WRITERS HALL OF FAME
By Kerry M. King (’85), Maria Henson (’82) and Carol L. Hanner
Four alumni with exemplary careers as journalists, authors and champions of literary excellence were named to the Wake Forest Writers Hall of Fame.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS
Wake Forest named three alumni to receive its 2020 awards for service to the University and weaving Pro Humanitate into their work and lives.

PORTRAITS OF PRO HUMANITATE
By Maria Henson (’82), Kerry M. King (’85) and Carol L. Hanner
Photography by Travis Dove ’04
Members of the Wake Forest community personify the University’s motto in action—exemplifying kindness, service and, in the broadest definition, human flourishing.

A PASSION FOR SERVICE
By Katherine Laws (’20)
Alpha Phi Omega ‘brothers’ nurture their common bond.

SEARCHING FOR HOPE
By Katherine Laws (’20)
A senior grieves a year interrupted.

CONSTANT & TRUE
By Jill Y. Crainshaw (’84)
An alumna and divinity professor reflects on Pro Humanitate, “Be ye kindred to one another,” she says.
FROM THE PRESIDENT

THIS ISSUE OF WAKE FOREST MAGAZINE pays tribute to the University’s motto, Pro Humanitate.

Probably the most common meaning of Pro Humanitate is what we do for others, and we have a wonderful tradition of embracing that meaning at Wake Forest. But I think Pro Humanitate does have a deeper meaning of living for purposes higher than oneself. That can be a calling in a variety of spheres — intellectual, artistic, running a business properly, service or politics — but doing it in a way that enhances the common good. To educate students about Pro Humanitate and acknowledge all the professional avenues open to them is to say, “What would it mean to be a businessperson who works not only for himself or herself but for the common good?”

There is a deep strain in our DNA at Wake Forest that we are not about ourselves in our learning, playing, practicing and engagement. We are called to higher purpose. That stance is fundamentally counter-cultural today. Think of the soft drink advertisement several years ago: “Who are you going to listen to? How about yourself?” Whether it’s the iPhone or YouTube, the culture presses us to be concerned about yourself, to express yourself and obey only your inner gyroscope. The call of Pro Humanitate is different, beyond self-expression and self-fulfillment.

During this magazine’s production, Wake Forest became one part of a critical and collective effort to combat COVID-19. We moved to online classes and asked most colleagues to work remotely. Pro Humanitate took on an even deeper meaning. The times have galvanized us to a deeper pursuit of the ideal, prompting individual sacrifices for the greater good. I remain profoundly grateful for the dedication and resilience of our community members.

We talk often that learning takes place inside and outside the classroom. My hope from these challenging times is that we are a community that lives out its boldest claim. May we be people who truly fulfill the spirit of Pro Humanitate — for one another, our nation and our world. May this issue of the magazine remind us how our Wake Foresters, in their own ways, are answering the call every day.

Sincerely,

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT AND EDITOR-AT-LARGE
Maria Henson (’82)

MANAGING EDITOR
Carol L. Hanner

SENIOR EDITOR
Kerry M. King (’85)

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WAKE FOREST’S MOTTO, Pro Humanitate, is a Latin phrase that means “for humanity.” But as retired classics scholar James Powell once noted, the motto should not be regarded solely as denoting service for the sake of humanity. Often Romans used the word humanitas to mean kindness, he said. The following members of the Wake Forest community are examples of our motto in action. They exemplify kindness, service and, in the broadest definition, human flourishing. We salute them in this Pro Humanitate issue of Wake Forest Magazine. —Maria Henson (‘82)
HIS CAUSE: Helping needy or traumatized people. He grew up in Beirut, Lebanon, with his Southern Baptist missionary parents. They endured air raids, bombings and his father’s kidnapping and assault before fleeing to Iran, which they also fled during Iran’s revolution. As an adult, he was critically knifed in the face by street muggers in Washington. He became a psychotherapist to help others overcome fear and trauma, as he did with therapy. He has worked with homeless families, homeless mentally ill people with HIV/AIDS and abuse victims. He volunteered, then worked at TAPS to show support when his nephew was deployed to Iraq.

Psychotherapist who treats anxiety, trauma and depression; former youth program clinical director at Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) for grieving military children and families; helped run and expand Miriam’s Kitchen, which won The Washington Post award for excellence in nonprofit management

“Very early I learned to identify automatic rifles and gunfire. The war (in Beirut) began the year we left (for Iran). I tell people ‘frying pan-slash-fire.’ When the Shah fell, we ended up going to India. I just remember that last day being like a nightmare. Everything is slipping away.

... (Haunted and sleepless after the knife attack) I found a therapist, ... and I kind of loved it. I was like, ‘Eureka! I want to do this work!’

... As a kid I was forced to (deal with trauma) due to circumstances, but now as an adult I choose to do it — which is to walk into those really hard places with a mind of curiosity and kindness and just be there, be present there, and somehow in that presence, the pain can be transmuted.”
HER CAUSE: Drama club at John W. Paisley IB Magnet School in Winston-Salem, a Title I school with a high concentration of lower-income students. Mizzi began volunteering at Paisley in 2016, over time growing the program from 20 students to about 50 and from 10-minute plays without props or costumes to full productions — for example, “Charlotte’s Web” — with lights, a sound system, costumes and props. The burgeoning drama club has been so successful that there is a push to add a theatre class during school hours in the fall. Mizzi, who spends about 20 hours a week on club matters, has taught drama skills and handled sound, lighting, design, costumes, props, marketing and fund-raising. “Middle school can be really rough,” she says. She wants students to have “each other’s backs.”
“I think for kids specifically, being able to have an outlet where they can feel welcome and like they can be themselves is exactly what Pro Humanitate exists for. ... That’s what theatre can do for people.

I had all the kids decorate little envelopes with their names on it, and we stapled them up, and we encourage the students to write notes to each other like ‘You did really great today.’ I also write them to the kids, and we fill the little envelopes. Whenever you’re having a bad day you can just pick one out. That was something we did in my high school, and I still have all of my drama mail. I have a box full of them and bring them with me everywhere. Being able to have a group of people that just were so supportive and important to me, it always makes me feel really strong. And like I had friends, or like I had a place I really belonged.”
HER CAUSE: “Standing up for underdogs.” She is president and co-founder of Piedmont Animal Welfare Alliance (PAWA), an all-volunteer nonprofit that partners with the Forsyth Correctional Center to oversee A New Leash on Life program. For 10 weeks qualifying inmates are paired with dogs that aren’t easily adoptable. Inmates teach the dogs nice manners, agility moves and house and crate training, readying them for PAWA’s adoption process and forever homes.

“We can’t save every dog. We can’t save every man, but this is really redemptive work. This is a life changer for all of us who work with it. We teach men about persistence, praise and patience — the three Ps. I would add a fourth, which is prejudice. I don’t mean racial prejudice. I mean prejudice against people who seem so very other to us.

I’ve had four major interests in my life. One is poetry. ... The other three things: an inexplicable love for dogs. I wish we were more like dogs. They give unconditional love, and that’s one thing that I think the inmates haven’t received much of. The third passion of mine has been food. And lucky me, I got to run restaurants and be a restaurant critic and have a catering business. Fourth, I’ve always been interested in working with people on the margins.

Everyone I’ve worked with has been guilty. I have not had one man say, ‘I didn’t do it.’ They’re in prison for a reason, and I understand that. But they are human beings, worthy of someone caring about them, someone wanting to help them try to figure out what to do when they get out. There’s a connection, you know, among us all. It’s not ‘we’ and ‘they.’ It’s just ‘we.’“

Community volunteer and retired assistant director of the Wake Forest University Press

CANDIDE JONES / ’72, ’78

Winston-Salem
**HIS CAUSE:** Ministry to the needy.
He came as a 3-year-old with his Ethiopian parents to South Carolina after his father, a teacher, fled persecution from the Marxist revolution. After graduating in 2001 from Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina, Disasa served in Brazil as a house parent in an orphanage for street children. As pastor of Eastminster Presbyterian Church back home in Columbia, he helped start The Footcare Ministry, in which church members remove calluses and wash the feet of homeless people, give them socks and shoes and refer them for medical treatment. He helped establish the city of Columbia’s Transitions Homeless Center. He founded Downtown Church “to create a church that I would want to go to” and grew it quickly by focusing on traditional music, diversity and plainspoken sermons. He moved to Dallas in 2019 with his wife and two children to tackle the challenge of growing an established church with a $5 million program that feeds homeless people three meals every day and offers health and dental clinics, caseworkers, art programs and weekly food distribution.

“My experience in Brazil, my experience at Wake Forest — the emphasis on justice ministries — that was important (in drawing me to help the needy). But more than anything else was knowing that my family came as refugees to this country. If not for the help of some other people and a lot of luck along the way, I’d be tending sheep on a hillside in rural Ethiopia right now. ... I feel like my life has to be consistent with the lives that people lived just to allow me to be alive.

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Gardner Taylor is one of the pre-eminent preachers of American Christianity in the last hundred years, and he was (preaching) at a regular service (in Wait Chapel). That was amazing. It was a moment I can remember saying I want to be a preacher. He was lamenting the state of churches and Christianity, the moderate nature of everything, and calling us to be more radical and take more chances.”
His Cause: Curing genetic disorders. Among the mentors who inspired him in medical school was Richard B. Patterson (MD ’55), who cared for children with leukemia. “He was a role model for thinking that regardless of what the circumstances were, you could give them hope, and you could love them, and you could care for them,” Stevenson says. As a medical student, Stevenson built Bowman Gray School of Medicine’s first chromosome lab. He has discovered the genetic basis of many intellectual disabilities and started the South Carolina Autism Project to search for a cure. He founded the South Carolina Birth Defects Prevention Program, helping reduce the number of severe brain and spine defects in the state by 60 percent since 1992. He received the 2019 David L. Rimoin Lifetime Achievement Award from the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics.

“I had no concept that we would ever be able to sequence and hold genes in our hand and understand the biochemistry of life as much as we do today. ... Gene therapy will be an everyday phenomenon 10 years from now.

We are now past the point of diagnosis, ... so over the remainder of my practice lifetime I want to see our entire specialty focused on a real litany of treatment possibilities. Just like a person who develops cancer, what do they want more than anything else? Cure. And that’s what I see for our patients with genetic disorders, and that’s where I will spend most of my energies.”
His Cause: Species conservation and mitigating climate change on the biosphere. He has volunteered with Panthera, an organization devoted to the conservation of 40 wild cat species and their ecosystems. Sabin regards “predators as integral to all ecosystems.” He sits on the board of his family’s Andrew Sabin Family Foundation, helping channel grants and contributions to medical, arts, educational and ecological organizations such as Global Wildlife Conservation and projects involving the Lake Titicaca water frog, ploughshare tortoise, Galapagos gecko, horned lizard and snow leopard. Sabin is a master’s student in sustainability management at Columbia University and works part-time at the Island Resilience Partnership, which helps communities on the front lines of climate change to achieve renewable energy and sustainability goals through public-private partnerships.

“There’s definitely no shortage of needs out there. ... Philanthropy dollars are necessary to keep NGOs functioning, keep different projects functioning. And I think for me, being a young philanthropist, I truly enjoy providing new opportunities for people. I like focusing on and providing new experiences. I’m super fortunate to be able to help and direct dollars to important causes.

Having a certain amount of finite time on Earth, I want to make the most impact in that time. ... Being able to do that from a monetary perspective and a hands-on perspective is what I really want to achieve.”
HER CAUSE: She co-founded Crisis Control Ministry, the largest emergency assistance provider in Forsyth County, in 1974. She also helped start Advocacy for the Poor and the state’s first licensed free pharmacy and helped expand free breakfast programs at local schools. She received the Distinguished Alumni Award in 1990.

“When I was at Wake, I taught in the first integrated Bible school (in Winston-Salem) and became acutely aware of poverty and racism. I knew that’s what I wanted to be involved in. When Jesus said, ‘Follow me,’ he wasn’t just giving directions, he was giving an order to work for the things that he cared about.

(Crisis Control co-founder) Ron Rice use to say, ‘To be in the place where the concern of thousands meets the needs of thousands is to stand on holy ground in what must truly be part of the Kingdom of God.’ That’s what Crisis is about. When we opened, we had $2,500 a month and thought we could solve the world’s problems. At some point, I realized the solution wasn’t charity but justice. That’s what led to Advocacy for the Poor to advocate for health care and a living wage. We suffer from a lack of empathy today; we’re called to help, not to judge. It’s really simple: We should care for one another.”
HIS CAUSE: He founded Always Believe Inc., which supports at-risk middle and high school students in Charlotte through a scholarship program, leadership development, character building, mentoring, sports and Chef Kim’s Cooking Camp, taught by his wife. His daughter, Brittney (’09), helps him with the foundation.

“Growing up in a violent, drug-infested environment, getting shot at when I was 5, helped me understand what I needed to focus on if I wanted something more out of my life. Someone was always helping me, making sure that I had the right mindset and right values. I promised my mom I would try to do something to give back to the community. We started this in Baltimore, in the inner-city neighborhood where I grew up, to help at-risk kids and empower them and give them resources to enrich their lives.

When my mom passed away in 2001 it hit me hard, and I shut it down. When Brittney graduated, we talked about the foundation, and she reminded me of what was most important, and we reopened it in Charlotte. We try to give at-risk kids opportunities for a better life. I have a passion for the kids. My mom always stressed that it takes a village to raise kids. I try to do my part and show these kids that someone believes in them.”
Durham, NC

Coordinator of End Poverty Durham and pastor emeritus of Watts Street Baptist Church

**His Cause:** He co-founded End Poverty Durham, the Religious Coalition for a Nonviolent Durham and Peace Hill, a solidarity contemplative community, to bring faith and community leaders together to reduce racism, poverty and violence. In March 2019, he received the Elna B. Spaulding Founder's Award at the Partners for Peace celebration at the Elna B. Spaulding Conflict Resolution Center. The award recognizes an individual’s achievement in addressing difficult issues in the community in the spirit of its civil rights trailblazing namesake.

“Wake Forest played a major role in forming the values — compassion, equality, justice, leadership and service — that I carry with me today. When I hear people say, ‘Somebody ought to do something about poverty or racism or violence,’ my response is, ‘Well, that somebody may be you.’ As a pastor I’ve encouraged my members to ‘pick up the edge of some great problem and act at some sacrifice to yourself.’ Put your faith in action. Discern your own calling: Is this mission good news? Does it seem impossible to accomplish? Is there a good chance you’ll fail? If you answer yes to all three, that’s a sign the spirit is leading you to undertake the mission. Poverty is an injustice, an affront to God. I’ve felt led, nudged, called to this anti-poverty work. I cannot not do it. We are called to ‘worry about what God worries about when God wakes up in the morning — the suffering of God’s people.’ God is in need of us.”
THEIR CAUSE: Nine Line Foundation, an all-volunteer nonprofit dedicated to meeting the financial and specialized needs of injured soldiers and their families. Megan Hostler is president and CEO. Dutch Hostler, a veteran, is CFO and treasurer. Nine Line Foundation has been a crucial partner in supplying building materials and volunteers to erect transitional tiny houses for homeless veterans in Savannah, Georgia, with more work to come in Brunswick, Georgia. The foundation partners with Georgia Southern University to provide vocational training and career counseling, and it is supporting an aquaponics center to train veterans in soilless farming. “We don’t believe in a handout. We believe in a hand up,” says Megan Hostler.

DH: “I graduated from West Point in 1968, served as a field artillery battery commander in Germany and in Vietnam, a branch transfer to the JAG (Judge Advocate General’s) Corps after graduating from Wake Forest University School of Law and served a total of 32 years combined, active and reserve. We have two sons. They both graduated from the United States Military Academy as well. … When they graduated, they went directly to medical school and are now doctors. But I have a love for soldiers. My wife obviously has a love of the soldiers. She started with me.”

MH: We’re a nation at war. We’ve been at war for —
DH: Too many years.
MH: All too many years. And the soldiers are forgotten. They’re not treated the same way they were when my husband returned from Vietnam, but there’s a huge divide in this country between civilians and the military, and it’s our obligation to bridge that divide so that together we can build the best and most safe and secure and free country for our children and grandchildren.”

D. DAVID “DUTCH” HOSTLER / ’75
AND MEGAN EVERS HOSTLER / ’77
Kailua, HI
About a half hour away from the bustling city of Charlotte and the family business is the 400-acre farm where Frank Bragg ('61, P '88, '90, '93) and Kathy Broach Bragg ('62, P '88, '90, '93) share their lives with their four grown children and their spouses, grandchildren, dogs, deer and birds. All the families have homes on the farm, a restorative place where Kathy occasionally hosts contemplative retreats. It's a hub for a family that has contributed to the local community and the Charlotte region in myriad ways. Three of the four Bragg children are Demon Deacons, and the fourth married one. Two daughters-in-law are sisters. All members of the family exemplify Pro Humanitate in action.

FRONT: Frank and Kathy Bragg;  
BACK ROW: Benton Bragg ('90, MBA '97), Alice Carlton Bragg ('92, JD '97), John Bragg III ('88, P '20, '23), Catherine Carlton Bragg ('90, P '20, '23), Katie Bragg Scruggs and Steve Scruggs (MBA '96);  
SEATED: Leslie McLean Bragg ('91) and Phillips Bragg ('93).
THE
BRAGG FAMILY
of Huntersville, NC
HIS CAUSE: Land conservation. Last year he received The Order of the Long Leaf Pine award, since the early 1960s bestowed by North Carolina governors to individuals who have shown exceptional service to the state. He was nominated for his work to preserve land in North Carolina. He has been chair of the Catawba Lands Conservancy, vice chair of the North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund and a board member of the Conservation Trust of North Carolina and of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission. He co-founded Preserve Mecklenburg, a nonprofit to identify historic properties and facilitate their preservation. Among many other community endeavors ranging from arts leadership to feeding the hungry, he is co-founder of Right Moves for Youth, a nonprofit serving at-risk youth since 1993.

“I love people. ... I like to make good things happen, whether it be in business, real estate — Bragg Financial has been great fun. I love to do the same thing in the community, but I march to my own beat. I find out things that I think need to be done and try to make them better or start a new one (nonprofit).

The only cause that I’ve been involved with that will outlive me is land conservation. All the other things that I’ve been fortunate enough to be involved with in the charity world or in the corporate world will all change and maybe disappear or merge with other organizations, but land conservation is permanent and will outlive the landowner. All this land around here ... is under a permanent conservation easement, and it can never be developed in perpetuity.

That gives the wildlife and the migratory birds and all those people who love trees — and I’m one of them — a place that they can say, ‘This won’t change.’ ... Developments are a good thing, but you don’t want all of the earth developed. You need some balance.”
HER CAUSE: “The church is my hub.” Her father, the Rev. Claude Broach, was the minister at St. John’s Baptist Church in Charlotte for three decades beginning in 1944 and promoted “servant-church” leadership. Kathy Broach has helped the homeless, veterans, underprivileged children, inmates, Sudanese refugees and people in need of food or love through her church’s programs.

“What I realized is that the things that stir me up today are the same things that came to me as a child growing up with my mother and father who instilled in me the value and beauty basic to every single person... each God’s own child who is loved the same as I. These foundational beliefs inform my faith and my service in the church and community. ... This faith, I took with me to Wake Forest where it was nurtured by friendships, and campus professors and leaders.

I am very proud of my big family and all that they have been able to do to make this a better world.”
HER CAUSE: Advocating for the best interests of abused and neglected children in court by volunteering for the North Carolina Guardian ad Litem program in Mecklenburg County. Through the program, trained volunteers make recommendations to enhance a judge's decision-making to ensure that each child has needed services and a safe, permanent home in the shortest time possible.

"Because of my law degree and all of the skills I’ve developed at Wake Forest, it’s been great to use those skills in writing and communications ... to help come up with the best resolution for a child and help them hopefully find a placement where they’ll have a better path.

(Pro Humanitate) means using all that I have been given — education, financial resources, time, skills — to make the difference in the life of another person."
“From a young age, I always believed that we all had an opportunity. We had an equal opportunity. We have free public education. We could go to school, and we can all succeed if we work hard at it. And I kind of went along in life thinking that way. But as I’ve gotten older, I realized that it’s not equal. ... I thought about the young man (at Central Piedmont) who said, ‘No one I ever knew went through college.’ And there’s obviously a huge difference.

I think about how fortunate my kids are — and I was — to have these parents who said, ‘You do this and then you do this and then do this.’ Or other people in our lives who kind of help us along the way. We have every advantage, and there are thousands of kids who don’t. And I feel like community college is a way that we can reach thousands of kids and their parents — in many cases, single mothers. We can reach them and try to get them to see that if they go through these steps, they can have a great opportunity ahead.”
HER CAUSE: Education of older teenagers, who she says “are able to wrestle with complex ideas and concepts and consider different perspectives.” She also teaches Sunday school and has volunteered with Community Food Rescue.

“I do love my subject area, but I’m also invested in educating students in the way that I treat them, the way that they see me treat others.

Pro Humanitate means to me to see the humanity in others. And when you’re living your life with that lens, you’re always able to value others. And so, when you value others, that informs how you treat them. (Pro Humanitate) is the foundation.”
PHILLIPS  
Bragg  /  ’93

HIS CAUSE: The Raising South Sudan project. Inspired by his friendship with Lubo Mijak, one of the Lost Boys of Sudan who fled his village from government militia, Bragg has devoted years to helping Mijak, who arrived in Charlotte as a refugee. Mijak got an education and became like a brother to Bragg. Raising South Sudan arose from Mijak’s first visits home in 2007 and 2008. Above the many needs he identified, education was at the forefront. Bragg (and his family and church) went all in. He enlisted the expertise of Mothering Across Continents nonprofit to be a catalyst for shepherding the dream. Bragg traveled to South Sudan, which split from Sudan to become its own country in 2011. Today, thanks to the project and Bragg’s unwavering support, a school has been built and serves 500 students. Mijak lives in South Sudan, checks on the school and is exploring microfinance possibilities for villagers. At home, Bragg is a board member of Right Moves for Youth in Charlotte.

“Our church covenant has this sentence that we believe in the infinite worth of every person, and I just find that hard to dispute and to look away from. That speaks to me on the individual level. That especially makes it easier to work in impractical situations like South Sudan. It’s very hard. South Sudan is a hard problem to solve, but the individual is not. They’re one of God’s children just like you are. You don’t have to sit there and wonder, ‘Is this a good use of time and money and resources?’ Yes. Are there better ways, more practical things? Yes, but that’s not the question.”

Vice president and director of estate and charitable planning at Bragg Financial Advisors
**HIS CAUSE:** Boy Scouts of America. An Eagle Scout and Scoutmaster, Bragg has worked with Scouts for more than 12 years. He likes teaching the boys and now girls who are Scouts to be independent, plan, organize and lead. He also takes them on camping trips about once a month and in the summer on trips for what he calls “high adventures” such as backpacking or ice climbing that can last up to 12 days. Last year his group climbed Mount Baker in Washington.

“It requires a great deal of patience as an adult to watch kids make mistakes, which is wonderful. In this day and age, where we don’t ever let kids fail, they get to screw it up all the time and fail constantly. They fail to set their tent up right. They forget to bring their rain jackets. They burn the food. They forgot to bring the food. None of those has any kind of tragic consequences at all, but you forget your rain jacket one time, you’ll never forget it again. You learn these huge lessons. The comedy of it — as an adult to be able to just sit back and enjoy the comedy, watching kids try to organize, plan, cook a meal, do something like that — is really fun.

(Pro Humanitate), I think, at its core is serving others and doing for others. In large part, for me anyway, it has meant a gift of my time and being involved with these young folks.”

