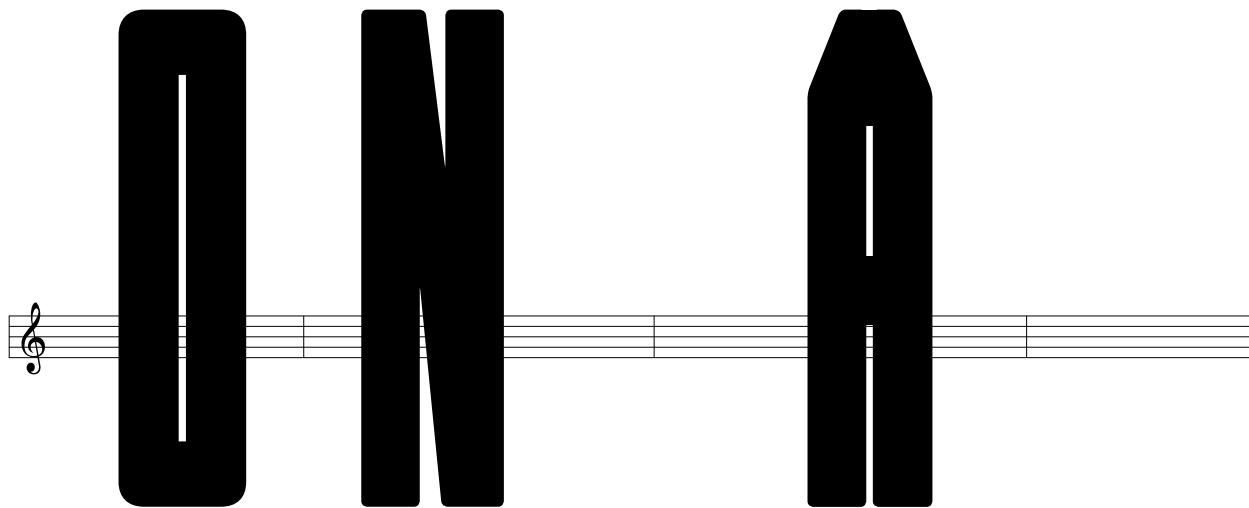
*Jeannette Sorrell ('86) made her way from modest beginnings with a piano fashioned from paper to the red carpet of Los Angeles and the stage of Carnegie Hall as a pioneering female conductor who lets nothing stop her.*

**BY HARLAN SPECTOR**


PHOTOGRAPHY BY LISA DEJONG







# ON A



RARE SABBATICAL LAST SUMMER, JEANNETTE SORRELL ('86) SAT BAREFOOT, ON HER SCREENED BACK PORCH, WHERE SHE LIKES TO LISTEN TO THE RIPPLE OF AN OUTDOOR FOUNTAIN.

CDs and counting and garnered some 3 million views on YouTube.

Despite its success, Sorrell did not believe she and her ensemble would win a Grammy this past year. She almost didn't make the trip to Los Angeles for the awards event. "It's really unusual for an early music group to win something so mainstream as the Grammys," she says. "It feels as if we've

broken through a glass ceiling."

Sorrell, one of Wake Forest's first Reynolds Scholars, studied liberal arts, orchestral conducting and harpsichord. At her home in a historic, tree-lined neighborhood in Cleveland Heights, she recalled what it was like at age 26 in 1992 to create a period-instrument orchestra from scratch — in the shadow of the renowned Cleveland Orchestra no less. She named her group for the Greek god of music, healing and the sun. She had a vision to put her own twist on baroque music, and a \$25,000 grant to get it off the ground.

Initially, the foundation she approached wasn't interested in funding her idea, and it rejected her twice. On her third try, the funders came through.

She had just come off a busy season in which her baroque orchestra, Cleveland-based Apollo's Fire, won its first Grammy Award. The ensemble completed its fifth European tour, a full subscription series at home and Sorrell did five weeks of guest conducting across the United States.

Apollo's Fire is about the hottest thing going in baroque music. As a period-instrument orchestra, it features 17th century instruments, such as the lute, the harpsichord and strings. With possibly the largest following of any baroque orchestra in the nation, Apollo's Fire has sold out major venues from London to Los Angeles, including its 2018 debut concert at Carnegie Hall. It has won accolades from critics along the way, produced 28

That first year, Sorrell didn't draw a salary, and she subsisted mainly on ramen noodles. Her younger sister, Christine Sorrell Dinkins ('92), drove up after graduating from Wake Forest to be Apollo's unpaid manager and box office staff at the debut concerts.

"The grant was a turning point, but it wasn't enough," Sorrell says. "There aren't enough period players in one city to make an orchestra, so you're flying people in. It's a profession of migrants and wanderers."

She's conversational about her music, politics, veganism and upkeep of her early 20th century home. She smiles easily, occasionally brushing her curly red hair away from her face, and she possesses a gentle, affable manner that belies a tough and demanding nature familiar to those who know her well.

## MUSICIAN AND ENTREPRENEUR

Facing enormous challenges in the early days of Apollo's Fire forced Sorrell to be creative. She sees herself not just as artistic director of the group but as an entrepreneur. Her job is and always has been to build a following and keep people coming back.

The ensemble sold out its first concerts in the Cleveland area, which brought more invitations and more ticket sales. It was a promising debut for Sorrell. A year earlier, in 1991, she had been invited to interview for assistant conductor of the Cleveland Orchestra. In a meeting with then-music director Christoph von Dohnányi, she says, he told her Cleveland audiences would never accept a woman conductor.

The rejection turned out to be a blessing. Leading a symphony orchestra wasn't her dream anyway.

Sister Christine, now the Kenan Professor of Philosophy at Wofford College in South Carolina, says the experience pushed Sorrell to follow her true calling.

Sorrell knew when she entered Wake Forest in the early 1980s she wanted to conduct a baroque chamber orchestra. She had gotten her first taste of conducting in high school with a church vocal and instrumental ensemble. She was tenacious but something of an oddball; there were few women in the male-dominated conducting world. She had no role models.

At Wake Forest, she excelled as a conducting student under professor George Trautwein (P '89). He had high expectations, and he nudged Sorrell to audition for the summer conducting program at the prestigious Aspen Musical Festival and School.

She was chosen at age 19, becoming the youngest person of her class to wave a baton at Aspen.

"The others didn't take me very seriously," she says. "I knew I wanted to specialize in early music. There I was in a mainstream conducting program, where everyone else wanted to conduct Brahms and Shostakovich. I was the weird one in class, but it was great."



SISI BURN

Since high school, Sorrell loved the music of Handel and Bach and sounds of period instruments — the chirp of the woodwinds, the mellowness of the brass, the purity of notes produced on gut strings. She was drawn to the centuries-old baroque tradition of expressive performance called *affekt*, the idea that the role of the musicians is to move the emotional moods of the listener. That fit Sorrell. She grew up in ballet and theatre, and also with strong progressive values. She had a lot to say — and expressing herself through music and movement came naturally.

**"WHEN I SEE HER  
PERFORM AND**

**SEE HER VIDEOS,  
WHAT JUMPS OUT  
IS HER ENERGY.**

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**THE VISCERAL,  
VISUAL ASPECT OF  
APOLLO'S FIRE."**

— DAVID LEVY  
*Wake Forest music professor*



She often conducts standing behind a harpsichord. Her performances are at once fiery and graceful. She uses her entire body, with sweeping arms and animated expressions to build tension, suspense and relief.

"She's a physical, active performer," says Wake Forest Music Professor David Levy, who taught Sorrell. "When I see her perform and see her videos, what jumps out is her energy, commitment and sheer joy of music-making. And it's not just her but also the people around her. It's the visceral, visual aspect of Apollo's Fire."

## HER PATH TO TANGLEWOOD

As a child growing up in Denver, Sorrell buried herself in books and music. She played violin and, in third grade, wanted to take piano lessons offered at school. But her parents couldn't afford a piano. They had just finished graduate school, embarking on their careers as college professors.

"I lied and said we had a piano," she says. "I made a little paper keyboard and practiced on the paper every day. Once a week, I went to a friend's house with a piano. I loved to practice, and she hated to practice. So, we'd go into the piano room and close the door. Her parents thought she was practicing, but I was practicing."

Soon after, Sorrell's parents bought for her a used upright for \$125.

At Wake Forest, two things happened that would turn out to be life changing. Sorrell switched from piano to harpsichord. She mastered fingering techniques that allowed her to be expressive on the instrument, which predates the piano and lacks the sound dynamics of a piano. The strings of a harpsichord are plucked rather than hammered. The sound can be percussive and requires considerable skill to sound expressive. Moving up and down the scales of upper and lower keyboards, Sorrell learned to shade and connect notes in a way to convey mood and feeling.

Sorrell as an undergrad also started a small chamber orchestra of students at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. The group performed at Wake Forest, under a small grant from the North Carolina Arts Council.

"The grant enabled me to pay each musician \$10 a rehearsal," she says. "I learned how to lead a baroque orchestra from the harpsichord. It was a pilot project for what later was reborn as Apollo's Fire."

After graduating from Wake Forest, Sorrell became one of the youngest students in the conducting program at the Tanglewood Festival in Massachusetts, the other preeminent summer program in addition to Aspen. The only woman in her group, she studied under conductors Leonard Bernstein and Roger Norrington.

She received a scholarship to the Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Ohio and graduated from the Artist Diploma program. From there, she moved to Amsterdam to study the harpsichord under the late Gustav Leonhardt, an







COURTESY OF APOLLO'S FIRE

acclaimed harpsichordist and organist who pioneered a revival of baroque music in the last half of the 20th century.

Leonhardt was a scholar of “historically informed performance.” That means performing 17th and 18th century music as it was originally conceived, or as close to it as one can know based on historical manuscripts.

Leonhardt had a big influence on Sorrell. His embrace of the art of rhetoric, adopted by early baroque composers from ancient Greek and Roman orators, shaped her approach to music.

“The great orators could manipulate moods and emotions by the rise and fall of the voice and by the use of timing, the way Martin Luther King did in recent times,” she says. “That’s the way baroque music was meant to work as well, but that art was lost during the 19th century and most of the 20th.”

## A KNACK FOR EXPERIMENTATION

Communicating with the audience is essential for Sorrell, through the music and also by talking to audiences in her relaxed, gracious manner about the music. Critics and fans laud her creativity, and not only with regard to her baroque music programs. She has a knack for experimentation and designs programs featuring different genres such as ethnic folk music from around the world.

“She’d bring in anything but the washboard — and she might bring in the washboard, too,” says Jeffrey Strauss, her partner of eight years. A Chicago lawyer and baritone soloist, Strauss occasionally performs with the group.

In a New York performance of Bach’s “St. John Passion,” in which Strauss had the role of Pilate, Sorrell devised a “dramatic presentation,” according to a New York Times review. The reviewer praised Sorrell for having the

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EVERY DAY."**

— JEANNETTE SORRELL



characters “confront one another face to face on the stage, sometimes coming close to blows.”

In a program called “O Jerusalem! — Crossroads of Three Faiths,” Sorrell brings together music and poetry from the Jewish, Christian, Arab and Armenian quarters of the Old City.

Politics and human rights are never far from Sorrell’s mind at home or on stage. She introduces a program called “Sugarloaf Mountain: An Appalachian Gathering,” as an immigrant story, describing the roots of Appalachian folk music that came across the Atlantic with immigrants from the British Isles. She says in the program introduction:

*“The resilient spirit of these settlers shines through their stories and rings through their music, reminding us that immigration is a beautiful part of our shared history in America.”*

She said she’s careful to not be overtly political during concerts, but the introduction is usually well received. Like many artists, “It’s impossible for her vision and feelings not to inform her programming,” says her partner, Strauss. “The music and the way Jeannette performs it — she is communicating with the audience in a way symphonic music doesn’t.”

“Some of us try to challenge listeners to perhaps think about things in a different way,” Sorrell says. “I wouldn’t call that political. It’s more about a humanitarian view of the world.”

At her home, a slightly weathered Bernie Sanders sign still stands in the ivy-covered front yard. She was a Sanders volunteer in 2016 and worked the phone bank. During her 2019 summer sabbatical, Sorrell was occupied with immigrant detention roiling the national politics. She’s a member of Freedom for Immigrants, a nonprofit that monitors immigrants detained throughout the United States. Sorrell was trying to organize a visit to a local jail where at least 60 immigrants were being held.

Asked to show off her 18th-century reproduction French harpsichord in the living room, she sat down and played a portion of the solo from Brandenburg Concerto No. 5. In the piece, Bach featured the harpsichord in big way, with an extended solo and then in the third movement, playing scales under the other players. It’s a difficult piece for the most advanced harpsichordists. Strauss remembers when Sorrell took it on at Apollo’s Fire’s debut concert at Tanglewood in 2015. He was nervous. She wasn’t.

She never did choose the easy way.

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*Harlan Spector is a Northeast Ohio writer and communications strategist. Previously, he was a staff writer and editor for The Cleveland Plain Dealer.*





1



Finkel

3



Burris

5



Brehm

5

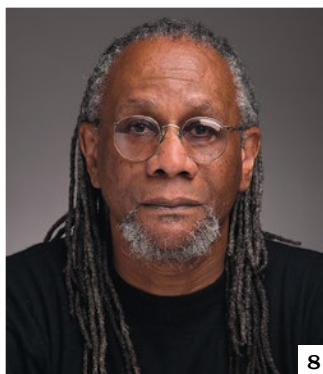


7



Chavis, Burr, Warner

6



8



10



11



12



14



17

**1 Dean Franco**, professor of English and director of the Humanities Institute, was honored for his excellence, scholarship, mentorship and leadership with the new Winifred W. Palmer Professorship in Literature. It was funded by the trust of **Arnold Palmer ('51, LLD '70)**. The professorship, awarded by Dean of the College Michele Gillespie, honors Palmer's late wife, who had a passion for literature.

Franco joined the English Department in 2001 and was associate chair from 2010 to 2016. His third book, "The Border and the Line: Race, Literature, and Los Angeles," was published in 2019. He serves as a noted scholar on panels and as a guest lecturer on topics involving race and literature.

The professorship gift of \$1.5 million pushed the University's **Wake Will Lead** campaign over the \$1 billion mark. The campaign has drawn nearly 60,000 donors who made or pledged more than 500,000 gifts, with 73% under \$1,000. It created more than 50 endowed faculty positions, lowered student debt by 30%, renovated or built 1 million square feet of campus space, provided scholarship dollars to 1 in 5 undergraduate students and added nearly \$400 million to the endowment.

**2** Wake Forest ranked fourth among U.S. doctoral universities in 2017-18 in the percentage of students studying abroad. The nonprofit **Institute of International Education (IIE)** determined the ranking in its 2019 Open Doors

Report. Wake Forest has been in the top 10 for most of two decades. Under IIE's methodology, nearly 75% of Wake Forest undergraduates received credit for study abroad from a few weeks to a year in the 2017-18 academic year, up from 73.5% in the previous year. The University offers more than 400 semester, summer and yearlong study abroad programs in 200 cities in more than 70 countries. [bit.ly/2IzKqHb](http://bit.ly/2IzKqHb)

**3 Jennifer Finkel** was named curator of collections to oversee all aspects of the University's art collections, joining the Office of the Provost's growing arts initiatives under **Christina Soriano**, associate provost for the arts and interdisciplinary initiatives.

Collaborating with faculty, Finkel will develop interdisciplinary programs that support the curriculum across the college and professional schools. Finkel was curator of Cleveland Clinic's contemporary art collection. She studied art history at Georgetown University and received her doctorate in Renaissance art at Case Western Reserve University.

**4** President **Nathan O. Hatch** shared plans in November for a new building on campus called The College Academic Commons to provide classrooms, faculty offices and common areas. The goal is to begin construction in the 2020-21 academic year on the upper part of Davis Field across from Z. Smith Reynolds Library.

**5** The University named two Employees of the Year for 2019: **Christian Burris ('93)**, serials acquisition coordinator at the Z. Smith Reynolds Library, and **Carol Brehm**, administrative coordinator in the Department of Music. Faculty and staff nominated them for their contributions in innovation, integrity, accountability, inclusion and Pro Humanitate.

**6** U.S. Sen. **Richard Burr ('78)**, R-N.C., and Sen. **Mark Warner**, D-Va., talked in November about how they collaborate in a respectful, bipartisan way on some of the most contentious issues facing the United States. **Kami Chavis**, associate provost for academic initiatives, professor of law and director of the law school's Criminal Justice Program, moderated the discussion in Farrell Hall's Broyhill Auditorium.

**7** **Bill Kristol**, a writer, political analyst, founder of The Weekly Standard and ethics professor at Davidson College, discussed conservatism in the age of President Trump in an October conversation in Pugh Auditorium. His talk was sponsored by the Wake Forest Review, the Student Activities Fund, College Republicans and the Office of Civic and Community Engagement.

**8** **Nathaniel Mackey**, a world-renowned poet, novelist and theorist, performed poems accompanied by the band Our True Day Begun Soon Come Qu'ahttet in October at Brendle Recital Hall. Mackey is the inaugural Edwin G. Wilson Distinguished Artist at Wake Forest

and the Reynolds Price Professor of Creative Writing at Duke University.

**9** Wake Forest received a "**Silver Seal for Excellence in Student Voter Engagement**" at the 2019 ALL IN Challenge Awards Ceremony that recognizes universities committed to increasing college student voting rates. A Silver Seal reflects student voter turnout of 30-39% in the 2018 midterm election. Voter turnout increased from 19% in the 2014 midterm election to 40% in the 2018 midterm at more than 1,000 institutions in the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement by Tufts University's Institute for Democracy & Higher Education.

**10** Professor of Psychology **Lisa Kiang** joined researchers at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro to create an online program called One Talk at a Time to provide parents of color with videos and prompts to talk with their children about racism and discrimination.

**11** Associate Professor of Art **Joel Tauber**, artist and filmmaker, undertook a 40-day pilgrimage along the U.S.-Mexico border last fall to build community through baseball. Wearing a vintage baseball uniform, reciting his own adaptation of the "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" lyrics, talking with people and filming them, he walked six miles every day along the border in San Diego. He will produce a film and art installation about the experience.

**12** **Sarah Koenig**, host and co-creator of the Peabody Award-winning podcast "Serial," shared insights into audio journalism in November at Wait Chapel, an event sponsored by the Humanities Institute, the Office of the Provost and the National Endowment for the Humanities. "Serial" has been downloaded more than 420 million times.

**13** More than 800 Winston-Salem children and 90 student groups converged in the Sutton Center on a rainy day for candy and fun during the 31st annual **Project Pumpkin** festival. The theme was Planet Pumpkin to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the historic Apollo 11 Moon Landing.

**14** **Joshua Canzona**, assistant dean of academic affairs in the School of Divinity, was among 20 local leaders honored by the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce in October in the 2019 Winston Under 40 Leadership Awards. Canzona teaches courses on comparative theology, contemplative theology and Muslim-Christian dialogue. A former public high school teacher, he also writes and conducts workshops on classroom practice, curriculum design and assessment.

**15** **Reynolda House Museum of American Art** received first place for exhibition materials in the 2019 Museum Publications Design Competition of the American Alliance of Museums. The award was for a 16-page tabloid newspaper created as a guide to the 2018 "Dorothea Lange's America" exhibition of photography of the Depression-era generation. The guide was produced with the **Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina**.

**16** Hundreds of Wake Forest students, faculty and staff ran and walked laps in a relay race around Hearn Plaza in September for **Hit the Bricks**. They raised a record \$83,247 for the event. It goes for cancer research in honor of the late **Brian Piccolo ('65, P '87, '89)**, a Wake Forest and Chicago Bears football player who died of cancer at age 26.

**17** A plaque with the **WFOU Indigenous Land Acknowledgment** was dedicated in November to honor the Native American lands on which the current and original campuses were built. The plaque was placed in Tribble Courtyard outside Z. Smith Reynolds Library.

# Arts experiences to last a lifetime

By Kerry M. King ('85)

**A**LEX ACQUAVELLA ('03) GREW UP immersed in the New York art scene. His family has operated Acquavella Galleries, which specializes in impressionist, modern and contemporary art, since his Italian immigrant grandfather opened the gallery in the 1920s.

When Acquavella came to Wake Forest, he assumed, correctly, that one day he'd join his father, sister and brother in the family art gallery on Manhattan's Upper East Side, a short walk from the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Even with his family background, he said, it was his Wake Forest experience as an art history major and studio art minor that has allowed him to be successful running an art gallery.

"I've found it pretty amazing how much I pull from my time at Wake Forest," he said. "From the studio art side, I deal with paintings and drawings and sculpture on a daily basis, and to have had the experience at Wake Forest of trying to do those things myself gave me a lot of confidence. From the art history standpoint, at times I take that background knowledge for granted, but a lot of that also came from studying here."

Acquavella, 39, is a strong advocate of the University's Wake The Arts initiative, which seeks to infuse the arts across campus and ensure that every student has an arts experience, regardless of major. He's hosted students and faculty in his New York gallery and was on campus in late October to talk with students about the business side of the art world.

He has made a major gift to endow several programs in the arts, most prominently a course on art and business, the Acquavella Course in Management in the Visual Arts. His father, William Acquavella (P '03), originally funded the course in 2004 when he created the Acquavella Fund for Art and Business.

The interdisciplinary class between the School of Business and the art department, taught every other year, introduces students to the business side of the arts world. A highlight of the course is a trip to New York during spring break to visit art galleries, artist studios and auction houses.



The trip allows students to see firsthand how the business world and the arts are connected, said Morna O'Neill, Rubin Faculty Fellow and associate professor of art, who is teaching the class this spring. "Works of art do not exist in a vacuum that

separates them from 'the real world.' The best business practices can be aligned with, and perhaps even improved by, a knowledge of art making and art history."

Acquavella is also funding the Acquavella Distinguished Lecturer in Arts Management to bring a leading arts management professional to campus in alternating years when the class is not taught, beginning in 2021.

His gift is also supporting the Acquavella Curator of Collections to expand visibility of the University's art collections. Jennifer Finkel, previously curator of Cleveland Clinic's contemporary art collection, was named curator in August. Wake Forest's art collections include more than 1,700 paintings, prints, photographs, sculpture and drawings in nine collections, including the Simmons Collection, the Hanes Collection, the Student Union Collection of Contemporary Art and the John P. Anderson Collection of Student Art.

"I would like to bring the arts more to the forefront at Wake Forest," Acquavella said. "Providing students an arts experience can be a real gift and be beneficial for the rest of their lives, no matter what they do."

## The following donors have also supported the Wake The Arts initiative:

**Jeff Dishner (P '21) and Cathy Dishner (P '21)**, Old Greenwich, Connecticut

**John Metz (P '21) and Jennifer Metz (P '21)**, San Francisco

**Martha & Wilton Looney Foundation, in honor of Andrew Blaisdell ('03) and Ali Dick Blaisdell ('06)**, Atlanta

**David and Geri Epstein Private Foundation, Karen Connell Hess ('94), president**, Westport, Connecticut

**J.D. Wilson ('69, P '01) and Janie Wilson (P '01)**, Winston-Salem

*For more information on Wake The Arts, contact Beth Dawson McAlhany ('89) at [mcalhabd@wfu.edu](mailto:mcalhabd@wfu.edu). Follow Wake The Arts on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter @WaketheArts #WaketheArts*

# DANCING MACHINE

## Bri Butler ('14) fills the Broadway stage in STOMP

By Katherine Laws ('20), Wake Forest Magazine intern

**A**T 5-FOOT-1, Bri Butler ('14) is dwarfed by the spacious Scales Studio D101, until she starts dancing and her energy fills the room. Butler's muscles are engaged in such mighty movement that her joints catch no delay at all, as if she were underwater. As Nina Lucas, one of Butler's beloved dance professors, said, Butler dances like she's 6-foot-2.

That is a scene from a video of Butler teaching a Friday afternoon class at Wake Forest in September. She traveled from New York City to celebrate her fifth reunion at Homecoming. She is already a two-year veteran of Broadway, dancing in STOMP. The show celebrated its 25th anniversary last year on the New York City stage, using everyday objects — from garbage cans to matchboxes — to create a show full of movement and percussion.

Butler performs about six shows each week. She wakes up when the sun rises to teach fitness classes — barre, cardio and dance — or to record on-demand fitness videos with MYX Fitness, a home fitness company. She goes to physical therapy to recover from the physicality of her jobs. Then, she's off to rehearsals and a show. Her secret? Her infamous midday power nap, a little trick she picked up while she was at Wake Forest.

Butler was a business and enterprise management major with minors in global trade and commerce studies, Latin American and Latino studies and, of course, dance. Among the extracurriculars that pepper her college résumé are varsity cheerleading, community service and gospel choir, plus her internship with Northwestern Mutual and her job teaching dance at a local studio.

It would make a good story to say that Butler, as she ate breakfast at the Pit and rushed to business classes and meetings, had no idea she would end up dancing professionally in New York. Except she did know. And so did everyone else.

"I wasn't worried about her going out into the big, bold world," Lucas said, "because she was confident." Lucas, director of dance when Butler was a student, recalls how guest dance instructors — names such as Juel D. Lane, Mark Price and Fritha Pengelly — "gravitated straight to her."

Originally from Maryland, Butler has danced since she was 3 years old and thought she would go to a conservatory-style school. Her father pushed her to look at Wake Forest, and one overnight visit through the MOSAIC admissions diversity program, where she was hosted by Blakeney Brown ('12, MSL '13), sold her.



Wake Forest helped her strategize her break into the industry. In the business school, she learned to manage a tricky schedule and to negotiate her salary fearlessly. Now, she teaches friends to negotiate their salaries, and she's done well enough to own a condo in Jersey City.

Butler faced an enormous challenge at Wake Forest when her brother died during her first week of sophomore year. "That's the worst thing that's happened to me in my life," she said. "I just remember wanting to stop everything."

Her family and her friends at Wake Forest — from basketball and football players to sociology majors to pre-med students — supported her. Professors were understanding. The Chaplain's Office called her daily. She decided to study abroad for a semester in Santiago, Chile, which helped her to heal. Butler returned to campus her junior year with another strength: resilience.

Holly Brower, a business professor who taught Butler's leadership class her senior year, sees her as a strong woman. "She has these electrifying eyes," said Brower, "and she thinks deeply about things." Butler pushed for diversity in the business school in her senior leadership project, and she fought for more creativity in the dance department as she challenged rules and norms.

In STOMP, Butler's role has guidelines, but they do not stop her from putting her own stamp on her character. She gets a chance to improvise in every show, and she's still enthusiastic after two years.

"I wasn't sure that the path that I've taken was the one I would take to get me here," Butler said, "but I've always known that this is what I'm supposed to be doing."





Last fall, the Harvard Business Review featured an article “3 Ways to Make the Most of Your Alumni Network,” adapted from the book “Stand Out” by Dorie Clark. The article shows the value of staying in touch with fellow alumni to build meaningful relationships and create new business and networking opportunities: “There’s a basic step a shocking number of professionals overlook: provide an annual update to your alumni magazine’s class notes column. Volunteer for a role that gives you an excuse to be in touch with other classmates. Share your professional expertise. Alumni offices will frequently host professional development webinars; you could volunteer to lead one.

You could also offer to give a talk to your local alumni group or serve on a panel as needed.” We’re fortunate that our Alumni Engagement office is at the forefront in providing a multitude of ways to connect; I hope you’ll take advantage.

— 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](mailto:alumni@wfu.edu)

# Homecoming/ Reunion 2020

Are you ready to Get Your Deac On? Homecoming 2020 is still months away (the date will be announced soon), but reunion committees are already making plans for a memorable weekend.

Classes ending in 0 and 5 will celebrate reunion years; the Class of 1970 will also be inducted into the Golden Deacs. Homecoming 2020 marks the first time that classes ending in 0 and 5 will enjoy the enhanced homecoming experience that began in 2016. That means Friday night reunion parties on campus, Party So Dear featuring a premier band, campus open houses, Festival on the Quad and the Alumni Tailgate before the football game.

Reunion volunteers are attempting to contact all their classmates to encourage them to come back to campus and participate in the reunion campaign. Almost \$2.5 million was raised in unrestricted giving by reunion classes last year. All gifts made to the Wake Forest Fund between July 1, 2019, and Homecoming and Reunion Weekend 2020 count in your reunion class gift totals, so there’s plenty of time to join your classmates and make a difference.

If you’re interested in volunteering for your class reunion (classes ending in 0 and 5), please email [alumni@wfu.edu](mailto:alumni@wfu.edu)



## ALUMNI EVENTS

[alumni.wfu.edu](http://alumni.wfu.edu)

### WAKE THE ARTS

[wakecommunities.wfu.edu](http://wakecommunities.wfu.edu)

WAKE THE ARTS is a new affinity community for arts professionals and arts lovers. It brings together alumni, parents and friends for arts-focused events — museum and gallery tours, for example — and career development opportunities, especially for recent graduates and younger alumni looking for careers in the art world. WAKE THE ARTS is up and running in New York (see page 98) and will expand to other cities this year.

### Camp Third Act

**Raleigh and Atlanta**

[thirdact.alumni.wfu.edu](http://thirdact.alumni.wfu.edu)

Is it time to contemplate the “third act” in your life and develop a plan for what’s next? Thinking about a career or life transition, but don’t have any idea how to even begin to prepare? For the last two years, Wake Forest has offered Camp Third Act on campus to help alumni envision the next stage in their lives, whether that’s a career transition, pursuing a community-service passion or finding meaning in retirement. Camp Third Act is going on the road this year to Raleigh and Atlanta. Visit the website for dates and more details.

### Pro Humanitate Days

**April 25–May 3, 2020**

[go.wfu.edu/phd](http://go.wfu.edu/phd)

Join fellow Deacs and make a difference in your community during the 10th annual Pro Humanitate Days. Last year, more than 700 alumni, parents and friends volunteered in 39 cities from Honolulu to London. Projects range from community cleanup and beautification to food donations. Visit [go.wfu.edu/phd](http://go.wfu.edu/phd) to learn more about projects around the globe and in your community. Even if you’re the only Deac in your area, you can still participate and find a way to serve wherever you are.

## 1950s

**W. Earl Britt ('56, JD '58, P '82)** received the 2019 North Carolina Award for Public Service, the state's highest civilian honor. He was one of six to win the award, presented by Gov. Roy Cooper. A senior judge of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina, Britt was instrumental in establishing HOPE (Helping Offenders Pursue Excellence), a program for the rehabilitation of nonviolent offenders.

**Bill Greene Jr. ('59)** was honored for his long-time support of the East Tennessee Amateur golf tournament. It was recently renamed the William B. Greene Jr. East Tennessee Amateur, held annually in Elizabethton, TN. Greene, who played golf at Wake Forest, helped start the event in 1994 and continues to sponsor it through his company, Carter County Bank.

## 1960s

**Fred Leon Coward III ('60, P '86)** has published "HOLY BETRAYAL: The Story of Judas," an alternative historical/Biblical novel.

**Dianne Mattocks Simmons ('60)** has written a memoir, "Nirvana: Misty Mem'ries in the Ocean Mist" (Dorrance Publishing). The book chronicles her childhood in a small coastal town in the 1950s and includes many photos of her friends. Simmons is a retired teacher who lives in Jacksonville, NC.

**Dan McGinn ('64, JD '67, P '90)** was named a "Labor & Employment Star" in the 2020 edition of Benchmark Litigation. He practices in the Greensboro, NC, office of Brooks Pierce.

**Thomas Marshall ('65)** received the inaugural UNC Charlotte Award for Teaching Excellence, given to an outstanding non-tenure track teacher. He is a lecturer in finance at UNCC's Belk College of Business and leads study abroad programs to London, Dublin, Zurich and Bermuda.

**Harry W. Flynn Jr. ('67)** received the 2019 Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award from the University of Miami. An internationally known retina specialist, Flynn is a professor and the J. Donald M. Gass Distinguished Chair in Ophthalmology at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, Miller School of Medicine, where he's worked since 1978. He has trained hundreds of ophthalmology residents, many of whom are now chairs at other universities.

**Joe Inman ('69, P '99, '05, '09)** was inducted into the Guilford County (NC) Sports Hall of Fame. Inman played on three state championship golf teams at Grimsley High School in Greensboro, NC, before walking on at Wake Forest and helping lead the Deacons to three straight ACC championships. He finished third in the 1968 NCAA Tournament and was a three-time All-American. He played professionally on the PGA Tour from 1974-86 and later on the



**McGinn**  
( '64, JD '67)



**Inman**  
( '69)



**Watson**  
( '74)



**Snead**  
( '76)



**Hogg**  
( '79)

Champions Tour. He was the men's golf coach and then director of golf at Georgia State University from 2008 until retiring in 2019. He lives in Marietta, GA.

## 1970s

► **Kathryn McMurtry Snead ('76, P '11)** is a new member of the Alumni Council. She retired in 2017 as vice president for military and veteran partnerships at the American Association of State Colleges and Universities in Washington, DC. She and her husband, Ned, live in Fairfax, VA, and are the parents of **Ashley Snead Crouse ('11)**.

► **Jeff Hogg ('79)** is a new member of the Alumni Council. He is a professor of radiology at West Virginia University School of Medicine in Morgantown, WV.

**Roy A. Archbell Jr. ('71, JD '74)** published a book, "Archbell Genealogy: The Descendants of John Archbell of Beaufort County, NC." The book earned the 2019 Award for Excellence in Publishing for a book on family history from the North Carolina Genealogical Society. He practiced law on the Outer Banks for 40 years until retiring in 2015. He lives outside Roanoke, VA, with his wife, Mary.

**Julie Manning Shovelin ('71, JD '81, P '99)** received the 30th annual Allen H. Sims Award, along with her husband, **Wayne (P '99)**, from the Gaston (NC) Community Foundation. The award is given to individuals who exemplify selflessness and make a difference in the community. Shovelin has served as president of six local nonprofit boards, including Hospice, Girl Scouts and the Salvation Army.

**Douglas Waller ('71, P '03)** of Raleigh has written his eighth book, "Lincoln's Spies: Their Secret War to Save a Nation" (Simon & Schuster). Called "fast-paced" and "fascinating" by The Wall Street Journal, the historical narrative tells the story of espionage in the Civil War through the lives of four Union agents. Waller is a former correspondent for Newsweek and Time magazines and a member of the Wake Forest Writers Hall of Fame.

**Randall Ledford ('72, P '02)** won the Wake Forest physics department's 2019 Alumni Award, which salutes exceptional achievements and service. Ledford retired from Emerson Electric Co., a leading electronics company, where he was

senior vice president and the chief technology officer. Before that, he held leadership roles at Texas Instruments Inc. He endowed two undergraduate scholarships at Wake Forest for physics and biophysics majors.

**David D. Ward Sr. ('72, JD '75, P '05, '08)** was named to the 2020 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in medical malpractice and personal injury litigation. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Raleigh.

**R. Lee Farmer (JD '73, P '00)** was appointed vice chair of the North Carolina Disciplinary Hearing Commission by the North Carolina State Bar Council. He is member-manager of the Law Offices of R. Lee Farmer PLLC in Yanceyville, NC, and a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates.

**Jeff Triplette ('73)** is executive in residence with the Wake Forest School of Business Center for Leadership and Character. Triplette was most recently president and CEO of ArbitrSports, an industry-leading athletic event management software company, and is the founder and principal of Triplette Advisors LLC, a risk management and turnaround consultancy. He spent 22 years as an NFL referee and 32 years in the U.S. Army National Guard, retiring as a colonel in 2002.

**Elizabeth Watson ('74)** served as primary consultant for a study of how Wake Forest can de-

*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](mailto:classnotes@wfu.edu)



### ONLINE:

[magazine.wfu.edu/class-notes/submit/](http://magazine.wfu.edu/class-notes/submit/)

► Alumni Council new member



**Davis**  
(JD '76)



**Taylor**  
(JD '76)



**Reynolds**  
(JD '77)



**Neal**  
(80)



**Quisenberry**  
(81, MBA '84)



**Savage**  
(81)



**Hennessy**  
(JD '83)



**Gentry**  
(84)

velop a more vibrant relationship with the Wake Forest Historical Museum in Wake Forest, NC, where the University was founded. Watson is the co-founder of Heritage Strategies LLC, a consulting firm in Chestertown, MD, that specializes in planning for historic communities and properties.

**James W. Narron (JD '75)** received the Distinguished Service Award from the North Carolina Bar Association's Estate Planning & Fiduciary Law Section. He is an attorney at Narron Wenzel PA in Smithfield, NC, and a certified specialist in estate planning and probate law.

**Tom Davis Jr. (JD '76, P '05, '08, '10, '15)** was presented with a Friend of the Court Award, the North Carolina Supreme Court's highest honor, for his service to the judicial branch and contributions to the Supreme Court's bicentennial celebration. Davis is a partner with Poyner Spruill LLP in Raleigh and president of the North Carolina Supreme Court Historical Society. He was instrumental in establishing a portion of the North Carolina Museum of History exhibit "Law and Justice."

**Daniel R. Taylor Jr. (JD '76, P '12, '15)** was named to the 2020 edition of The Best Lawyers in America (commercial litigation, banking and finance litigation). He recently opened a law firm, Taylor & Taylor Attorneys at Law PLLC, in Winston-Salem with his son, **E. Winslow Taylor (JD '12)**. Taylor is also a volunteer counsel in residence at Winston Starts, a business incubator in downtown Winston-Salem.

**Suzanne Reynolds (JD '77)** received the Founding Leadership Award from the Children's Law Center of Central North Carolina (CLC), a non-profit that provides children with quality legal advocacy. Reynolds, professor and dean emerita of Wake Forest's School of Law, has served CLC as an educator, adviser and leader. She served on CLC's first board of directors and helped foster CLC's partnership with the School of Law, resulting in the Child Advocacy Clinic.

**Nancy J. Wilkie ('78)** has published a collection of short stories titled "Seven Sides of Self" (She Writes Press). The book examines seven aspects of personality, fusing science fiction and fantasy.

**Palmer Edwards (MD '79)** is president of the North Carolina Medical Society. He is a psychiatrist in Winston-Salem and a clinical associate professor of psychiatry at Wake Forest School of Medicine. He is a past president of the North Carolina Psychiatric Association.

**Thomas P. "Todd" Gibbons ('79, P '10)** was named interim CEO of The Bank of New York Mellon Corp. (BNY Mellon), a global investments firm. Gibbons is a 30-year veteran of the company, previously serving as vice chair and chief financial officer.

**Bridget Facchine Holcombe ('79, P '07, '14)** is an assistant professor of the practice of career and business communications in the Earl N. Phillips School of Business at High Point University. Her area of expertise is college student career development and education. She previously spent two years as a career coach in Wake Forest's School of Business after working at High Point University as director of the Office of Career and Professional Development and an adjunct professor.

**Rebecca Lee Wiggs ('79)** was included in Benchmark Litigation's list of the "Top 250 Women in Litigation." Wiggs is a trial attorney with Butler Snow LLP in Jackson, MS, where she focuses on pharmaceutical product liability litigation. She earned her law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law.

## 1980s

► **Lisa Quisenberry ('81, MBA '84)** is a new member of the Alumni Council. She lives in Charlotte and helps organize the Pro Humanitate Days events for WAKECharlotte. She is also vice president of the board of directors for Crisis Assistance Ministry in Charlotte.

**Dale Neal ('80)** published his third novel, "Appalachian Book of the Dead" (SFK Press). His other works include "Cow Across America" and "The Half-Life of Home." After 34 years as a journalist with the Asheville Citizen-Times, he teaches fiction at Lenoir-Rhyne University's Center for Graduate Studies of Asheville.

**Mark A. Crabtree ('81, P '11)** was elected to the Board of Regents of the International College of Dentists, the pre-eminent honor society for dentists. Crabtree is the managing partner of Martinsville Smiles in Martinsville, VA, and a past president of the Virginia Dental Association and the Virginia Board of Dentistry. He has served on the Wake Forest College Board of Visitors.