**JOHN**  
**BRAGG III**  
’88, ’20, ’23
HER CAUSE:

Volunteering through a program, B.E.S.T., she and seven other retired or former teachers created at Davidson College Presbyterian Church to partner with LeGette Blythe Elementary School in Huntersville. B.E.S.T. also has a reading program using community volunteers and built a raised-bed garden at the school.

“One of the biggest pleasures for me has been how our congregation has responded. ... There’s something for all ages. Little kids can help out with some of the projects we’ve done, collecting shoes and socks for kids or painting games on the playground, things like that. We’ve had teams go out there on Saturdays. And then, we do things for the teachers, like teacher appreciation lunches and breakfasts.”
**HIS CAUSES:** Conservation and serving in leadership at Davidson College Presbyterian Church. He is on the board of the Catawba Lands Conservancy, a nonprofit that conserves land in the Southern Piedmont of North Carolina, working to improve water and air quality and protect wildlife habitats, farmland and open spaces. It is also the lead organization for the Carolina Thread Trail, a project for a regional network of greenways and trails. “To keep people connected with nature,” says Scruggs, “is really important.”

**Director of research and investment manager at Bragg Financial Advisors**

“I’ve recently taken to meditating a lot and getting into a kind of presence, and mindfulness, and stillness, and being outdoors. I’m a hunter. And hunting has always been such a great thing for me, and during hunting season, I feel much happier. Yesterday I was hunting, and I was sitting in a tree stand, and when you’re hunting you have to be completely silent, you have to be completely still, and you have to be completely aware of everything that’s going on around you. ... I realized that that’s no different than meditating. Being present in the moment, being still, being quiet and just being present, and focusing not on anything else that’s going on in the world, but just right here, right now. It was so enlightening to just realize I’d been doing this for so many years and not really know that I was doing it.”
**HER CAUSE**: Advocating for the best interests of abused and neglected children through the North Carolina Guardian ad Litem program in Mecklenburg County. Through the program, trained volunteers make recommendations to enhance a judge’s decision-making to ensure that each child has needed services and a safe, permanent home in the shortest time possible.

“A lot of my volunteer work has been somehow connected to my kids all along. You know, whether it was school or youth group, church Sunday school, teaching. Now that they’re older and there’s more time, I really wanted to be able to dig deeper into something, and Guardian ad Litem allows for much deeper relationships.

It’s like no other volunteer work that I’ve done. ... You have to be patient and focused and continue to be supportive of that child, even when you know that things aren’t necessarily going to happen exactly as they hope in that time frame. But it is amazingly rewarding to have a child open up to you and express himself or herself.”

Stay-at-home mom with four teenagers

**KATIE BRAGG SCRUGGS**
CEO of Riddle & Bloom, a millennial and Generation Z marketing firm

**His Cause:** He started Santa’s Helper in 1986 to deliver toys to underprivileged children when he was a junior on the football team. He was named one of the Sportsmen and Sportswomen of the Year in 1987 by Sports Illustrated and appeared on the cover of the magazine as one of the “Athletes Who Care.” Santa’s Helper delivered toys and books to more than 900 children in 2019 and is the largest community service project carried out by Wake Forest student-athletes.

“I’m a Christmas Eve baby, so Christmas has always been a big deal at our house. In 1986, my mom sent me an article about a woman in Texas who had started a Christmas program. What I loved most was that it was not people delivering toys out of charity, it was Santa Claus delivering toys, so it didn’t feel like charity. That idea of the magic and wonder of Christmas really resonated with me. I thought I could do something like that and get my teammates to help. I bought a Santa suit, and we delivered to 35 families that first year. As it’s evolved, we’ve been able to keep the magic alive; when Santa walks in, he knows the children by name. A lot of our recipients lack not only financial resources, but the joy and emotional support that should come to children every day. My own three children have done this a couple of times, and I hope they see how fortunate they are and that there are folks in the world who need our help.”
HER CAUSE: She gave up her journalism career to become a full-time volunteer in her hometown. She helped start Trinity’s Table, which serves about 300 meals a week to anyone in need. She serves on the Charleston Homeless Task Force and has held leadership roles with the Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences, Read Aloud West Virginia, United Way of Central West Virginia and 2nd Avenue Community Center. She received a Women of Achievement Award from the YWCA Charleston in 2016.

“When I was young, my mom used to give our trash collectors a cup of coffee when they picked up the garbage. She never said anything about it being the right thing to do; she just did it. She taught me that I wasn’t better than anyone else. It goes back to kindness; it’s about being a good human being. When I was in high school, I got the Wake Forest brochure — this was pre-internet — and I saw the motto. It appealed to me from Day One. The idea that every human being has dignity afforded to them is important. Everyone deserves to be treated with respect. Often, there’s an ‘us’ and ‘them’ mentality, a ‘good’ people vs. ‘bad’ people. These people (at Trinity’s Table) did not choose when they were children to be homeless or addicted to drugs. They’re good people who have a bad lot in life. How can anyone say that giving someone a warm meal is the wrong thing to do?”
HIS CAUSE: Giving sick children a chance to create something meaningful and creative. Resilience Gives makes colorful socks with polar bears, dogs or other fun images that pediatric cancer patients design with the company’s help. For each pair sold, the company donates a pair to a cancer patient. Teitelbaum was diagnosed with refractory Hodgkin lymphoma when he was a junior at Wake Forest. At one of his lowest moments, he broke down in tears in the hospital bathroom. The idea for Resilience Gives came to him when he looked down and was comforted by his favorite tattered socks emblazoned with a wolf howling to a rising sun. His cancer is in remission now.

“At the time I was diagnosed it felt like I was surrendering my identity as an independent college student to an identity as a cancer patient. Socks come and go, but those (howling wolf socks) somehow had lived on. ... They became like a little symbol of identity.

Not only does (a cancer patient’s) legacy live on through the design, they’re able to impact kids who are standing in similar socks. (I tell children) as someone who’s been there that there is light at the end of the tunnel, and ... this experience is an opportunity to grow from, to become a better version of yourself.”
HIS CAUSE: He founded RV4CampfireFamily to provide RVs for people left homeless after the 2018 Camp Fire that destroyed the town of Paradise, California; his nonprofit has given away more than 80 RVs. Shown at right with his daughter, Luna, he was named one of 10 finalists for the 2019 CNN Hero of the Year.

“I was raised in a good home with Christian values, and that was reinforced at Wake. And then I lived my life on cruise control, and it was a good life. When I met people (in California) who had lost their homes and everything they owned, I realized that merely living a good life wasn’t good enough anymore. Helping someone that you have never met, with no expectation of receiving anything in return, is the most rewarding thing that you will ever do. How can I just sit here and look around at how blessed my life is, when there are people struggling with things I take for granted every day? I didn’t really realize the meaning of Pro Humanitate until I lived it. Now I understand that it’s not just Latin words, it’s about serving our fellow man. Helping other people helped me realize what it’s like to live an exceptional life.”
“WOODY” FAIRCLOTH / ‘90

Denver
HER CAUSE: Supporting philanthropy. America’s Promise Alliance brings together nonprofits, businesses, civic leaders, educators, citizens and young people to overcome barriers to young people’s success. In development positions, Williams has raised more than $92 million for nonprofits, including YWCA, the American Red Cross National Capital Region, the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington (D.C.) and others. She was artistic director of two community dance studios and led a nonprofit that refurbished computers for underserved areas. She was founding board chair of a public charter school and the first woman of color to serve as president of the Junior League of Washington. The late poet, author and Wake Forest professor Maya Angelou (L.H.D. ’77) helped inspire Williams’ career.

"Dr. Angelou knew that I was really not in a great head space, and she explicitly asked what was troubling me. I was preparing to take the LSAT (for law school), and she asked why. I said, ‘Because my parents think that I’ll be a good lawyer.’ And she said, ‘Well, do you want to go to law school?’ And I said, ‘No, not really, but I need a job.’ ... She said, ‘In order for you to find joy, you’re going to have to activate courage.’ She didn’t tell me what to do, but she taught me how to find my path forward. ... I knew that my heart leaned in a direction of service.

I try to be really careful in explicitly stating both as an individual and on behalf of the institutions that I represent that we value all forms of contributions. I have learned through my experiences over the last 20 years that Dr. Angelou’s wisdom is absolutely correct: the way you form friendships and ... trusting relationships is to close your lips and open your ears. (You) demonstrate that their contribution is valued. By doing that, people are more apt to give whatever they have, whether it’s more money, whether it’s more time, whether it’s more advice.”
McLean, VA

HIS CAUSE: Islamic Medical Association of North America (IMANA), an association of American-Muslim physicians, dentists and other allied health professionals. It provides resources, mentoring and networking and spearheads medical relief missions overseas. Zahir began his work with the group more than a decade ago and has traveled, among other places, to Somalia, Sudan, Nepal, Ghana and Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh. He takes three to four medical mission trips a year, doing burn reconstruction and surgical procedures such as repairing cleft lips and cleft palates.

Zahir has served as president and board chair of IMANA and in 2017 received the IMANA Medical Relief Humanitarian Award “for his dedicated passion to serve humanity.” As he told Arlington Magazine in 2017, “When I’m on a trip, I see immediately how my work is changing a life. I get a smile. I get a thank-you. And that’s more than enough reimbursement for me.”

““There’s an old saying that when you’ve been exposed to the beauty of the mountains, you will always look for the beauty in the mountains. When you have learned something that you didn’t want to know exists, you will always know that. And so, when you see that there’s injustice throughout the world, or there’s sadness in the world and you know that exists, you can’t cover it up. You can’t spackle it. You have to do what you have to do."

I was fortunate I started early in my life. That’s where this whole concept of Pro Humanitate comes in. It’s about giving forward. Moving forward and giving forward. And that’s really made a difference in my life. Doing service for mankind, yes, you make a difference in other people’s lives, but the difference you make in your own life, there’s no words for that — that kind of joy.”
HER CAUSE: When she was about to have an empty nest, she used her money and time to create Homework Helpers for Bon Air Elementary School’s children living in a mobile home park four miles away. In 2010 at bus stops, she posted fliers — one side in Spanish, the other in English — to invite elementary children to the program. She recruited local high school students to serve as tutors. At first 17 tutors paired with 17 children for once-a-week sessions; in fall 2019 there were 73 pairs. The main priority, Pridgen says, is to create a routine for doing homework in a quiet, calm place — in space donated by churches. The program emphasizes academics, good citizenship and manners. Typically, she awards two scholarships a year to tutors and hosts for Homework Helpers an annual Christmas party and an Easter egg hunt with 1,500 hidden eggs.

“Having the available time, money and resources to help made it a no brainer to jump in and do something to try to give these kids a boost up for a better future. One wonderful, unexpected outcome from the program has been seeing my high school tutors also discover the true joy of giving back by impacting the life of another in a positive way. Since over 700 high school students in the area have participated in this program over the past nine years, I hope their experience as tutors sets them on the path of Pro Humanitate as they journey through life.

In many cases, the weekly one-on-one time with their high school tutors is the only time these elementary children receive undivided attention. They look forward to that time and are excited to see their special friend each week. My time at Wake Forest instilled a love for community as well as education. To be in a position to help my community through education is a true joy.”
DAVID B. YOUNG / ’90

Chapel Hill, NC
**His Cause:** His company supports global awareness and language learning in K-12 education, resulting in higher test scores and attendance, fewer disciplinary referrals and greater teacher engagement. In more than 430 American schools, it brings in 1,200 international language educators and provides programs to help 3,000 U.S. teachers use a global lens in their curricula. Participate Learning has included his father, retired Elon University President James Fred Young ('56), his mother, Phyllis Johnson Young ('61), his sister, Jane Young Tabor ('92), and his brother, Alan Young. The company was named to the 2019 inaugural RealLeaders 100 list of companies doing pioneering social impact work and has been named for seven years to the “Best for the World” companies balancing profit and purpose.

“How this all started is when I was 10 years old, we hosted an exchange student from Finland. We fell in love with her, and once you learn to love a country other than your own, you can learn to love many other countries. (Global travel and exchange student) experiences often have been reserved for the lucky few, like my family. These kinds of experiences can be offered to all kids. Kids do better in these programs, and it cuts across every group, every subgroup.

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Our reason for putting international teachers in front of 25 kids at a time is ... to seek a mutual understanding among nations. We’re seeking peace and saving the planet, and we think that U.S. citizens have to be involved in that.”

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**CEO of Participate Learning**
HER CAUSE: She founded Bless This Child, which — through church groups in several North Carolina counties — has sewn and delivered more than 15,000 outfits to children in 27 countries. She has delivered outfits to 16 countries, including El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Armenia, and in the United States, and has made two dozen mission trips to teach English or to help construct houses and schools. She has also taught women in El Salvador how to sew so they can support themselves and make clothes for their own children. She also teaches citizenship classes to documented immigrants through her church. During the coronavirus pandemic, she led a group sewing masks for nurses and nursing home workers.
“When you’ve taught for 36 years, you can’t stop cold turkey. You have to have a purpose. We hear from mission teams, ‘We’re going to Haiti or Honduras; do you have any outfits we can take?’ A friend told me that these things fall in your lap because that’s what God wants you to do. I keep two quotes on my refrigerator: ‘I read in a book about a man that goes about doing good; it distresses me that I am so easily satisfied with just going about.’ And ‘Our peace is found in our purpose.’ When I see pictures — my favorite is of a girl who just received a new dress and she’s got her hand over her mouth, like ‘It’s for me?!’ — I know what my purpose is. When you see the world’s forgotten children and then come home, you think ‘to whom much is given, much is expected.’ I’m not rich, but my rewards come in helping these children.”
Alpha Phi Omega ‘brothers’ nurture their common bond.

By Katherine Laws (’20), Wake Forest Magazine intern
Photography by Christian Green (’19, MS ’20)
The students, members of the Wake Forest chapter of Alpha Phi Omega (APO), a national service fraternity, and other volunteers rolled up their sleeves to package more than 20,000 meals for Rise Against Hunger, a North Carolina-based organization that seeks to end world hunger.

Each time they packaged 1,000 meals, they rang the gong to celebrate. Rise Against Hunger is one of APO’s loudest events, impossible to ignore as the gong chimes. APO also is characterized by hundreds more quiet moments of selflessness by 150 individuals in the coed fraternity — moments that reflect Pro Humanitate.

On Saturdays, when most students are just waking up for pancakes in the Pit, APO members are returning from Wake Saturdays, where they deliver food downtown. On weeknights, APO members fan out across the city, working at diaper banks, tutoring children at Latino Community Services, cooking for a Campus Kitchen shift or volunteering at The Shalom Project, a nonprofit that offers programs to end the cycle of poverty.

EVERY FEW MINUTES, the strike of a gong sends echoes through Benson University Center, followed by a burst of cheers. The sounds are coming from Benson 401, where more than 100 students, wearing hairnets and joyful expressions, are packaging boxes of food.
APO

Founded its Kappa Theta chapter, then a small all-male group, at Wake Forest in 1952. APO still calls itself a fraternity and its members brothers, though it accepts anyone who completes the requirements during the recruitment period. Since the national establishment of the fraternity in 1925, its three pillars have remained the same: leadership, friendship and service.

Christian Estrada (‘22) grew up living with and helping his great grandparents. His heart for service was born then. As a teenager, he volunteered at the local animal shelter and served in his school’s Red Cross club. When he came to Wake Forest, he fell in love with APO.

One of his first experiences with APO was a Habitat for Humanity house build. Christian remembers being moved as he helped construct the home alongside the future homeowner.

Shelby Ellis (‘20) loves that members of APO are so like-minded, yet so different. “They challenge me to change my beliefs or views on things,” Shelby says, and she learns “from their personal experience to broaden my idea of what is important in life.”

Ben Tellefsen (‘20), president of Wake Forest’s APO chapter last fall, puts it simply: “When you’re doing service, there’s just natural connections you can make with people.”

For Ben, APO has been full of those connections both on and off campus. He participates in weekly Campus Kitchen visits to deliver food to the Azalea Terrace Senior Apartments in Winston-Salem. Ben has befriended one of the residents, Ms. Vicki, as students call her. Ms. Vicki often gives students nicknames, based on their majors, and offers bits of life advice. Ben credits APO with helping him develop the confidence and skills to lead more than 100 people.

Former president Joe Julian (‘20) says the leadership skills he developed in APO will help him when he becomes a dentist, where communication and decision-making skills are crucial.

“So many of us have gained leadership abilities that we wouldn’t have had if it weren’t for APO,” says Shelby, who hopes to translate the skills she has learned in APO to a career in nonprofit fundraising. As the APO alumni relations chair, she keeps a record of alumni and helps current students connect to them.

Professor of Counseling Sam Gladding (‘67, MAEd ’71, P ’07, ’09) was in APO as a student and is now an adviser. “I think all of us who attend Wake Forest are privileged in
some ways. Some more intellectually, some more financially, some just with special talents — music or writing,” he says. “When you’re given privilege or opportunities, you should always give back.”

Gladding remembers when he and his fraternity brothers spent several hours cutting the unruly lawn of a widow who was unable to do it herself. He also remembers participating in food drives, volunteering with the Samaritan Inn and tutoring children.

Old books in the APO lounge behind Luter Residence Hall tell the stories of APO’s good works on campus over the years: Brothers pushed to install trash cans to reduce litter, created the first campus phone directory and hosted a radio show to talk about campus news.

APO has four perspectives that define its mission: service to brotherhood, to campus, to community and to nation. Over the years, APO’s reach has stretched toward the community and to the nation; more students have cars on campus, and the internet allows impact without the consideration of distance.

Yet, members of APO realize that its strongest impact may be on other students. Joe emphasizes that APO helps make other students on campus aware of ways they can serve. Christian says he hopes APO’s work sparks the desire in others to serve. Or, as Gladding puts it, the members of APO are “inspiring in what they do, and I’m inspired by them to try to be as good as I think they are.”

If you glance at the Wake Forest seal, two elements stand out: the motto, “Pro Humanitate,” and two Greek letters bookending the Chi Rho symbol: Alpha and Omega. Pro Humanitate is widely defined as “for humanity.” Alpha and Omega mean “the beginning and the end.” For members of Alpha Phi Omega, it begins and ends with service.
Four alumni with exemplary careers as journalists, authors and champions of literary excellence were named to the Wake Forest Writers Hall of Fame.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY DELPHINE LEE
NOVELIST, FILM CRITIC and screenwriter Stephen Amidon has been called “a nimble storyteller” by The New York Times and “an unflinching explorer of the late 20th century American psyche” by another reviewer. His seven novels, published in 16 countries, include “The Real Justine,” “Security” and “Human Capital.”

“I write books to criticize the way we live now, to shine a light on our society,” he once said. He is also the author of a collection of short stories and two nonfiction books, including “The Sublime Engine: A Biography of the Human Heart,” co-written with his brother, Tom, a cardiologist. He also has written book and film reviews and newspaper and magazine articles.

Amidon has found literary and artistic success in the United States and Italy, and he splits his time between Massachusetts and Turin, Italy. His novel, “Human Capital,” was adapted into a film in the United States and Italy. “Security” has also been adapted into a film and is scheduled to be released in Italy in 2021. He also created a serial stage drama, “6Bianca,” which was performed in Turin.

Amidon was born in Chicago and lived for a time in Columbia, Maryland, which years later served as the inspiration for his fourth novel, “The New City.” He received a Guy T. Carswell Scholarship to attend Wake Forest. He majored in philosophy, wrote plays and studied at Casa Artom in Venice, Italy.

After graduating, he wrote book and theatre reviews for a weekly arts paper in North Carolina before moving to London with his future wife. Over the next decade, he wrote his first four novels and had four children before moving back to the United States in 1999.

“I think he’s (Tom Wolfe) right when he says that our obligation as novelists is to look at how we live now,” Amidon told The Boston Globe in 2015. “And you don’t make satire and social criticism by showing people getting along. It’s about conflict; it’s about crisis. It’s about people making bad choices, then dealing with it. I guess my great theme is how money and power influence the truth — who controls the narrative. I can’t imagine writing any other way.”

– Kerry M. King (’85)
GROWING UP IN CHARLOTTE, Mike Riley would return during summers to New Jersey — he was born in Plainfield — and watch his grandfather the publisher set type for weekly newspapers he owned. Riley grew up thinking he would become a lawyer, but his experiences at Wake Forest as editor of the Old Gold & Black led him to follow his grandfather into journalism. He then distinguished himself as a longtime editor on the frontlines of digital journalism, today serving as president and editor in chief of The Chronicle of Higher Education Inc., which publishes the namesake higher education newspaper and website along with the magazine and website of The Chronicle of Philanthropy.

“I loved facts and speaking truth to power,” Riley told Omicron Delta Kappa members at their national convention in 2014. “My life is a series of incredibly lucky breaks along the way.”

He began his career as a reporter at The Dispatch in Lexington, North Carolina. He left to earn his master’s degree at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He later joined Time magazine as a Los Angeles correspondent, covering everything from presidential campaigns to cowboy poets. He worked for Time in Boston, Washington and Atlanta and at age 32 was named its Southern bureau chief. He returned to Harvard for the 1994-95 academic year as a Nieman Fellow, intent on studying digital technology. The first week when someone was showing him how the internet worked, Riley clicked on an image of Socks the cat on the White House website, and it meowed. “Suddenly Gutenberg’s world had exploded,” he has said. “Everybody had a printing press.”

Riley went on to create and manage allpolitics.com, a joint venture between CNN and Time and one of the nation’s first national political websites. For eight years, he was editor of The Roanoke Times, where he reengineered the newsroom and earned a national reputation for his focus on internet strategy. In 2007 he became editor and senior vice president of Congressional Quarterly. Following the publication’s acquisition, Riley became editorial director of Washington-based Bloomberg Government. He joined The Chronicle of Higher Education Inc. in 2013, praised by founder Corbin Gwaltney for his “combination of journalistic leadership, business acumen and digital savvy.”

– Maria Henson (’82)
CLINT McCOWN HAS Distinguished himself as a poet, novelist and journal editor during a literary career that spans five decades. He is the only two-time winner of the American Fiction Prize for his short stories, which have been widely published.

He has written four novels — “The Member-Guest,” “War Memorials,” “The Weatherman” and “Haints” — and five volumes of poetry, including his most recent, “The Dictionary of Unspellable Noises: New & Selected Poems, 1975-2018.”

His stories, essays and poems have appeared in more than 75 national journals and magazines. His latest work, “Music for Hard Times,” a collection of selected short fiction, is due out this year. His novel, “The Member-Guest,” is in development for a limited-run television series.

McCown was born in Fayetteville, Tennessee, a week after a tornado destroyed the town. Decades later, he created his “own version of the catastrophe” for his 2012 novel, “Haints.” His family moved frequently when he was growing up because of his father’s career in the Secret Service. He was once a yard boy for Dwight D. Eisenhower on the former president’s farm in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

“Perhaps the greatest shaping force was the fact that my family had moved seven times by the time I entered eighth grade,” McCown once said. “Throughout my formative years I was cast continually in the role of the outsider. As a consequence, a major theme in my work seems to be the examining of artificial cultural barriers that dictate behavior. I like exploring the ways in which people do — or don’t — struggle to fit into society.”

At Wake Forest, McCown majored in English and theatre. Two of his earliest mentors were then-Professor of English and Provost Ed Wilson (‘43, P ’91, ’93) and Professor of Journalism Bynum Shaw (‘48, P ’75). He spent much of his time in the Wake Forest Theatre and went on to study acting in New York and tour with the National Shakespeare Company. He later returned to Wake Forest to teach acting in a summer program to high school students from around the country.


Early in his career, McCown was a broadcast journalist and received an Associated Press Award for Documentary Excellence for his investigations of organized crime in Alabama in the 1970s. He also has written plays and been a screenwriter and creative consultant for film and television.