**Syd Kitson ('81, P '08)** was named chair of the State University System of Florida's Board of Governors, which oversees the State University

System's 12 universities with 340,000 students. He is chair and CEO of Kitson & Partners, a real estate company that develops commercial properties and master-planned communities, including Babcock Ranch, the first solar-powered community in the country, near Fort Myers, FL. Kitson lives in West Palm Beach. Read more about Kitson at [bit.ly/2QEYbHQ](http://bit.ly/2QEYbHQ)

**Jack Savage ('81)** was named president of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (the Forest Society), a land conservation organization that owns and manages 185 forest reservations in New Hampshire. He previously was its vice president of outreach.

**Ted Smyth (JD '81)** was named to the 2020 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in bet-the-company litigation, commercial litigation, insurance law and personal injury litigation. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Raleigh.

**Andy Avram ('82, JD '90)** received a 2019 Leaders in the Law Award from North Carolina Lawyer's Weekly and was named to the 2020 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in workers' compensation law. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Charlotte.

**Mary M. Dalton ('83)** has co-edited a book, "Teachers, Teaching, and Media: Original Essays About Educators in Popular Culture" (Brill|Sense Publishers). The book offers a fresh take on educator characters in popular culture. Dalton is a filmmaker, writer and professor of communication at Wake Forest, where she teaches critical media studies.

**Robert Griffin ('83, JD '86)** was named to the 2020 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in insurance litigation. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Raleigh.

**Kevin Shawn Hennessy ('83, P '11)** was selected for the 2020 class of Leadership Pinellas in Pinellas County (FL). Hennessy is an attorney at the law firm Lewis, Longman & Walker.

**Shirene Hritzko Gentry ('84, P '17)** has written a memoir, "Identity Unveiled: Daughter of the King of Kings," detailing her spiritual journey and her belief that she may be the illegitimate daughter of the late Shah of Iran. Gentry was born in Tehran and adopted by American parents as an infant. She works as a life coach in High Point.

**Craig A. Minegar (JD '84)** was named to the 2020 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in real estate law. He is an attorney at Winderweede, Haines, Ward & Woodman PA in Winter Park, FL.

**John W. Ormand III ('84, P '19, '22)** was named a "Labor & Employment Star" in the 2020 edition of Benchmark Litigation. He practices in the Raleigh office of Brooks Pierce.

**Jim W. Phillips Jr. (JD '84)** was named a "Local Litigation Star" in his practice areas (intellectual property, general commercial law) in the 2020 edition of Benchmark Litigation. He is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, NC.

**David D. Daggett (JD '85)** finished first in his age group (55-59) at the Ironman Executive Challenge in Chattanooga, TN, which qualified him for the 2020 Ironman World Championship in Hawaii. Daggett has completed 195 triathlons and 29 Ironman events. He is an injury attorney in Winston-Salem.

**D. Beth Langley ('86, JD '92)** was named a "Labor & Employment Star" in the 2020 edition of Benchmark Litigation. She practices in the Greensboro, NC, office of Brooks Pierce.

**Donald S. Bennett (JD '87)** was named to the 2020 edition of The Best Lawyers in America and was named "Lawyer of the Year" in the Tampa, FL, area in his practice area (workers' compensation law – employees). He has been with the firm Banker Lopez Gassler in Tampa for 31 years.

**Bob King (JD '88)** was named a "Local Litigation Star" in his practice areas (appellate, environmental, general commercial law) in the 2020 edition of Benchmark Litigation. He is a partner in the Greensboro, NC, office of Brooks Pierce.

**David Rhoades (MBA '88, JD '89)** was named to the 2020 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in workers' compensation law. He also was named "Lawyer of the Year" in workers' compensation law in Raleigh. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Raleigh.

**R. Bruce Thompson II ('88, JD '94)** was included in the 2020 edition of The Best Lawyers in America (government relations and administrative/regulatory law). He is a partner at Parker Poe LLC and has offices in Raleigh and Washington, DC. He is an adjunct professor at Wake Forest School of Law.

**Lisa A. Beran ('89)** is interim executive director and CEO of the Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC) in Frankfort, KY. She formerly served as deputy executive director and general counsel of KHC, which develops affordable housing throughout the state.

**David C. Reeves ('89, P '23)** is chair of the Florida Board of Bar Examiners. He was appointed to a five-year term on the board in 2015 by the Florida Supreme Court. He is an attorney in Jacksonville, FL.



Minegar  
(JD '84)



Daggett  
(JD '85)



Beran  
(JD '89)



Valaoras  
(JD '89, JD '92)

**Nick Valaoras ('89, JD '92)** was named to the 2020 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in workers' compensation law. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Charlotte.

Family to give RVs to people who had lost their homes. Read more at [bit.ly/2KoawRx](https://bit.ly/2KoawRx)

**Patrick H. Flanagan (JD)** was named to the 2020 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in civil rights law, employment law, labor and employment litigation, and municipal litigation. He also was named "Lawyer of the Year" in litigation, municipal, in Charlotte. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Charlotte.

## 1990

**Michelle Davis Connell (JD, P '19)** joined Fox Rothschild LLP in Raleigh as a partner in the firm's family law group. She is also a fellow and president-elect of the North Carolina Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

**James "Woody" Faircloth** was one of the 10 finalists for CNN's 2019 Hero of the Year. In the aftermath of 2018's Camp Fire that destroyed the town of Paradise, CA, and left 50,000 people homeless, Faircloth launched RV4Campfire-

**Mark Davis** is a board member and treasurer for RunningBrooke, a nonprofit that encourages underserved children in Alexandria, VA, to get physically active to spark academic achievement. He recently helped plan the organization's

## 1991

Wake Will Lead  
has added nearly

\$400  
MILLION

to our endowment



**Malarney**  
(JD '91)



**Belk**  
(92)



**Chapman**  
(92, MA '94)



**Inabinett**  
(92, JD '96)



**Hatcher**  
(JD '93)



**Mullins**  
(93, JD '96)



**Hurt**  
(95, JD '99)

10th anniversary gala, helping raise more than \$100,000 for the cause.

**Jeff Malarney (JD)** is chair of the North Carolina Real Estate Commission (NCREC), which regulates real estate firms and agents. He operates his own law firm in Manteo, NC, and is general counsel for Twiddy & Co., a vacation rental management firm. He is also a licensed real estate broker and property insurance agent. Malarney is the third alumnus to chair the NCREC in consecutive years, following **Bob Ramseur (92, JD '95, P '23)** in 2017 and **Anna Gregory Waggoner (94, JD '99)** in 2018.

## 1992

**Chris Belk** has joined Freese and Nichols Inc. as a senior project manager in the firm's Raleigh office. He has more than two decades experience in water/wastewater planning, pipeline design and environmental permitting.

**Charlie E. Brown (JD)** was appointed by North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper to the Governor's Crime Commission. Brown, who has nearly 30 years of experience in the state court system, is chief district court judge in Rowan County.

**Betsy Jensen Chapman (MA '94)** received her Ph.D. in higher education from UNC Greensboro. She is the executive director of family communications and volunteer management in Wake Forest's Office of Family Engagement and the author of the Daily Deac blog (dailydeac.wfu.edu).

**Patricia "Tricia" Williams Goodson (JD '96)** was named a "Labor & Employment Star" in the 2020 edition of Benchmark Litigation. She practices in the Raleigh office of Brooks Pierce.

**David E. Inabinett (JD '96, P '22)** was named to the 2020 edition of The Best Lawyers in America (elder law, trust and estates). He is the managing member of Brinkley Walser Stoner PLLC, working in the firm's offices in Greensboro and Lexington, NC.

**Laura Bush Sedlacek (MA)** has published several books of poetry. The Davenport A+ Elementary School in her hometown of Lenoir, NC, uses her book, "Poetry in LA" (Lenoir area), in the third-grade curriculum. Sedlacek has taught several poetry workshops based on the book at elementary and middle schools.

**John J. Shiptenko (JD)** received the 2019 Employee of the Year Award from the State Bar of Georgia. He is senior assistant general counsel and has worked for the State Bar since 1996. He lives in Atlanta.

## 1993

**Mike Buddie** was named athletics director at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point after four years as athletics director at Furman University. A star pitcher on Wake Forest's baseball team, Buddie holds the school's single-season record for strikeouts (138 in 1992). He spent five seasons in the major leagues before returning to Wake Forest for a decade as senior associate athletic director.

**Christina Cox Hanger (MBA)** was elected to the board of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, one of the country's largest philanthropic foundations. She is CEO of Dallas Afterschool, an award-winning nonprofit focused on improving after-school care in Dallas. She previously held executive leadership roles with Worksoft, Hewlett-Packard and IBM. She lives in Plano, TX.

**J. Gregory Hatcher (JD)** was recognized in the 2020 edition of The Best Lawyers in America (family law and family arbitration) and was named a 2020 N.C. Super Lawyer (family law). He is the managing partner at Hatcher Law Group PC in Charlotte.

**Allison Overbay Mullins (JD '96)** was inducted into the American College of Trial Lawyers, an invitation-only legal association composed of the top trial lawyers in North America. Mullins is a partner at Turning Point Litigation/Mullins Duncan PLLC, a firm she co-founded in Greensboro, NC.

## 1994

**Marc Blucas** starred in the 2019 Hallmark Christmas movie "Holiday For Heroes" on the Hallmark Movies & Mysteries channel. Read more at bit.ly/2TijU9c

**Russell "Rusty" DeMent III (JD '97)** was named to the 2020 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in criminal defense: general practice and DUI/DWI defense. He is a managing partner at DeMent Askew & Johnson in Raleigh.

**David Knight (JD)** was elected to the Raleigh City Council. An environmental advocate and lobbyist, Knight formerly chaired the Raleigh Water Conservation Task Force and the Wake County Water Partnership.

**Blair Cox Lambert** is principal of Flat Rock Elementary School in Mount Airy, NC. She was previously an assistant principal at elementary schools in North Carolina as well as a teacher. She began her education career in 1997, teaching social studies and English as a second language in Guatemala City after serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in Chad in Central Africa.

**Matt Lundy (JD)** is assistant general counsel at Microsoft, where he leads efforts in cybersecurity enforcement. He lives in the Boston area.

**Jennifer K. Van Zant (JD)** was named one of the Top 250 Women in Litigation and a "Local Litigation Star" (antitrust law) in the 2020 edition of Benchmark Litigation. She practices in the Greensboro, NC, office of Brooks Pierce.

## 1995

► **Shana Eagle Hurt (JD '99)** is a new member of the Alumni Council. She is a financial adviser with Morgan Stanley in Winston-Salem. Her husband, **Adam Hurt (MAEd '99)**, is president-elect of WAKEWinstonSalem.

**Jordan Rose Calaway** curated an exhibit at the Blowing Rock (NC) Art & History Museum titled "Modern Visions, Mountain Views: The Cones of Flat Top Manor." The exhibition focused on the historic country estate of Moses and Bertha Cone in Blowing Rock. Calaway was also a contributing author to the catalog, "Modern Visions, Modern Art: The Cone Sisters in North Carolina." She is a development officer for the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation, based in Winston-Salem.

**Scott Hemby (PhD)** received the 2019 Alumni Achievement Award from Barton College in Wilson, NC. Hemby is an accomplished biomedical research scientist who served on the faculty at Emory University and Wake Forest School of Medicine before going to High Point University as chair of the department of basic pharmaceutical science.

## 1997

**Wendy Mumford Bartlett** was one of four North Carolina teachers to receive the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. The award is the highest honor given by the federal government for K-12 mathematics and science teaching. Bartlett is a mathematics teacher at Reagan High School in Pfafftown, NC. She won Wake Forest's Marcellus Waddill Excellence in Teaching Award in 2008 while at Parkland High School in Winston-Salem.

**Dan Katzenbach (JD)** was named to the 2020 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in construction law, professional malpractice law and product liability litigation. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Raleigh.

**Roberta King Latham (JD '02)** has opened King Latham Law PLLC in Winston-Salem, practicing in the areas of civil, business, employment, personal injury and workers' compensation law. She is a member of the North Carolina Bar Association Board of Governors and the North Carolina Bar Foundation Board of Directors.

## 1998

**Jeffrey Bankowitz** has joined the Orlando office of GrayRobinson PA as a shareholder and member of the firm's real estate practice group.

**Trice Hickman (MALS)**, a contemporary urban fiction author, has released her ninth book, "The Other Side" (Dafina Books). The story follows three women of varying ages who help one another navigate life's trials. She lives in Washington, DC.

**Todd King (JD '02)** was named to the 2020 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in personal injury litigation. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Charlotte.

**Adam Vanek (JD)** was appointed CEO of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). Vanek served as national general counsel for MADD from 2011–2017 and national general counsel and corporate secretary of The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

## 1999

**Deidre Arnerich-Roniger (MBA)** is senior vice president, corporate development, at Ambys Medicines, a biotech company in South San Francisco focused on regenerative and restorative therapies for liver disease. She has more than 20 years of experience in biotech corporate strategy, marketing and analytics.

**James B. Black IV (JD)** was named to the 2020 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in workers' compensation law. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Raleigh.

**Mark Hinshaw (MSA '00)** is chief financial officer at PENLER, a multi-family real estate development and investment company based in Atlanta.

**Malika Roman Isler** is assistant vice president for inclusive practice in Wake Forest's Office of Diversity and Inclusion. She came to Wake Forest in 2014 as the inaugural director of the Office of Wellbeing, where she helped launch a holistic wellness program, Thrive.

**Perrin Jones (MD)** is a member of the North Carolina House of Representatives. Jones, a Republican, represents the state's 9th District, which encompasses eastern Pitt County. He is an anesthesiologist at East Carolina Anesthesia Associates in Greenville, NC, and former president of the North Carolina Society of Anesthesiologists.



**Latham**  
( '97, JD '02)



**Hickman**  
(MALS '98)



**Felder**  
( '00)

and people of color. Felder is station manager of Millennial FM 95.9 in Columbia, SC, and is a Christian hip-hop recording artist and songwriter known as Big Redd.

**Jason R. Harris (JD)** was named to the 2020 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in admiralty and maritime law and personal injury litigation. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Wilmington, NC.

**Matthew Krause (JD)** is director of the Future Concepts Directorate (FCD) at the U.S. Army JAG Corps' Legal Center and School in Charlottesville, VA. FCD studies the law of future conflict and is the JAG Corps' doctrine development organization. A lieutenant colonel, he is also cohost of the podcast Battlefield Next, and he writes on international humanitarian law and national security law.

## 2000

**Kevin Felder** has been named a fellow for the National Association of Broadcasters Leadership Foundation's 20th annual Broadcast Leadership Training program. The 10-month, MBA-style program teaches the fundamentals of owning and operating radio and television stations to senior-level broadcasters, particularly women

1 IN 5  
UNDERGRADUATE  
STUDENTS

has received scholarship  
dollars from Wake Will Lead



**Lucas-Averett**  
(MBA '01)



**Manning**  
(02)



**Perks**  
(02)



**Pavlis**  
(03)



**Willingham**  
(03)

**Kunal Premnarayan** serves on the U.S. board of MiracleFeet, a nonprofit based in Chapel Hill, NC, that treats children with clubfoot. He and his parents founded MiracleFeet India, an affiliated but separate nonprofit, that has treated 16,000 children. MiracleFeet partners with local health care providers to increase access, awareness and low-cost treatments to children with clubfoot in 26 countries. Premnarayan lives in Mumbai and is CEO and a board member of ICS Group, a real estate company in India and South Africa. Read more on page 110.

**Brooks Sykes Sutton** is head of the Upper School at Arendell Parrott Academy, a private K-12 school in Kinston, NC. She has been selected to be headmaster of the school when the current headmaster retires this year. Sutton has taught science and physics and coached field hockey in her 16 years at the school.

**Christopher J. Welch (JD)** was appointed a district court judge by North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper. Welch will preside in Judicial District 4, which consists of Duplin, Jones, Onslow and Sampson counties. Welch was a partner at Welch and Avery in Jacksonville, NC.

**Shana Vidal White** was one of 10 educators in the country to receive an Equity Fellowship from the national Computer Science Teachers Association. The year-long fellowship, sponsored by Microsoft and Silicon Valley nonprofit Pluralsight One, provides leadership development opportunities to educators who teach technology skills to low-income students and minorities. She teaches computer science at Sweetwater Middle School in Lawrenceville, GA.

## 2001

**Elizabeth Lucas-Averett (MBA)** is chief of staff and corporate vice president of strategy for VSE Corporation, a provider of customized solutions for sustaining mission-critical platforms, including government and commercial vehicles, ships and aircraft, headquartered in Alexandria, VA. Previously, she spent 16 years as managing partner of The Trivista Group LLC, where she worked with the world's leading aerospace distributor. Lucas-Averett and her husband, **Jeremy Huggins ('87)**, have relocated from Winston-Salem to Northern Virginia.

**Sally Wallace (JD)** is an administrative law judge with the Michigan Office of Administra-

tive Hearings and Rules. She specializes in adjudicating utility matters for the Michigan Public Service Commission.

**Mark Yopp** is a partner in the North America tax practice group of Baker McKenzie, one of the world's largest law firms. Based in New York, Yopp specializes in income and franchise taxes, sales and use taxes, e-commerce and withholding requirements.

## 2002

**Dave Bush** was promoted from pitching coordinator to pitching coach for the Boston Red Sox. He pitched for nine seasons in the major leagues after a standout career at Wake Forest. He holds the school record for career saves (38) and is a member of the Wake Forest Sports Hall of Fame.

**Shelby Kammeyer Buso** was appointed chief sustainability officer for the city of Atlanta. She oversees resilience and sustainability efforts, which include lowering residents' utility costs by running buildings on clean energy, implementing the city's Clean Energy Plan and reducing the number of residents living in food deserts. She previously was sustainability director for the nonprofit Central Atlanta Progress, focused on civic planning and development.

**Nakesha Merritt Dawson** earned a doctorate in educational leadership from Appalachian State University. She is a marketing coordinator and horticulture pathway lead in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

**Jeb M. Justice** was promoted to clinical associate professor of otolaryngology at the University of Florida College of Medicine in Gainesville, FL. He is the associate residency program director, co-director of the smell disorders clinical program and chief of the Division of Rhinology and Skull Base Surgery in the Department of Otolaryngology. He has received an Exemplary Teacher Award for five consecutive years.

**Trinity Manning** was named to The Business Journals' list of 2019 Influencers: Rising Stars, which spotlights 100 young executives who are having an impact across the nation. Manning is the founder and CEO of Winston-Salem-based OnceLogix, one of the world's largest providers of web-based health care records. Under his leadership, the company has grown 154% in the last three years.

**Benjamin D. Morgan** was confirmed as a Superior Court judge by the New Jersey State Senate. A litigation trial attorney, Morgan had worked at Archer & Greiner PC in Haddonfield, NJ, since 2007.

**Lisa Glebatis Perks** was promoted to chair of the communication and media department at Merrimack College in North Andover, MA. She has taught at Merrimack since 2015.

**Jessica Robinson (JD/MBA)** is vice president of client services at Caspoint, a leading legal technology company based in Tysons, VA. She is an attorney who previously worked for some of the top law firms in the country.

**Brooke Whitworth (MAEd)** received the 2019 Outstanding College Science Teacher Award from the Mississippi Science Teachers Association. She is an assistant professor of science education at the University of Mississippi in Oxford, MS. She previously taught science education at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, AZ, and high school science in North Carolina and Hawaii.

## 2003

► **Stephanie Pavlis** is a new member of the Alumni Council. She is a project coordinator for the Lucy Daniels Center, a children's mental health agency in Cary, NC, where she supports children and families in living emotionally healthy lives. She lives in Durham, NC.

► **Jonathan Willingham** is a new member of the Alumni Council. He is a past president of WAKE-Washington and a former member of the Young Alumni Development Board. Willingham is chief of staff to District of Columbia Council member Mary M. Cheh. He received his law degree from George Washington University Law School and was president of the Law Alumni Association for two years.

**Matt Dixon** is principal of Meadowlark Middle School in Winston-Salem. Previously, he was chief human resources officer for Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools. He has also been a principal, assistant principal and teacher at several elementary schools.

**Wesley P. Gelb (JD)** joined Fox Rothschild LLP in Raleigh as a partner in the family law group.

## 2004

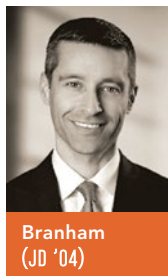
► **Kellie Dupree** is a new member of the Alumni Council. She is also co-chair of WAKE NOW (Network of Women) in Washington, DC. She is director of political strategy at Way to Win, a progressive fundraising, communications and strategy organization.

**Jason Boehmig** is co-founder and CEO of Ironclad, a San Francisco-based company that provides contract-management software for legal departments. Business Insider included the com-

pany on its list of “57 start-ups that will boom in 2020.” Ironclad’s clients include Fortune 500 companies such as Dropbox, GoFundMe and Glassdoor. Boehmig earned his law degree from Notre Dame Law School and was a corporate attorney before founding Ironclad.



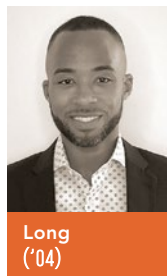
Dupree  
(‘04)



Branham  
(JD ‘04)



Gray  
(‘04)



Long  
(‘04)



Sigler  
(‘04)



Sindall  
(‘05)

**Brad R. Branham (JD)** is city attorney for Asheville, NC, where he lives with his wife, **Erin Freeman Branham (‘02, MA ‘04)**. Previously, he was senior assistant city attorney for Charlotte. His areas of expertise include affordable housing, transit, complex redevelopment of city-owned land and other municipal law matters.

**Liz Frazier (MBA)** has written her first book, “Beyond Piggy Banks and Lemonade Stands: How to Teach Young Kids About Finance” (Rowman & Littlefield). Frazier is a certified financial planner in Westchester, NY, and is a regular contributor to Forbes.com.

**Lindsey Graham Freeze** is director of marketing and communications for MiracleFeet, a nonprofit based in Chapel Hill, NC. MiracleFeet partners with local health care providers to increase access, awareness and low-cost treatments to children with clubfoot in 26 countries in Africa, Asia and South America. Read more on page 110.

**Nick Gray** sold his company, Museum Hack, for seven figures. Founded in 2011, the company offers quirky, small tours at the world’s top museums. Gray is looking forward to traveling the world and finishing a book he hopes to release later this year. Read more at [bit.ly/2Hqy46U](http://bit.ly/2Hqy46U)

**Justin H. Jordan** was honored as one of the “Top 100 under 50 emerging and executive leaders” by Diversity MBA, a national leadership organization. He is the director of professional and support services at Novant Health Haymarket Medical Center in Haymarket, VA.

**Eric T. Kalamaras (MBA)** was named executive vice president and chief financial officer of Target Hospitality. The Texas-based company is the nation’s largest provider of vertically integrated specialty rental accommodations and value-added hospitality services. Kalamaras previously held senior finance positions at several oil and gas companies, most recently American Midstream Partners LP. He lives in Houston.

**Kevin Llewellyn (MD)** joined the White River Junction VA Medical Center in Vermont as a neuroradiologist. Neuroradiology, a subspecialty of radiology, focuses on the diagnosis and characterization of central and peripheral nervous system abnormalities. Llewellyn joined the VA in 2016 at the Greenville Health Care Center in Greenville, NC.

**Everett Long** was promoted to director, health strategy and evaluation at DLH Corporation in Atlanta. He develops and leads public health

programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, focusing on HIV and infectious disease prevention.

**Jared Manse** has joined the law firm Greensfelder as an associate in the intellectual property practice group in St. Louis. In addition to having a bachelor’s degree from Wake Forest, he has a law degree from Duke University and a Ph.D. in molecular microbiology from the University of Missouri School of Medicine.

**Katie Rouse Sigler** is the pediatric nurse practitioner for the Renal Service at Texas Children’s Hospital in the Houston area. She has been with Texas Children’s Hospital since 2015 and published an article in the peer-reviewed Journal of Clinical Apheresis.

## 2005

► **Trey Sindall** is a new member of the Alumni Council. He is a portfolio manager at Rockefeller Capital Management in New York. His wife, **Lexi Swift Sindall (‘05)**, is a past member of the Alumni Council. The Sindalls also serve on the WAKE-NewYork executive committee.

**Taylor Crown (MBA)** was named president of the foodservice division at Acosta, a leading sales and marketing agency in the consumer-packaged goods industry. He is based in Charlotte.

**Laura Mills Deitch** expanded her fitness business by opening her second Pure Barre franchise in central Pennsylvania. Her first location is in Mechanicsburg while her newest is in Lancaster.

Nearly

60,000

DONORS

contributed to Wake Will Lead



**Litwak**  
(’06)



**Lockwood**  
(’06)



**Nwaeze**  
(’08)

**Katherine Cardwell Brown** is the founder and president of The Boon Project, a nonprofit based in Charleston, SC, that provides support to young adults with cancer. She started the organization after her identical twin sister was diagnosed in 2015 with Stage IV cancer at age 31 and was able with support from friends and family to get into a clinical trial. The group offers support programs, community-building events and cancer-fighting resources.

Greco was one of only five bankruptcy attorneys named a Rising Star.

**James McKell** has joined Freedom First Federal Credit Union in Roanoke, VA, as general counsel. McKell has nine years of experience as a corporate attorney.

## 2008

► **Oderah C. Nwaeze** is a new member of the Alumni Council. He is a trial lawyer, primarily in the Wilmington, DE, office of Duane Morris LLP, where he focuses on complex corporate and commercial matters. He is on the board of directors for Campus Philly, an organization that fuels economic growth by encouraging students to live and work in Philadelphia and is a board member for Mother Teresa House Inc., a nonprofit that provides affordable housing for low-income people with HIV/AIDS. He also serves on the compliance committee of the board of trustees for Bancroft, a nonprofit provider of services for individuals with disabilities.

**William T. Daniel** is an assistant professor in comparative politics at the University of Nottingham in the United Kingdom. His move to the UK has allowed him to continue his research and teaching on European politics and, in particular, the European Union.

**Robert “Boomer” Kennedy** earned a doctorate in educational leadership from UNC Greensboro. He is in his fourth year as principal of Forbush High School in East Bend, NC, and was named the 2019 Yadkin County Principal of the Year. Kennedy and his wife, **Lindsey Bakewell Kennedy (MAEd ’09)**, live in Kernersville, NC, with their two children.

**Kelsey Mayo (JD)** was honored as a “Leader in the Law” by North Carolina Lawyers Weekly. The award recognizes influential lawyers who have gone above and beyond in their profession and community. Mayo is a partner in the Raleigh and Charlotte offices of Poyner Spruill LLP, where she focuses on employee benefits and executive compensation.

**Brooke Dancho Riedmiller (PhD)** is a deputy director, senior scientist at Sanofi Pasteur pharmaceutical company in Swiftwater, PA. She is the company’s specialist in process and product for the yellow fever vaccine and the site leader for product viral safety.

**Emily Brooks Rowe** is a painter, designer and calligrapher in her native Raleigh. Her company, Emily Brooks Designs, sells original paintings and whimsically illustrated maps (her signature item). Rowe also does custom work for wedding clients.

**Shane M. Thompson** is working on his dissertation at Brown University, where he is a fifth-year doctoral student in the Department of Religious Studies. He was co-organizer of “At the Margins,” a 2019 interdisciplinary conference at Brown for scholars of the Near East and Egypt.

**Ryan Dings (JD)** was named executive vice president and general counsel of Greentown Labs, a startup incubator in Massachusetts with a 100,000-square-foot campus billed as the largest clean technology startup in North America. Dings, a Boston Business Journal “40 Under 40” honoree, also serves as board chair for the Social Innovation Forum, a Boston community for social impact engagement and connection. He previously was chief operating officer and general counsel of Sunwealth, a startup that powered more than \$25 million in solar installations in 10 states.

**Keonna A. Hendrick** of Brooklyn, NY, received the 2019 Museum Educator Art Education Award from the National Art Education Association. Hendrick is a cultural strategist, educator and author, providing professional development to educators and museums, including the Brooklyn Museum, Museum of Modern Art and the Guggenheim Museum.

**Ashleigh Lawrence-Sanders** completed her Ph.D. in history at Rutgers University and is a tenure-track assistant professor in the history department at the University of Dayton (Ohio).

**Karen Neely Louis (JD)** was named associate general counsel for LendingPoint LLC, a financial technology lender headquartered in the Atlanta area. She specializes in consumer regulatory compliance at LendingPoint, which was recognized by Inc. Magazine as the fastest-growing lender in the United States.

## 2006

► **Jennifer Litwak** is a new member of the Alumni Council. She is the founder and executive director of Housing on Merit, a nonprofit in San Diego. She has successfully managed the closing of more than \$322 million in multifamily acquisitions and overseen the development, preservation and renovation of more than 2,700 affordable housing units nationwide. In 2019, she was listed as a “Star to Watch” by Commercial Property Executive. [bit.ly/31vpHNZ](http://bit.ly/31vpHNZ)

**Annie Ward Baldwin** is the English language learners coach at LEAD Cameron College Prep, a charter school in Nashville, TN, whose students are economically disadvantaged. She works with **Ellie Poole (’11)**, a social studies teacher, and **Laura Grace Carroll (’12)**, a counselor.

**Steven Chen (MS)** is running his own investment company, Urbem Partnership, in Shanghai, China. He is a regular contributor to well-known financial media sites such as GuruFocus, Investing.com and Seeking Alpha.

**David Cross Jr.** is principal of Archdale-Trinity Middle School in Randolph County (NC). He was previously principal of Braxton Craven Middle School, also in Randolph County.

**Anderson Ellis** was named to The Biltmore Beacon newspaper’s 2019 “40 Under Forty” list of young rising stars in the business community in the Asheville, NC, area. Ellis is an associate in the business practice group at The Van Winkle Law Firm in Hendersonville, NC. He has served on several community boards, including the Kiwanis Club and the Children & Family Resource Center.

**Saad Gul (JD)** was honored as a “Leader in the Law” by North Carolina Lawyers Weekly. The award recognizes influential lawyers who have gone above and beyond in their profession and community. Gul is a partner in the Raleigh office of Poyner Spruill LLP, where he focuses on appellate and regulatory litigation and co-chairs the firm’s privacy and cybersecurity team.

**James “Jay” Lockwood** completed his ophthalmology residency at the Emory Eye Center and joined Eye Physicians and Surgeons of Augusta (GA), aka “the Eye Guys.” He is practicing cataract and refractive surgery in Aiken, SC, and Augusta.

**D.J. O’Brien (JD)** was named a “Labor & Employment Star” in the 2020 edition of Benchmark Litigation. He practices in the Raleigh and Greensboro, NC, offices of Brooks Pierce.

**Lillian B. Shelton (MALS)** co-wrote “A Shelton Story: Memories of a Secret Series of Events” (Library Partners Press) with Ken Keuffel. The book gives a behind-the-scenes look at how she brought top dancers, actors and musicians to Wake Forest with the Secret Artists Series. Shelton started working with the Secret Series in 1985 and served as its director from 1998 until retiring in 2013. She lives in Florida.

## 2007

**Christopher Greco (JD)** was named to Law360’s 2019 list of Rising Stars for attorneys under 40. A partner at Kirkland & Ellis LLP in New York,

## 2009

► **Brittney Bogues** is a new member of the Alumni Council. She is owner of Bogues Consulting Group, a communications, public affairs and events company in Charlotte. She was named one of the "50 Most Influential Women in Charlotte" in 2019 by The Mecklenburg Times.

**Mickael Dada Amos (MSA)** was named to the inaugural list of "30 Black Stars" by Face2Face Africa, a pan-African digital media and events company. The honor highlights 30 outstanding professionals across all industries who are "paving a way for minorities through a commitment to excellence." Amos is the CFO at Rosecliff Ventures, a New York-based venture capital fund.

**Andrew Britt** is an assistant professor of liberal arts at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston-Salem. He earned his Ph.D. from Emory University in 2019 and received honorable mention for best dissertation in the humanities from the Brazil section of the Latin American Studies Association. He was a post-doctoral fellow at Northwestern University.

**Tara Tedrow** is chair of the Florida Hemp Advisory Board, chair of the Florida Bar Ninth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission and vice chair of the Winter Park (FL) Economic Development Advisory Board. She is a shareholder at Lowndes PA in Orlando and chairs the firm's Cannabis and Controlled Substances Group. She is also an adjunct professor at the University of Florida Levin College of Law, where she received her law degree.

## 2010

**Tiffani D. Otey (JD)** has joined Kilpatrick Townsend as an associate in the firm's Winston-Salem office, focusing on trademark protection and copyright law.

**Lauren Wright** has written her second book, "Star Power: American Democracy in the Age of the Celebrity Candidate" (Routledge). She is an associate research scholar and lecturer in politics and public affairs at Princeton University.

## 2011

**Melanie Huffines** is an associate attorney in the Wilmington, NC, office of Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP. Her practice areas include civil and criminal defense.

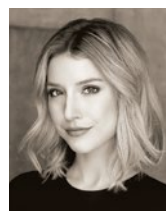
**Ike Opara** was named Major League Soccer's Defender of the Year for the second time in three years. Opara, a center back for Minnesota United FC, was a two-time All-American defender at Wake Forest.



Amos  
(MSA '09)



Bogues  
( '09)



Wright  
( '10)



Opara  
( '11)



McCarty  
( '12)

**Jacob Perry (MAEd)** is a visiting assistant professor of mathematics at High Point University, teaching applied mathematical models for business and calculus.

**Ellie Poole** teaches seventh-grade social studies and is the content chair for the social studies department at LEAD Cameron College Prep, a charter school in Nashville, TN, whose students are economically disadvantaged. She works with **Annie Ward Baldwin ('06)**, English language learners coach, and **Laura Grace Carroll ('12)**, a counselor, at LEAD Cameron. Poole and Carroll were awarded the staff "Panther Prowess" award for their support of students and staff.

## 2012

**Laura Grace Carroll** is a counselor at LEAD Cameron College Prep, a charter school in Nashville, TN, whose students are economically disadvantaged. She works with **Annie Ward Baldwin ('06)**, English language learners coach, and **Ellie Poole ('11)**, a seventh-grade social studies teacher, at LEAD Cameron, which transformed from the state's lowest-performing middle school to being in the top 5% in recent years. Carroll and Poole were awarded the staff "Panther Prowess" award for their support of students and staff.

**Troy Shane McCarty Jr.** received his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from Lincoln Memorial University—DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine

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WILL  
LEAD

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than ever. And we're not done yet.

[wakewill.wfu.edu](http://wakewill.wfu.edu)

#WakeWill

## ALUMNI Q&amp;A



**Jared Lilly ('08)** is the New York leader for the new **WAKE THE ARTS** affinity group and president of the **WAKENewYork** community. He is also a member of the School of Divinity Board of Visitors and a past member of the College Board of Visitors. A music performance major and religion minor, Lilly is deputy director, development, for the nonprofit media firm *The Futuro Media Group*.

#### How did Wake Forest and the music department influence who you are today?

As cliché as it may sound, my experiences shaped me in a very deep and meaningful way that still influences how I live my life today. There is something powerful about a liberal arts education that gifts those of us fortunate enough to have experienced it a driving passion to continually learn and improve ourselves.

There are so many people from the music department, as well as the Department for the Study of Religions, that influenced my life. My voice teacher, the late Richard Heard (P '07), and my accompanist, Jean Blackwood, supported my passion while keeping me grounded with the realities of what a career in the arts would mean. When I transitioned from a performance career, I turned to my arts administration experiences as an intern at the Winston-Salem Symphony and with the Secrest Artists Series. Lillian Shelton (MALS '06), who has since retired as director of Secrest, played a pivotal role in guiding my interest and passion for arts administration, and Hayden Barnes ('00) provided me with my first internship opportunity at the Winston-Salem Symphony when I was a freshman.

#### What is the purpose of WAKE THE ARTS?

WAKE THE ARTS is dedicated to spreading awareness of the positive impact of the transformative arts, while advocating for the advancement of careers in the visual and performing arts sectors. In New York, we have a high concentration of arts alumni that are hungry for professional development and networking opportunities. Before WAKE THE ARTS, many of our alumni felt under-supported when they were preparing to embark on careers in the arts. While they certainly had guidance from faculty, many of the resources available to the broader student body were not present for those seeking careers in the arts. It was with this in mind that WAKE THE ARTS was formed to serve arts alumni and those who support the arts sector.

#### What kinds of events are you planning for WAKE THE ARTS?

We envision events that include professional and networking opportunities, social events around shows, private museum and gallery tours, etc. We are also interested in creating opportunities for students to interact with arts alumni as they seek to start careers in the arts.

#### Who can be part of WAKE THE ARTS?

We are a robust community that encompasses both arts professionals and arts lovers. While we are focused on meeting the needs of alumni with careers in the arts sector, there is a place for everyone who has been impacted by the power of the transformative arts. Whether you were an art major or minor, participated in an ensemble, have a fond memory of a particular art class or have some other association with the arts, we invite everyone to be a part of this community.

**For more information on WAKE THE ARTS and WAKENewYork, visit [wakecommunities.wfu.edu](http://wakecommunities.wfu.edu)**



Taylor  
(JD '12)



Duncan  
(MALS '13)

in Tennessee. He was promoted to lieutenant in the U.S. Navy and is an emergency medicine resident at Naval Medical Center San Diego.

**E. Winslow Taylor (JD)**, whose focus is on personal injury and civil litigation, has opened a law firm, Taylor & Taylor Attorneys at Law PLLC, in Winston-Salem with his father, **Daniel R. Taylor Jr. (JD '76, P '12, '15)**.

## 2013

**Wanda S. Duncan (MALS)** was a featured author at the 2019 JaxbyJax Literary Arts Festival in Jacksonville, FL. Her memoir, "Cracker Gothic: A Florida Woman's Memoir," was published last year by Library Partners Press.

**Currie McFayden** was named assistant sports information director at the University of South Dakota. He previously was associate director of athletic communications at Western Kentucky University. While at Wake Forest, he was a student assistant for Wake Forest Athletic Communications.

## 2014

**Aubrey Bledsoe** has become one of the top goalkeepers in the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL), leading the league in saves (86) and earning two Player of the Week awards. Her standout play earned her an invitation to train with the U.S. Women's National Team. Bledsoe, who plays for the NWSL's Washington Spirit, holds the Wake Forest record for career shutouts (33).

**Caitlin Bush (MA '16, JD '19)** has joined the family law team at Tharrington Smith LLP in Raleigh.

**Eric Disch (MSM '17)** and his wife, **Anna Margaret Roth Disch ('17)**, have opened a doughnut shop, Dough-Joe's, in Winston-Salem's Reynolda Village. The business, which began as a food truck in 2017, specializes in deep-fried cake doughnuts, cooked to order and served warm, and coffee, tea, cookies, ice cream and other baked goods.

**Zachary Underwood (JD)** was promoted to litigation partner in the Raleigh office of Cordell & Cordell, an international domestic litigation firm that focuses on representing men in family law cases.



**Bush**  
(‘14, MA ‘16, JD ‘19)



**Underwood**  
(JD ‘14)



**Gordon**  
(‘15)



**Hamby**  
(‘15)



**Felvey**  
(‘16)



**Jackson**  
(JD ‘17)



**Rebollar**  
(‘17)



**Whalin**  
(JD ‘19)

## 2015

**Lilias Gordon** is an associate attorney in the litigation practice group in the Roanoke, VA, office of Woods Rogers PLC.

**Dearica Hamby** was named the 2019 WNBA Sixth Woman of the Year by the Associated Press after averaging career highs in points (11) and rebounds (7.6) for the Las Vegas Aces, primarily coming off the bench. The former two-time All-ACC player holds the Wake Forest career (1,801) and single-season (683) scoring records.

**Bahati Mutisya (JD)** was appointed to the board of commissioners for the Raleigh Housing Authority. She is an associate attorney at Parker Poe LLP in Raleigh.

**Zachary Pipkorn (MSM ‘16)** received his wings of gold at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, FL. A first lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps, he flies UH-1Y Venom helicopters at Camp Pendleton, outside San Diego.

## 2016

**Emily M. Felvey** graduated from Vanderbilt Law School and joined the Dallas office of Baker Botts LLP as an associate in the intellectual property practice group. While in law school, she was the managing authorities editor of the Vanderbilt Law Review. She was selected to join the Order of the Coif, an honor society for law school graduates.