McCown taught at Beloit College for 20 years and was the founding editor of the Beloit Fiction Journal. He currently teaches in the MFA program in creative writing at Virginia Commonwealth University and in the Vermont College of Fine Arts. He lives with his wife outside Richmond, Virginia.

– Kerry M. King (‘85)
STEVE DUIN HAS EXCELLED at a long list of writing genres, from journalism to the novel to the history of comics. As a metro columnist for more than 25 years at The Oregonian in Portland, he realized that sharing his experiences wasn’t just about telling his own story. “Readers aren’t all that curious about who you are; they want a better understanding of who they are,” Duin wrote in a column about the touching responses to his daughter’s homesickness at college. “They are forever searching for someone whose story gives voice to the things they struggle to express.”

An English major, he began his career as a sports reporter at the Winston-Salem Journal. He earned his master’s degree in English and returned in 1980 to his native Pacific Northwest as a sports and investigative reporter for The Oregonian. He became the newspaper’s first political columnist in 1988 and metro columnist from 1994 to 2015, subscribing to the journalistic ideal: Afflict the comfortable; comfort the afflicted. He continues to write freelance columns twice a month or more for The Oregonian and longer pieces for the local alternative weekly.

Duin’s awards include honors from the national Society of Professional Journalists and the Wilbur Award from the Religion Communicators Council.

Duin’s books covers a wide spectrum: a compilation of his columns, a retrospective about space toys, an encyclopedic history of comics and a novel called “The Less We Touch” about the pressures of parents in teen sports. He co-authored a book on business philosophy and a book for Young Life, a Christian organization.

A 144-page graphic novel called “Oil and Water,” illustrated by New Yorker cartoonist Shannon Wheeler, describes the aftermath of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. He and Wheeler also published “The Mueller Report: Graphic Novel” in April. It’s a print-only digestible version of the nearly 450-page dense findings of the special counsel’s investigation of Russian interference in the 2016 election and allegations about President Trump’s campaign.

Duin also is a freelance editor and helps high school seniors with college essays. He lives in Lake Oswego, Oregon, with his wife, Nancy Natelli Duin (’79). They have three grown children.

— Carol L. Hanner
About 10 years ago, Tom Phillips was talking, as he often does, with Wake Forest’s Provost Emeritus Ed Wilson (’43, P ’91, ’93).

“I think the Wake Forest Sports Hall of Fame had just announced its latest class, and Ed said, offhand, ‘Wouldn’t it be great if we had a Hall of Fame for our writers?’”

From that remark and a lot of hard work grew Words Awake! gatherings and the Wake Forest Writers Hall of Fame. Phillips took the lead in organizing the inaugural Words Awake! in 2012, drawing alumni writers from a variety of fields to campus. The first 15 members of the Writers Hall of Fame — spanning time from John Charles McNeill, poet and journalist, class of 1898, to Albert Hunt Jr., journalist and author, class of 1965 — were inducted at a memorable dinner.

This spring’s Words Awake! and Hall of Fame inductions would have been the fourth in a series that has enriched the cultural and intellectual life of the campus and community. Inductees were announced, but the ceremony and literary events have been postponed until a later date because of COVID-19.

Malcolm Jones (’74), an author and a journalist who writes for The Daily Beast, was Phillips’ roommate and worked with him on The Student magazine in the early 1970s. He’s also participated in Words Awake! gatherings.

“No one at Wake Forest has done more than Tom has to bring students and the general public into contact with writers — novelists, memoirists, poets and journalists,” Jones said. “Thanks to him, students leave Wake understanding that writers are human, that they struggle with the same problems involved with putting words on paper that every undergraduate faces, that they are not just names on the spines of books. I think Tom genuinely loves and respects writers, and anyone who comes into contact with him sends that respect back in spades.”

That’s despite the fact that heading up the celebrations of writers and writing isn’t Phillips’ “day job” at Wake Forest.

Phillips was in the spring semester of his senior year at Wake Forest in 1974, with no idea what he would do with the B.A. in English he was about to earn, when William Starling (’57), who headed admissions, offered him a summer job.

Forty-six years later, Phillips is still at Wake Forest, having left only for four years of Ph.D. study at UNC Chapel Hill. Officially, he’s had jobs in admissions and later working for the provost and dean of the college. Much of his work has been with undergraduate merit-based scholarships and later prestigious postgraduate scholarships such as the Rhodes and Fulbright.

When he retires June 30, it will be from the position of associate dean and
director of the Wake Forest Scholars program, started in 2003. In that job, he’s helped an impressive number of students win postgraduate scholarships and many more consider their future and hone their writing skills.

Phillips understands the importance of scholarships. The first in his family to go to college, he came to Wake Forest because he was offered a Carswell scholarship. He’d been weighing whether to study clarinet at a conservatory or liberal arts at one of several colleges. The Carswell “sealed the deal,” he said. “I can say honestly that I never regretted leaving music as a possible profession nor regretted choosing Wake Forest, since it shaped and changed my life in wonderful ways.”

Marrying Janine Tillett (’76, P ’06), the daughter of two Wake Forest professors, further cemented his Deacon ties. Besides his efforts with Words Awake! and the Writers Hall of Fame, his extra activities have included teaching in interdisciplinary programs and courses such as “Novel to Film” in the English department. He’s also taught at all of Wake Forest’s residential and academic houses abroad.

Carter Kersh (’93, P ’23), senior marketing executive at Amazon, was a Carswell Scholar who knew Phillips well as his scholarship officer, professor, leader at Casa Artom in Venice and a mentor and friend.

Kersh owes a great deal to Phillips, he said. He regards Tom O’, as he and the other students called him, as one of “a few people who have always to me felt like they were the soul of Wake Forest.”

“I find it immensely reassuring that when my own daughter was looking at schools last year, she was able to connect with Tom’s son, Lowell (Tillett ’06 in the admissions office) and in part because of him, she ended up choosing Wake Forest. The soul of Wake Forest lives on in a new generation.”

True to form, Phillips has no plans to abandon Wake Forest after he steps down from the dean’s office. He will be rehired as a part-time adjunct professor, teaching a First Year Seminar.

Hired or not, he said, he would continue to make sure that Words Awake! happens again in 2024, “to honor Ed Wilson and fulfill a promise to him.” As for who will eventually take over the Writers Hall of Fame duties, “I have some suspects in mind,” he said.

— Malcolm Jones (’74)

Thanks to [Tom], students leave Wake understanding that writers are human, that they struggle with the same problems involved with putting words on paper that every undergraduate faces, that they are not just names on the spines of books. I think Tom genuinely loves and respects writers, and anyone who comes into contact with him sends that respect back in spades.”

— Linda Carter Brinson, retired editorial page editor of the Winston-Salem Journal and a member of the Wake Forest Writers Hall of Fame, writes from Bells Island in Currituck County on the North Carolina coast. Her blog is at lindabrinson.com
Donna Boswell ('72, MA '74)

Donna Boswell arrived at Wake Forest in 1968 from Memphis, Tennessee, with her blue wool suit, white gloves and self-sewn jumpers, having seen few women in power. She discovered female students were breaking ground in academics, athletics and politics, inspiring her to a high-level career, first in academics and later as an attorney. In 2015, she broke another boundary as the first woman to chair the University's Board of Trustees, serving three terms through 2018. She has been a trustee since 2004.

"Seeing the women around me being able to step out of their comfort zone — peer women — I think was the most inspiring thing about Wake Forest that ever happened to me," Boswell told Wake Forest Magazine in a 2015 interview.

Boswell grew up in Kansas City, Missouri, and Memphis with her father, an accountant, and her mother, a homemaker, before earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Wake Forest and a Ph.D. at Pennsylvania State University, all in psychology. She taught psychology at Wesleyan University before earning a law degree in 1989 from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, where she was executive editor of the Law Review.

She joined the law firm Hogan Lovells US LLP in Washington, D.C., and rose to partner. She started out with a focus on complicated law surrounding mobile-phone technology. She transitioned to a wide range of health care law, from drug pricing to medical privacy to health care reform.

"Basically, what I’ve done for 25 years is teaching — teaching regulatory law to businessmen and businesswomen whose businesses depend on them getting it right," she told the magazine.

She advised hospitals, academic medical centers, research companies and manufacturers on compliance issues. She retired in 2015 to Winston-Salem but continued to consult. At Wake Forest, she has shared her invaluable experience by serving as chair of the WFU Health Sciences and WFU Baptist Medical Center boards of directors, of which she is still a member.

During her tenure as chair of the trustees, Wake Forest opened its Wake Downtown campus and a new home for the School of Medicine in Innovation Quarter, a biotechnology research, education and business district owned by the medical center. Wake Downtown includes the home of Wake Forest’s newly created engineering major.

"We’re very focused on synergies with faculty, the medical school, business and potential startups," Boswell told the magazine in 2016. "That synergy will be just phenomenal for our students."

Boswell’s Wake Forest ties run deep. As a student, she worked in the Z. Smith Reynolds Library, served as a resident adviser, joined the Strings society, played flute in the marching band, babysat for faculty members’ children and ran experiments for psychology professors. She has contributed more than $600,000 for scholarships, faculty support and medical education, particularly for the Patricia Heiges Brown Fund for Wake Forest Scholars and the Ollen R. Nalley Faculty Fellowship honoring her grandfather. Among additional generous donations, her $1 million gift led to the Donna A. Boswell Presidential Chair of Health Care Innovation.

More at bit.ly/1OjiIO7
therapies to fight diseases of the heart, cardiovascular system and skeletal muscle tissue.

Olson loves rock music and playing the guitar, too, and his “collaborators” include his musical idol Willie Nelson and Nelson’s wife, Annie. They not only gave Olson a signed guitar that graces the wall outside his office; they funded a professorship in stem cell research that Olson holds at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, enabling him to expand his research. A native of Winston-Salem, Olson struggled early at Wake Forest but would not abandon his childhood goal of a career in science. When his adviser warned him — legitimated so, Olson says — that he wasn’t ready for the challenge of a biology major, Olson could have succumbed to dejection. Instead, he responded with motivation, he told Wake Forest Magazine for a story in 2018. “I learned how to really work hard and apply myself.”

That is a huge understatement.

He went on to receive a bachelor’s in chemistry and molecular biology there. St. Louis, Olson joined the University of Washington University School of Medicine in 1995, where he finished his medical training in 1998. Smith adds, “He had the gift of Medicine who also taught Olson’s ethic, “ says his mentor, Peter B. Smith, a retired professor at Wake Forest School of Medicine. Among the band’s repertoire is a song by Olson, inspired by a Willie Nelson-Waylon Jennings tune. It’s called “Mama Don’t Let Your Stem Cells Grow Up To Be Cowboys.”

More at bit.ly/2Cq9wY4

Rodney Rogers (’94)

If the true measure of a person is how he or she deals with adversity, few can measure up to the character and courage that Rodney Rogers has displayed since a 2008 dirt biking accident left him paralyzed from the shoulders down. Rogers, one of the most gifted athletes to ever play basketball at Wake Forest, continues to inspire others, even while dealing with his own physical challenges.

“I’m still here for a reason,” Rogers told Wake Forest Magazine in 2017. “I think that’s one of the reasons God kept me here. I’m still talking and praying and reading the Bible and trying to figure out what’s His real reason. Got to talk it out with Him and see where it leads.”

Rogers grew up in the tough housing projects of Durham, North Carolina. His father left his family when he was young; his stepfather died when he was in high school. His mother was critically injured in a car accident. He lived for a time with the family of his best friend where he learned hard work and the value of an education. His God-given talent and athleticism made him an imposing force on the basketball court, where he picked up the nickname the “Durham Bull” in high school.

In his first season at Wake Forest, Rogers was named ACC Freshman of the Year. He led the Deacons to three straight NCAA appearances, including a Sweet 16 berth in 1993. He was named ACC Player of the Year and a consensus second-team All-American the same year and was the overall ninth pick by the Denver Nuggets in the ’93 NBA draft. His No. 54 jersey was retired by Wake Forest in 1996. He is a member of the Wake Forest and North Carolina sports halls of fame.

After retiring from the NBA after 12 seasons, Rogers moved back to his hometown and went to work for the city of Durham as a heavy equipment operator. Following his accident, doctors gave him a 50-50 chance for survival. Twelve years later, he has beaten the odds and found a new purpose in life to inspire others.

Rogers started the Rodney Rogers Foundation to support kids in his former neighborhood. Rogers and his wife, Faye, live in Timberlake, North Carolina, outside Durham. “He hasn’t changed through adversity,” Faye says. “He is giving, considerate (and) thoughtful. He is the same, only still.”

Dave Odom, Rogers’ former coach at Wake Forest, once said that if Rogers’ life were divided into two chapters, one before the accident and one after, you’d see the same traits — grace and character, kindness and perseverance — that have guided Rogers’ life in both chapters. “But they’re more apparent in the second chapter because that’s when most people who have less spiritual attributes come apart and give up. He has not done that.

“The fortunes of his life have taken a turn that would have done most of us in by now. He continues to not only fight it, but perhaps win the battle.”

More at bit.ly/2Ori2JT
‘We are not just the class of COVID-19’

BY MARIA HENSON (‘82)

WITH THE SPRING SEMESTER interrupted by the COVID-19 global pandemic and nearly all students dispersed to their homes to complete their Wake Forest studies online, the University enacted a two-part plan for graduation. There was no Commencement on Hearn Plaza May 18. Instead, on that evening, a 20-minute, pre-recorded video livestream of a “Conferring of Degrees Ceremony” served as a symbolic acknowledgement of what graduates had accomplished. Though not by name in the video, nearly 2,000 students were awarded their degrees and welcomed into the alumni fold.

Professional schools hosted virtual special messages and hoodings, while some Reynolda Campus faculty convened departmental Zoom receptions throughout the weekend and on what would have been the traditional day of pomp, circumstance and joy on the Quad. The University rescheduled a traditional Commencement for Oct. 31.
“I know that this is not how we pictured this day would go. Nobody could have anticipated that we would be spread all across the world right now as we are,” said Student Government President Mellie Mesfin ’20 in her video remarks. “But we are, and that hurts.”

She quoted a classmate: “Let’s remember that we are not just the class of COVID-19.” Living in the dorms, inside jokes, the trees in autumn, the glow of Wait Chapel after a long night and “hellos” that turned into hours of conversation compose personal memories over four years that “are so much more” than the pandemic, she said.

President Nathan Hatch, a historian, relayed how history marks what happened before, and what happened afterward.

“Before the American Revolution. After the Great Depression. Before World War II. After Sept. 11.” Whether globally or personally, the before and after is “a dividing line, an indicator of change, a measure of transformation.”

Graduates are experiencing the “before-today” moment of being students, he said, and the “after-today” moment of being alumni. COVID-19 is “another before-and-after moment that all of us are experiencing. … We will remember what it was like before we were asked to keep safe distance from one another, and we will be responsible for shaping the world after recovering from global crisis.”

He said, “In just a few short months this crisis has prepared you, our future leaders, in ways no typical education could. Because of our circumstances, you have learned to be remarkably flexible and resilient.” He called the graduates uniquely equipped to face the world’s needs “as instruments of goodwill and beacons of hope.”

The video had moments of surprise — a drone flying over iconic buildings, deserted parking lots and the Quad painted like a football field in honor of graduates. Entertainers Tina Fey, Carson Daly, Jon Stewart, Tracy Morgan and Jimmy Kimmel offered congratulatory messages.

“You guys have done it,” said Fey. “You studied. You persevered. You were determined. You were focused.” She grimaced and grabbed her face: “You finished AT HOME.” No matter the subjects studied, she said, “we need you in the world. Come on in.”

Stewart apologized for “such a weird graduation for you,” then begged. “You’re a talented and hard-working group, and I have just one request, if I could: Save us! Save us! Get to work! Save us!”

NBA star and Wake Forest legend Chris Paul ’07 wrapped up the tributes: “The memories that you have created, I think, will carry you on to whatever your next adventure in life is. … The best thing you can do in these times and even going forward is stay connected.”

The video underscored that sentiment of connections forged through good times and bad. The alma mater rang out from the carillon, and words from the beginning of the video had lasting effect: “Welcome Home Forever.” If Mesfin was correct, all over the world families and alumni saluted this class that had endured upheaval and uncertainty. Those friends and families, too, had experienced their own “before-and-after” moments in previous months. All over the world they stood with — and for — the Class of 2020, awaiting the day a campus filled with Deacons would hum again.

See the video at commencement.wfu.edu/vcd/
Reality Shift
Virus dramatically alters campus life

**THE SPRING SEMESTER** brought historic change on campus with the arrival of coronavirus in North Carolina. President Nathan O. Hatch described the necessary steps taken to fight the spread of COVID-19 as “the greatest disruption to higher education in our lifetime.”

The University asked students not to return to campus after spring break as it suspended in-person classes. By April, more than 700 faculty were teaching 2,400 courses remotely, Provost Rogan Kersh ('86) reported. Campus events were canceled, and faculty and staff worked from home.

Several hundred students remained on or near campus because they couldn’t travel home or lacked other options. Facilities workers cleared vacant single rooms so students remaining on campus could move into them to accommodate social distancing. Study abroad programs were suspended.

Several students tested positive for COVID-19 after returning from a Wake Forest-sponsored trip to London. All recovered in isolation.

The Wake Forest community pulled together, working on options for supporting or reassigning staff whose work was suspended and caring for work-study students’ needs. State and local directives to close non-essential businesses, shelter in place and practice social distancing led to closing campus to all but a few essential employees.

Plans began for a virtual conferring of degrees in lieu of Commencement on the Quad. The first and second sessions of in-person summer classes were canceled, to be replaced with remote instruction.

Faculty, staff and students worked on creative ways to stay connected, such as a virtual Wake ‘N Shake dance marathon and a podcast with submitted spoken-word poems and videos to virtually celebrate the annual garden party honoring the late Professor Maya Angelou (LHD ’77). The University expects to resume classes on campus and study abroad programs in the fall.

Wake Foresters reached out locally in many ways, with remote tutoring for grade-school students, stimulus check application advice from law faculty and students, expanded charity medical care and reaffirmed support for the ‘Purpose Built’ program in the Boston Thurmond neighborhood.

President Hatch shared inspiration and gratitude with messages to the University community.

“I could not be more grateful and proud of the Wake Forest community for the way it is banding together to meet these profound challenges,” Hatch wrote. “I have witnessed a remarkable weaving together of expertise, goodwill, cooperation, tireless work, strategic thinking and good humor. It is a privilege to be on a ship like Wake Forest amidst fierce winds and rising tides.”
Searching for hope, a senior grieves a year interrupted

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

THE FIRST TIME I used Zoom, I felt like a hungry person sitting down to a feast. Each time another face popped up on the screen, I felt an extra beat in my heart and a lift in my smile. Oh, the laughter and voices of my classmates! It was the most beautiful song to my ears. I couldn’t get enough.

As classes began the next week, each Zoom call felt like I was back in Tribble. Conversations were strong and vibrant. I was, surprisingly, satiated.

But, slowly, Zoom became insufficient. In one of my favorite English classes during spring semester, my professor often played music as we walked into class. Our “hellos” and “how are yous” were set to the soundtrack of a lively Irish jig or a gloomy folk ballad. The first time we met online, my professor recreated the experience, playing music over his speaker as we gathered. I grinned, pleased by his thoughtfulness to continue this tradition.

But, truthfully, it just didn’t work. The guitar turned brassy as it traveled through multiple speakers, and our voices were muffled.

A few days later, I gathered on Zoom with a group of peers I meet with weekly. One of my dear friends, when sharing her thoughts, cried. I could see the shimmer of her tears. I could hear her broken snuffle. And there was nothing I could do. As she cried, I envisioned what this would have been like a few weeks earlier: There we were, in the room where we met every week, gathered around her. When she began to cry, a friend rested a hand on her knee. I wiped her tears with my thumbs. Hugged her. Told her I loved her.

But there I was — utterly helpless — idly watching a 2-by-1-inch video of her crying. And there she was, feeling utterly alone. As I watched her head fall and her knees tuck into her chest, it was remarkably obvious that we humans weren’t made to ache alone.

I am one of the many college students whose semester was cut short because of the tragedy our world faced this year. My classmates have experienced hardship — turmoil in finances, families, health. We worry about each other. We worry about the men and women who, every day, served us warm meals, planted flowers outside our bedroom windows and washed our bathrooms, and we miss them.

I’ve had long conversations with my friends about all the things that make us sad, and even angry, about missing during our last semester. Senior Sendoff. Shag on the Mag. Our professors. Final concerts, recitals, plays. The Quad on the first spring day. Watching the first magnolia bloom. Commencement.

Out of all these losses, one unites them all: we are without the privilege of suffering together, in the richness and fullness of our community.

In many bright, endearing and original ways, Wake Foresters have tried to make it feel like we are together. One student hosts virtual yoga class to facilitate community around exercise. My over-planned generation is learning the art of the spontaneous phone call. Students are enjoying sharing songs, art, poetry, photographs, recipes, which, as they are heard and viewed and tasted and smelled, feel more human.

Joy and beauty fill these moments. How thankful we are that we have technology at our fingertips! But each glitch and lag and difference of time zone reminds us that, still, things are not as they should be.

If I’ve learned anything about my classmates during times of grief, it’s that we are meaning-makers.

Even now, we share meaning with one another. We’ve learned a valuable lesson about the lesser-known translation of our University’s motto: for humanness. Embodied and finite, it’s our humanness, and our craving for human connection, that makes us one.

I long for the day the sun rises on a crowded campus. We’ll lie arm to arm on the grassy Quad. We’ll meet in the Pit and greet the staff. We’ll gather for drinks at Zick’s and for dinner in our professors’ homes. We’ll lean in when we are having a conversation, make eye contact, shake hands, hug. The chapel bells will ring, and we’ll remember all we missed when we were apart. And we’ll remember our humanness. For then, together, we will be able to best serve our humanity.

Katherine Laws of Concord, North Carolina, co-chaired Traditions Council and served as a President’s Aide and a tour guide before graduating in May. She will be a Wake Forest Fellow in the Office of Personal and Career Development next academic year.
The Steering Committee of Wake Forest’s *Slavery, Race and Memory Project*, established in spring 2019 to provide a structure for understanding the past and addressing community inequities, was working this spring toward making formal recommendations later this year. The project evolved from Wake Forest joining the Universities Studying Slavery (USS) consortium in 2017. The project has co-sponsored events that include speakers such as David Ikard, a Vanderbilt University professor of African American and Diaspora Studies, and a public conversation among alumni and students. bit.ly/2QltSmC See the president’s institutional apology for benefiting from slavery on page 76.

Lawrence D. “Larry” Hopkins (‘72, MD ’77, P ’12) and Winston Louis Bissette Jr. (’65, P ’94) received the University’s Medallion of Merit at the Founders’ Day Convocation on Feb. 20 in Wait Chapel. The award is the highest honor bestowed by Wake Forest. Hopkins, a University trustee, is a well-known physician in Winston-Salem who has made it his mission to care for the community. Bissette, a trustee, attorney and public servant, spent 40 years revitalizing his community of Asheville, NC. bit.ly/2Po8zoQ

This fall, Wake Forest plans to launch the Face to Face Speaker Forum in Winston-Salem, which will feature former Secretaries of State Madeleine Albright (1997-2001) and Colin Powell (2001-2005); Yo-Yo Ma, cellist, cultural ambassador and United Nations Messenger of Peace; and Malcolm Gladwell, journalist and author of “Talking to Strangers,” “The Tipping Point,” “Blink” and “Outliers.” Go to facetoface.wfu.edu for dates and tickets for the events, all at LJVM Coliseum.