**Michael Grace Jr. (JD)** has joined Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton as an associate in the firm's Winston-Salem office. He is a member of the mergers & acquisitions and securities team in the firm's corporate, finance and real estate department.

## 2017

► **Cazandra Rebollar** is a new member of the Alumni Council. She co-founded HOLAA (Wake Forest's Hispanic/Latino Alumni Association) in 2016. She is a graduate student in higher education and student affairs at the University of Maryland, College Park and a graduate assistant in the Office of Student Conduct. She lives in Washington, DC, with her dog, Winston.

**Will Craig**, a pro baseball player, won a 2019 Rawlings Gold Glove Award for defensive excellence. Craig, a first baseman for the AAA Indianapolis Indians (part of the Pittsburgh Pirates organization), was one of nine minor league players to win the award. He was a consensus first team All-American and ACC Player of the Year at Wake Forest before Pittsburgh drafted him in the first round in 2016.

**Anna Margaret Roth Disch** and her husband, **Eric Disch (‘14, MSM ‘17)** have opened a doughnut shop, Dough-Joe's, in Winston-Salem's Reynolda Village. The business, which began as a food truck in 2017, specializes in deep-fried cake doughnuts, cooked to order and served warm, and coffee, tea, cookies, ice cream and other baked goods.

**Cynthia Drew (MDiv)** is pastor for Church of the Holy Family in Aurora, CO, after leaving her long career as an environmental lawyer and professor to pursue ministry. Holy Family is a member of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion, a group of churches not under the purview of the Vatican that allows women as clergy and allows clergy to marry.

**Parker Dunshee** was one of 28 players named to USA Baseball's Premier12 roster. Coached by former Yankees manager Joe Girardi, the team competed in the 2019 WBSC Premier12, the flagship international tournament featuring the world's top 12 teams. Dunshee, a former All-ACC pitcher at Wake Forest, spent last season playing for the Las Vegas Aviators, the Triple-A affiliate of the Oakland Athletics.

**Stephanie A. Jackson (JD)** is the Title IX coordinator at Denison University, a private liberal arts college in Granville, OH.

**Cheslie Kryst (JD/MBA)** has joined the nationally syndicated entertainment news program "Extra" as a correspondent. Kryst, an attorney from Charlotte, was crowned Miss North Carolina and Miss USA in 2019.

**Adam T. Nyenhuis (JD)** rejoined the Delaware law firm Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Tunnell LLP following a judicial clerkship with Karen L. Valihura of the Delaware Supreme Court. He will practice in the corporate and business litigation group.

**Sarah Remes (JD)** joined the law firm Pierce Atwood LLP in the Boston office. She is an associate in the litigation, class action defense and government investigations and compliance groups.

## 2018

**Phil Haynes**, an offensive lineman, started several games for the Seattle Seahawks football team this fall. A two-time All-ACC performer and team captain at Wake Forest, he was drafted in the fourth round of the 2019 NFL Draft.

**Gavin Sheets** is a first baseman in the Chicago White Sox minor league system. Last season he led the Southern League in RBIs (83) while playing for the Birmingham Barons, Chicago's AA affiliate.

## 2019

**Emily Cline (JD)** is an assistant district attorney in Cleveland County (NC).

**Danielle Konopelski (MSBA)** competed in the 2019 NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Austin, TX. Konopelski, a javelin thrower, finished 19th overall with her best throw traveling 45.21 meters.

**Ikenna Smart (MA)** has started the Smart Sport Foundation to collect shoes from college athletes, who typically receive more shoes than they will ever be able to wear, to give to children in his native Nigeria so they can play basketball and other sports. Smart played basketball at the University at Buffalo before transferring to Wake Forest for the 2018-19 season while he pursued a master's in liberal studies. Read more at [bit.ly/2Mlj89N](http://bit.ly/2Mlj89N)

**Briana M. Whalin (JD)** has joined the Orlando, FL, office of ShuffieldLowman PA. Whalin works in the firm's guardianship and elder law section, assisting clients with Medicaid planning, long-term planning and asset protection.

## Marriages

**Dale Slate (‘83)** and Anne-Marie Wiginton, 9/1/19 in Bryson City, NC. They live in Advance, NC.

**Spencer Gray Key Jr. (‘89)** and **Erica Elizabeth Smith (MALS ‘08)**, 5/24/19 at Wait Chapel. They live in Pilot Mountain, NC.

**Jordan Brehove (‘02)** and Amanda Baldauf, 5/25/19 in Centerport, NY. They live in Hoboken,

NJ. The wedding party included Matt Dockham ('02), Bradley Marsh ('02), Joe Morrow ('02) and Damon Mushrush ('02, MSA '03).

**Susan Emery Lawson ('04, MBA '09)** and Andrew Walker Morrison, 8/24/19 in Wilmington, NC. They live in Charlotte. The wedding party included Michelle Gallagher Backus ('04), Ashley Knipe Commissiong ('04), Kristen Basmajian Davies (MBA '09), Jennifer Ladenburger Haies ('04) and Claire Bouchard McLeod (MBA '09).

**Steven Chen (MS '06)** and Cyndi Lu, 7/20/19 in Oxford, UK. They live in Shanghai, China.

**Miranda Dotson ('08)** and Joseph Reed, 9/14/19 in Highlands, NC. They live in Sunnyvale, CA. The wedding party included Lauren Hales Bock ('08), Amanda Dyl Britton ('08), Emily Brooks Rowe ('08), Lauren Grove Schiller ('08) and Alex Wilson ('08).

**Evan Jaffe ('08)** and Alexa Passalacqua, 9/15/19 in New York City, where they live. The wedding party included Dan Giuffrida ('08), Dan O'Neill ('09), Zach Schultz ('09) and Steve Weaver ('09).

**Andrew Forrest Van Alsten ('08, MSA '09)** and **Erin Elizabeth Gorman ('09)**, 10/12/19 in Baltimore, where they live. The wedding party included Anna Williams Altman ('09), Nick Grilli ('08), Kyle Heitman ('08), Brian Lacy ('09), Michael O'Donnell ('08), Katie Wright Sexton ('09), David Stewart ('08) and Chris Wood ('08, JD '12).

**Gregory Middleton ('10)** and Valerie Sebastian, 5/26/19 in Lexington, NC. They live in High Point. The wedding party included Steven Barnes ('10), William Geiger ('10) and Benjamin Lynch ('10).

**Elena Schacht ('11)** and Ethan Wright, 10/19/19 in Lexington, NC. They live in Concord, NC. The wedding party included Courtney Whicker Berry ('12, MA '14) and Margo Warren Seifert ('11).

**Lauren Christine Hojnacki ('12)** and **Charles "Alex" Dann ('12)**, 7/27/19 in Buffalo, NY. They live in New York City. The wedding party included Andrew Alves ('11), Erik Alves ('12), Brett Bitove ('12) and Katherine George ('12).

**Shu Cheong Chang (MD '13)** and **Rachel Revelle (MDiv '16)**, 5/25/19 in Denver, where they live.

**Nicole Lindsay Stavro ('14)** and **Miles Philip Viseur ('14)**, 8/10/19 in Littleton, CO. They live in Denver. The wedding party included Jen Alfino ('14), Grace Kucera ('14), Jenny Magruder ('14) and Ethan Taylor ('14). The ceremony was performed by John H. Bell ('82, P '08).

**Megan Werner ('14)** and **Brendan Whalen ('14, MSA '15)**, 8/10/19 in West Chester, PA. They live in New York City. The wedding party included Neilay Dedhia ('14), Dan Givonetti ('14, MSM '15), Annie Johnson ('14), Marissa Quintero ('14), Brett Rosenbluth ('14) and Nikki Sullivan ('14).

**Breanne Wilhite ('15)** and **Peter Jenkins Conway ('15)**, 8/3/19 in Charlotte. They live in Boston. The wedding party included Ara Bilazarian

('15), Olivia Cheney ('16), Alex Goodman ('15), Laura Mason ('15), Parker McCarty ('15), Robbie Pierce ('15), Maddie Price ('15), Tommy Super ('16) and Nicky Vogt ('15). The mother of the groom is Sandra Wilcox Conway ('83, P '15).

**Megan DeBoer (MBA '16)** and Josh Pfent, 8/24/19 at Lake Tahoe in Truckee, CA, where they live.

**Ted Saint (JD '19)** and Alexandra Bell, 9/21/19 in La Jolla, CA. They live in San Diego. The wedding party included Patrick Wilson (JD '19).

## Births

**Matthew Lindberg ('02)** and Brittany Lindberg, Waxhaw, NC: a daughter, Sloane Abigail. 9/20/19. She joins her brothers, Colton Matthew (6), Brock Curtis (5) and Emmett Cooper (2).

**Meredith Laughridge Cross ('04)** and **John William Cross ('04)**, Apex, NC: a son, Lachlan Davis. 6/10/19. He joins his sisters, Evangeline (6) and Isabelle (4).

**Sarah Tejan Fiser ('04)** and Gray Fiser, Memphis, TN: a daughter, Maggie Paige. 3/13/19. She joins her twin brother and sister, Gray and Hazel (6).

**William "Luke" Orman ('04)** and Elizabeth Prince Orman, Lynchburg, VA: a daughter, Willa Elizabeth. 10/21/19.

**Jennifer Burgess Snipes ('04)** and Richard Keith Snipes, Elon, NC: adopted a son on 3/28/18: Christian Reid, born 8/14/14, and a daughter on 11/30/2018: Anna Grace, born 12/22/16.

**Kara Sax Britanik ('05)** and Justin Britanik, Washington, DC: a son, Charles Josef. 6/14/19.

**John Engel ('05)** and Megan Engel, Alexandria, VA: a son, Austin Richard. 3/13/19. He joins his brother, Hunter (5).

**Pamela Brock Harris ('05)** and **Matthew G. Harris ('07)**, Raleigh: a son, Henry Whitt. 4/6/18. He joins his sisters, Olivia (7) and Alice (4). He is the grandson of Margaret F. Brock (MD '94) and nephew of Rebecca Brock Eddy ('98).

**Lexi Swift Sindall ('05)** and **Albert "Trey" Sindall III ('05)**, New York City: a son, Albert Peter IV. 8/1/19. He joins his sister, Lillian Margaret (3).

**Kate Dennis Spear ('05)** and Chris Spear, Gulfport, MS: a son, Scott Christopher. 2/12/19. He joins his sister, Louisa June (3).

**Patrick J. Walsh ('05)** and Christina Walsh, Darnassus, MD: a daughter, Margaret Kay. 7/28/19. She joins her brother, James Dalton (3).

**Dustie Lanier ('06)** and Karl Erik, Winston-Salem: a daughter, Anna Jane. 9/30/19.

**Stephen Phillips ('06)** and **Katie Simpler Phillips ('07, MS '08)**, Raleigh: a son, Theodore Mor-

rison. 2/2/2019. He joins his brothers, Andrew Rice (6) and Elijah James (4).

**Sebastian Gosek ('07, MSA '08)** and **Clare Hector Gosek ('08, MS '10, MD '14)**, Washington, DC: a son, Oskar Zenon. 9/21/19.

**Brooke Dancho Riedmiller (PhD '08)** and Robert "Rusty" Riedmiller IV, Wind Gap, PA: a son, Covey Xavier. 4/20/19. He joins his brother, Robert "Rowe" Charles (2).

**Bryan Kliefoth ('09)** and Kristin Kliefoth, New York City: a daughter, Evelyn Vera. 11/3/19.

**Simone Parker ('09)** and **Bradley McDanel ('10, MS '12)**, Somerville, MA: a daughter, Claudia Louise. 10/5/19.

**Darcy Delph Stanton ('09)** and **Patrick Merritt Stanton ('09, MSA '10)**, Apex, NC: a daughter, Jillian Marie. 5/3/19.

**Gretchen Edwards Elliott ('10)** and **William Gus Elliott II ('10, JD '13)**, Valdosta, GA: a daughter, Mary Jean. 7/20/19.

**Eleanor Trefzger Morales (JD '10)** and **Francisco Morales (JD '11)**, Winston-Salem: a son, Thomas Henry. 7/22/19. He joins his sister, Caroline Grace (3).

**Jonathan Keenan Sullivan ('10)** and Sara Lynn Sullivan, Clayton, NC: a son, Jonathan Wayne. 5/29/19.

**Rachel Roth Aldhizer ('15)** and **George Aldhizer IV ('15, MSA '16)**, Winston-Salem: a daughter, Ellis Elizabeth. 8/9/19. She joins her brother, George "Gray" (2).

## Deaths

**Cary Whitehead Becton ('41)**, April 12, 2019, Pittsboro, NC. He was an engineer with American Airlines for 15 years and retired as a self-employed accountant. He was a 32nd degree Mason and a deacon at Braggstown Baptist Church in Durham, NC. He was predeceased by his wife and three siblings, including **Macon Becton ('36)**.

**Robert Vance Doyle ('41)**, Sept. 18, 2019, Greensboro, NC. He served in World War II in the U.S. Air Force in Africa and Italy, where he met his late wife, Nunzia "Nancy" Lucia Deponte Doyle. He retired after 20 years in the military and taught in Burlington, NC, until his retirement in 1981.

**Woodrow "Woody" Batten ('42, MD '44)**, Aug. 2, 2019, Smithfield, NC. He served at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Jacksonville, FL, during World War II before returning to his native Johnston County (NC). He helped develop Johnston Memorial Hospital, the Johnston County Mental Health Association and the Johnston County Heart Association. He also taught medical students at Duke University and was medical director at Smithfield Manor Nursing & Rehab. He continued to see patients until retiring at age 95.

His devotion to his community earned him the Distinguished Citizen Award from the Greater Smithfield-Selma Area Chamber of Commerce in 1999. He is survived by his wife of 73 years, Mary, four children, a grandson and a sister, **Jean B. Cooper (MALS '89)**.

**James "Norman" Ellis ('42)**, July 21, 2019, Kuttawa, KY. He was a surgical technician in the U.S. Army before becoming a Baptist minister for more than 50 years in Western Kentucky and Tennessee. He retired in 1982 and served as interim pastor at a dozen churches before coming out of retirement to pastor again. He shared his skills in electronics and carpentry with businesses and churches.

**Katherine "Kay" Garland Marks ('46)**, Aug. 20, 2019, Raleigh. She taught high school English and French and later became a homemaker after the birth of her two sons, **Joseph R. Marks Jr. ('75)** and the late James Garland Marks.

**Merle R. Patten ('46)**, May 29, 2019, Forks Township, PA. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He retired as an industrial engineer at Panelgraphic Corp., a manufactured goods company in New Jersey.

**John Thomas Page Jr. ('47)**, Oct. 10, 2019, Rockingham, NC. He served on a U.S. Navy submarine in the Pacific during World War II. His crew recovered a secret Japanese submarine and returned it to the United States for research. An attorney, he worked in the FBI before joining his father's law firm in his native Rockingham. He retired after 55 years and spent many happy days water skiing at Lake Tillery (NC) into his 80s. He was predeceased by his parents and two brothers, Jackie Page and **Talmadge Page ('40)**.

**William "Bill" Hooper Wilson ('47)**, July 26, 2019, Raleigh. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He was a pharmacist in Raleigh for more than 60 years, including 23 years as owner of Hayes Barton Pharmacy. He was director of professional relations for Electronic Data Systems, finding technology solutions for the pharmaceutical industry. He served as a city council member and mayor pro tem in Raleigh and president of the Raleigh Merchants Association and Raleigh Civitan Club. He loved golfing and traveling with his wife of nearly 40 years, Jeanie. He was predeceased by his brother, **Robert B. Wilson Jr. ('47, JD '53)**.

**Albert "Clayton" Reid Jr. ('48)**, Aug. 22, 2019, Canton, GA. He worked his way up through the ranks of Jones Mercantile Company and retired as president. Remembered for his selflessness and legendary wit, he was a volunteer firefighter and a lifetime deacon at Canton First Baptist Church. He was predeceased by his parents, **Albert Clayton Reid (1917, MA 1918)** and Eleanor Jones Reid.

**James "Crenshaw" Thompson ('48)**, March 5, 2019, Southern Pines, NC. He served in the U.S. Army and worked as a hospital administrator. He was a devout Episcopalian, a nature lover and owner of a bountiful garden.

**Sheffield Horace Abell Jr. ('49)**, July 2, 2019, Statesville, NC. He served in the U.S. Navy and worked for Western Auto and Top Value Enterprises Inc. A devout Presbyterian, he enjoyed trout fishing, metal detecting, reading, his family and his beloved canine companion, Lui.

**Walter Reid Davis ('49)**, April 23, 2019, Dayton, OH. He served in the U.S. Army in World War II. A beloved and selfless minister, he pastored churches in Kentucky, Illinois, Colorado, Ohio and Indiana. He retired from full-time ministry in 1988 but spent another 10 years serving as interim pastor at several churches.

**Iris Caudell Goins ('49)**, Jan. 13, 2019, Mableton, GA. She retired from Animal Health Care Center in Charlotte after more than 30 years. She loved dolls, dogs and cats and was a member of the United Federation of Doll Clubs, Charlotte Dog Training Club, Doberman Pinscher Club of Charlotte and First Baptist Church of Smyrna, GA.

**Paul Calvin Newton II ('49)**, June 17, 2019, Asheboro, NC. He served in the U.S. Marines in World War II and was an aide for Lt. Gen. H.M. Smith, who was in charge of the Battle of Iwo Jima. Newton was a postal worker, aviation supplier, insurance salesman, newspaper circulation manager and agriculture equipment salesman. He was preceded in death by his parents, **Paul ('21)** and Minnie Newton, and his brother, **John G. Newton ('50)**.

**Robert "Bob" Pruett Allen Sr. ('50)**, Sept. 27, 2019, Greenville, SC. He served in the military during World War II. He was a teacher, vice principal and principal in Greenville County (SC) and for two decades was director of its early childhood development centers. He served as president of the South Carolina Education Association. During retirement, he took short and several long-term mission assignments in Africa with his wife of 68 years, Sarah.



## A CALL TO THE STAGE

Hillary Heard Baack ('02) thrives as an actor with an outsider's acute observing

By Carol L. Hanner

**T**he stage has enchanted Hillary Baack ('02) since her parents took her to see a play when she was 5 years old. By age 7, she was performing her first community theatre role as Gretl von Trapp in "The Sound of Music."

She is deaf, but she was too young to see any obstacle.



Baack has built a career as an actor and writer. This summer, production begins on a movie she has written about the adult life of Helen Keller, a deaf and blind American icon. Baack will star in the film and make her feature directing debut.

Baack wrote and performed her own one-woman show in New York. She has appeared in short films, TV episodes and full-length features. She starred in "You & Me," a 2018 romantic comedy she co-wrote with her husband, Alexander Baack, a director and producer. They live in Hudson, New York, with their sons, ages 2, 10 and 14.

Wake Forest Magazine talked with her about her life and career. These excerpts have been edited and condensed for clarity.

### How did you become deaf?

A lot of things went wrong right after I was born. I lost my hearing when I was

1 month old. I was given an antibiotic, which saved my life, so it was a good thing, but one of the side effects was my hearing. I had a lot of other things going on, so by the time I came home, it wasn't like they were looking for hearing loss. I was diagnosed (as deaf) when I was 3.

Even the things that I lost have been a huge part of shaping and informing who

I am and probably made me a better version of myself. Because there was a lot of medical stuff I went through, I was always feeling so grateful for what I had. That doesn't mean I didn't have days when I was frustrated, but I think when you're aware of what you don't have, you can also become more aware of what you do have.

It's been an interesting part of shaping even my path as an actor, too, because I'm so attuned to people, their behavior, being on the outside observing human nature and stories.

### You were mainstreamed in school with all students. How did that influence you?

My lip-reading skill became stronger and stronger because

I used it all the time, and I feel grateful that I'm able to communicate so well with hearing people. And because of being mainstreamed

and having speech therapy, I was able to work on my speech. The shadow side to that was working really, really hard in a way that's different than if

you're watching sign language. And being the only one.

(Mainstreaming is) different for every child, for every family, for the time in which you're living, as well. For me what it looked like was sitting in the front of the classroom. My teachers (in Orlando, Florida) knew that I needed to lip-read. By the time I was in high school, I had note-takers because I couldn't take notes and lip-read, so I had that support. At Wake, I had note-takers. I would have a meeting with each professor to explain my situation. There were a few times when I had an interpreter.

### What drew you to acting?

I was so young, it was not something I could articulate why I wanted to be up there on stage. There's something so thrilling and moving about watching performers. I was drawn to taking this moment to learn something about life, to be present and really think about those feelings or those experiences, celebrate them, honor them. It was so freeing and fun, and it was this really expressive and safe place. And the relationship between yourself and the audience is an exciting, powerful thing.

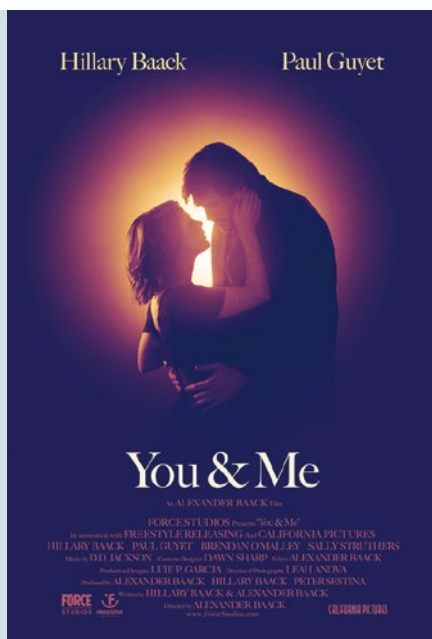
### You have said you became self-conscious as a teenager and doubted you could pursue acting. What changed?

I remember a conversation I had as a freshman with (associate teaching professor) John E.R. Friedenberg ('81, P '05), whom we all called Jerf. He was the one who

Hillary Baack ('02), above, in "You & Me."

Baack and Lee Connelly ('02), right, in "Children of a Lesser God" at Wake Forest.





Left, poster for "You & Me."

The Nazi regime banned Helen Keller's work, "How I Became a Socialist." Photo from United States Holocaust Memorial Museum/Library of Congress

put the idea in my head that I could be a theatre major and possibly have a career. I think about my theatre professors, and all of them were encouraging. My time at Wake was such a wonderful time to gain tools and also the belief and confidence that maybe I could keep doing this in my life.

#### What has been your favorite role?

At Wake, I got to play Sarah in "Children of a Lesser God," and that was incredibly intense and rewarding and exciting.

#### Was Marlee Matlin, the deaf actress who won an Oscar as Sarah in "Children of a Lesser God," an inspiration?

For sure, she was one of the huge affirmations and inspirations for me that it was possible.

#### What did you do after graduating with a double-major in theatre and English?

I did a theatre program in Los Angeles. I got certified to teach English as a second language, and I worked with deaf children in Barcelona (Spain). After that I went to New York. I got a job in disability services support, my day job, and I jumped into theatre acting classes at The Barrow Group (Performing Arts Training Program). The first role I got in New York was a reading in the theatre. The next thing I did was my (one-woman) show. About a year after that I got a role on "Law & Order." (Television) was very different, very exciting and made me hungry for more.

#### What brought you to writing a screenplay about Helen Keller?

I revisited the (1962) film "The Miracle Worker" (with Patty Duke as Keller) when I was an adult. I had watched it as a child and had seen plays of it. I've always felt as a deaf woman some sort of connection to her, and I'm learning so many women and girls have felt a connection to her, whether they have a disability or not. I thought, "Well, what did she do? How long did she live?"

I immediately got a book about her life, and the whole time my mind was blown. I could not believe what an incredible life she lived, could not believe I didn't know about it. I have to tell this story. (Keller was the first deaf and blind person to earn a bachelor's degree, graduating cum laude in 1904 from Radcliffe College, and lived a full life as an author and activist, including co-founding the American Civil Liberties Union.)

It's been something I've been working on and off with for many years, and in the past year, things have really started happening. We (the Baacks' Force Studios) have the musician Markéta

Irglová signed on to do our music. (She co-wrote "Falling Slowly," which won the 2008 Oscar for best original song, in the indie film "Once.") I feel very excited to be telling the story from my point of view.

#### What advice would you give a deaf person considering acting?

Find the community of other deaf artists. There's more and more support for each other because the culture is giving a little more attention to minority voices. Go to (acting) class, find a com-

munity and start to make your own work. If you're not a writer, find a deaf writer and work with them. Don't wait around for auditions to come to you. Ask for an opportunity to be seen in roles that are not deaf. Why can't this person be deaf? A lot of times it can make the sto-

ry that much more fascinating. (When I started) it was a lot harder to persuade someone to consider a deaf actor, and I do see that's changing. That's very inspiring and hopeful.

### WORK SAMPLING

**Feature films:** "The East," a 2013 spy thriller, "Always Chasing Love," a 2016 crime drama, and "Sound of Metal" in 2019 about a heavy-metal drummer.

**TV:** "Law & Order: Criminal Intent," "Switched at Birth," "Little America," now in post-production.

**Samuel P. Ausband ('50)**, Aug. 7, 2019, Winston-Salem. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps and flew numerous bombing missions. He flew DC-3s for Piedmont Airlines before going to dental school. He retired in 1994 after 36 years as a dentist. He operated a small farm in Forsyth County (NC). He was predeceased by his wife, Dorothy, and seven of his nine siblings, including **John R. Ausband Jr. (MD '43, P '74)**, **Frank C. Ausband ('47, JD '48)** and **David W. Ausband ('56)**. He is survived by two sons, a sister and a brother, **Bob W. Ausband ('49)**.

**William "Bill" Eller Casey ('50)**, Sept. 9, 2019, North Wilkesboro, NC. He was a life insurance agent and a U.S. Army veteran who served in Korea. He was president of the North Wilkesboro Kiwanis Club and Scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 335 for many years. He was predeceased by his parents, Vera and **Andrew H. Casey (1917)**, and two sisters.

**James "Ed" Landers Jr. ('50, JD '52)**, Sept. 15, 2019, Winston-Salem. He served in the U.S. Army and worked in the trust department for Wachovia Bank, retiring in 1990 as a vice president after 38 years. He delivered for Meals-on-Wheels and was a trustee for North Carolina Baptist Hospital, a member of the Lions Club for more than 50 years and a deacon, trustee and Sunday school teacher at Ardmore Baptist.

**T. Lenwood Lee ('50)**, May 22, 2019, Morehead City, NC. He was a high school principal before becoming superintendent of Carteret County Schools (NC). Remembered as an incredible educator, he was a man of integrity who cared deeply for his students.

**Lynwood B. Lennon ('50)**, July 23, 2019, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL. He served in the U.S. Army for 32 years, achieving the rank of brigadier general. He later was president and CEO of the Blue Ridge Group LLC, an advertising and marketing firm. His passions included woodworking and researching his ancestry.

**Noel "Doc" Cotterman MacKay ('50)**, April 5, 2019, Brunswick, GA. He served in the U.S. Army for 20 years and later owned and operated a popular store, Cape Tradin' Post, in Cape San Blas, FL.

**Richard "Dick" Milton Newton Sr. ('50)**, Sept. 18, 2019, Roanoke, VA. He served in the U.S. Army in medical leadership roles. He practiced internal medicine and cardiology for 60 years, retiring at age 85 to care for his wife. He taught at the University of Virginia School of Medicine and helped several hospitals establish coronary care units and an echocardiography department. He was a medical volunteer in India and a deacon and pianist at First Baptist Church of Roanoke. He was predeceased by his father, **Maury C. Newton Sr. ('25)**, and brother, **Maury Claiborne Newton Jr. ('48)**.

**Charles "Kenneth" Royal ('50)**, April 24, 2019, Raleigh. He served in World War II in the U.S. Navy and owned and operated Royal & Warren Hardware Store in Salemburg, NC. He was predeceased by a daughter and three siblings, in-

## ROBERT MEREDITH HELM ('39)

### Worrell Professor Emeritus of Philosophy



If you graduated from Wake Forest in the second half of the 20th century, you probably knew, or at least knew of, Bob Helm ('39). Odds are good that you, or a friend, had Helm for "Meaning and Value," "Space and Time" or some other equally challenging philosophy course.

Helm, who joined the faculty in 1940 and retired in 2002, died

Sept. 25, 2019. He was 102. He is survived by his wife, Carol Jester Helm (MALS '05), and a stepson.

Helm was one of the last professors who was a student on the Old Campus and who taught on both campuses. "When I became a student at the Old Campus at the age of 18, I found myself in an environment so classically and romantically attuned to my idealized image of a college that I have never been able to break the bond that holds me to Wake Forest," he once said.

"I still feel a deep sense of pride in the intellectual integrity that is its historic heritage, the beauty of a campus that I have known from its beginnings, and the richness of a spirit that draws its strength from the dedication of generations of faculty and students."

Helm was known as the "father" of the ROTC program at Wake Forest. He served in the U.S. Army in France, Luxembourg and Germany during World War II. When he returned to Wake Forest after the war, he proposed establishing an ROTC program. He was faculty coordinator and chair of the ROTC committee for years while continuing to serve in the Army Reserve.

His service was recognized in 2002 when retired Maj. Gen. Richard Beale Jr. ('64) and Catherine "Wynne" Beale established the Robert M. Helm Leadership Endowment Fund. The fund provides scholarships to students in the University's ROTC program.

On the 75th anniversary of his graduation from Wake Forest in 2014, Helm "opened the gate" at BB&T Field before the Wake Forest-Army game.

cluding **Ammie "Lee" Royal ('50)**. He is survived by his wife, two children, three stepchildren, 14 grandchildren and two brothers, Joe Royal and **Billy Royal ('49, MD '58)**.

**Betty Walter Earnhart ('51)**, Aug. 27, 2019, Wilmington, NC. She traveled the world with her husband of 67 years, Col. George Earnhart Jr., and their five children while George was in the U.S. Air Force.

**Eugene "Ray" Strader ('51, MD '56)**, Aug. 3, 2019, Lexington, NC. He served in the U.S. Army before enrolling at Wake Forest, where he was a member of Theta Chi. After earning his medical degree, he operated a family practice in Lexington for nearly 50 years, retiring in 2006. He is survived by his wife and three children, including **Ann S. Hanley ('81, JD '85)**.

**John William Taylor ('51)**, Sept. 17, 2019, Greensboro, NC. He served in the U.S. Army in a MASH

unit during the Korean War. He was a chemistry teacher and later principal at several schools in the Greensboro area. He loved tennis, wood-working, beekeeping, camping and the outdoors.

**Spencer Phillips Thornton Jr. ('51, MD '54)**, Oct. 26, 2019, Nashville, TN. He was an Eagle Scout and a captain in the U.S. Army Medical Corps during the Korean Conflict. He became an ophthalmologist known for his pioneering work in refractive surgery. He served as president of the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, which honored him with a Lifetime Achievement Award. He was named National Ophthalmologist of the Year in 1996 by Ocular Surgery News Magazine. He received Wake Forest School of Medicine's Distinguished Achievement Award. He was predeceased by his wife, Ginnie, and brother, **Richard J. Thornton ('56)**.

**Ruth Masten Wall ('51)**, March 2, 2019, Jasper, GA. She taught English and Latin in North Carolina schools for 36 years before retiring to Jasper, where she was active in community groups and was named "Citizen of the Year" by the Pickens County Chamber of Commerce in 2013. She was preceded in death by her parents and husband, **Allan B. Wall ('53)**.

**Walter M. Barnard ('52)**, July 25, 2019, Brooklyn, NY. He worked at Columbia University for 40 years, serving as bibliographer of the General Libraries for 35 years. A sharecropper's son with perceptive observations about rural North Carolina and New York in the 1960s, he became a storyteller and a man of wit, culture, humble piety and wisdom.

**Hugh Thomas Caldwell Sr. ('52)**, March 23, 2019, Wilmington, NC. He retired from the energy industry after 30 years with Babcock & Wilcox and 10 years at the Brunswick Nuclear Plant.

**James Robert "Bob" Davis ('52)**, Aug. 31, 2019, Buford, GA. He served in the U.S. Air Force and retired as a commercial insurance salesman.

**Donald Melton Hensley ('52)**, July 5, 2019, Gastonia, NC. He was a professor of English literature at Wagner College in Stanton Island, NY.

**Elnora Ruth Smith ('52)**, June 2, 2019, Albemarle, NC.

**Dana Gulley Cunningham ('53)**, April 15, 2019, Columbia, MO.

**Samuel "Sam" Gray Fox III ('53)**, July 13, 2019, Henderson, NC. He was a chiropractor for 64 years. He loved bowling and competed on a travel league team.

**James Robert Jackson ('53)**, Sept. 8, 2019, Advance, NC. He was an Eagle Scout and served as a neurosurgeon in the U.S. Air Force. He practiced neurosurgery for 35 years, retiring in 1996. He is remembered as an exceptional golfer who hit two holes-in-one and as a gifted storyteller who loved helping people.

**Minnie Edwards Jones ('53)**, July 13, 2019, Benson, NC. She was a devoted teacher in Johnston County (NC) for 30 years and was named the county's Teacher of the Year in 1982.

**Ernest "Lindsay" Reed II ('53)**, Aug. 14, 2019, Raleigh. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard and worked for Wachovia Bank in Raleigh for 35 years, rising to regional financial institutions manager. He was North Carolina director of the Bank Administration Institute. He enjoyed antiquing and traveling with his wife of 62 years, Virginia. He was preceded in death by his brother, **Durward F. Reed Jr. ('44)**.

**J. Richard Corbett ('54, MD '57)**, Aug. 14, 2019, Wilmington, NC. He served as a radiologist in the U.S. Navy Medical Corps, retiring as a captain after 27 years. He was a radiologist in the Wilmington area, spending 30 years at New Hanover Medical Group. He advocated for continuing education and improved health care as a member of the Cape Fear Memorial Foundation board and UNC-Wilmington's Nursing Advisory Board. His survivors include his sister, **Marian Moss ('56)**.

**Albert S. Hale Jr. ('54, MD '58)**, Sept. 11, 2019, San Antonio, TX. He served in the U.S. Air Force for 30 years, retiring as chair of the radiology department at Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland Air Force Base (TX). He later was chief of radiology at the Texas Center for Infectious Disease. An avid runner, he participated in more than 1,000 road races, including 13 marathons.

**Martha Yates Brady ('55)**, April 10, 2019, Landrum, SC. She spent 40 years as a missionary with the International Mission Board. She and her late husband, Otis Brady, served in the Bahamas, Guyana, Mexico and Belize. She was a Bible teacher, church organist and prayer warrior at First Baptist Church Landrum. She was predeceased by her mother and father, **John "Clyde" Yates ('30)**, and five of her eight siblings, including **John "Clyde" Yates Jr. ('52)** and **Phyllis Yates Harvel ('57)**.

**James "Mike" Gibson ('55)**, Sept. 29, 2019, Homosassa, FL. He served in the U.S. Army, rising to the rank of lieutenant. He worked in public education more than 30 years, retiring as the assistant principal at Inverness Middle School in Inverness, FL.

**Gilbert "Gil" Holland Hames Jr. ('55)**, July 26, 2019, Charleston, SC. He played baseball and joined the Spirit of the Old Gold and Black Marching Band and Sigma Pi fraternity at Wake Forest. He operated an IHOP restaurant in Charleston for 49 years. He retired as a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves after 28 years.

**I. Beverly Lake Jr. ('55, JD '60)**, Sept. 12, 2019, Wake Forest, NC. His five decades of public service in North Carolina included time as deputy attorney general, state senator, special Superior Court judge and associate justice and chief justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court, where he once dribbled a basketball down the hallway to celebrate a Deacon win over UNC. In 2006 he founded the North Carolina Innocence

Inquiry Commission to review innocence claims and, when necessary, overturn wrongful convictions. He was predeceased by his parents, Gertrude and **Beverly Lake Sr. ('25)**, and a stepson. He is survived by his wife, Susan, three children, including **Isaac Beverly Lake III ('88)**, and nine grandchildren.

**Alfred Thomas Ayscue ('56)**, Oct. 9, 2019, Rocky Mount, NC. He spent decades pastoring Baptist churches in North Carolina and retired from Calvary Baptist in Mount Airy in 1995. He was a past president of the North Carolina State Baptist Convention, and he taught extension courses for Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He received the Governor's Award for Excellence in 1983. He is survived by his wife, two daughters and three grandsons, including **Jeremy Creech ('97)**.

**Houston "Hugh" G. Curd Jr. ('56)**, Oct. 1, 2019, Wake Forest, NC. He played basketball as a freshman before serving in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War, then returned to Wake Forest to graduate. He retired from Esso (Exxon) in the Baltimore area after 36 years. He loved horseracing, tennis and especially basketball. He coached high schoolers, including two who reached the NBA, and officiated high school and college games.

**Stanley Harry Edden (MD '56)**, Sept. 10, 2019, Cape May Court House, NJ. He was a general practitioner for many years and an avid Demon Deacon fan. Survivors include his son, **Christopher K. Edden ('78)**.

**Clifford James Lynch (MD '56)**, Sept. 13, 2019, Springfield, IL. He served in the U.S. Air Force and was a proud Eagle Scout. He co-founded the Orthopedic Center of Illinois and pioneered the use of arthroscopic surgery in the Springfield area. He also was an associate clinical professor at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine.

**Joseph Leonard White Jr. ('56)**, May 16, 2019, Charlotte. He played quarterback on the football team at Wake Forest. He retired as an administrator for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in 2013.

**Claude "C.J." Benner Jr. ('57)**, July 14, 2019, Raleigh. He served in the North Carolina National Guard, served a tour in Vietnam and at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center before retiring from active duty in 1970. He later served in the U.S. Army Reserve, retiring in 1995 as a colonel. He was a minister for 29 years, including 18 years at Westover Baptist Church in Manassas, VA, before retiring in 1999. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Linda, two children, four grandchildren and a sister, **Ina Freeman ('54)**.

**Simon "Sam" Moses Downs Jr. ('57)**, Sept. 22, 2019, Thomasville, NC. For many years he was vice president of Commercial Carving Co., a wood and furniture manufacturing plant. He was a former Scout leader at Memorial United Methodist Church and served on the YMCA board. He was an instrument-rated pilot and enjoyed his grandchildren and deep-sea fishing on his boat.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, **Dorcas Rothrock Downs ('60)**, three children, six grandchildren and a sister, **Jean D. Patton ('59)**.

**Phyllis Yates Goff Harvel ('57)**, July 28, 2019, Winston-Salem. She retired in 1990 after 32 years as a teacher, then tutored children. She was a private duty nurse for more than 30 years. She loved singing, playing piano and serving the Lord through music. She was predeceased by her mother and father, **John "Clyde" Yates ('30)**, two husbands and five of her eight siblings, including **John "Clyde" Yates Jr. ('52)** and **Martha Yates Brady ('55)**.

**Anne Bynum Marshall ('57)**, Aug. 30, 2019, Statesville, NC. She and her late husband, **Joe Isaacs Marshall ('57)**, were in the first graduating class at Wake Forest's Winston-Salem campus. She is remembered for her encouraging personality, sage advice and devotion to her family. She is survived by three children, including **William "Bynum" Marshall ('85)**, and eight grandchildren.

**H. Leon Gatlin III ('58)**, Oct. 3, 2019, Charlotte. He taught English at UNC Charlotte for more than 30 years and spent much of his free time with family at Topsail Beach, NC. He was predeceased by his parents, Frances and **Hallie L. Gatlin Jr. ('29)**. He is survived by his wife, Patricia, three children, including his stepson, **Tyler Kline ('05)**, and four grandchildren.

**Ted Brooks Lockerman ('58, JD '61)**, Aug. 22, 2019, Clinton, NC. He practiced law in his hometown of Clinton for 41 years, retiring in 2003. He served on the Sampson County Board of Commissioners, the county's Board of Elections and the N.C. Wildlife Commission, among others. With a magnetic personality and sharp wit, he was known as the consummate "jokester" among friends. He is survived by his wife, Alice, a daughter, **Robin L. Allcock ('83)**, a son, **Allan B. Lockerman ('88)**, two stepsons, three grandchildren, five step-grandchildren and five step-great-grandchildren.