Provost Rogan Kersh (‘86) shared in his newsletter how a proposed partnership between Wake Forest and Atrium Health offers a foundation for potentially expanding programs in Charlotte, in addition to Wake Forest’s executive business and lifelong learning programs already there. The School of Medicine has announced plans to open a branch medical school campus there with new facilities and use of existing Atrium hospital and training facilities.

Steve Forbes was named the head men’s basketball coach, succeeding Danny Manning. Forbes led East Tennessee State University to two Southern Conference championships in five years. He has a 260-77 overall record in five years.
Wake Forest inducted five former All-Americans and a major figure in college football history into the University’s Sports Hall of Fame on Feb. 1. They are Butkus Award-winning linebacker Aaron Curry (’08), record-setting pitcher and assistant baseball coach John Hendricks (’00), Wake Forest and Olympic field hockey standout Michelle Kasold (’09), soccer All-Americans Michael Parkhurst (’06) and Marcus Tracy (’08) and the late former football quarterback Freddie Summers (’65).

A weekend of celebrations in early February honored the first African American women to integrate residential dorms at Wake Forest. One of the panel discussions included (second from left in photo) Deborah Graves McFarlane (’73), Linda Holiday (’73), who completed her degree at N.C. A&T State University, Beth Norbrey Hopkins (’73, P ’12), Awilda Gilliam Neal (’73, P ’02) and Camille Russell Love (’73), a Winston-Salem native who enrolled as a day student in 1970. Left, trustee Donna Boswell (’72, MA ’74) moderated. Alumni and current students shared their range of experiences and support for each other.

The Wake Forest School of Law National Trial Team was named Feb. 10 as Region 5 champion in the 2020 Texas Young Lawyers Association National Trial Competition. The team would have competed at the national tournament in April, which was canceled in light of the coronavirus threat.

Lilly Endowment Inc. awarded Wake Forest a $3.4 million grant to develop and expand its Program for Leadership and Character, which weaves together the liberal arts and character education. The funds will support student programming, faculty engagement and academic research. The grant also provides for assessments to determine the impact of programming on students. The University is exploring ways to teach students to be ethical leaders whose values, virtues and vision orient them toward the common good, regardless of their field of study.


The Carnegie Foundation named Wake Forest as one of 119 U.S. colleges and universities to receive the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification. The classification results from a rigorous self-study by an institution and a review by a national committee formed by the Swearer Center at Brown University.

Wake Forest employees Shannon Ashford and Darlene Starnes and students Neicy Myers (’20) and Liz Torres-Ramirez (’20) were among those recognized as this year’s “Building the Dream” winners in commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr. Ashford is associate director of diversity education in the Office of Diversity & Inclusion. Starnes is human resources project manager. Myers is a sociology major and resident adviser. Torres-Ramirez is a politics and international affairs major and a Magnolia Scholar. The winners were recognized during the King keynote address in Wait Chapel on Jan. 20. The speaker was Ibram X. Kendi, professor of history and international relations at American University and founding director of its Antiracist Research and Policy Center. bit.ly/37j6O3h

Dylan King (’20), a mathematics and computer science major from Walnut Cove, NC, was awarded a Marshall Scholarship to complete a master’s degree in pure mathematics at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom. Established in 1953 to commemorate the Marshall Plan, the scholarships provide for two years of graduate study in the UK. King is one of 44 Americans receiving the scholarships this year.

NBA All-Star Kyle Korver, one of the league’s best sharpshooters, took part in a conversation with School of Divinity Dean Jonathan Walton on Jan. 29 in Wait Chapel as part of Wake Forest’s “Voices of Our Time” series. Korver has garnered national recognition and initiated a larger conversation around racism. He received the NBA’s 2015 Sportmanship Award.

Michelle D. Mitchell, assistant professor of counseling, won the Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development’s 2020 Young Emerging Leader Award.

Wake Forest received the 2020 National Career Development Association’s Exemplary Career Center Program Award. The award honors programs by the Office of Personal and Career Development and other services.

Wake ’N Shake, the 12-hour dance marathon tradition on campus to raise money to fight cancer, moved to Instagram on April 4 with shared photos and videos because of COVID-19. Participants in the virtual event raised $383,550 for the Brian Piccolo Cancer Research Fund. Piccolo (’65, P ’87, ’89), a Wake Forest football player, was a running back for the Chicago Bears who died of cancer at age 26. The 1971 TV movie “Brian’s Song” about Piccolo’s deepening friendship with Bears teammate Gayle Sayers after Piccolo was stricken with cancer has long been a must-watch film for Wake Foresters.

Wake Forest had the most wins among colleges in the 11th annual North Carolina Chinese Speech Contest held March 28 online by the Confucius Institute at UNC Charlotte. First-prize winners were Elisabeth Kuguru (’23) and Alex Casale (’20). Second-prize winners were Jake Waldman (’22) and Brae Troutman (’22).

Call to Conversation dinners, given the need for social distancing, forged ahead with virtual conversations. Among the spring events online were conversations around “Resilience” with Daniella Feijoo (’19), a 2019-2020 Wake Forest Fellow, and Ashley Hawkins Parham (MA ’12) from the Office of Wellbeing; the pandemic’s impact on gender roles with Steph Trilling, director of the Women’s Center; and “Leadership and Character in a Time of Coronavirus” with Michael Lamb, director of the Program for Leadership and Character and an assistant professor of politics, ethics and interdisciplinary humanities.
President Nathan O. Hatch issues apology ‘to acknowledge the past failures of our institution’

He presented these remarks at the Founders’ Day Convocation Feb. 20 in Wait Chapel:

HISTORIAN JILL LEPORE once wrote that our history is a gift and a burden. In all of our pasts, we find a mixture of glory and shame, occasions to celebrate and times to mourn. History is the story of real people — flawed and fallible. Because of that, there are parts of our stories — as a nation, as a University and as individuals — that we revere; and there are parts of our stories that are reprehensible. How we address the good and the bad of our past is the foundation upon which we can build our future.

To acknowledge our history, accept responsibility and hold our institution accountable allows us to repair the harm and move toward a better Wake Forest.

As you may know, Wake Forest was founded in eastern North Carolina on the former “Forest of Wake” plantation in 1834. Our founder and all of the antebellum presidents owned enslaved people; many of our trustees were slaveholders; and some of our students perpetuated slavery. Enslaved people helped build and maintain the College. We know that as many as 16 enslaved individuals, given to the College, were sold to benefit the institution financially. Wake Forest University was a full participant in the slave economy.

Our involvement in the institution of slavery is harsh evidence that our realities fell far short of our aspiration. We acquiesced to the times and lacked the moral imagination to envision better for all. Like those who went before us, we can be blinded by our own privilege. We must challenge the logic and end the systems that caused, and continue to cause, significant harm to individuals, our institution and society.

Therefore, it is important and overdue that, on behalf of Wake Forest University, I unequivocally apologize for participating in and benefitted from the institution of slavery. I apologize for the exploitation and use of enslaved people — both those known and unknown — who helped create and build this University through no choice of their own. I apologize that our founders did not recognize and support the humanity and intrinsic value of those they enslaved. And I profoundly regret that subsequent generations of this University did not affirm the humanity of the enslaved individuals who made our existence possible.

As the years pass, each generation has come to comprehend more clearly the injustices that accompanied our founding. With that increased vision and understanding, they have attempted to right that which was wrong. My apology today is not about what you or I did, or did not do, in the past; it is a matter of whether we, as members of this community, are going to take responsibility for the lasting effects of past choices.

There is no perfect moment to acknowledge the past failures of our institution. For some, this apology comes too late; for others, it seems unnecessary. It is necessary. Addressing this part of our story allows us to begin reckoning with the community we were and shape the community we want to be.

There is also no complete solution for how we reconcile with this egregious element of our past. Words alone cannot undo the injustices that were done and the pain that was inflicted, but they can offer a commitment to greater understanding and genuine compassion for those whose experience falls short of our ideals.

Acknowledging past wrongs and taking responsibility are only the start of repairing damage and pursuing healing. A true apology requires taking action and incorporating meaningful change. Many among our campus community have been working to seek and understand a more complete truth of our story. Their findings and forthcoming recommendations will help address past and present inequities and guide future action.

This is a journey we are on together. Today, we acknowledge where our path began. And today, we pledge to one another that we will not forget our history — nor will we let the humanity of any be forgotten — as we move forward. We are committed, together, to live up to our highest ideals, lifting everyone to that standard, as one Wake Forest.

Thank you.
A scholarship winner himself, Bill Wells (’74) retires, having put philanthropic dollars to work for worthy students.

By Kerry M. King (’85)

Bill Wells (’74) loves to tell a good story. When you ask him how he ended up at Wake Forest — as a student, not as the director of financial aid for two decades; that comes later — he meanders back to the early 1900s to mix in family history, Wake Forest history and North Carolina Baptist history, and the influence of his older brother, Jim (’70).

The Wells boys — Jim, Bill and their younger brother, Stuart — grew up in eastern North Carolina. When Jim was considering which college to attend, family friend Robert Lee Humber (1918, MA 1919, LL.B. 1921, LL.D. ’49, P ’51) encouraged him to look at Wake Forest. Humber, a Rhodes Scholar and Wake Forest trustee, even called Bill Starling (’57), then director of admissions, to ask, “What can you do for Jim?” Starling found some scholarship money, and Jim Wells enrolled in 1966.

Bill Wells chokes up telling this story, because his brother’s scholarship would end up changing his life, too. A couple of years later, Jim told Bill about a new scholarship at Wake Forest named for Guy (1922, LL.D. ’62) and Clara Carswell. Bill applied for and received the scholarship, one of Wake Forest’s most prestigious awards. “We were not poor, but I couldn’t have come here without a scholarship,” he says. “Financial aid from Wake Forest made a huge difference in my life’s path.”

Years later, Bill Wells’ path brought him back to Wake Forest. He’s spent the past 22 years answering a version of Humber’s question: “What can he do to make it possible for deserving young people, regardless of their family’s financial circumstances, to attend Wake Forest?” Wells, 68, is retiring as director of financial aid after helping thousands of students receive scholarships and financial aid.

Wells has consistently championed access and improved affordability for underserved students. He’s grateful to the alumni, parents and friends whose generosity funds scholarships and financial aid. It’s all about “sending the ladder back down,” he says. “Those of us who have had the privilege to experience something as great as a Wake Forest education” should help others climb that ladder. “When you get to a place in life when you can afford to help talented young people who cannot afford to enroll in a great school like Wake Forest, then you should do everything you can to help make it possible for them.”

His efforts have been bolstered by the Wake Will Lead campaign, which surpassed the $1 billion milestone last fall. Donors have given more than $300 million to fund scholarships and financial aid. In addition to creating numerous new scholarships, those funds have also allowed the University to lower the loan amount for students receiving financial aid by increasing grants that don’t have to be repaid. Debt decreased by 30% from the Class of 2014 to the Class of 2019. In 2013-14, the average grant to students with need covered less than half the cost of attendance; today, grants cover two-thirds. About 30% percent of undergraduates receive need-based financial aid.

Wells’ commitment to students begins with his own story growing up in Greenville, North Carolina, in a family steeped in Baptist and Wake Forest history. His great-grandfather, James Shelton Wrenn, attended Wake Forest in the mid-1880s. “We always talked about Wake Forest with great reverence,” he says. “Wake Forest was a big deal.” His father was a small-business owner and later a life insurance agent who couldn’t have afforded to send two sons to Wake Forest. “The Carswell Scholarship changed my life,” Wells says simply.

When Wells arrived on campus, he met another Carswell Scholar named Tom Phillips (’74, MA ’78, P ’06), who was one of his suitmates in Davis dorm. Phillips is retiring as associate dean and director of the Wake Forest Scholars program the same day that Wells is retiring (see pg. 66). Wells majored in history and joined Sigma Chi fraternity. (He’s been the faculty-staff adviser for Sigma Chi for 20 years).

After graduating, Wells earned master’s degrees in history and higher education from UNC. He taught history briefly at a prep school before going back to UNC for additional graduate studies in history and higher education. He started working in the financial aid office as a student, found he enjoyed the work, and stayed at UNC for 20 years before returning to Wake Forest in 1998.

Wells and his wife, Sally, live within walking distance of campus. He doesn’t plan to go far after he retires. He’ll continue to work part time on the University’s enrollment strategy. “There’s nothing we could be doing that’s any more important,” he says, “that has a broader impact on people’s lives, and ultimately, improving society, than giving talented young people the opportunity to achieve.”
Pro Humanitate From Home
#GoodWearsBlack

Through challenging circumstances this spring, Wake Foresters everywhere still demonstrated their Pro Humanitate spirit to serve others, even from the confines of home. The 10th annual Pro Humanitate Days took on a different look since alumni couldn’t collectively gather to make a difference in their communities. Instead, the Alumni Engagement Office encouraged alumni to respond to the coronavirus pandemic in whatever ways they could to show the world that #GoodWearsBlack. Here’s a sampling.

Virtual story time is growing with Wake Reads! Thanks to, among others, Sarah Cave (’89, P ’23), Shelley Graves Sizemore (’06, MA ’09), Caroline Kenney (’21) and Taylor Thornton (’22).

Kathy McMurtry Snead (’76, P ’11) developed science units for her neighborhood children in Fairfax, Virginia.

@RickHarkey (’86, P ’20): Wake Foresters are made to lead in times like these, our world needs the spirit of #ProHumanitate more than ever.


Malina Reed Gaynor (’76) volunteered at Carilion Roanoke (VA) Memorial Hospital.

Tina Graven Kneisel (’93, P ’19) and her family wrote thank-you notes to postal and health care workers.

@cityofwspolice: Thanks to Mr. (Ben) Sutton (’80, JD ’83, P ’14, ’19) for buying all WSPD officers lunch and dinner today.

Sue Selvey (’75) sewed face masks and donated them to a local senior assisted living facility in Goose Creek, South Carolina.

@wilsonhoyle (’89, P ’19): “Feed the Fight” has delivered over 300 meals to health care workers in NYC!

Susan Nix Tait (’71) volunteered at the Clemmons (NC) Food Pantry.

Holly H. Brower (’83) served breakfast and dinner at the Samaritan Inn in Winston-Salem.

Jeffrey Neal Isaac (’81): “I was stuck in a 17-story building (in Ft. Lauderdale, FL), so several times during the period I went out on my balcony and played my flugelhorn.”

“Pro Humanitate is the cord that binds Wake Forest alumni together. You can find a way to serve or donate wherever you live — even if you are like me and are a Joplin, Missouri, Wake Forest Community of One. Let’s show the world why we are proud to be Deacons.” —Jane Cage (’78)

@WFUAlumni: McCreary Modern, an upholstery manufacturer owned by Bob McCreary (’61), has produced & donated over 5,000 Class II surgical-quality masks with a goal of 38,000!

Chicago White Sox and ESPN announcer Jason Benetti (JD ’11) encouraged people to send him messages of hope and caring that he shared @JasonBenetti. “There’s healing of the soul in love and connection, even if we don’t know each other.”

Jessica Ryan (’05) volunteered to foster animals through her county’s Humane Society.

Patricia Powell (’76) worked with fellow Master Gardeners to grow vegetables for a local food pantry.

Need some inspiration? Watch Wake the Arts performances.

Join the Movement Challenge and receive access to free online fitness classes.

Watch the video series “Coping with Corona” with psychology professor Christian Waugh.

Working remotely?
Read “Mentoring When the World is on Fire” by Allison McWilliams (’95).

Read “What It Takes to Run a Great Virtual Meeting” from the Harvard Business Review.


Are you a caregiver?
“Visit” Old Salem through online field trips for children.

Read “Boom. You’re a sandwich,” on the challenges of caring for parents and children.

Hungry for some brain food?
View Reynolda House’s online galleries.

Learn the history of Graylyn International Conference Center.

Listen to “Social Distancing: This is as real as it gets” podcast by Dr. James Hamblin (’05).
1940s

Herb Appenzeller (’48, MA ’51, P ’90) wrote his 29th book shortly before he died on Jan. 5, 2018. His widow, Ann Terrell Appenzeller (P ’90), has published the book, “Legends from the Locker Room” (Carolina Academic Press), which is about his time as a football player at Wake Forest, his early coaching days and his long tenure as athletic director at Guilford College.

1960s


Fred Morrison Jr. (JD ’63) was honored for 50 years of public service by the North Carolina Bar Association and state Supreme Court Chief Justice Cheri Beasley. Morrison has been an administr- ative law judge for 33 years. He was legal counsel to Govs. Bob Scott and James Holshouser and was the first executive director of the North Car- olina Inmate Grievance Commission. He has been active in the Jaycees’ growth and role in rehabili- tating prisoners. He lives in Raleigh.

Herbert William “Bill” Constangy (’64) has written “Noncompe- tate Law,” a new national legal treatise (LexisNexis Matthew Bender). Constangy is a retired North Carolina Superior Court judge who is an active arbitrator and mediator and a certified Superior Court mediator. He was selected for a second term as an associate editor of the American Bar Association Labor and Employment Law Reporter. He lives in Charlotte.

Dan McGinn (’64, JD ’67, P ’90) was named to the 2020 North Carolina Super Lawyers list for employment and labor law. He is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, NC.

Louis Bissette Jr. (’65, P ’94) was awarded the 2020 Medallion of Merit, Wake Forest’s highest honor. Bissette, an attorney for nearly 40 years, is a former mayor of Asheville, NC. He helped spearhead downtown development in Asheville and chaired the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Coalition. He received the North Carolina Order of the Long Leaf Pine from the governor. He earned Wake Forest’s Distinguished Alumni Award in 2015 and was named a University Life Trustee in 2017.

Stephen J. Bozarth (’65) retired from the Orlando, FL, law firm Dean, Meat, Egerton, Bloodworth, Capouano & Bozarth PA, which he co-founded in 1980. He practiced law for more than 51 years, specializing in real estate law, and was listed in numerous “best of” publications, including Florida Super Lawyers and Best Law- yers in America. He is looking forward to spending more time with family, including his wife, Sharon Spelzhausen Bozarth (’65).

1970s


Kathryn Watson Quigg (’71) received the highest honor given for literary fiction from the Military Writers Society of America for her book, “To Any Soldier: A Novel of Vietnam Letters” (Universe), which she co-wrote with G.C. “Pete” Hendricks. Quigg, a writer based in Wake Forest, NC, is a past chair of the Wake County Board of Education, a former board member of the Wake Forest College Birthplace Society, a watercolor artist and a certified reality therapist. She has a first-degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do.

Mark “Pops” Craven (’72) is a painter and sculptor who goes by Pops the artist. Craven had a long business career as owner of an upscale clothing store and a retail liquidator before deciding to pursue his lifelong dream of being an artist. He went back to school at UNC Greens- boro and graduated magna cum laude with a degree in art in 2018. He lives in Kennesaw, NC. More at bit.ly/2vY9fdR

Larry Hopkins (’72, MD ’77, P ’12) was awarded the 2020 Medallion of Merit, Wake Forest’s highest honor. Hopkins, a University trustee and former Alumni Council member, is a practicing OB-GYN and assistant professor at Wake Forest School of Medicine. He became the co-director of the newly created Women’s Health Center in Winston-Salem in 1994 and has worked to improve prenatal care and reduce infant mor- tality rates. He earned the Distinguished Alumni Award in 1987 for his service to the University and surrounding community.

William Clarence Mann (MBA ’74, P ’16) of Winston-Salem retired after 45 years with Wachovia/Wells Fargo. He served in retail, small business and commercial banking roles until 1991, when he joined the community relations/ corporate philanthropy group. Among his roles, he had been community relations leader of the bank’s eastern U.S. markets since 2012.

Clint McCown (’74, MA ’78) was named to the Wake Forest Writers Hall of Fame. He is a poet, novelist and journal editor and the only two- time winner of the American Fiction Prize for his short stories. His novels include “The Mem- ber-Guest,” “War Memorials,” “The Weather- man” and “Haints.” His five volumes of poetry include “The Dictionary of Unspellable Noises: New & Selected Poems, 1975-2018.” McCown lives outside Richmond, VA. More on pg. 64.

Tom Phillips (’74, MA ’78, P ’06) is retiring after more than four decades at Wake Forest. He was most recently associate dean and director of the Wake Forest Scholars program. He also worked with undergraduate merit-based scholarships and helped students apply for prestigious post- graduate scholarships, including the Rhodes and Fulbright. Phillips helped start the Wake For- est Writers Hall of Fame and the Words Awake! events. More on pg. 66.

Bill Wells (’74) is retiring this summer after 22 years as director of financial aid at Wake Forest. He has made it possible for thousands of stu- dents to attend Wake Forest and will continue to work on the University’s enrollment strategy as a part-time consultant. More on pg. 77.

Steve Duin (’76, MA ’79) was named to the Wake Forest Writers Hall of Fame. He has been an award-winning metro columnist for more than 25 years at The Oregonian in Portland, OR, and has
Eric Olson (’77, PhD ’81, D.Sc. ’03), a renowned molecular biologist, was named by Wake Forest as a Distinguished Alumni Award recipient for 2020. He is founding chair of the University of Texas Southwestern Department of Molecular Biology and leads the Hamon Center for Regenerative Science and Medicine. He has won numerous prestigious science prizes. Olson, also a rock guitarist, holds a professorship in stem cell research established at UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas by Willie and Annie Nelson. He received Wake Forest’s Distinguished Alumni Award in Chemistry in 2016. He is married to pediatrician Laurie Clark (MD ’81).

Johnny Foster (’78) received the 2020 Gene Hooks Achievement Award from the Wake Forest athletics department. The award, named for former athletics director Gene Hooks (’50, P ’81), recognizes a former athlete, manager or coach who embodies integrity, leadership and Pro Humanitate. Foster was a student manager for the football team and is an unofficial “alumni captain,” who keeps football alumni connected to the program. He lives in Bel Air, MD, and is president of Skytech Inc., an aircraft sales, maintenance and charter company.

Hallie Arrington Hearn (’76, MAEd ’88) was elected to the board of the Wake Forest College Birthplace Society. She is the great-great-great-granddaughter of Samuel Wait, Wake Forest’s founder and first president.

Anthony “Andy” Penry (’76, JD ’79) was appointed as a North Carolina delegate to the Uniform Law Commission by Gov. Roy Cooper. Penry is an adjunct professor at Wake Forest School of Law and a partner at Penry Riemann PLLC in Raleigh.

Sue James Hendricks (MBA ’79, P ’81, ’86) and her son, Chris Hendricks (’86), have co-authored a cookbook, “Old Southern Cookery: Recipes from America’s first regional cookbook adapted for today’s kitchen” (Globe Pequot). The book modernizes dozens of historical recipes from Mary Randolph’s 1824 cookbook, “The Virginia House-Wife; Or, Methodical Cook,” considered the first real American cookbook. Sue Hendricks is a former writer and editor for the Winston-Salem Journal. Chris Hendricks is an author and history professor at Georgia Southern University. Her late husband, Ed Hendricks (P ’81, ’86), was a longtime history professor at Wake Forest.

Bob Singer (JD ’79) was named to the 2020 North Carolina Super Lawyers list for banking law. He is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, NC.

Don Vaughan (JD ’79) was selected to ring the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange on Jan. 2, 2020. Vaughan is an attorney in Greensboro, NC, and a member of the board of directors of Blue Ridge Bank, which was admitted to the stock exchange earlier this year. He is also an adjunct professor at Wake Forest School of Law and a former state senator.
1980s

Jerry T. Myers (’80, JD ’84) was named to the 2020 North Carolina Super Lawyers list for creditor debtor rights. He is managing partner at Smith Debnam in Raleigh.