**Charles "Tom" Waugh ('58)**, July 25, 2019, Roanoke, VA. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict. A social worker, he retired from Blue Ridge Behavioral Health, previously known as Mental Health Services, after 34 years. He loved people, books, music, cats and dogs and was known for his sense of humor.

**Joseph Lewis Yates ('58)**, March 18, 2019, Manchester, OH. He and his late wife of 57 years, Thelma Yates, enjoyed camping and spending winters in Florida.

**Rex Dean McMillan ('59)**, Sept. 8, 2019, Raleigh. He served in the U.S. Army. He was a star outfielder on Wake Forest's baseball team, earning All-American honors in 1958, and played in the minor leagues with the Pittsburgh Pirates. He worked in sales for IBM and later in the furniture industry. At age 48, he walked across North Carolina from Murphy to Nags Head, traveling 561 miles in 15 days. He called it one of the greatest experiences of his life.

**James "Robert" Medlin ('59)**, Feb. 6, 2019, Haw River, NC. A retired Baptist minister, he never met a stranger. He enjoyed gardening, games, puzzles and teaching Sunday school. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, **Glenda Myers Medlin ('62)**, three children and nine grandchildren.

**Clarence "Virgil" Roberts ('59)**, Aug. 7, 2019, Holden Beach, NC. He was the co-owner of Holden Beach Enterprises, which developed several subdivisions in Brunswick County (NC). In 1992 he and his wife, Carolyn, opened The Scoop Ice Cream Shop at Holden Beach, which became a favorite among vacationers.

**Charles Cooper Styron ('59)**, Sept. 7, 2019, Winston-Salem. He was an avid Wake Forest basketball fan and a longtime member of Ardmore Baptist Church, where he served as an usher. He enjoyed golf and collecting rocks, shells and lighthouses.

**Robert "Bob" Watson ('59)**, Aug. 20, 2019, Fuquay Varina, NC. He was a Baptist minister in Eastern North Carolina and later worked for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina until 1998. He cherished time with family, supporting the Deacons and relaxing on the porch of his house at Holden Beach. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, **Nancy Evans Watson ('56)**, their children, Cindy and **Greg Watson ('87)**, and four grandchildren, including **Kelly Watson ('14)** and **Stephanie Watson (PA '19)**.

**Allen "Gene" Doyle ('60)**, Aug. 9, 2019, Cary, NC. He served in the U.S. Army and worked for the federal government for 30 years. In retirement, he enjoyed spending time with family and walking on the beach, looking for shark teeth. He was a member of the Samuel Wait Legacy Society. He and his wife of 56 years, Betty, helped establish a scholarship in Wake Forest's School of Business.

**Deane Hundley III ('60)**, July 19, 2019, Southern Pines, NC. He served in the U.S. Naval Reserves and practiced dentistry for 45 years in Southern Pines. He supported charities through golf, won many local golf tournaments and notched four holes-in-one. He loved fishing and adventures and went skydiving in 2018.

**James Clifton Moon ('60)**, Aug. 20, 2019, Arapahoe, NC. Known to many as "Brother" or "Uncle Brother," he worked as a ticket agent for Eastern Airlines and retired from the Raleigh Public Utilities Department. He enjoyed bus trips with friends, fishing on the Neuse River and keeping his neighbors' yards mowed.

**John R. "Dick" Moore Jr. ('60)**, July 25, 2019, Raleigh. He played basketball for Wake Forest and was a member of Theta Chi. His life insurance career stretched across North Carolina, and he was president of the N.C. Association of Life Underwriters. He loved golf and shot a career-best 72 at the legendary Old Course at St. Andrews (Scotland). He was elected to the Wake County school board. He cherished time aboard his family's boat, "The Six Moore," where he was known as the Commodore.

**Arthur Jackson "Jack" Pryor ('60)**, July 15, 2019, Winston-Salem. A Vietnam veteran, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy Reserve at 17 and served in the Army and Air Force before retiring from the North Carolina National Guard as a master aviator. He was an auditor for the Defense Contract Audit Agency working at Western Electric and AT&T sites. He founded the state's first skydiving club. He was predeceased by one of his three sons, **Stephen C. Pryor ('82)**.

**Susie McGahey Snead ('60)**, July 26, 2019, Corolla, NC. She worked in the hospitality industry, initially retiring from Kingsmill Resort in Williamsburg, VA, before moving to the Outer Banks and working at the Sanderling Resort in Duck, NC. She had a passion for volunteering and loved playing tennis, doing crosswords, scouring the beach for shells and traveling globally, having visited all seven continents.

**Reca Jane Sanders Hines ('61)**, Sept. 10, 2019, Raleigh. She worked as a model and substitute teacher in Wake County (NC) and operated a shop, Wine & Cheese Etc., in Atlantic Beach. She was a talented tennis player and avid reader known for her beauty, loyalty and wit. She is survived by her husband of 60 years, **Robert "Bobby" M. Hines ('59)**, and daughters, **Allison Ficken ('81)**, **Leigh Baker ('82)** and **Jane "Barrie" Barrett Shavlik ('87)**, six grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and a brother.

**David Frank Kesler Sr. ('61)**, Sept. 26, 2019, Wilmington, NC. Despite contracting polio at age 12, he never let the disease steal his zest for life. He ran a successful insurance underwriting business with Indianapolis Life in Winston-Salem and was a member of the prestigious Million Dollar Round Table before retiring after 40 years in the industry.

**Richard "Whitey" Masten ('61)**, July 26, 2019, Advance, NC. He served in the U.S. Navy as a quartermaster on the aircraft carrier USS Wasp during the Korean War. He retired in 1987 as a shipping supervisor at R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. He loved sports, especially the Yankees and Demon Deacons.

**William "Bill" Cary Nelson ('61)**, Aug. 7, 2019, Chapel Hill, NC. He worked for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Chapel Hill for more than 30 years as a scientist, statistician and health researcher. He was an adjunct faculty member at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health. He is survived by his wife, **Susan Powers Nelson ('63)** and two daughters, Diana Zapolski and **Lara Hanson ('93)**.

**Emmette Lee Bass Jr. ('62)**, Sept. 26, 2019, Odessa, FL. He served in the U.S. Army and worked as an executive for Bank of America for 31 years. He was an avid runner who completed many marathons.

**Carole Fuller Nicholson ('62)**, Sept. 7, 2019, Raleigh. She was an accomplished pianist, organist and music instructor who volunteered with numerous community agencies and at Christ Church in Raleigh. She is survived by her husband.

band, two children, David Nicholson and **Ann Hogewood (JD '90)**, three grandchildren, a brother and a sister.

**J. Dugald Kirk ('63)**, Sept. 4, 2019, Virginia Beach, VA. He served in the U.S. Army and retired after a career as a commodity broker. He loved music, shag dancing, playing bridge and sitting on the beach. He was predeceased by his brother, **William Hailey Kirk Jr. ('59, P '82)**.

**Ann Austin Flynt ('64, MT '64, MBA '86)**, Oct. 14, 2019, Chattanooga, TN. She earned a degree in biology from Salem College and a medical technology degree from Bowman Gray School of Medicine. She worked in Winston-Salem area hospitals as a technician and chief of a chemistry lab. After graduating from what was then the Babcock Graduate School of Management, she became business manager at a medical practice and helped start a free medical clinic in Winston-Salem. She served on the Babcock School's Alumni Council and was a member of the Samuel Wait Legacy Society.

**Joseph M. Polshaw ('64)**, Sept. 13, 2019, Winterville, OH. He played wide receiver for the football team and was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon at Wake Forest. He was a supervisor at Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel for 38 years, retiring in 2003.

**John "Doc" Albert Patterson (MD '65)**, Aug. 7, 2019, Spartanburg, SC. A radiologist for more than 35 years, he treated thousands of patients. He was a baseball standout at Davidson College and loved coaching his sons' teams and attending Atlanta Braves games with his family. He is survived by his three sons and eight grandchildren, including **Caroline J. Patterson ('22)**.

**Johnny Michael Avery ('66)**, Aug. 10, 2019, Dunn, NC. A math teacher, he spent most of his career at Jordan High School in Durham, NC, and was the varsity basketball coach. He was a member and Sunday school teacher at First Baptist Church of Dunn.

**Harry B. Baldwin IV ('66)**, Aug. 3, 2019, Ocean, NJ. He served two tours of duty in Vietnam in the U.S. Army. After a 25-year career in banking, he became a history and foreign language teacher at Matawan Regional High School in Aberdeen, NJ, where he coached football, basketball and baseball. He retired from teaching in 2014 after 20 years.

**James "Jim" Hobbs ('66)**, July 17, 2019, Dunwoody, GA. He played linebacker for the Wake Forest football team and was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha. He worked at Nestle Corporation for more than 35 years as the national accounts sales manager. He loved spending

time with family, particularly his five grandkids, and was a parishioner of St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church in Atlanta.

**Arnold G. King ('67)**, Aug. 7, 2019, Kernersville, NC. A U.S. Army veteran, his professional life included nonprofit fundraising, commercial real estate, trucking and owning golf, trophy and beach music shops. He was president of the Kernersville Chamber of Commerce, chair of the Kernersville Foundation Inc. and president of the Rotary Club of Kernersville, which named him "Rotarian of the Decade" in the 1990s. He was Kernersville's "Citizen of the Year" in 2012 and received North Carolina's Order of the Long Leaf Pine award in 2015. He is in the Beach Shaggers National Hall of Fame. He was a member of the Samuel Wait Legacy Society.

**Ed Jennings Tribble ('68)**, Aug. 18, 2019, Tallahassee, FL. He worked for the State Archives of Florida for 12 years, becoming state archivist. In 1985 he co-founded Florida Information Associates Inc., a data retrieval service, where he worked alongside his wife, Connie. He was a gifted artist who created whimsical flying machines out of metal, found objects and wire and sketched fanciful pen-and-ink drawings. He is survived by his wife of 37 years and his brother, **Zachary Tribble ('66)**.

# Wake. Will.

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*Sam. E. Wait*  
THE SAMUEL WAIT LEGACY SOCIETY

**Philip Arvin Dunnagan ('69)**, Sept. 3, 2019, Greensboro, NC. He was a retired engineer with Lucent Technologies.

**Kenneth Gray Matthews (MAEd '69)**, Aug. 15, 2019, East Bend, NC. He spent 42 years in education in Yadkin County as a teacher, coach, principal and assistant superintendent. Outside the classroom, he was happiest when he was on his farm cutting hay or tending to his cows.

**Robert "Ted" Theodore Williams ('69)**, Aug. 24, 2019, Advance, NC. He was CEO and principal of Williams, Roberts, Young Inc., a provider of human resource and life-cycle management services. He previously held leadership roles at Sara Lee Intimate Apparel, including vice president of operations.

**John "Jack" Tice Dolbin Jr. ('70)**, Aug. 1, 2019, Pottsville, PA. He earned All-ACC honors in football and track and field at Wake Forest and played professionally, including five seasons with the Denver Broncos, which he led in receiving yards during Super Bowl XII. He is in the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame. After retiring, he was a chiropractor in his native Pottsville for 33 years and for athletes at Villanova University and the University of Maryland. Patients often called him a miracle worker. He served on the board of Pottsville Area School, the Pottsville City Council, the Penn State University board and others. He loved flying, horseback riding, playing musical instruments and watching the New York Yankees, "Perry Mason" and "Law and Order."

**Bonnie Gray Masencup (MAEd '71)**, July 16, 2019, Charleston, SC.

**Alexis J. Anderson ('73)**, Sept. 20, 2019, Newton, MA. She taught at Boston College Law School for 36 years, retiring as associate clinical professor in 2019. She is remembered for her compassion, intelligence and tireless pursuit of social justice.

**Richard Cole Craven ('73, MBA '82)**, Sept. 2, 2019, Aberdeen, NC. A former Eagle Scout who attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, he was an attorney, CPA, financial planner and real estate agent. He was a seventh-degree black belt, boxer, marathon runner, scuba dive master, practitioner of yoga, tai chi and meditation, world traveler, memory maker, connoisseur of bourbon, jazz and blues and a devoted father, husband and grandfather.

**Jan Minton Gruber ('73)**, Sept. 15, 2019, Kingsport, TN. She worked at Eastman Chemical Company in corporate communications. She served on the Wake Forest Alumni Council and was president of Wake Forest's Eastern Tennessee Alumni Club. She loved reading and gathering with friends and neighbors.

**Grady Edward "Ed" Tunstall ('73, MAEd '74)**, Aug. 7, 2019, Warrenton, NC. He worked as a social studies teacher in his native Warren County (NC) for 30 years and was a part-time instructor for Vance-Granville Community College in Henderson, NC. Remembered for his integrity, he

made weekly visits to residents of a local nursing home. He was predeceased by his parents, Cora and **Grady Tunstall ('32)**. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, **Nancy Alberty Tunstall ('73, MAEd '77)**, two children, Elizabeth Paynter and **Marcus Tunstall ('01)**, and two grandsons.

**Christopher "Kit" Basler ('74, MBA '78)**, Aug. 31, 2019, Winston-Salem. A former state champion quarterback in high school, he played on Wake Forest's 1970 ACC Championship team. He was an entrepreneur and worked for Piedmont Airlines. He taught Sunday school at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church and often prayed novenas for friends and family. He lived by five pillars: church, family, school, sports and stuff. In parting, he always said, "Things be good, things be good, things be good."

**James Royall Lambert ('74, MD '78)**, Aug. 14, 2019, Mount Olive, NC. A true country doctor, he often made house calls and said his secret to family practice was knowing his patients, their parents and where they went home at night. He was medical examiner for Wayne and Duplin counties and volunteered with the Mount Olive Rescue Squad. Among many honors, he received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine in 2009 from the governor and the Mount Olive Jaycees' Distinguished Service Award in 1988.

**Douglas B. Mackie ('74)**, Sept. 11, 2019, Glenview, IL. A former quarterback on Wake Forest's football team, he was president and CEO of Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Company, the largest provider of dredging services in the nation.

**Steven Edward Philo (JD '74)**, July 21, 2019, Franklin, NC. He was a U.S. Army Ranger, a Vietnam veteran and a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He co-owned Philo & Spivey PA law firm with **David Spivey ('79, JD '82)** for 37 years in Franklin. He taught legal classes at Southwestern Community College and managed the Cherokee Indian Reservation drug court. He refereed basketball games and was an assistant coach for state champion cross country and track teams at Franklin High School.

**Charles Henry Sloop (PhD '74)**, Aug. 31, 2019, Johnson City, TN. He worked for 27 years as a researcher and professor of physiology at Louisiana State University School of Medicine in New Orleans.

**Frances Holtsclaw Berry (MA '75)**, Sept. 22, 2019, Kernersville, NC. She taught religion at Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk, NC, and was active in the Presbyterian church. She is survived by her sister and two daughters, **Lynn McGowan ('80)** and Beth Berry, and three granddaughters, including **Nicole Gottfried ('03)**, six great-grandchildren and her beloved dog, Lucy.

**Judith "Judy" Ward Freeman (MBA '75)**, Oct. 10, 2019, Winston-Salem. She was director of community problem-solving for the United Way of Forsyth County and executive director of The Children's Center, a school for special-needs children in Winston-Salem. She was a devoted mother and friend.

**Patricia "Patsy" Ann Gray Mann ('75)**, Sept. 23, 2019, Mooresville, NC. She was an assistant district attorney in Craven, Carteret, Iredell, Davie, Davidson and Alexander counties in North Carolina. She enjoyed theatre and participated in many plays.

**Leonard "Len" Devaney Jr. (MBA '76)**, Sept. 11, 2019, High Point, NC. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War as a rocket propellant specialist. He was an engineer at AT&T for 37 years, retiring in 1994. He was a charter member of St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church in Greensboro, NC, and a member of Mensa, the Elks Club, the Ancient Order of Hibernians and Telephone Pioneers of America. He loved trout fishing, ballroom dancing, travel, his grandchildren, life and God.

**David Alan Dunn ('78)**, Aug. 3, 2019, Warren, PA. He worked for W.B. Lumber before becoming a self-employed investor. He enjoyed his family, trips to Myrtle Beach, SC, and planting spring flowers. He spent years crafting the perfect deviled egg recipe, which he often brought to family gatherings — along with his sense of humor.

**Kay Ruthven Hagan (JD '78)**, Oct. 28, 2019, Greensboro, NC. She was North Carolina's first female Democratic senator, serving in the U.S. Senate from 2009 to 2015. A native of Shelby, NC, Hagan grew up in Lakeland, FL, and graduated from Florida State University. She and her husband, **Charles "Chip" Hagan (JD '77)**, met in law school at Wake Forest. She worked in banking before turning to politics, spending a decade in the state Senate and chairing the powerful Appropriations Committee. As a U.S. senator, Hagan served on the Armed Services Committee and visited troops in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan. After leaving the Senate, she was a fellow at the Harvard Institute of Politics and a consultant with the lobbying firm Akin Gump. She is survived by her husband, three children and five grandchildren.

**Linda Worley Self ('78)**, Sept. 4, 2019, Winston-Salem. She was an R&D technologist for R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company until 2004. She earned a degree in interior design from Salem College. A dog lover and trainer, she was a member of Winston-Salem Dog Training Club and the Basset Hound Club of America.

**Dennis Keith Stanfield ('78)**, July 18, 2019, Winston-Salem. A licensed CPA and real estate broker, he worked for Lowe's, Sara Lee, Wake Forest and, most recently, the Moravian Church Southern Province. He was an elder, trustee, usher, musician and Sunday school teacher at Trinity Moravian Church. A lover of music, he wrote and recorded country and Christian songs, many performed in church.

**Pamela Fisher Cato ('80)**, July 20, 2019, Kannapolis, NC. She was an active member of Swift Creek Baptist Church in Midlothian, VA, and Kannapolis First Wesleyan Church. She loved traveling, celebrating special occasions and planning family events.

**Charles "Chip" Mann II ('85)**, Aug. 19, 2019, Oak Island, NC. He owned National Marble Products Inc. in Swansboro, NC. He enjoyed golf, fishing, kayaking and time on the beach. He is survived by his two daughters and brothers, Bradley Mann and **John Mann (MD '93)**.

**Christophe "Chris" Smith ('90)**, Nov. 1, 2019, Dallas. He was a three-year letterman for Wake Forest's football team. He was a distribution manager for Hill's Pet Nutrition and was previously a sales manager for Pepsico Frito-Lay and director of production for G4 Media.

**Andrew Crossley (MBA '92)**, Sept. 3, 2019, Watertown, NY. He practiced general dentistry in his native Watertown for many years. He is remembered for his good humor and devotion to his family.

**Edward "Ted" Healy (MALS '92)**, Aug. 30, 2019, Chicago. He played offensive line on Notre Dame's 1988 national championship football team before working as a graduate assistant at Wake Forest. He later worked in corporate security and real estate. A devoted family man, he was known for his contagious laugh and his love of football, cold beer and good pizza.

**Linda Kendrick Heckman (MALS '92)**, Aug. 18, 2019, Winston-Salem. She was an elementary school teacher and medical coordinator for the Forsyth County Heart Association. She also was the coordinator of student evaluations at Bowman Gray School of Medicine. A devoted mother and grandmother, she enjoyed taking family vacations at Anna Maria Island, FL.

**Kathleen "Katy" Marie Hurley ('97)**, July 15, 2019, Atlanta. She practiced law as a partner at Crusier Mitchell in Atlanta, where she specialized in civil tort litigation. She loved cats, music, Atlanta Braves baseball and traveling with her love, Robert Schultz of Houston, internationally and to U.S. national parks. She was a member, financial secretary and outreach board chair at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer. She attended a Super Bowl, the World Series, college football national championships, the Masters and the 2019 Kentucky Derby.

**David Christopher Walters ('03)**, July 23, 2018, Lindenwold, NJ. He played offensive tackle at Wake Forest and could power clean 350 pounds for 50 repetitions. He played for the Montreal Alouettes of the Canadian Football League. He later worked as a bricklayer and stone mason. He is remembered for his sense of humor, faith and his love of family, animals and autistic children.

**Michelle Theresa Buckius ('04)**, Aug. 5, 2019, York, PA. Known to patients as "Dr. Max," she was a plastic surgeon at Plastic Surgery of York.

**Jimmie Ross Blalock (MBA '06)**, Oct. 6, 2019, Winston-Salem. He worked at WestRock Company (formerly RockTenn) for nearly two decades. Remembered for his contagious laugh and storytelling, he loved golf, cornhole, sitting on the patio with his wife, Heather, beach trips with his family, playing with his dog and attending Wake

Forest basketball and football games, especially the tailgating.

**Kelly Ann Knight ('07)**, July 19, 2019, Medellin, Colombia. She taught English as a Second Language in Spain and North Carolina before relocating to Medellin, where she was legal counsel and owner of a tourism business, Medellin Mountains. She earned a law degree from Elon University, a master's degree in English as a Second Language and an advanced law degree from the University of Alabama. She is survived by her parents, **Ray (JD '81)** and Lee Knight, and her husband.

**Charles "Chuck" Argenzio ('17)**, Sept. 19, 2019, Richmond, VA. He played fullback for Wake Forest's football team from 2013-2016, becoming one of the team's most popular players. He was interning with Florida State's football team and studying to be a certified strength and conditioning specialist. His greatest joy was helping young athletes find their inner strength and reach their goals.

**John DeWitt Browning (MSA '17)**, July 19, 2019, New York City. He worked as a CPA with KPMG. In 2018, he received the prestigious Elijah Watts Sells Award, placing him in the top 1% of accountants who took the CPA exam in 2018. He enjoyed water skiing and boating and was a member of the Lessing Masonic Lodge and Sons of the American Revolution.

## Friends, Faculty, Staff, Students

**James E. Bond**, Sept. 16, 2019, Seattle. He taught at the Wake Forest law school for 11 years before becoming dean of Seattle University School of Law. He held that position from 1986 to 1993 and again from 1995 to 2000. He was author or co-author of seven books. He traveled to Mississippi in 1964 to register black voters. He is remembered for his optimism, quick wit and brilliant legal mind.

**James Michael Everhart**, Aug. 10, 2019, Winston-Salem. He was a staff member with Facilities & Campus Services at Wake Forest for 16 years. His survivors include a sister, Catherine E. Seta, a professor of psychology and associate department chair at Wake Forest.

**Jane Mead**, Sept. 8, 2019, Napa, CA. She was poet-in-residence at Wake Forest from 1996 until 2003 when she moved to Napa to manage her family's vineyard. In a literary career that spanned more than two decades, Mead authored five poetry books and a chapbook, which were collected in "To the Wren: Collected and New Poems, 1991-2019." Her 2016 book, "World of Made and Unmade," about her mother's death, was long listed for the National Book Award and was a finalist for the L.A. Times Book Award and the Griffin Poetry Prize. She was often inspired by animals and nature and was regularly published in anthologies and journals. A committed conservationist, she served on the board of her family's

foundation, the Giles W. and Elise Mead Foundation, which supports environmental, medical science and social issues.

**Richard John Murdoch**, Oct. 9, 2019, Winston-Salem. He was the first archivist at Reynolda House Museum of American Art, serving from 1995 until retiring in 2009. Previously, he was curator of Rare Books and Special Collections and assistant to the director of libraries at the Z. Smith Reynolds Library. Murdoch is survived by his wife, Susan Hardwick Martin Murdoch, and four children, **Richard Owen Murdoch ('89)**, **Indra Murdoch ('89)**, Leslie Martin Bassinger and James Craig Martin IV.

**Terry R. Poovey**, Oct. 10, 2019, Winston-Salem. He retired from the Wake Forest undergraduate admissions office in 2018. A talented writer and editor, he also worked at the Hickory Daily Record, Hunter Publishing Co. and Wake Forest Baptist Health. He was a published poet and passionate Atlanta Braves' fan. He is survived by his wife, Cherin, retired managing editor of Wake Forest Magazine, and two children, Tim Poovey and **Amelia Poovey ('08)**.

**Lawrence "Larry" Rudel**, Aug. 29, 2019, Winston-Salem. He was a research faculty member at Wake Forest School of Medicine for 45 years and a professor in the departments of pathology and internal medicine. He loved golfing with his sons and hosting guests at his family's vacation home in Lake Lure, NC. He is survived by his wife, **Katherine Bouwman Rudel (MAEd '86)**, three sons, including **Brian Rudel ('93)**, and five grandchildren.

**Hashim Saleh**, Nov. 25, 2019, Winston-Salem. A talented and beloved musician, he worked as a percussion accompanist with the Wake Forest Dance Program for nearly 20 years. He also led the Otesha Creative Arts Ensemble, a professional African American dance and drumming group in North Carolina founded in 1972. He is remembered as a cultural pioneer, social justice activist and dedicated teacher who loved helping young people.

**Patricia Ann Samuels**, Nov. 6, 2019, Winston-Salem. She worked at Wake Forest for 25 years, retiring as the copy center technician for the business school. She is remembered for her welcoming personality and distinctive laugh.

**James H. "Bill" Walton**, Aug. 22, 2019, Arlington, VA. He was an instructor in speech at Wake Forest and director of the theatre from 1956 until 1965. He designed the original arena stage on the eighth floor of the ZSR Library that was the makeshift home of the theatre for two decades until the opening of the Scales Fine Arts Center. He also ran a professional summer stock theatre at Tanglewood Park that gave Wake Forest students theatre experience. After leaving Wake Forest, he taught at the University of Delaware, was managing director of the Washington Theater Club and co-founded and was CEO of Industrial Training Corp. He is survived by his wife, **Susan Irby Walton ('66)**, five children and 11 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a daughter.

## A 'MIRACLE' WORKER

Kunal Premnarayan ('00) uses his childhood experience to bring hope to children in India

By Kerry M. King ('85)

If you ever saw Kunal Premnarayan ('00) run the baseline when he was playing on the Wake Forest tennis team, you would never have known that he was born with bilateral clubfoot.

He never told teammates or friends about the birth defect that likely would have left him unable to walk, much less run, had he not been treated as a baby. "Some of my friends are going to be surprised," he said. "I wasn't putting it under the mat, but I never appreciated how lucky I was until I got a little older."

Clubfoot causes one or both feet to turn inward and upward and is one of the most common birth defects in the world. About 175,000 children, or 1 in 800, are born with clubfoot every year. Left untreated, it's a leading cause of physical disability.

It's rarely seen in adults in the United States or Europe, thanks to early treatment. Olympic figure-skating champion Kristi Yamaguchi, soccer star Mia Hamm and NFL Hall of Fame quarterback Troy Aikman were born with clubfoot, but, like Premnarayan, were treated as babies.

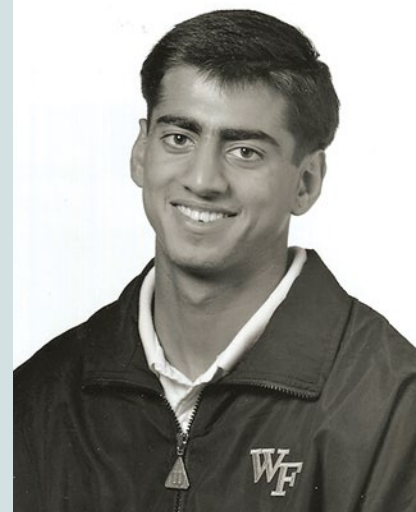
But in developing countries, only about 15% of children born with clubfoot are treated. In India, where Premnarayan

grew up, only about 30% of the estimated 35,000 children born with clubfoot every year are treated. He finds it especially frustrating because clubfoot can be corrected for about \$500 per child.

"My heart breaks when I see people in the streets with their feet inverted and disabled," said Premnarayan, who returned to India a few years after graduating and lives in Mumbai. "The difference between them and me is less than \$500. Five-hundred dollars between living a normal life and living with a disability. I'm blessed to have the ability to make a difference."

He's on a mission to ensure that no child is disabled because of clubfoot. He serves on the U.S. board of MiracleFeet, the largest global organization solely focused on treating clubfoot. Based in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, the nonprofit partners with local health care providers in 26 countries in Africa, Asia and South America to increase awareness and access to low-cost treatments. MiracleFeet has treated more than 40,000 children since it was founded in 2010.

Premnarayan and his parents founded MiracleFeet India, an affiliated but sep-



arate nonprofit. MiracleFeet India has treated about 16,000 children through a network of 50 clinics, primarily in public hospitals. Premnarayan has aggressive goals to double the number of clinics in the next nine months and to open more than 500 in the next five years. (Premnarayan's father, Deepak, is chair of the board of directors of MiracleFeet India.)

"There is no stronger advocate for children born with clubfoot than Kunal," said Chesca Collordeo-Mansfeld, executive director of MiracleFeet. "He knows how lucky he was — and how different life could have been for him if his parents hadn't been able to seek out the best possible treatment. He has wholeheartedly committed himself to ensuring every child born with clubfoot in India can walk, run and play, just like he has been able to do."

Another Wake Forest graduate, Lindsey Graham Freeze ('04), is director of marketing and communications for MiracleFeet in Chapel Hill. She and Premnarayan have never met, but their joint cause joins two Deacons 8,000 miles apart.

Freeze spent 15 years in communications in global development and health care before joining MiracleFeet. Through her travels around the world, she has seen the consequences of children living with physical disabilities in some of the world's poorest countries.

Kunal Premnarayan and his daughter, Samara, visit with a mother and her son at their home; the son was treated at a clinic that Premnarayan and his parents founded in India.



Doctors use a series of casts to realign the feet in treating clubfoot.

A mother and her child, right, wait for treatment at a clinic in Uganda. Photos courtesy of MiracleFeet.



"Here's an issue (clubfoot) that could be wiped out for most of the planet with very little infrastructure," she said. "You can't guarantee that life is going to be easy for anyone anywhere, but you can give a child equity with their peers and mobility for the rest of their life."

Premnarayan knows his life would have turned out much differently if his parents hadn't taken him to an orthopedic surgeon in Mumbai when he was 9 days old. The doctor realigned his feet using casts, braces, physical therapy and corrective shoes that he wore until he was 6.

He started playing tennis while he was still in steel shoes, following in the footsteps of his grandfather, who played in the French Open and at Wimbledon and on India's Davis Cup team. Premnarayan became the fifth-ranked junior tennis player in India before coming to the United States to attend high school in Florida and improve his game.

Then-tennis coach Ian Crookenden recruited Premnarayan to Wake Forest. He played on the tennis team for two years, then took a year off to play tennis full-time. He returned to Wake Forest and graduated with a major in communication and a minor in international studies.

"Here was this Indian kid from Bombay in a Southern school," he said of his introduction to Wake Forest when he was the only student from India. "It shaped me as a person. I made some

lifelong friends. I took some amazing liberal arts and international politics courses. I was on the tennis team and in a fraternity (Sigma Phi Epsilon). The entire college experience left me with some lovely memories."

After graduating, he worked in Atlanta for a few years and then moved back to Mumbai, where he is group CEO and board member of ICS Group, a real estate

*"I see disabled children in the road, and the first thing that goes through my mind is, if I don't help them, who will?"*

— Kunal Premnarayan ('00)

company founded by his father that operates in India and South Africa.

He never gave much thought to clubfoot. When he got married in 2011, he and his wife, Kavita, asked friends to make a donation to a nonprofit in lieu of wedding gifts. Kavita discovered MiracleFeet, and their wedding guests donated more than \$10,000.

That's when he realized that he had a special obligation because of his background to help children born with clubfoot. Clubfoot still carries a social stigma in India; some parents consider it a curse on the baby or mother and may abandon their child. Many parents don't have the knowledge or money to seek treatment or lack transportation to a doctor. Children not treated are likely to be shunned, be

unable to attend school or find work, and face a life of poverty, neglect and abuse.

"If you are in rural India and your child is born with clubfoot, it's bad because parents want their children to help work," Premnarayan said. "If you have a girl with clubfoot, it's very tough. We are treating a baby who was buried alive; other villagers found her. It's shocking, but it happens."

Clubfoot is most often treated today using the Ponseti method. Developed by an Iowa doctor in the 1950s, it replaced surgery as the preferred treatment method in the 2000s. Health care workers use a series of

plaster casts to gradually move the foot into the correct position over five to eight weeks. Once the foot is properly aligned, a brace is worn for several years to maintain the position.

Premnarayan is committed to giving children born with clubfoot the same opportunity that he's had to live an active life. "There are so many problems, big problems, in the world today. Clubfoot is a problem that's easily curable with a limited amount of funding. Think about the impact that can have on a child's life. It should not be a disability anywhere in the world in 10 years."

For more information, go to [miraclefeet.org](http://miraclefeet.org)

# Dreams need power tools

By Allyson Currin ('86, P '19)

**I**N MY “DAY JOB” AS PROFESSOR of theatre at The George Washington University, it happens predictably: a distraught student comes into my office and says, “My parents are upset because my theatre major won’t get me a job.”

I have my response quite rehearsed by now. I reassure the student that a life in the arts is not some remote possibility. My unscientific observations would argue that the generally held perception that one can’t make a life in the arts is a complete fallacy.

So, why do we have to keep debunking that myth for the rest of the world?

As I learned at Wake Forest, getting an education in theatre isn’t about wearing pretty costumes and enjoying applause. The inspired, rigorous teaching of the arts at Wake Forest not only prepared me for a career in the professional theatre, in academia and in the nonprofit world. It prepared me for LIFE.

Harold Tedford (P '83, '85, '90), Don Wolfe, Darwin Payne, Mary Wayne-Thomas, Jon Christman, Sandy Fullerton, Terry Radomski, the sublime James Dodding ... quite the pantheon! We learned the usual — history of theatre, text analysis, costume and set design, acting, directing — but that “useless” theatre degree gave us much more. It taught us to read emotional subtext in a room, how to listen to others with intention. It taught us to think about text in terms of symbol and hidden meaning, how to think ambitiously and creatively and idealistically. And then to take all of that ambition and creativity and idealism, and turn it, for instance, into a three-dimensional set made out of wood, muslin and paint.

That’s the beauty of theatre, the marriage of all of that high-minded vision with sheer practicality and logistics. Maybe that’s what we in the arts aren’t successfully conveying to the rest of

the world. The arts aren’t about pretty ideas and navel-gazing. The arts are about making dreams literal and concrete, so that they can be shared.

When directing, Dr. Tedford had a saying. There was a point in rehearsal when he had blocked every bit of business, given us our direction, worked out the fine details. Then he would say, “Now take it out to the woodshed and make it funny.” A charming phrase, but it meant business. It meant that this was the moment for the magic to transform all of that hard work and make it inspired.

That’s the most profound lesson that Wake Forest’s theatre faculty gave me: it’s nothing but hard work until the inspiration comes. That is the process of creating art.

I was lucky enough to be in the cast of Mr. Dodding’s “Guys and Dolls” and felt, as we neared opening, that I was stuck in my role, dull in my acting, uninspired. I was terrified that I was going to fail. (And to fail Mr. Dodding would, quite frankly, kill any one of us.) I confessed my fears to him, and he just smiled. In that inimitable British accent, he said to me, “Well, of course you’re terrified. You’ve done all the work and you’ve reached a plateau, which is exactly where you should be. Now all you have to do is let the sparkle come in. And it will. It always will.”

And he was right. He was always right.

My theatre degree led to a long career as a playwright and actor. But it also taught me how to run a business, call a show, find my community, learn when it was my turn in the spotlight and when



it was time to be in the background. It taught me how to wrangle the angels and devils in my imagination and turn them into characters and places and stories. It taught me that art was not about me but was about other people. That is a lesson for life if I’ve ever heard one. That is the real message I should be telling my students.

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*Allyson Currin of Washington, D.C., is an award-winning playwright and actor. Her plays have been premiered at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Signature Theatre, Mosaic Theater Company of DC, WSC Avant Bard, Imagination Stage and many others. She is the second of three generations to attend Wake Forest. Her twins, Kate and Maggie Stokes, graduated in May. Her father, Bill Currin ('60), retired in 2009 as director of career services at Wake Forest.*



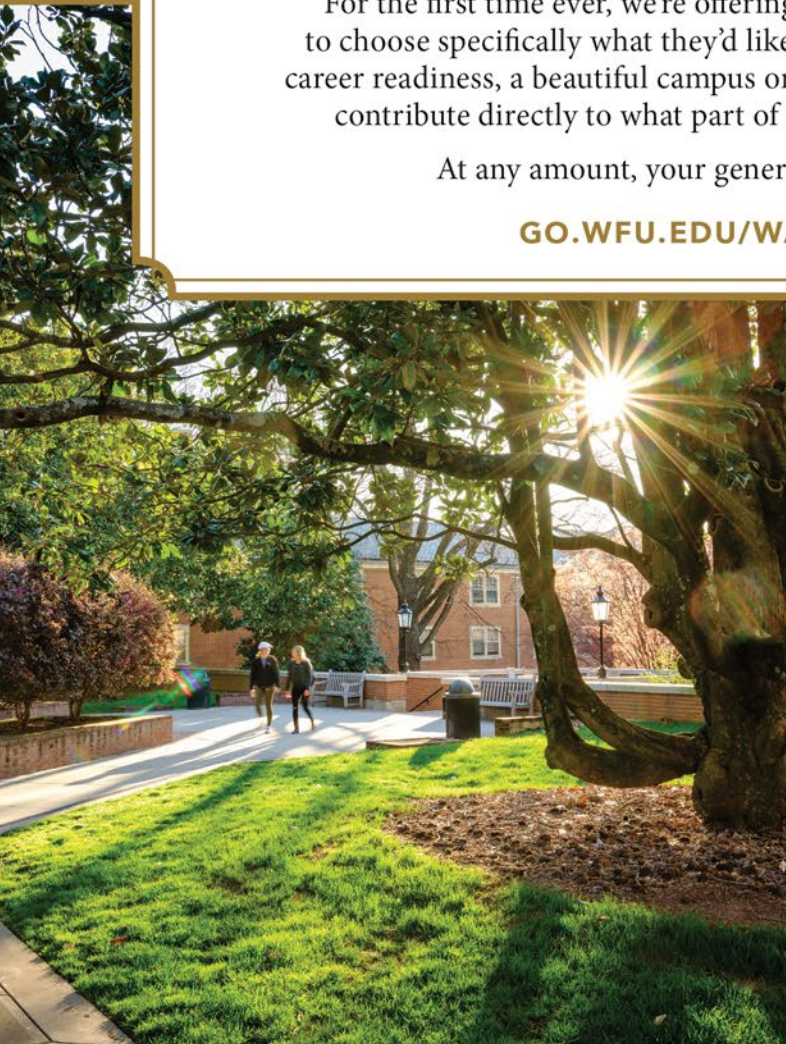
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# Proud to Be Deacons, Rain or Shine

The final days of 2019 brought high-profile moments for the Wake Forest football and men's soccer teams. The football team landed its fourth straight bowl appearance, this time in the New Era Pinstripe Bowl in New York City. While the game in Yankee Stadium didn't end as hoped — a 27-21 loss to Michigan State — Wake Foresters showed their boundless spirit. The pre-game party at Billy's Sports Bar sold out with nearly 2,000 fans signed up to attend and, according to Director of Athletics John Currie ('93), the student bowl attendance was the best since the 2007 Orange Bowl. Coach Dave Clawson said, "I was proud of the way we hung in there. We made enough plays to stay in the game but not enough plays to win the game." He thanked all the Deacs who made it to New York — "all the students, our fans, our alumni. To come up two days after Christmas to New York, we are grateful for our fan base."

The fan base for the men's soccer team never flagged, even during a frigid drenching on Dec. 13 in Cary, North Carolina, when Wake Forest faced the University of Virginia in what amounts to a Final Four championship. It was a heartbreaker 2-1 semifinals loss for the Deacons in their sixth College Cup appearance. The Winston-Salem Journal reported after the loss that Coach Bobby Muuss said to his team, "I told them, lose or win, I'm extremely proud to be the coach of the Wake Forest Demon Deacons 2019 edition because these guys showed a lot of class and a lot of guts today." In his five seasons at Wake Forest, Muuss has led the team to 89 wins, the most of any program in the country, and attendance at Spry Stadium has brought Wake Forest fans national acclaim.



PHOTOS BY COREY SIPKIN (TOP, MIDDLE) AND JAYLYNN NASH (BOTTOM)