Stephen Amidon (’81) was named to the Wake Forest Writers Hall of Fame. He is a novelist, film critic and screenwriter. His seven novels include “The Real Justine,” “Security” and “Human Capital.” He is also the author of a collection of short stories and two nonfiction books. His novel “Human Capital” was adapted into a film in the United States and Italy. “Security” has also been adapted into a film, scheduled for release in Italy in 2021. Amidon lives in Massachusetts and Turin, Italy. More on pg. 62.

Katherine Clay Bassard (’81, P ’17) was named provost and vice president for academic affairs at Rhodes College in Memphis, TN. She also will be a professor of English and Africana studies. She was formerly vice provost for faculty affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University.

W. Jack Campbell (’81) received the Outstanding Eagle Scout Award from the National Eagle Scout Association. Campbell, a retired U.S. Navy officer, is a senior executive for the Defense Intelligence Agency in Washington, DC.

John D. Martin (’81) was named to the 2020 North Carolina Super Lawyers list for medical malpractice, defense. He is a trial lawyer and managing partner at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Wilmington, NC.

Michael “Mike” G. Riley (’81) was named to the Wake Forest Writers Hall of Fame after a distinguished career as an editor on the front lines of digital journalism. He is president and editor in chief of The Chronicle of Higher Education Inc. and the creator of allpolitics.com, one of the nation’s first national political websites. He has been a correspondent and bureau chief for Time magazine, innovative editor of The Roanoke (VA) Times, editor and senior vice president of Congressional Quarterly and editorial director of Bloomberg Government. More on pg. 63.

Ted Smyth (JD ’81) was named to the 2020 North Carolina Super Lawyers list for insurance coverage. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Raleigh.

Bettie Kelley Sousa (JD ’81, P ’10) was named to the 2020 North Carolina Super Lawyers list for business litigation. She is a partner at Smith Debnam in Raleigh.

M. Joseph Allman (’82, JD ’86, P ’15, ’19) was recognized in the 2019 edition of Best Lawyers in America for real estate law. He is a shareholder and director at Allman Spry Davis Leggett & Crumpler PA in Winston-Salem.

Kelly Church (’82) was named to the board of directors of the Keep Kids Fire Safe Foundation (KKFSF), a nonprofit based in Clarksville, AR, that teaches fire-safety skills to children. Church lives in Wilkesboro, NC, and spent 25 years in information technology at Lowe’s. After retiring, she started a second career as bookstore manager at Wilkes Community College. She has owned two Dalmatians, which led her to support “Molly the Fire Safety Dog” and the KKFSF.

Maria Henson (’82) was named to the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame. Henson is associate vice president and editor-at-large at Wake Forest, where she oversees Wake Forest Magazine and teaches journalism. She received the 1992 Pulitzer Prize for editorial writing for her series in the Lexington (KY) Herald-Leader about battered women. She also edited a series that won a 2005 Pulitzer Prize when she was deputy editorial page editor of The Sacramento (CA) Bee.

Melissa E. McMorries (JD ’82) was named to Georgia Trend magazine’s 2019 Legal Elite for Taxes/Estates/Trusts Law. She is an attorney at Taylor English Duma LLP in Atlanta.

Eric R. Spence (JD ’82) was named to the 2020 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for commercial real estate law. He is of counsel at Ragsdale Liggett PLLC in Raleigh.

Margaret Shea Burnham (JD ’83) received the 2019 Julian Nexsen Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year Award for her work the last 10 years with the Guilford County Teen Court diversion program. She is a commercial real estate attorney with Nexsen Pruett LLC in Greensboro, NC.

Becky Garrison (’83) has released a book, “Roger Williams’ Little Book of Virtues” (Wipf & Stock), which delves into the life of the 17th-century leader known for his ardent support of religious freedom. Garrison is a religion writer based in Portland, OR, and a direct descendant of Williams.

Jonathan Kirkendall (’83) is a psychotherapist in private practice who volunteered and worked for Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), a national nonprofit that offers bereavement care for military families. The youngest son of Baptist missionaries, he grew up in Beirut, Lebanon, and Tehran, Iran, during war and conflict there. Kirkendall and his husband, Scott Perkins, live in Washington, DC. More at bit.ly/2RwggxOk

Mytrae Reddy Meliana (’83) has published her memoir, “Brown Skin Girl: An Indian-American Woman’s Magical Journey from Broken to Beautiful.” After her family moved from India to America when she was young, she was determined to avoid an arranged marriage and break from her family’s expectations and centuries-old traditions to forge her own life. She is a women’s empowerment and spiritual teacher and lives in the San Francisco Bay area.

John Ormand III (’84, P ’19, ’22) was named to the 2020 North Carolina Super Lawyers list for business litigation. He is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Raleigh.

Jim W. Phillips Jr. (JD ’84) was named to the 2020 North Carolina Super Lawyers list for business litigation and recognized as one of the state’s top 100 Lawyers. He was also named to Business North Carolina’s 2020 Legal Elite for litigation. He is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, NC.

William W. Pollock (’84) was named to the 2020 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for construction, insurance and product liability litigation. He was also named to Business North Carolina’s 2020 Legal Elite for litigation and construction law. He is a partner at Ragsdale Liggett PLLC in Raleigh.

Kim Bissette Hoffman (’85) was named one of “America’s Top 1,200 Financial Advisors” by Barron’s, a leading financial publication by Dow Jones & Company. Hoffman has worked at Edward Jones in Wilson, NC, since 1994 and is ranked as one of the firm’s top 25 financial advisors out of 18,000. She has nearly 700 clients and oversees $426 million.

Max Rodden (’85, JD ’91) was named to the 2020 North Carolina Super Lawyers list for family law. He is a partner at Smith Debnam LLP in Raleigh.

Byron Saintsing (’85) was named to the 2020 North Carolina Super Lawyers list for construction litigation. He is a partner at Smith Debnam in Raleigh.
Richard Everett Bristow (MA ‘86) was part of the directing team for the winner of the 2019 Georgia High School Association Class AA One Act Play State Championship. The play was Steve Martin’s “Bright Star.” Bristow teaches theatre at Gordon Central High School in Calhoun, GA.

Robert “Bob” Gilchrist (‘86) is the U.S. Ambassador to Lithuania. He is a career foreign service officer and was previously director of the Operations Center at the State Department. He has also served in U.S. Embassies in Sweden, Estonia, Iraq and Romania. More at bit.ly/323muG

Beth Langley (‘86, JD ‘92) was named to the 2020 North Carolina Super Lawyers list for employment and labor law. She was also named to Business North Carolina’s 2020 Legal Elite for employment law. She is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, NC.

André Flowers Mayes (JD ‘87) was appointed general counsel for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (NC). He had been deputy general counsel since 2008.

Amy Privette Perko (‘87, P ‘22) received the Dick Enberg Award from the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) for her support of education and the Academic All-America program. Leading the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics since 2005 as its executive director, she was named chief executive officer in 2016. A summa cum laude graduate, Perko was an All-American and Academic All-American basketball standout. After her senior season, she was the all-time leader in points, rebounds, assists and steals and still ranks in the top 10 in each category. She was named an ACC Legend in 2005 and is a member of the Wake Forest Sports Hall of Fame and CoSIDA’s Academic All-America Hall of Fame.

Stevie Cox (‘88) has been named the town administrator of Sharpsburg, NC. He has spent more than two decades in local government in Illinois, North Carolina and Maryland. He was most recently town manager for Wallace, NC.

Bob King (JD ‘88) was named to the 2020 North Carolina Super Lawyers list for environmental law. He is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, NC.

Bett Farrell Williams (‘88) was elected president of the Association of Junior Leagues International. The volunteer organization consists of 291 leagues and more than 130,000 members worldwide. She is the chief communications officer for Children’s Trust of South Carolina and a past president of the Junior League of Columbia, SC, where she lives.

Joni L. James (‘89) has joined BayCare Health System in Clearwater, FL, as the director of system communications. She oversees communications and public affairs for the community-based health system, one of the leading health care providers in Florida.

Ray Cannata has published the second edition of his book “Rooted: The Apostles’ Creed” (Storied Publishing), which examines the meaning and principles of the well-known Christian confession of faith. Cannata is senior pastor at Redeemer Presbyterian Church of New Orleans. His work has appeared in many national publications, including Paste Magazine and The Wall Street Journal.

James “Woody” Faircloth continues his work with RV4CampfireFamily. He founded the nonprofit to provide RVs for temporary residences for families who lost their homes in the 2018 California wildfire that destroyed the town of Paradise. He has given away more than 80 RVs. Faircloth, who lives in Denver, and his 7-year-old daughter, Luna, received the Community Hero Award from the American Red Cross of Colorado. They appeared on The Kelly Clarkson Show in March and on the cover of the Spring 2020 issue of The Deke Quarterly; Faircloth was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon at Wake Forest.

Patrick Flanagan (JD) was named to the 2020 North Carolina Super Lawyers list for employment litigation, defense. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Charlotte.

Dana H. Hoffman (JD) completed a two-year term as president of the Trucking Industry Defense Association (TIDA). She previously served on TIDA’s board of directors. An attorney at Young Moore in Raleigh, she is a litigator, adviser and defender of the transportation, long-term care and electric industries. She was recognized in the 2020 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for personal injury litigation.

Kristina L. Kelly was awarded Atrium Health’s 2019 Teal Acorn Award, given to providers within the Atrium Health system with the highest patient satisfaction grades for the year. Kelly is a pediatrician at Levine Children’s Stanley Pediatric Services in Albemarle, NC.

David B. Young supports global awareness and language learning in K-12 schools across the country as CEO of Participate Learning, based in Chapel Hill, NC. His goal is world peace through greater cultural understanding. More at bit.ly/2Kb28nd

Richard S. Adams (MD) retired after more than three decades of practicing family medicine in the U.S. Army and private practice. Adams spent 18 years in the Navy (including 12 years as a Navy SEAL) and 18 years as an Army physician before retiring from the military. He relocated to the Raleigh area, where he operated Knightdale Family Medicine for the next 13-plus years. A published author, he plans to release “Swords and Saints: A Doctor’s Journey” later this year.

Rich Kim (JD ‘94) is an assistant U.S. attorney for the Central District of Illinois. He is the financial litigation and asset forfeiture coordinator in the Springfield, IL, office.

Lynn Patterson Michael (JD ‘94) joined the Winston-Salem law firm Robert D. Hinshaw, Attorney-at-Law, where she concentrates on wills and trusts, estate administration and business planning. She has been advising individuals, families and small businesses in the Forsyth County area for more than 25 years.

Jennifer Slawinski Blessing (MA ‘94) started a tenure-track position as an assistant professor of psychology at the University of Tampa, where she has worked as an adjunct professor since 2004. She continues her research on children’s cognitive development and STEM knowledge.

Betsy Jensen Chapman (MA ‘94) joined Wake Forest’s Office of Communications and External Relations as executive director of family communications. Chapman was previously director of family communications and volunteer management in Wake Forest’s Office of Family Engagement. She continues to write the Daily Deac blog (dailydeac.wfu.edu), which celebrates its 10th anniversary in August.

Jennifer Habel was awarded the Iowa Poetry Prize for “The Book of Jane” (University of Iowa Press, 2020). A judge called her 110-page poetry collection “an aesthetic joy and a feminist breakthrough.” Habel is the creative writing coordinator at the University of Cincinnati and the author of “Good Reason,” winner of the 2011 Stevens Poetry Manuscript Competition.

Robert J. Ramseur Jr. (JD ‘95, P ‘23) was named to the 2020 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for real estate law. He was also named to Business North Carolina’s 2020 Legal Elite for real estate law. He is a partner at Ragsdale Liggett PLLC in Raleigh.
David C. Styers has returned to the League of American Orchestras as director, learning & leadership programs. He worked for the organization for seven years in the 1990s. The New York-based service organization leads and supports America’s orchestras. It consists of more than 2,000 organizations and individuals across North America.

**1994**

Donny C. Lambeth (MBA) was appointed chair of the North Carolina House Select Committee on COVID-19, which aims to facilitate bipartisan conversations regarding funding, regulation and other concerns related to the crisis. Lambeth, a Republican, is in his fourth term representing District 75.

Marc Palmieri is an actor, director, playwright and teacher. His play “The Groundling” had its 10th production in Burlington, NJ, in February, and “Levittown” was revived in February and March by 40+ Stage Company in Winston-Salem. John E.R. Friedenberg (’81, P ’05), one of Palmieri’s professors at Wake Forest, directed “Levittown.” Palmieri is a faculty member at Mercy College and teaches in the creative writing MFA program at The City College of New York. His fifth play publication, “S(cool) Days,” is scheduled to be released this summer by Brooklyn Publishers. He lives in Bayside, NY.

Rodney Rogers was named as a recipient of Wake Forest’s 2020 Distinguished Alumni Award. Rogers led the basketball team to three straight NCAA appearances, including a Sweet 16 berth in 1993. He was named ACC Player of the Year and a consensus second team All-American the same year and was the overall ninth pick by the Denver Nuggets in the ’93 NBA draft. He and his wife, Faye, live in Timberlake, NC.

Anne Cherry Stone (MAEd) earned the Global Career Development Facilitator credential, the most notable national credential in the field of career development. She is a college and career navigator at Florence County Adult Education’s Poynter campus in Florence, SC.

Jennifer Van Zant (JD) was named to the 2020 North Carolina Super Lawyers list for business litigation and was recognized as one of the state’s top 50 women lawyers. She is also in Business North Carolina’s Hall of Fame for antitrust law. She is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, NC.

**1993**

Jami Anderson was promoted to cultural practice director at SmithGroup, a leading architectural, engineering and planning firm. Anderson leads the firm’s cultural studios that help design and plan major cultural sites, including the Smithsonian Institution, National Park Service, Library of Congress and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Previously, she was a senior architect and exhibit designer at the National Gallery of Art. She has more than 25 years of experience in museum architecture and exhibition design. She is based in SmithGroup’s Washington, DC, office.

J. Gregory Hatcher (JD) was named to Business North Carolina’s 2020 Legal Elite for family law. He was also recognized in the 2020 edition of The Best Lawyers in America and was named a 2020 North Carolina Super Lawyer. He is managing partner at Hatcher Law Group PC in Charlotte.

David Hedgecoe earned the Accredited Member credential from the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry. He is only the 10th dentist in North Carolina to achieve this credential, which recognizes high skill and knowledge in cosmetic and restorative dentistry. Hedgecoe, who played basketball and baseball at Wake Forest, lives and practices in Fayetteville, NC.

Heather Sager joined the San Francisco office of Perkins Coie as a partner in the Labor & Employment Practice Group. She is excited to be at a firm that embodies Wake Forest’s Pro Humanitate spirit and has ranked as one of Fortune’s 100 Best Places to Work for 17 consecutive years, among many honors.

Mary E. Sharp (JD) received the 2019 Jean Galloway Bissell Award from the South Carolina Women Lawyers Association for her professional accomplishments, trialblazing activities and public service. Sharp has more than 20 years of experience in trial and appellate proceedings. She achieved a Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent Rating, awarded to lawyers with the highest ethical standards and professional ability. She is also a mediator. She lives in Beaufort, SC.

Suzanne Clark Wilcox (P ’23) was promoted to principal at the Greensboro, NC, office of Diversified Trust, a regional wealth management firm. She has been with the company since 2011 and leads the financial advisory and estate planning practice.
ALUMNI Q&A

Susan Crawford Pilon (’96) is president of WAKETampa/St. Petersburg and a member and committee chair for WAKECommunities on the Alumni Council. There are nearly 2,300 alumni, parents and friends in the Tampa/St. Pete area. Pilon was a founding partner of Viewpoint Wealth Management of Raymond James and is now a client advisor with Mercer Advisors. She and her husband, Sean, live in St. Petersburg, Florida.

You have a very active community in Tampa/St. Petersburg; what’s the key to engaging alumni?

I am very fortunate to have built relationships with the families who help with admissions locally — Carol Stanley Stefany (’80, P ’09, ’13) and David Stefany (’80, P ’09, ’13) and Tina Revelle (P ’18) and Guy Revelle (’87, P ’18) — and the University’s development team. They welcome me to their events so that I can share what is going on with the WAKETampa/St.Pete community. We host a variety of events and invite children and parents so that the entire family is welcome to attend.

What type of events do you plan in WAKETampa/St. Petersburg?

We host signature events every year so that everyone can expect the same pattern — WAKEWelcomes in the summer, Pro Humanitate Days in the spring (planned every year by Jill Deisler Tarrance (’98) and Adria Abrams (’98), local Lovefeast (hosted by the Rev. Alex Gallimore (MDiv. ’12) at his church) and bowl watches (the last four years!). We love to engage with local parents as well; it is really special when they attend Lovefeast here knowing their student is attending it at Wake.

How did Wake Forest influence your life and career?

For my career, having a liberal arts education made all the difference by building communication skills and critical thinking skills — those are valuable in any industry. I am in financial services, but the background of my English major has served me well and is one I wouldn’t trade. It was a Wake alum (Robert Douglass ’66), who helped lead me into my career 19 years ago by getting me involved in a local leadership program. The strong friendships I built at Wake and after with other alums are dear to me, and I value them profoundly on this journey!

Who were some of your mentors?

My academic adviser (Jim Welsh Jr. (’87, JD ’97)) my freshman year was a blessing. He connected with me and helped me stay on track as I adjusted to college life. I also had some amazing professors (including Stephen Boyd in religion, William Moss in English, Linda Nielsen in education and Doug Pryor in sociology), who introduced me to new concepts and ideas that broadened my mind. Lastly, I learned so much from my incredibly insightful and intelligent friends. Perspective helps you grow!

How do you stay in touch with classmates?

There are several of us from the class of 1996 who have an annual Wake Chick Trip — Jennifer Hill Zmarzly (’96), Jodi Preusser Middleton (’96), Kimberly Klose Jeremiah (’96), Jessica Young (’96) and Melissa Morgan Gisel (’96). I also see Kappa Delta/Lynks sorority sisters Ashley Ray (’94), Taylor Goodnough (’96) and Betty Gasparini (’96). It was great to reconnect with so many friends at our 20-year reunion in 2016. Excited to see everyone for 25 next year!

For more information on WAKETampa/St. Petersburg and other WAKECommunities, visit wakecommunities.wfu.edu

1995

Curtis C. Brewer IV (JD) was named to Business North Carolina’s 2020 Legal Elite for business law. He is a partner at Smith Anderson in Raleigh.

Coleman Cowan (JD) is a shareholder at the Law Offices of James Scott Farrin in Durham, NC, where he litigates complex, high-stakes cases in personal injury, product liability and medical malpractice. Cowan began his career as an attorney, then spent 10 years as a reporter for Business Week and an Emmy-winning producer for “60 Minutes” before resuming his legal career.

Kathryn “Kat” S. Haines was elected to the Chesterfield County (VA) School Board, one of the largest school divisions in Virginia, representing the Midlothian District.

Pamela Ventura (JD, P ’20) is head of benefits at Capital One, the nation’s fifth largest consumer bank. She works in the bank’s corporate office in Richmond, VA. Previously, she spent 22 years at health-insurance provider Anthem Inc., most recently as director of human resources.

Edwin L. West III (JD) was named to the 2020 North Carolina Super Lawyers list for criminal defense. He was also named to Business North Carolina’s 2020 Legal Elite for criminal law. He is an attorney in the Brooks Pierce offices in Raleigh and Wilmington, NC.

1996

Williette Waring Berry (JD) was named one of three 2020 Educators of the Year at Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College in Orangeburg, SC. She was named outstanding administrator. Berry, a member of the South Carolina Bar, is an instructor and assistant vice president of academic affairs.

Henry “Hal” L. Kitchin Jr. (JD) was elected chair of the UNC Wilmington Board of Trustees. He is a partner at McGuireWoods LLP, practicing in its Raleigh and Wilmington offices.

Ann M. McCauley was named president and CEO of Trust Company Family Offices, a $3 billion trust company and multi-family office headquartered in Holland, OH. Previously, she was president and chief operating officer.
Quentin T. McPhatter was named an assistant city manager in Gastonia, NC, where he lives with his wife, Michele, and two daughters. His duties include overseeing the town’s economic development and development services.

1997

Roberta King Latham (JD ’02) was named to the 2020 North Carolina Super Lawyers list for personal injury law. She is the founder of King Latham Law PLLC in Winston-Salem.

1998

Kristen Eppley England works for Twopenny Productions LLC as an improvisational educator providing crisis intervention training for law enforcement agencies in Colorado. She is also a painter and bassist. She lives with her husband, Court, and their four children in Centennial, CO.

Stacy Landis Hackney released her debut novel, “Forever Glimmer Creek” (Simon & Schuster). The children’s book is about a 12-year-old filmmaker who lives in a small town where miracles seem to occur. Hackney lives in Richmond, VA, with her husband and four sons.

Karen S. Marston (JD) was confirmed as a U.S. District Court judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. She was previously an assistant U.S. attorney in the district and oversaw the Narcotics and Organized Crime section.

Eboni S. Cohen Nelson was appointed dean of the University of Connecticut School of Law. Previously she was associate dean for academic affairs and professor of law at the University of South Carolina School of Law, where she had taught since 2007.

Coe W. Ramsey (JD) was named to the 2020 North Carolina Super Lawyers list for entertainment and sports law. He is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Raleigh.

Amie Fonville Sivon was named to Business North Carolina’s 2020 Legal Elite for appellate law. She is a partner at Ragsdale Liggett PLLC in Raleigh.

2000

Jammie Deese is the head football coach at Forest Hills High School in Marshville, NC. Previously, he was the offensive coordinator at the University of West Florida, which won the Division II National Championship in 2019. Deese played football and ran track at Wake Forest and signed with the Washington Redskins as a free agent after graduating.

John Hendricks was inducted into the Wake Forest Sports Hall of Fame. Hendricks is the winningest pitcher in school history with a 34-18 career record. He holds school records with 53 career starts and 18 career complete games. He is the pitching coach for the Demon Deacons baseball team.

Will Pittman (JD/MBA ’05) has joined BlackArch Partners as managing director and co-head of the consumer & retail group. BlackArch is a leading middle-market investment bank headquartered in Charlotte.

2001

Nicholas B. Kinder was named one of the best medical providers in Portland, OR, by Portland Monthly magazine. Kinder works on the inpatient geriatrics consult service and is a faculty member at Oregon Health & Science University School of Medicine. He recently co-edited chapters on older patients, dementia and delirium in “Behavioral Medicine: A Guide for Clinical Practice” (McGraw-Hill).

A Conversation Between General Colin Powell Secretary of State (2001-2005) & Dr. Madeleine Albright Secretary of State (1997-2001)
Cassandra Rich (JD ’04) joined the Rochester, NY, office of Barclay Damon LLP as special counsel and a member of the law firm’s real estate practice area.

Melissa Proctor was named to the Sports Business Journal’s “Forty Under 40” class of 2020. Proctor is executive vice president and chief marketing officer for the NBA’s Atlanta Hawks. She has been with the Hawks since 2014.

Anna Warburton Munroe (JD ’09) was named to the 2020 North Carolina Super Lawyers list and recognized in The Best Lawyers in America for family law. She is a shareholder and director at Allman Spray Davis Leggett & Crumpler PA in Winston-Salem.

David Ruppert (JD) graduated with distinction from the Thunderbird School of Global Management at Arizona State University with a master of global management degree. He was inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma (the International Business Honor Society) and Pi Sigma Alpha (the National Political Science Honorary Society). A veteran of the U.S. Marines Corps, he is an international lawyer at Lockeheed Martin in Scottsdale, AZ.

Alicia Journey was named a 2020 Rising Star in family law by North Carolina Super Lawyers list and recognized in The Best Lawyers in America for family law. She is a partner at Allman Spray Davis Leggett & Crumpler PA in Winston-Salem.

Ginny Bowen Olson (MBA ’04) is author of the blog MothersRest.com. She was profiled in Glamour magazine about her struggle with infertility in the article, “No, Using a Surrogate Doesn’t ‘Diminish Respect for Motherhood’.” She is an adjunct professor of marketing at UNC Greensboro and a business partner at the Center for Creative Leadership.

Scott Lehman Tucker was installed as the associate pastor for grand adults at Peachtree Presbyterian Church in Atlanta.

Sharon Baldasare (JD) was named partner at Haynes and Boone LLP. She is a member of the firm’s Real Estate Practice Group in the New York office, focusing on commercial leasing/corporate facilities.

Sarah Beth Spischich Crotts (JD) joined the Charlotte office of Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP as special counsel with the health care industry team. She has more than a decade of experience advising hospitals, physicians, insurance companies and health care providers. She previously was at Wall Babcock LLP in Winston-Salem. She is on the board of the YWCA of Winston-Salem, was president of the Forsyth County Women Attorneys Association and served on the SECU Family House board.

James Hamblin is a preventive medicine staff, writer at The Atlantic and lecturer at the Yale School of Public Health. He has written extensively on the coronavirus pandemic in The Atlantic and co-hosted The Atlantic’s podcast “Social Distance.” He is the author of “If Our Bodies Could Talk: Operating and Maintaining a Human Body” (2016) and the upcoming “Clean: The New Science of Skin.” He graduated from Indiana University medical school and received a master’s in public health at Yale. He lives in Brooklyn.

Caroline Satterfield McClain is the executive director of Forge Survivorship Center, an innovative nonprofit serving cancer survivors and their loved ones in Birmingham, AL.

2002

2003

2004

2005

2006

Jenny Billings was honored as an Innovator of the Year “Star Act” for 2019 by the North Carolina Community College Association of Distance Learning. Billings chairs the English and study skills departments at Rowan-Cabarrus Community College in Salisbury and Concord, NC. She was recognized for an initiative that makes faculty available during nontraditional hours and online so that students can access help whenever needed. Billings earned her Ph.D. from Wingate University in 2017. She has received a number of other awards since joining Rowan-Cabarrus in 2011, including the Outstanding Employee Award.

Julie Giovner Edelman was elected shareholder in Chamberlain Hrdlicka PC. Edelman focuses on estate and gift planning in the law firm’s Houston office.

Michael Parkhurst was inducted into the Wake Forest Sports Hall of Fame. A soccer star at Wake Forest, Parkhurst was named ACC Defensive Player of the Year in 2004. He was drafted ninth overall in the MLS SuperDraft and named MLS Rookie of the Year. He won the MLS Defender of the Year Award in 2007 and was twice named MLS Humanitarian of the Year. He retired from pro soccer in 2019 and lives in Marietta, GA.

Barbara A. Smith, a trial and appellate attorney, was named partner at the St. Louis office of Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner. She focuses on complex business transactions and commercial contract disputes. She is a former law clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito and D.C. Circuit Judge Thomas Griffin.

2007

Laura Klement Anderson was named partner at the Chicago law firm Swanson, Martin & Bell LLP. She focuses on general tort litigation with a special interest in representing physicians and hospitals in medical negligence cases.
Alexandra “Allie” Casagrande was named partner at Hirschler Fleischer PC. She works in the Richmond, VA, office and focuses on mergers and acquisitions, leveraged finance and capital markets transactions.

Jessica Mering Hardin (JD) was elected to the North Carolina Humanities Council’s Board of Trustees. She is an attorney at Robinson Bradshaw in Charlotte and was named to the 2020 edition of The Best Lawyers in America (litigation — trusts and estates).

George McLeod (MD ’13) is a board-certified cardiologist. He has joined Cape Fear Heart Associates in Wilmington, NC, where he practices non-invasive cardiology.

Serena Agaba Rwejuna (MAM ’08) was selected by The National Black Lawyers as one of the “Top 40 Under 40 Lawyers in Washington, D.C.” She is an associate attorney in the DC office of Jones Day, focusing on energy law.

In 2008, he was named national player of the year. He played professionally for several years in Europe and the United States and is a producer/editor for Adidas and the MLS.

2008

Erin Tanner Choi (JD ’11) was named a 2020 Texas Rising Star for litigation by Super Lawyers. She is an associate in the Dallas office of the international law firm Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP.

Aaron Curry was inducted into the Wake Forest Sports Hall of Fame. Curry, who played linebacker for the Demon Deacons, was a consensus first team All-American his senior season and won the Butkus Award, given to the nation’s best linebacker. He was drafted No. 4 overall by Seattle in the 2009 NFL Draft.

Amber Burleson Duncan (JD) was recognized by the American Bar Association (ABA) as one of “100 Women Who Inspire Us.” She was honored at the 2019 ABA Women in Litigation Joint CLE Conference in Chicago. Duncan is an attorney at the Raleigh law firm Williams Mullen.

Ryan T. Kinder (JD) was named partner at Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP in the Houston office. He focuses on general and commercial litigation with a special emphasis on energy disputes.

Clint Morse (JD) was named a 2020 Rising Star for business litigation by North Carolina Super Lawyers. He was also named to Business North Carolina’s 2020 Legal Elite list for bankruptcy law. He is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, NC.

Oderah Nwaeze was promoted to partner at Duane Morris LLP. A trial lawyer in the Wilmington, DE, office, he focuses on complex corporate and commercial matters. He is a member of Wake Forest’s Alumni Council.

Marcus Tracy was inducted into the Wake Forest Sports Hall of Fame. A star forward on the soccer team, Tracy led Wake Forest to the NCAA title in 2007 and was named the most outstanding offensive player in that year’s College Cup.

2009

Wes Day was named to the Sports Business Journal’s “Forty Under 40” class of 2020. Day is a partner and the chief strategy officer at Teall Capital, a Winston-Salem-based private equity firm that invests in sports, media, lifestyle and entertainment brands.

Michelle Kasold was inducted into the Wake Forest Sports Hall of Fame. A three-time All-American in field hockey, Kasold competed for the U.S. National Team in the 2012 Olympics in London and the 2016 Olympics in Brazil. She coaches young field hockey players in the Chapel Hill/Durham (NC) area.

Ryan McManus (MALS ’14) is senior offensive analyst for the East Carolina University football team. He was previously quarterbacks coach at Winston-Salem State University.

Will Miller (JD) joined Brinkley Walser Stoner PLLC as an associate in the Lexington, NC, office. Miller, who is blind, lost his eyesight 20 years ago while undergoing treatment for leukemia. As a result, he is well versed in the Americans with Disabilities Act. He is usually accompanied in the courtroom by his guide dog, a yellow lab named Anja.

Lizzie Ward Roediger was promoted to CEO of Sunshine Beverages, a fast-growing company based in Winston-Salem that makes better-for-you energy drinks and sparkling energy waters. Roediger had been president since 2017.
Lyn Williams (MBA) is an investment adviser with Salem Investment Counselors. His firm was ranked as the No. 1 financial advisory firm in the United States by CNBC in its 2019 ranking. The firm is celebrating its 40th anniversary in Winston-Salem.

2010

Brett Apter finished fourth in the prestigious Heartland Poker Tour Main Event in St. Louis in February. Following the event, Apter was ranked as the No. 9 player in the world in Global Poker Index’s 2020 standings. Apter, who lives in Nashville, is the founder and CEO of DirectDermaCare and co-founder of the online marketing firm Get On Social.

Zach Forward (JD/MBA) was named partner at Barclay Damon LLP in Syracuse, NY. He is a member of the firm’s Corporate and Tax Practice Group as well as its Cannabis Team, which counsels clients on cannabis-related issues.

Dan Kingsley (JD) was promoted to partner at Swift Currie law firm in Atlanta. He focuses on business disputes, medical malpractice and device and toxic tort litigation.

Kirk Sigmon is a shareholder at Banner Witcoff, a national intellectual property law firm. Based in Washington, DC, Sigmon focuses on patent prosecution and intellectual property enforcement involving computer networking, video gaming and artificial intelligence.

2011

Ryan D. Class (‘MSM ’12) joined Carlton Fields LLP as an associate in the Hartford, CT, office. He represents clients in pharmaceutical, medical device and toxic tort litigation.

Christopher Jackson (JD) was elected partner at the Greensboro, NC, office of Ellis & Winters LLP. Jackson, who joined the firm in 2011, focuses on business disputes, medical malpractice and general liability claims. He was named a Rising Star by North Carolina Super Lawyers for the last four years and recognized by Business North Carolina’s Legal Elite as a “Young Gun.”

Laura Minton was named curator of exhibitions at the Fralin Museum of Art at the University of Virginia. She was previously a curatorial assistant at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and curator of collections and exhibitions at the Fine Art Museum at Western Carolina University. She also held several positions at Spencer Museum of Art at the University of Kansas.

Julie M. Watson (JD) was elected to the Certified Licensing Professionals Board of Governors. She is special counsel at Marshall, Gerstein & Borun LLP in Chicago, where she focuses on intellectual property transactions and technology startups. Prior to joining the law firm, Watson was director of intellectual property and legal counsel at the Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine.

2012

Celeste Allen is a content producer in London with her independent company, CBA Content. She was formerly an editor at Mashable and a marketer at The Wall Street Journal in New York. More at bit.ly/37EC8Ob

Stephen J. Bell (JD) joined Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP as an associate in the Wilmington, NC, office. Bell, who works in civil litigation, was named a Rising Star by South Carolina Super Lawyers for 2019 and 2020.

Anna Marie Carr-Reinhard joined Wake Forest’s Office of Family Engagement as associate director. She has worked at Wake Forest since 2017, previously as assistant director of Alumni Engagement. She is enrolled in Wake Forest’s master’s in communication program.

David R. Scott (JD) was elected to a membership at his law firm, Kang Haggerty & Fetbroyt in Philadelphia, where he focuses on business litigation, construction litigation and insurance bad faith.

2013

Tina Bice was promoted to assistant director of communications for the Wake Forest Office of Communications and External Relations (CER). She has worked at Wake Forest since 2013, most recently as the administrative assistant for CER.

Josh Craig (MBA) is chief revenue officer at Lima One Capital, one of the top private lenders for real estate investors in the country, based in Greenville, SC. He leads corporate sales and marketing activities. Craig was previously vice president of sales and strategy with Finance of America Commercial. He lives in Lincolnton, NC.

John S. Gormally (JD) joined Goldberg Segalla as an associate attorney in the law firm’s general liability group. He is based in Princeton, NJ, and focuses on complex civil litigation and contractual and corporate matters. He was previously with Inglesino, Webster, Wyciskala & Taylor LLC in Parsippany, NJ.

Jenny Dent Resetar received her doctorate of physical therapy from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2016. She completed her residency in pediatric physical therapy at Johns Hopkins last year and works in home-based early intervention with infants and toddlers. She lives in Richmond, VA, with her husband, Scott.

John Philip “JP” Rotchford (MSA ’14) is a private equity associate with NovaQuest Capital Management, a Raleigh-based investment firm focused on health care and life sciences.

Katie M. Williams (MA) was promoted to assistant director of Corporate & Foundation Relations (CFR) for Wake Forest University Advance ment. She has worked at Wake Forest since 2017, most recently as CFR’s research and stewardship manager.

2014

Kovi Konowiecki was one of 10 photographers selected to participate in “Star Wars Families,” presented by Lucasfilm and the British Journal of Photography to document 10 Star Wars fan families across the globe. A former professional soccer player, Konowiecki is based in Long Beach, CA, and Mexico City. In 2018, he was selected for the Labs New Artists II exhibition of emerging international artists by Red Hook Labs. He co-founded Mula Press in 2018 to express his love of bookmaking and publish his projects and special artist editions.

Ashley M. White (JD) joined Pellettieri Rabstein & Altman, a New Jersey-based law firm, as an associate in the personal injury department. She previously was special deputy attorney general/acting assistant prosecutor in the Essex County (NJ) Prosecutor’s Office.
2015

PJ Howard (MALS ’16) went “viral” with a dance challenge video he released on social media, the #PGROOVECHALLENGE. He originated the dance at Wake Forest, where he played on the football team. He is a math teacher at Oscar Smith Middle School in Chesapeake, VA.

Sonsera Kiger (MALS) was promoted to listener and donor services manager at 88.5 WFDD, the NPR radio affiliate located on Wake Forest’s campus.

Analyse Triolo (MDiv) is senior pastor at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Bellerose, Queens, NY. Earlier this year, she was ordained to the ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

2016

Austin J. Evers led the launch of Twitter’s latest ad product, Promoted Trend Spotlight, which enables advertisers to place six-second videos, GIFs or images atop the site’s “Explore” tab. Evers is a product marketing manager at Twitter’s New York office.

Meagan O’Neill Robichaud was accepted into the Ph.D. program at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore. She plans to pursue a doctorate in social and behavioral sciences, focusing on tobacco control and cannabis regulation.

Sarah Gallas Sweet (JD) joined Ice Miller LLP as an associate attorney in the trusts, estates and private wealth practice group. She is based in Indianapolis.

2017

Katherine Haddock (JD) was promoted to senior associate at Helen Tarokic Law PLLC, a Wilmington, NC, firm that specializes in immigration and naturalization law.

Emily Lintner is assistant communications director to Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn.

Sarah Saint (JD) was named chair of the board of directors for the North Star LGBTQ Community Center, which provides educational and social activities for LGBTQ youth and adults in the greater Winston-Salem area. Saint, who has served on the board since 2018, is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, NC.

2018

Earl Storrs III (JD) joined the Law Offices of Pullano & Farrow in Rochester, NY, as a law clerk in the commercial litigation department.

Jordan Artrip (JD) joined the law firm Narron & Holdford PA in Wilson, NC, specializing in taxation and corporations.

Shellie L. Bryant (JD) joined King Latham Law PLLC as an associate in the Winston-Salem office. Her focus areas include litigation, employment, personal injury and business law.

Marriages

Charles “Chad” Richard Broderick IV (’05) and Brittany Lyn Korb, 12/7/19 in Palm Springs, CA. They live in Chicago.

Nikki Soriano (’06) and Luke Plikaitis, 11/18/19 in Riviera Maya, Mexico. They live in Annandale, VA.

Malcolm Gladwell
Bestselling Author of “Talking To Strangers,” “Blink” and “Outliers”
Births

Jonathan Derby ('99) and Jennifer Smith, Winchester, MA: a daughter, Tallulah May. 8/13/19. She joins her sister, Clementine (4).

Jackie Shock-Stewart ('02) and Matt Stewart, Pittsburgh: a daughter, Hazel. 10/20/19. She joins her sister, Adeline (4), and brother, Felix (3).

Kristen Stutz Barkimer ('03) and Greg Barkimer, Cincinnati: a son, Charles “Charlie” Jackson. 9/24/19

Lindy Zimmerman Kerr ('03) and Jeff Kerr, Atlanta: twin daughters: Anna Moorman and Grace Caldwell. 11/12/19. They join their brother, Benjamin (2).

D’Ann Grady Lettieri ('04) and John William Lettieri ('04), Washington, D.C: a son, William Outlaw. 2/28/20. He joins his brother, Jack (7), and sister, Rose (6).

Ryan Scott Tallent ('04) and Kathleen Fregue Tallent, Charlotte: a son, Trent Ryan. 5/9/19. He joins his brother, Brock Kevin (4).

Scott Lehman Tucker ('04) and Lauren Cross-Fryer Tucker, Atlanta: a son, William Whitman. 2/12/19. He joins his sister, Clare Cross (5).

Caroline Satterfield McClain ('05) and Jason McClain, Birmingham, AL: a son: Connor Liam. 8/14/19

Pamela Braaten Perry ('05) and Madison Perry, Durham, NC: a son, John Brooks. 5/28/19. He joins his sister, Brynn (9), and brothers, Hap (7), Turner (5) and Cal (3).

Mac Smith ('05) and Laura Smith, Helena, MT: a daughter, Grace McElvey. 10/24/19. She joins her sister, Clara (2).

Joshua David Carter ('06) and Amanda Lathom Carter, Concord, NC: Jack Davis. 12/30/19. He joins his brother, Joshua David Carter Jr. (4).

Alli Hines Hart ('07) and Brian Hart, Washington, DC: a son, James Brian. 12/15/19

Carolyn Grobe Ingram ('07) and Stuart Ingram, Northport, NY: a son, Henry Xavier. 1/18/20. He joins his brother, Matthew Bradley (4).

Patricia John Eullitt ('08) and Sarah White Eullitt ('09), Chapel Hill, NC: a son, Thomas John. 9/8/19. He joins his sisters, Caroline Genevieve (4) and Eliza Rosemary (2).

Trevor McEvo (’08, MSA ’09) and Erin Pankau McEvo (’09), Lake Geneva, WI: a daughter, Pauline Mary. 1/3/20. She joins her sister, Ada Elizabeth (2).

Dallys-Tom Medali (’10) and Mireille Dimigou, Omaha, NE: a daughter, Athena Mira-Ita. 8/29/18. She joins her brother, Andrew Zeus (3).

Lexi McBride Crawford (’11) and Doug Crawford, Washington, DC: a son, William Rhodes. 12/9/19. He is the grandson of Wake Forest Life Trustee Alex Sink (’70).

Samantha “Sam” Perrotta Turner (’12) and John R. Turner (’12), Winston-Salem: a son, Calvin “Cal” Mark. 2/19/20

Kelley Chan Gass (JD ’13) and Matthew Gass (JD ’13), Atlanta: a son, Noah James. 12/9/19

Stacey Wilson Walker (’13, MAEd ’16) and Thomas S. Walker (’13), Winston-Salem: a daughter, Meredith Blair. 1/4/20

Deaths

Jack R. Bagwell (’42), Jan 1, 2020, Asheville, NC. He passed away surrounded by family 13 days after celebrating his 103rd birthday. He was a Baptist minister and administrator for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, retiring as a church architecture consultant.

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 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. Coo-per (MALS ’89).

Roy E. Truslow (’42, MD ’45), Feb. 23, 2020, Greensboro, NC. He served in the U.S. Army as head of civilian emergency services at Hill Air Force Base near Ogden, UT. In 1952 he became the first radiologist in Rockingham County (NC) and led the radiology departments at the county’s two hospitals, retiring from the role in 1988 after 36 years. A devoted Wake Forest alumnus, he set up the first endowed scholarship at the School of Medicine and was a member of the Samuel Wait Legacy Society.

William Ries Gabbert (‘44, MD ’46), Nov. 1, 2019, Owensboro, KY. He served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps in Japan. After his residency at N.C. Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem, he practiced pediatrics in Owensboro. He served as president of the Daviess County Medical Society. He was predeceased by his wife and three siblings, including his brother, Neil F. Gabbert (’52). He is survived by three children and several grandchildren, including Lauren McSwain-Starrett (’02).

Robert Hilliard Shackelford (’45, MD ’47), Dec. 11, 2019, Mount Olive, NC. He received a
Bronze Star as a U.S. Army battalion surgeon during the Korean conflict. He was a family physician in eastern North Carolina for more than 60 years, retiring in 2012. Among his honors were the Mount Olive Lifetime Achievement Award, the North Carolina Academy Family Physician of the Year and, in 2018, the Order of the Long Leaf Pine from North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper. He is survived by three daughters, including Brenda S. Baldwin (’71), six grandchildren, including Nicole Baldwin Beale (’98, MAEd ’02), and three great-granddaughters.

Ozmer “Oz” Lucas Henry Jr. (’46, MD ’48), Jan. 3, 2020, Asheville, NC. He served as a captain in the U.S. Air Force with the 5010th Medical Group. He was medical director of Western North Carolina Specialty Hospital in Black Mountain, NC, for 20 years until it closed in 1980. He consulted with state government on communicable diseases until retiring in 1991. He was on the Alumni Council for the School of Medicine and was president of the Black Mountain Rotary Club, the American Lung Association (NC chapter) and the NC Thoracic Society. He was predeceased by his parents, Ozmer Henry Sr. (JD 1915) and Sara Henry, and a brother, Everett L. Henry (’51, JD ’54).

Harold Benjamin Spangler (’46, MD ’48), Dec. 12, 2019, Greensboro, NC. He served in the U.S. Air Force, attaining the rank of captain, before a 30-year career in pediatrics. He published several books of poetry. He and his wife moved to the Blue Ridge Mountains and operated a B&B. After her death, he remarried and stayed active in B&B hosting, gardening and travel.

Simmons Isler Patrick (’47), Dec. 10, 2019, Kin- ston, NC. He practiced radiology in eastern North Carolina. He helped reopen Lenoir Memorial Hospital School of Nursing and chaired its radiology department for 35 years. He was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine by North Caro- lina Gov. Pat McCrory in 2016. He was preceded in death by two brothers, including William H. Patrick (’38, MD ’39). He is survived by his wife, Patsy, three children, two stepsons, seven grand-children and six great-grandchildren.

Everette “Buddy” Carnes (JD ’48), Oct. 27, 2019, Marion, NC. He served in the U.S. Army for four years during World War II, primarily in the Pacific theatre. His legal career spanned more than 50 years, earning him induction into the North Carolina Bar Association Hall of Fame. He was active in his community and held leadership roles with the American Red Cross, Boy Scouts and the Marion Civic and Rotary clubs. He is survived by his wife of 71 years, Rachel Page Carnes (’48), two sons and several grandchildren.

Thomas Lea Gwynn (’48, MD ’51), Jan. 25, 2020, Advance, NC. He practiced internal medicine in North Carolina. He was preceded in death by his wife, Bee Gatling Gwynn (MD ’60). He was a member of the Samuel Wait Legacy Society.

William Thomas Rice (’49, MD ’53), Nov. 15, 2019, Greenwood, SC. He served as a U.S. Army Air Force pilot during World War II, completing 30 bomber combat missions in Europe. He was an anesthesiologist at Self Memorial Hospital in Greenwood and president of the South Carolina Anesthesiology Society. After retiring, he worked with the NCAA drug testing program. He is survived by four children, William Rice Jr., Nancy Rice Powers (MD ’81), David G. Rice (MD ’85) and John Lanier Rice (MD ’92), and eight grandchildren.

Robert Dellinger Walden (’49), Feb. 15, 2020, Bishopville, SC. He served in Europe during World War II with the U.S. Army. He was a banker for 30 years with The Peoples Bank in Bishopville and retired from First Citizens Bank after six years as vice president. He was director of the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce and served on the Bishopville City Council. He was president of the Bishopville Jaycees and Rotary Club and an organizer of Bishopville Country Club, among his many civic positions.

Robert Allison White (’49), Jan. 19, 2020, Raleigh. He served as a sergeant in the U.S. Army during World War II. A CPA, he spent most of his career at Philip Morris International, retiring in 1986 as vice president and CFO. He took great pride that all 20 of his grandchildren graduated from college, including Elizabeth “Liz” White (’10). He also is survived by six children, including Wade E. White (’83), and 16 great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife, Mary “Cecile” White, and a brother, William A. White (’54).

Elizabeth Gertner Williams (’49), Dec. 10, 2019, Winston-Salem. She taught English at Melbourne High School in Melbourne, FL, for nearly three decades. Active in her community, she was president of the Friends of the Melbourne Library and the Melbourne branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). She was preceded in death by her husband, “C.V.” Vassar Williams Jr. (’49). She is survived by two sons, Michael Williams and Mark Williams (’77), and two granddaughters, Julia Williams and Katharine W. Farrell (’09, MBA ’15).

Joyce Garrell Young (’49), Oct. 23, 2019, Wilming- ton, NC. She taught first and second grade at Tabor City Elementary School for 21 years. Active in the community, she was the family hummingbird expert and loved traveling, especially with her husband of 67 years, Erskine, who predeceased her. They enjoyed 26 cruises and visited five continents.

John Marion Daly Jr. (’50), Jan. 10, 2020, Clini- ton, NC. He retired in 2012 at age 90 after 59 years as an optometrist in Clinton. A talented classical pianist, his favorite pastime was playing “Claire de Lune” for the love of his life, his wife, Fran. They loved history and collecting Jacobean antiques. He was preceded in death by his wife; his parents, John Daly Sr. (1919) and Mattie Daly; and his brother, Roswald Bernard Daly (’46, MD ’47).

Sybil Johnson Mueller (’50), Jan. 21, 2020, Fayetteville, NC. She was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma and was Sigma Phi Epsilon sweetheart.
Kristen Eppley England (’98) uses her improv skills to teach law enforcement officers.

By Kerry M. King (’85)

Some days Kristen Eppley England (’98) is an angry teenage girl hurling profanity at police officers. Other days she’s a young woman feuding with her neighbor, who she’s convinced is trying to kill her with radiation from his drone.

Or she’s an elderly woman, confused and alone, trying to find her dead husband. On her worst days, she’s a homeless woman threatening to jump off a bridge and warning police officers not to come any closer.

It’s all in a day’s work for England, an actor with Denver-based Twopenny Productions, who uses the improvisational skills she learned in the Lilting Banshees comedy troupe at Wake Forest to teach crisis intervention skills.

Twopenny provides live-action, scenario-based training to prepare law enforcement officers and first responders in Colorado to more effectively interact with people with mental illness.

While she used her acting skills and ability to think fast on her feet to garner laughs with the Lilting Banshees, now she’s using her “powers for good,” she says. It’s rewarding work because the training can save lives.

When England is playing any of her two dozen or so characters, she’s helping officers learn how to figure out what’s going on and de-escalate with someone who needs help, not jail time.

“It’s a fun way to use your acting skills because it leads to a lot less violence and a lot more understanding,” England says. “Police learn how to communicate with people from all different kinds of backgrounds that they actually encounter.”

It’s also intense, draining and riveting work. “When I leave work, I feel like I’ve been emotionally boxing all day,” she says. She lives with her husband and four children in Centennial, Colorado.

England never did any acting when she was growing up in Charlotte. She planned to be on the pre-med track at Wake Forest until the allure and camaraderie of the Lilting Banshees drew her in.

Theatre professor John E.R. Friedenberg (’81, P ’05), art professors Page Laughlin, David Finn and John Pickel and the late Reynolds Professor of American Studies Maya Angelou (L.H.D. ’77) helped her develop as an actor and artist.

She acted in some traditional plays in the University Theatre, but she much preferred the improvisation and student-written scripts of the Lilting Banshees and its sketch comedy routines of life at Wake Forest.

A studio art major, England briefly taught high school math in Vail, Colorado. She was a painter and played bass in a touring band during 18 years living in Los Angeles. She moved back to Colorado in 2018.

Last year, she joined Twopenny Productions, which has about a dozen actors. “Her contributions make a real difference in our community,” says founder Joe Wilson, “both to the mentally challenged population and to the uniformed first responders.”

England has developed detailed backstories for all her characters, helped by riding with officers on patrol and observing domestic violence cases. She uses costumes and props to make the training scenarios even more realistic.

During a typical weeklong training session, officers go through classroom instruction in the mornings, then live-action scenarios in the afternoon to practice what they’ve learned.

“It’s not scripted. I’m trying to give the officer information so he or she can figure out who I am and what I’m dealing with,” England says. “If I’m suicidal, I’m not a criminal. I need to be talked down off the bridge and taken to proper psychiatric care, not arrested. … Through the week, we make them work a lot harder to develop rapport. They have to take from their new bag of tools what they learned in class and how to communicate.”

Since the coronavirus pandemic shut down much of the nation’s economy, including Twopenny, England has spent her time painting and helping her three youngest children with their schoolwork. But she’s itching to get back to the bridges and dark alleys of her alternate world.

“My favorite aspect of working with law enforcement officers is watching them grow during the week of classes and training,” she says. “I know that this work saves lives, and the positive ripple effects are immeasurable.”
at Wake Forest. She taught French and English for more than 40 years in Fayetteville and at Fort Bragg (NC). She was preceded in death by her husband, Jack Mueller ('51), and a son, Lane Mueller. Survivors include her brother, Eugene Johnson ('54).

James Irvin Taylor Jr. ('50), Dec. 30, 2019, Tarboro, NC. He served in the U.S. Navy as a hospital corpsman and worked in farming and radio. At age 53 he began his "dream job" as a registered nurse in critical care at Edgecombe General Hospital (now Vidant Edgecombe Hospital) in Tarboro. He was chair of the Edgecombe County Board of Education and spent 30 years on the Edgecombe Community College Board of Trustees.

Ray Byron Wyche ('50), Jan. 9, 2020, Whiteville, NC. He served with U.S. Army occupation forces in Germany after World War II. He was a postmaster for 30 years and was a correspondent for the Wilmington StarNews and a writer for the News Reporter of Whiteville. He was predeceased by his parents, Mary and Joseph B. Wyche (1903), four siblings, Jane Schulten, Henry Wyche ('36), Joseph Wyche ('38, MD '39) and Benjamin Wyche ('40), and a son, Robert Wyche. Survivors include his wife of 68 years, Melba Pate Wyche ('49), two children, Joseph Wyche and Kathleen Wyche (MA '76), and two grandchildren, David Wyche and Byron Wyche ('07, MSA '08).

Walter Richard "Dick" Burack (MD '51), Dec. 29, 2019, Jacksonville, FL. In his 1967 book, "The Handbook of Prescription Drugs" and in congressional testimony the same year, he advocated for the wider use of generic drugs in place of more expensive brand-name drugs. He chaired the Massachusetts Drug Formulary Commission, which prepared a list of interchangeable drug products, and taught and researched pharmacology at Harvard Medical School. He practiced medicine in Boston and later in New Hampshire. As a member of the U.S. Public Health Service during the Korean War, he served on Navy submarine hunters in the Pacific Ocean and with the U.S. Coast Guard in Boston.

Luella "Lou" Nowell Davis ('51), May 24, 2019, Plano, TX. She was a homemaker who lovingly looked after her three children and grandchildren. She loved church and her time in The Singing Saints ensemble. She was predeceased by her husband, Elwood "Dale" Davis ('51), and three siblings.

Avis Elliott Hendrick ('51), Dec. 19, 2019, Elkin, NC. She was a faithful member of First Baptist Church of Elkin, where she played handbells and served on myriad committees. She was an avid golfer, bridge player, gardener and crafter and a loving wife, mother and grandmother.

M. Vann Murrell ('51), Oct. 31, 2019, Swansboro, NC. He taught religion courses for more than 30 years at Campbell University, Gardner Webb University and Coastal Carolina Community College. He was pastor or interim pastor at more than 50 churches in North Carolina and led a dozen groups to the Middle East to bring the New Testament to life. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ina, and brother, Stratton C. Murrell ('49).

He is survived by four children, including Robert "Dan" Murrell ('57), and eight grandchildren.

Robert "Leary" Reid ('51, MD '54), Feb. 17, 2020, Lincoln, NC. He served two years in the U.S. Air Force as a first lieutenant and 14 additional years in the medical reserves after training as a flight surgeon. He opened Lincoln Family Practice in 1970 and operated it with a partner and later his son. He retired in 2000. He was predeceased by his wife, Marguerite, in 2001. He is survived by his wife, Caroline; four children, including Robert Leary Reid Jr. ('74, MD '79) and Alan Jordon Reid ('83, PA '91); 11 grandchildren, including Nicholas David Reid (MD '13), six great-grandchildren; a brother; and a sister.

Retha Rene Rudloff ('51, MD '53), Oct. 8, 2019, Columbia, MO. One of only two women in her medical school class, she practiced medicine for seven decades, specializing in pediatrics and neonatal pediatrics. She practiced and volunteered at many places, including children's public health clinics, and led the neonatal department at Cedars of Lebanon Hospital in Los Angeles. She loved the beach, snow skiing, scuba diving, travel, books, jigsaw puzzles, politics, coin collecting, Scrabble and family dinners.

Silas "Dave" Lewis ('52), Oct. 18, 2019, Augusta, GA. He was a professor of organic chemistry at Augusta College. An Eagle Scout, he was an avid stamp collector and history buff who loved touring Civil War sites.

Norman E. Muller ('52), Jan. 19, 2020, South Bend, IN. He played varsity basketball and joined the U.S. Air Force as an engineer. His 28-year military career included serving in Vietnam and France. He taught aerospace studies at the University of Notre Dame and retired as a colonel in 1978. He was director of St. Michael's Laundry at Notre Dame, volunteered, played golf and poker and baked cookies for friends.

Delores Gaines Register ('52), Oct. 11, 2019, Goldston, NC. She served her community in myriad ways, volunteering with the Sanford (NC) hospital, Meals on Wheels and the Girl Scouts, among others. She is remembered for her warm smile, love of animals and dedication to her children and grandchildren.

Beulah "Butch" R. Spivey ('52), Dec. 12, 2019, Charlotte. She was a dedicated wife, mother and grandmother who loved crossword puzzles, reading and watercolor painting.

Jean Poston Abernethy ('57), Nov. 24, 2019, Winston-Salem. She had a passion for youth, serving in youth ministry and working with the North Carolina Division of Social Services. Known to many as "Mama Jean," she is remembered for her quick wit, honesty and mastery of the English language. Survivors include her sister, Ruth Poston Boyd ('56).

James "Jimmy" Frederick Byrne ('53), Nov. 6, 2019, North Myrtle Beach, SC. He retired in 1993 as senior executive vice president and CEO of Southern National Bank, now BB&T, after 31 years. An active civic leader, he received a Humanitarian Award in 1993 from the American Lung Association, where he served on the national board for 35 years and as state president in North Carolina. He was founding president of the Robeson County (NC) Community Foundation and president and fundraiser auctioneer for the Fairmont Rotary Club. He was preceded in death by his wife, Daphne Martin Byrne ('54). He is survived by a sister, three daughters and three grandsons.

Robert "Dowd" Davis ('53), Dec. 24, 2019, Chapel Hill, NC. He retired in 1994 from a long career as a Baptist minister in North Carolina but continued as a part-time or interim minister. He was an accomplished organist, author, Civil War history enthusiast, supporter of public education and family man.

Gwen Roberts Sharp (MS '53, MD '55), Nov. 12, 2019, Alken, SC. She practiced medicine in North Carolina, New York and Florida. As her family moved with her husband's work as a doctor in the U.S. Navy, she taught physiology at Trinity Community College in Charleston, SC, and served as president of the Charleston Symphony Orchestra Guild. She initiated literacy programs in Columbia County (FL) and Clay County (FL). She volunteered with Meals on Wheels and was a member of the Clay County Historical Society. She was predeceased by her husband, James V. Sharp (MD '48). She is survived by four children and four grandchildren.

Jimmie B. Abernathy ('54), June 9, 2019, Greenerville, TN.

Charles A. Allen Jr. ('54), Dec. 16, 2019, Wimington, NC. He served as a missionary in Guatemalan and Colombia with the International Mission Board for 29 years before pastoring at Winter Park Baptist Church in Wilmington. A dedicated seminary and university professor, he chaired the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Campbell University. He also served in the U.S. Air Force. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Jean Short Allen ('53), two children, four grandchildren and three siblings.

Lester Pindexter Martin Jr. (JD '54), Feb. 20, 2020, Mocksville, NC. A former Eagle Scout, he served in the U.S. Army in China, Burma (Myanmar) and India during World War II and received the Air Medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross. He practiced law with his late brother, George, for 18 years before becoming chief District Court judge and a Superior Court judge. He represented Davie County in the North Carolina General Assembly in the early 1960s. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Weaver Martin ('53), two sons and a granddaughter.

Alexander "Sandy" M. Pollock Jr. ('54), Nov. 10, 2019, Tampa, FL. He served in the U.S. Air Force. He retired from the homebuilding industry after 35 years with Jim Walter Homes. He was active in the Tampa Bay Youth Football League.
Lawrence “Larry” Spencer (’54), Jan. 18, 2020, Toledo, Ohi. A New York sprint champion in high school, he was drafted by the Brooklyn Dodgers but chose to play football at Wake Forest. He led the nation in kickoff return average (42.2 yards), an NCAA record that lasted 22 years. He played for the Detroit Lions before serving in the U.S. Army Chemical Corps. After a long career with the YMCA, he moved to Finance Systems of Toledo, OH, retiring in 1996 as vice president of sales and service. He was predeceased by his wife of 61 years, Mary Finberg Spencer (’53), and two sisters. He is survived by four sons and many grandchildren.

William “Bill” McKnight Calvert (MD ’55), Jan. 1, 2020, Pensacola, FL. He served nine years in the U.S. Army in the United States, Germany and Korea, obtaining the rank of major. He practiced internal medicine and gastroenterology at the Pensacola Medical Center Clinic for 30 years until retiring in 1995.

William “Bill” Andrew Patterson (’55), Dec. 10, 2019, Gray Court, SC. He was a member of the men’s tennis team and Phi Beta Kappa at Wake Forest and a U.S. Army veteran. He was president of CaroVend, a vending-machine service company in upstate South Carolina that he started with his wife, Constance.

Edwin “Ken” Hines (’56), Nov. 9, 2019, Raleigh. He served in the U.S. Army before a successful career as an entrepreneur. In the late 1960s he started Steamex of NC/Sun-belt USA, a national distributor of carpet cleaning and restoration equipment and supplies. He was an avid golfer, boater and hunter who was involved in many civic affairs, including the Raleigh Jaycees. He was preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, Becky Powers Hines (’55).

Thomas H. Moretz (’56), Oct. 11, 2019, Flowery Branch, GA. He served in the U.S. Army and was a retired insurance claims consultant.

Randolph “Randy” Bray Phelps (’56), Jan. 2, 2020, Apex, NC. He served in the U.S. Air Force and retired as an air traffic controller for the Federal Aviation Administration after 30 years. He then operated an accounting firm with his wife, Beth, for 15 years before they moved to their childhood family farm.

Ollin Manley Powers (’56), Dec. 18, 2019, Winston-Salem. He served in the U.S. Army and retired from Roadway Express, having driven 3 million miles. He loved the stock market, homemade peach ice cream, summers at Wrightsville Beach, NC, and his family. He was preceded in death by his wife, Wanda. He is survived by a son, John Powers (MD ’98), two grandchildren and a sister.

Morris Rozar (’56), Nov. 3, 2019, Phoenix. He completed 13 missions over Korea in the U.S. Air Force, rising to first lieutenant. A former Maricopa County (AZ) Superior Court Judge, he was a federal prosecutor, assistant city attorney in Phoenix and Arizona assistant attorney general. He played tennis for Wake Forest and helped develop the

**OBITUARY**

**CARL TACY (P ’82)**

**Basketball Coach**

Former basketball coach Carl Tacy, who guided the Demon Deacons from 1972 to 1985, died April 2, 2020. He was 87.

Tacy, known as “Gentleman Carl” for his quiet demeanor, compiled a record of 222-149, the third-most wins in school history. He led the Deacons to four NCAA Tournament appearances and two NIT appearances. His 13 seasons rank as the second-longest tenure of any Wake Forest basketball coach, trailing only Murray Greason (LLB ’26, P ’59), who coached 24 seasons.

“In my opinion, he was never given the credit he deserved as a basketball coach,” said Dave Odom, who was an assistant under Tacy and later head coach from 1989 to 2001. “He was a terrific tactician, teacher and a fearless competitor who relished big games against the ACC’s best.”

Tacy’s finest seasons came in 1976-77 and 1983-84, when Wake Forest advanced to the NCAA Elite Eight. Wake Forest finished the 1976-77 season ranked No. 9 nationally, posting a 22-8 record before falling to eventual NCAA Champion Marquette in a regional final. In 1983-84, Tacy led the Deacons to a 23-9 record, breaking the school record for wins in a season. That team produced one of the finest moments in Wake Forest history when the Deacons upset DePaul in overtime and retired legendary coach Ray Meyer to advance to the regional final.

Tacy coached in a golden era in the ACC, going head-to-head against legendary coaches, including North Carolina’s Dean Smith, North Carolina State’s Jim Valvano, Maryland’s Lefty Driesell, Virginia’s Terry Holland (P ’95) and a young Mike Krzyzewski (P ’99) at Duke. In the Big 4 Tournament, which featured the ACC’s four North Carolina schools before ending in 1980, Tacy guided Wake Forest to four titles, including three straight from 1975-77. In 1982, Wake Forest defeated a top-ranked North Carolina team headlined by Michael Jordan in Chapel Hill.

Tacy coached some of the greatest players in Wake Forest history, including Skip Brown (’77, MBA ’86, P ’14), Jerry Schellenberg (’77), Rod Griffin (’78), Frank Johnson (’81), Guy Morgan (’82), Danny Young (’84), Delaney Rudd (’85), Anthony Teachey (’85) and Muggsy Bogues (’87, P ’09).

Tacy was named to the Wake Forest Sports Hall of Fame in 1985 shortly after he left Wake Forest. He stayed in Winston-Salem and became a small-business owner. He was named to the 2013 class of ACC Basketball Legends.

A native of Huttonsville, West Virginia, Tacy graduated from Davis & Elkins College in West Virginia. He coached 10 years on the high school level and three years at Ferrum (Virginia) College. After one season as an assistant coach and one season as head coach at Marshall University, he was named Wake Forest’s head coach in 1972.

Tacy is survived by his wife, Donnie, a son, Carl Tacy Jr. (’82), and two daughters, Andrea Beth Tacy and Carla Tacy.
Phoenix Tennis Center, named one of the best U.S. Tennis Association facilities. He and his wife, Helen, retired to Bald Head Island, NC.

**Seth B. Brown ('57),** Nov. 2, 2019, Bethania, NC. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict. He was a nationally top-earning salesman for several companies, including Monroe Auto Equipment. He served on many community boards, including the nonprofit Preserve Historic Forsyth. He and his late wife, Mary, lovingly restored an 1805 historic landmark house. In 1995 he became the first mayor of Bethania after helping the town reinstate its charter to avoid annexation into Winston-Salem. He was a member of Bethania Moravian Church.

**Fred G. Crumpler Jr. (JD '57),** Jan 19, 2020, Winston-Salem. He was a prominent lawyer and a founding partner of White and Crumpler, with a legal career spanning more than 55 years. One of his cases helped establish the right of a criminal defendant to enter a plea without admitting guilt, now known as the “Alford plea.” He was the first attorney to win the prestigious Harvey Lupton Award as the top criminal defense lawyer in Forsyth County. He received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine from North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory in 2014. He was predeceased by a son, **Fred G. Crumpler III ('80).** Survivors include his wife, Marsha, and a daughter, **Andrea Cline (JD '91).**

**Darlene Herman ('57),** Jan. 8, 2020, Mount Vernon, OH. She was an English and history teacher and later principal of the Buckeye Boys Ranch in Columbus, OH.

**Stephen Hasty Strawn Jr. ('57),** Jan. 7, 2020, Davidson, NC. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard and worked in real estate in the Charlotte area for 40 years. He loved attending reunions of Sigma Pi fraternity. He is survived by his wife, three children and two sisters, including **Helen Purdy ('50).**

**Mary Anne Browne Woodring (MD '57),** Oct. 3, 2019, Chenoa, KY. She practiced family medicine for more than 40 years, first at a mission clinic in Puerto Rico, then throughout Eastern Kentucky. She was a world-class triathlete in her 50s and 60s. She is survived by her husband of 61 years, **Jim Woodring ('59),** eight children and 16 grandchildren.

**Jack Andrew Davis ('58),** Dec. 30, 2019, Clemmons, NC. He served in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Tingey and retired after 34 years at Western Electric. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, traveling and time with his family. He was a deacon and Sunday school teacher at Clemmons First Baptist Church.

**James H. Floyd ('58),** Jan. 11, 2020, Lexington, SC. He was a special agent for the FBI for 24 years, then taught criminal justice at Orangeburg-Calhoun (SC) Technical College. He retired from security at Stone Container Corp. in Lexington. He was predeceased by his parents, Jonnie Hensley and **Walter H. Floyd ('42, JD '47),** and his stepfather, **Samuel T. Hensley Jr. ('37).** He is survived by his wife, three children, five grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren and a brother.

**William Maurice Hill Jr. ('58),** Oct. 23, 2019, Louisburg, NC. He served in the U.S. Army and Army Reserves. He liked to joke that he met his wife, Frances, while they were in prison; they both worked in administration for the North Carolina Department of Corrections. Later, he was the firm administrator for 38 years at the law firm Poyner & Spruill in Raleigh.

**Walter "Buddy" E. Jordan Jr. ('58),** Dec. 30, 2019, Raleigh. After retiring from Exxon, he managed family property and drove a school bus, becoming known as "Mr. Buddy." He had a pilot’s license and loved flying, reading, crossword puzzles and spending time with friends and relatives at the family cabin in Boone, NC.

**John William Reed Sr. ('58, MD '62),** Oct. 21, 2019, Winston-Salem. At 6 feet, 8 inches tall, he played basketball at Wake Forest before becoming an ophthalmologist. As a comea specialist, he helped countless people in North Carolina and taught and performed surgeries in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Jordan, Israel, Haiti, Bahrain and Kenya. He taught at Duke University and Bowman Gray School of Medicine. He was director of the North Carolina Eye Bank for more than a decade.

**D. Douglas Swanson (MD '58),** July 10, 2019, Minneapolis. His family remembers him as a man of few words but great wisdom, with a gentle, caring spirit and devotion to God.

**David Orlo Wright (MD '58),** Sept. 25, 2019, Southern Pines, NC. He served in the U.S. Air Force for five years, achieving the rank of captain before earning a degree in family medicine and obstetrics. He had a 38-year career with Chowan Medical Center in Edenton, NC, and was chief of staff at Chowan Hospital. He also held academic appointments at several institutions, including Bowman Gray. He loved playing bridge and sailing along the Albemarle Sound. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Angie, three children, including **Kathy Bankhead ('80),** and six grandchildren.

**Barbara Cook Cubbage ('59, MA '65),** Jan. 26, 2020, Hampton, VA. She was diagnosed with polio at age 12 but never let it hold her back. She worked as a mathematician with NASA, an IRS agent and a tax consultant before opening her own business, Cubbage Taxes, which she ran for more than 25 years.

**Sarah "Rachel" Dedmon ('59),** Nov. 29, 2019, Pawleys Island, SC. A social worker, counselor, professor and administrator, she retired after 28 years at the School of Social Work at UNC Chapel Hill. She published widely on child mental health, Tourette’s syndrome, mental health case management, attention disorders and hyperactivity. She was a member of the Samuel Wait Legacy Society.

**Vance Albertascal ('59),** Jan. 17, 2020, Winston-Salem. He served in the U.S. Navy as an aviation photographer. He retired from Wilco-Hess and was former owner of Unique Furniture Makers. Remembered for his intelligence and reliability, he was a Freemason for 63 years, earning its highest honors and remaining active until his death.

**Robert H. Moore ('60),** Oct. 29, 2019, Mars Hill, NC. He practiced law in Maryland and the DC area for more than 45 years, retiring in 2014. He was active in community groups, especially GREATEAT, a Golden Retriever rescue, and loved his family, jazz, cooking and hiking.

**Robert "Bob" Pulliam (MS '60, MD '62),** Nov. 24, 2019, Germantown, TN. He served as a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy. He retired in 2014 as an OB-GYN. He pioneered the use of laparoscopy and diagnostic ultrasound in West Virginia. He held leadership roles in a number of medical and civic groups. He was elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates, co-founded a computer company for medical offices and owned Big Apple Bagels.

**Vade G. Rhodes ('60),** Oct. 26, 2019, Winston-Salem. He served in the U.S. Navy and practiced dermatology in Winston-Salem, retiring in 2014. Remembered as a compassionate physician, gifted storyteller and proud “granddaddy,” his greatest joy was spending time with family, especially at Sunset Beach, NC. He is survived by his wife, Sarah, twin sons, **Mark Alexander Rhodes ('86) and David Allen Rhodes (MBA '88, JD '89),** and four grandchildren.

**Frederick "Fred" S. Rolater ('60),** Nov. 23, 2019, Murfreesboro, TN. He was the first National Merit Scholar to attend Wake Forest. He taught history and headed the doctor of arts program in history at Middle Tennessee State University. After retiring, he taught at the Korea Baptist Theological Seminary and was a missionary in South Korea. He was president of the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society and a trustee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

**Gerald Young Brown ('61),** Dec. 11, 2019, Bueces Creek, NC. A certified EMT, he retired in 2001 after 21 years as director of Wake County (NC) Emergency Medical Services. Earlier, he taught classes on emergency medicine, anatomy and physiology at Campbell University, where he coached the wrestling program, earning NAIA Coach of the Year in 1972. He was predeceased by his wife of 56 years, **Peggy Creny Brown ('62).** He is survived by three children and two grandchildren.

**Ned Ingram Carter ('61),** Dec. 6, 2019, Lexington, NC. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps. He worked in the building products industry and started Carter Millwork, a maker of flexible moulding, in 1976 in Lexington. Survivors include a son, **Greg Carter ('86).**

**Kenneth “Gerald” Hampton ('61),** Nov. 26, 2019, Hattiesburg, MS. He retired in 2013 after 28 years teaching chemistry at Pearl River Community College in Poplarville, MS. He enjoyed stargazing, woodworking, do-it-yourself projects, NASCAR, history and science. He was introduced at Wake Forest to his wife of 54 years, **Joan Martiner Hampton ('65),** by a friend who...
was tired of hearing them both talk about chem- istry. He is survived by his wife, three children and five grandchildren.

Theodore "Ted" Lee Lightle ('61), Sept. 5, 2019, Columbia, SC. He served in the U.S. Navy alongside his twin brother, the late Jack T. Ligh- tle ('61). He worked for Southern Bell for 16 years in marketing and engineering positions. He later worked in communications and computer management for the South Carolina Budget and Control Board, retiring as a director in 2000.

Phyllis Ann Lowe ('51), Feb. 20, 2020, Elkin, NC. She retired in 2006 as executive secretary of the Riggers Association, a trade group involving heavy equipment operators. Earlier, she was a teacher and basketball coach in Falls Church, VA.

William “Ron” Pleasant ('61), Nov. 24, 2019, Fayetteville, NC. He worked in construction and construction products for 40 years and founded Ready Mix Concrete Company. He attributed much of his business success to his Wake For- est education, calling it “world class.” Survivors include his wife, Annette; two sons, William R. Pleasant Jr. ('91, JD '94) and Thomas W. Pleasant ('93, JD '96); seven grandchildren, including Alex Pleasant ('22); and a brother, Michael Pleasant ('69).

James Donald “Don” Shelton ('61), Nov. 24, 2019, Greenville, SC. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He was a tal- ented golfer who played at the semi-pro level in the 1970s.

Jeanie Whyte Wilson ('61), Jan. 20, 2020, Louis- ville, KY. She was a proud first-generation U.S. cit- izen, born to a father from Northern Ireland and a Canadian mother. A longtime member of Second Presbyterian Church of Louisville, she served as a Stephen's Minister, a lay person helping with grief and crisis. She loved bridge, mystery novel- s, pets, cooking and entertaining, especially for holidays. She is survived by her husband of 58 years, Edward Tyree Wilson ('50), two children and five grandchildren.

William “Dorsey” Daniel Jr. ('62), Dec. 3, 2019, Tarboro, NC. He was a member of the U.S. National Guard for five years and worked for Car- olina Telephone/Sprint, retiring after 32 years. He loved music, especially a live band, and he was often the first and last one on the dance floor.

Harrrout "Mike" Earle Melikian (MD '62), July 20, 2019, New York City. He served in the U.S. Air Force and participated in the Berlin Airlift. He was an ophthalmologist in Manhattan for 39 years and a clinical professor. He loved baseball and was an avid Red Sox fan; he even tried out for the minor leagues at one point.

Blan Vance Minton ('62), June 10, 2019, Ashe- ville, NC. He received a master’s in social work from UNC Chapel Hill and, 20 years later, went to law school at North Carolina Central University. He was an attorney at Legal Aid of North Caro- lina before establishing his own private family law practice in 2012. He was predeceased by his wife, Carol, and brother, Dean Minton ('51, PA ’83, P '74). He is survived by two children, four grand- children and a brother, Avalon Minton ('63).

Patricia Crews Nelson ('62), Oct. 31, 2019, Winston-Salem. She was a teacher in North Car- olina and Virginia and an active leader at Ar- dmore Moravian Church. She is survived by her husband, Benjamin, three children, including Jonathan Newton Nelson (JD '01), and four grandsons.

Ralph deSchweinitz Siewers III (MD '62), Jan. 4, 2020, Harpswell, ME. He served two years in the U.S. Army Medical Corps, including at an evacuation hospital in Vietnam. He specialized in pediatric heart surgery and helped build the Division of Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh. He retired as a professor of surgery in 2002.

Elizabeth “E. Arts” Wright Weber ('62), Feb. 17, 2020, Winston-Salem. She taught German at Salem Academy and retired in 1980 as its admis- sions director. A lifelong Moravian, she wrote more than 1,000 hymns, including one every day in 1952 and one performed at a 2008 Moravian women’s conference in Germany.

Ronald “Ron” Barker ('63), Oct. 29, 2019, Kern- ersville, NC. As Forsyth County sheriff from 1990 to 2002, he helped start the department’s first homicide division and neighborhood-watch pro- grams. He served in the U.S. Army as a sergeant during the Korean conflict. Before his 33-year law enforcement career, he taught science and coached football, baseball and basketball, mostly at Kernersville Junior High School. He is survived by his wife, two sons and three grand- children, including Matthew Barker ('12).

B. Eugene “Gene” Nicholson ('63), Dec. 30, 2020, New Wilmington, PA. He was a teacher and coach at Westminster College in Pennsyl- vania for 44 years. In 1994 he was named the NAIA Division II Coach of the Year after leading Westminster’s football team to the national title. He also coached track, wrestling, tennis, golf and swimming.

Jack Allen Thompson ('53, JD '65), Dec. 6, 2019, Fayetteville, NC. He was a Superior Court judge, district attorney and lawyer in private practice. He loved traveling with his late wife, shag dance lessons, tennis and especially golf. He was a member of the law school Alumni Coun- cil and the Samuel Wait Legacy Society. He is sur- vived by four children, including Kathy Thomp- son Lange (JD '91), several grandchildren and a great-grandson.

Hazel Hill Yarbrough ('53), Jan. 21, 2020, Kin- ston, NC. She retired from a career as a public school teacher and administrator in Johnston County (NC). She was passionate about lifelong learning, traveling, genealogical research and, most of all, family. She is survived by her hus- band, Charles Yarbrough ('61, MS '63), two sons, Brian Yarbrough and Chuck Yarbrough Jr. ('81), and five grandchildren.

William “Bill” Ir a Young ('63), Oct. 30, 2019, Burnsville, NC. He owned small businesses in his native Yancey County (NC). He also taught world history, sociology and political science at West- ern Piedmont Community College in Morgantown, NC. He was active in local and state politics and served as an educational policy adviser for Gov. Jim Hunt. He was predeceased by his wife, Bon- nie Schmidt Young ('65).

Ryland Stewart “Stew” Bryant Jr. ('64), Feb. 14, 2020, Amarillo, TX. He served two years in the U.S. Army and six years of active reserve duty. He was a metallurgist and manager for 35 years at Asarco (formerly American Smelting and Refin- ing Co.) in Baltimore, then Amarillo, where all the members of his golf foursome were transferred and played together for 35 years. After retiring in 2000, he spent 20 years as a sales agent with Coldwell Banker First Equity.

James “Jim” Edward Carter ('64), Jan. 20, 2020, Winston-Salem. He retired as a partner after more than 30 years at A.M. Pullen, a CPA firm. He is remembered for his honesty, devotion to family and love of travel, visiting all 50 states with his late wife, Edith.

John Henry Davidson ('64), Nov. 16, 2019, Ver- million, SD. He practiced law before joining the faculty at the University of South Dakota School of Law. He continued to teach and speak on a reduced schedule as professor emeritus after 2007. He specialized in environmental law and was a leader at Northern Prairies Land Trust.

Margaret A. Neal Hambrick ('64), Jan. 25, 2020, Shelby, NC. She taught junior high and high school in Shelby. She served two terms as pres- ident of the Junior League of Shelby. She was active at First Baptist Church and volunteered as a receptionist in the office. She was prede- ceased by a brother, John “Bruce” Neal ('57). She is survived by her husband, John “Jack” C. Hambrick Jr. ('63, MD '67); four children, includ- ing Anne N. Hambrick Pasco ('91) and John C. Hambrick III ('94); and 11 grandchildren, includ- ing Porscha Street Elton ('14).

Carolyn Bryant Mazurek ('64), Dec. 20, 2019, San Jose, CA. She retired in 2014 from IBM after more than 45 years. She loved books and clas- sical music and is remembered for her keen wit, intellect and spirit.

Michael Robert Walker ('64), Jan. 11, 2020, Glen Allen, VA. He taught public school for more than 40 years in Chesterfield County (VA) and coached basketball at the high school and col- legiate levels. As an assistant coach, he helped lead Virginia Union University to two NCAA Division II titles. He had a passion for bluegrass music.

William “Bill” Wortman Jr. (MD '64), Jan. 6, 2020, Statesville, NC. He served in the U.S. Navy and was an OB-GYN in Charlotte who helped introduce laparoscopy to the area in the 1970s. He was a gourmet chef, wine connoisseur and prolific writer, with more than 100 poems and articles in magazines and professional journals.
He is survived by his wife, Andrea Edwards (JD ’85), two children, two grandchildren and his Schnauzer buddy, Chief.

Nelson M. Casstevens Jr. (JD ’65), Nov. 30, 2019, Charlotte. He practiced law in Mecklenburg County (NC) for nearly 50 years, retiring in 2013 as senior partner in Casstevens, Hanner, Gunter, Riopel & Wofford PA. He served as president of the law school’s Alumni Council and chair of its Board of Visitors.

James “Jimmy” Gaither Jr. (’65, JD ’67), Feb. 26, 2020, Hickory, NC. He practiced law in Hickory for more than 30 years, then became general counsel for the Dale Jarrett Foundation created by the NASCAR legend. Gaither loved golf; some of his favorite life moments were attending the Masters in Augusta, GA, and meeting his idol, Arnold Palmer (’51, LLD ’70).

William “Bill” Monroe Knott III (’65, MA ’69), Dec. 12, 2019, Titusville, FL. He worked for NASA’s biological and life sciences program, rising to chief of biological research and earning multiple awards for his years of exceptional service. He is survived by his wife, Betsy Holton Knott (’65), four children, including Lisa K. Garfinkle (’89, JD ’98), a brother, Robert “Bob” Knott (’62, MA ’69), and numerous grandchildren.

John “Ben” Morrow (JD ’65), Sept. 15, 2019, Gastonia, NC. He was an Army veteran and an attorney in private practice at J. Ben Morrow PA.

David A. Bantz (’66), Dec. 30, 2019, Warner Springs, CA. He served in the U.S. Navy before a 40-year career as a financial adviser. He was on the boards of La Jolla YMCA and La Jolla Music Society. He wrote two books about his long journey with cancer, including “Conquering Fear: A Cancer Survivor’s Wisdom.” He is survived by his wife, a sister, two children, including Jennifer Bantz Fleishhacker (’99), and three grandchildren.

Albert “Willie” Smith (’66), Nov. 30, 2019, Marion, NY. A native of West Virginia, he worked nearly 40 years at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, part of the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, NY. He was a talented woodworker, passionate hunter and devoted family man.

Chloe Guice Wise (’66), Dec. 25, 2019, Biloxi, MS. She was a social worker at Mississippi State Hospital, a psychiatric facility near Jackson. Remembered for her creativity and compassion, she enjoyed singing, flowers and birdwatching.

William “Bill” Mark (’67), Dec. 13, 2019, Springfield, VA. He spent 26 years in the U.S. Army and Army Reserves, including tours in Germany and Vietnam. He also served churches in his native Massachusetts and was a chaplain and mental health therapist at the Bedford VA Medical Center. He was a chaplain for the FBI for 20 years and provided on-scene support during 9/11 and the crashes of TWA Flight 800 and EgyptAir 990.

Elaine Wilson Rozar (’67), Dec. 27, 2019, Walnut, CA. She was a cost accountant and an economic adviser on NASA’s Space Shuttle program. She is survived by a daughter, two granddaughters and four siblings, including her twin sister, Jane Wilson Widmeyer (’67).

Jerry Esch, one of the longest-serving faculty members to ever teach at Wake Forest, died Dec. 18, 2019, in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He was 83.

Esch joined the biology faculty in 1965 and spent his entire academic career at Wake Forest until retiring in 2017. In addition to holding an endowed professorship named for the late biology professor Charles M. Allen (’39, MA ’41), he served several stints as biology department chair and was dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences from 1984 to 1990.

“The biology department was a super close-knit family,” said his daughter, Lisa Esch McCall (’84). “The amount of genius there always amazed me. They were, and continue to be, leaders in their fields, and Dad was so proud to be included in that group.”

Esch’s impact extended from graduate students, to students in introductory biology, to freshmen in a First-Year Seminar on Darwin he taught near the end of his career. He mentored more than 40 master’s and Ph.D. students and published more than 150 scientific papers, most with students and colleagues. Belews Lake and farm ponds in and around Winston-Salem served as field sites for parasitology studies by his graduate students.

Esch was one of the world’s leading ecological parasitologists. He was a former president of the American Society of Parasitologists and the longtime editor of The Journal of Parasitology. He wrote or edited seven books, including “Ecological Parasitology: Reflections on 50 Years of Research in Aquatic Ecosystems” and “Parasites, People, and Places: Essays on Field Parasitology,” and he co-authored a textbook, “Parasitism: The diversity and ecology of animal parasites.”

A native of Kansas, Esch graduated from Colorado College, where he played baseball and basketball. Years later, he was named a distinguished graduate at Colorado College. He received his master’s degree and his Ph.D. in biology/zoology from the University of Oklahoma. During his long career, he conducted research at the Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine in London, the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory in South Carolina and the Kellogg Biological Station in Michigan.

After retiring, Esch and his wife, Ann Speir Esch (JD ’78), moved to Colorado. He is survived by his wife, three children and their spouses, Craig and Kerry Esch, Lisa Esch McCall (’84) and Steve McCall (’84), and Charles Esch, six grandchildren, including Morgan McCall Reece (JD ’13) and Travis McCall (’14), and one great-grandchild.

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Alice “Mitzl” Williams ('67), Jan. 19, 2020, Winston-Salem. She was a teacher and guidance counselor in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools. After retiring, she volunteered with Crisis Control Ministry and as a docent at Reynolda House. She was predeceased by her husband, Jack Williams, former chair of the physics department at Wake Forest. She is survived by two children, Lisa Kline and Pat Williams (JD/ MBA ’86), and five grandchildren, including Luke Williams ('19).

Jones Pharr Byrd ('68, JD ’71), Jan. 27, 2020, Asheville, NC. He served in the U.S. Army as a second lieutenant. He began his legal career in the state Attorney General’s office, then practiced law in Asheville, for many years at Van Winkle Law Firm. He served as chair of the Buncombe County Board of Elections. He is survived by his wife and two children, Jones Byrd Jr. ('99, JD ’02) and Julia Byrd ('00), and two granddaughters.

Jimmy Lewis Craig ('68), Dec. 16, 2019, Monroe, NC. He was chief court counselor for North Carolina state government’s juvenile justice section. He was passionate about coaching youth sports, mentoring hundreds of children. North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory awarded him the Order of the Long Leaf Pine in 2012 for 42 years of exemplary service.

Harry Edward Fisher ('68), Dec. 26, 2019, Asheville, NC. He played baseball at Wake Forest and practiced law in Montgomery County (NC) for nearly 50 years. He fished and hunted, pursuing big game around the world. He is survived by his wife, Janet, three children, including Kyle William Fisher ('95), and three grandchildren.

Luther “Brown” Bivens ('69), Nov. 20, 2019, Atlanta. He practiced law in Atlanta for 47 years. He was a triathlete, sailor, fly fisherman and adventurer who could light up a room with his charm and wit. He was preceded in death by his parents, Betty Coltrane and Edward Bivens (MD '46). Survivors include his son and three siblings.

Elin Jocelyn Eysenbach ('71), Jan. 8, 2020, Winston-Salem. She was an engineer with Buckeye Cellulose Corporation and later with Procter & Gamble before retiring in 2002. She loved traveling, protecting the environment and crafting Raku pottery pieces.

Dollye Peay Walters ('71), Nov. 14, 2019, Charlotte. She worked for 23 years at Hawthorne Management Company, a property management firm, and retired in 2012 as general manager. She is survived by her husband, Jim, two children, James "Trey" Walters III ('00) and Emily Langley ('04, MD '08), and four grandchildren.

Charles Stuart Lanier (JD '72), Oct. 24, 2019, Jacksonville, NC. He opened his own law practice, now known as Lanier, Fountain, Ceruzzi & Sabbath. He was a gifted high school athlete and is a member of the East Duplin High School Athletics Hall of Fame. He was predeceased by his parents, Russell Lanier ('49, JD '51) and Sybil Lanier, and a brother, Russell Lanier Jr. ('65). He is survived by his wife, four sons and six grandchildren.

Greg Zane ('72), Feb. 15, 2020, Tarpon Springs, FL. He was a professional stagehand, sound designer and musician who was beloved by his many friends and family members.

Michael A. Ellis (JD ’74), Nov. 28, 2019, Goldsboro, NC. He practiced law in the Goldsboro area. He coached football and basketball youth/ prep sports and treasured the friendships he made. He is survived by his wife, Caroline Hoke Ellis ('73), two children, Beth Harvin ('99) and Michael Ellis Jr., five grandchildren; and siblings Mary Ellen Ellis and Ken Ellis ('68, JD ’71).

James D. Lutz Jr. (MBa ’74), Jan. 12, 2020, Fayetteville, GA. He retired in 2009 from a long career at IBM across the country in finance and marketing positions, including division controller and business unit manager. He was proud of his family and was a skilled golfer and diehard New York Yankees fan who loved to dance, occasionally breaking out his signature “John Travolta moves.”

Carl Franklin Parrish (JD ’74), March 9, 2020, Winston-Salem. Remembered for his determination and quick wit, he retired in 2017 after a 43-year career as a criminal defense attorney. He taught law courses at Wake Forest and Forsyth Technical Community College. His weekly “Ask the Lawyer” segments ran for 24 years on WXII-TV. Among his awards was the highest civilian honor from the North Carolina Troopers Association in 2014. He was a member of the Samuel Wait Legacy Society and the law school Alumni Council.

Edward T. Frackiewicz ('75), Dec. 23, 2019, Harvard, MA. He was a member of Theta Chi fraternity. He was a risk manager at Liberty Mutual, Del Monte and Harvard University. He was president of the town of Harvard’s Athletic Association, which governs youth sports, and a member of the Bromfield Athletic Advisory Committee. A talented golfer, he played 1,336 different courses and served as a course rater for Golfweek magazine. He was a member of the Samuel Wait Legacy Society.

Joseph "Craig" Merrell ('75), Aug. 27, 2019, Suffolk, VA. He was a plastic and reconstructive surgeon in the Tidewater (VA) region for more than 35 years. He served as a volunteer, team leader and chief medical officer for the global nonprofit Operation Smile, which surgically repairs children’s cleft lips and cleft palates. He is remembered for his warm personality and faith in God.

Bertram John Schaeffer (JD ’75), Nov. 22, 2019, Philadelphia. He was a tax lawyer and securities executive who spent 15 years as a partner at Ernst & Young in Philadelphia. He later worked as a wealth management consultant, helping advise clients from musicians to athletes to executives.

R. Jeff Sivon ('75), Nov. 12, 2019, Houston. He was an entrepreneur and investor, beginning as a stockbroker for Merrill Lynch. He later established a shipbroking firm, St. Ives, a financial business that acts as an intermediary in the shipping industry. He also established a corporate gift business, Harris-Grey Company. His hobbies included golf and creative writing.

Charles Edward “Eddie” Barefoot Jr. ('76), Jan. 4, 2020, Matthews, NC. He worked in medical malpractice claims with St. Paul Insurance and CNA Financial. He held leadership roles at Matthews Presbyterian Church. He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Cathy Green Barefoot ('77), three children, including Chelsea Barefoot ('09, MSA '10), and three grandchildren.

Ray "Scott" Mayse (MD '76), Feb. 10, 2020, Kings Mountain, NC. An internal medicine specialist, he practiced for 43 years in the Charlotte metro area. He is survived by his wife, Sarah Huss Mayse (MAEd '74), three children, seven grandchildren, his father and four siblings.

Lewis Alston "Al" Thompson III (JD '77), Nov. 19, 2019, Warrenton, NC. He was an attorney at Banzet & Banzet (later Banzet, Thompson & Syers PLLC) for more than 40 years. Remembered as a modern-day Renaissance man, his hobbies included cooking, gardening, art, running, traveling and riding horses. He was predeceased by his parents, Doris and Lewis Alston Thompson Jr. ('50). He is survived by his wife, Susan Morrice Thompson (JD '77), three children and five grandchildren.

Shirlene Hunt ('78), Jan. 9, 2020, Fairmont, NC. She practiced medicine for 20 years in Memphis, TN, before returning home to practice in Elizabethtown, NC. She also served in the U.S. Navy.

Gail Robin Citron (MBA '80), Oct. 29, 2019, Winston-Salem. She worked in leasing and development in Winston-Salem, serving in managerial roles with Northside Shopping Center, Cwood Properties Inc. and First Stevens Ltd., which spearheaded downtown revitalization efforts in the 1980s. She volunteered with a number of local organizations, including Piedmont Craftsman, Temple Emanuel and the National Black Theatre Festival.

John "Jay" Robert Dunlap Jr. ('81), Nov. 5, 2019, Knoxville, TN. He worked in real estate development, leasing and management in the Knoxville area. He is remembered for his positivity and devotion to family. He is survived by his parents, two children and two brothers, Andrew Dunlap and David Dunlap ('83).

Mike Moran (MBA ’81), Dec. 26, 2019, Pinna- cle, NC. He was a real estate broker and residential home builder who was vice president of High Bridge Builders in King, NC. He helped launch Habitat for Humanity in Stokes County. He is remembered for his friendliness, his contagious laugh, and his love of his wife, Patti, as well as his friends, family, dogs and cats.

James “Jimmy” M. Powell (MBA ’83), Nov. 4, 2019, Greensboro, NC. He ran a division at Munsingwear, was national advertising manager at Georgia Boot/Durango Boot and worked at Johnston & Murphy Shoes. He loved dogs, hunting and golf and had a knack for always seeing the best in people.
ROBERT WILLIAM LOVETT
Professor Emeritus of English

Retired English professor Bob Lovett, who taught at Wake Forest from 1962 until retiring in 2001, died Feb. 16, 2020. He was 85.

For nearly 40 years, Lovett dispensed knowledge, wisdom and advice to generations of English majors and other young people whose lives he helped form. One of the highlights of his career was teaching at Worrell House in London in 1980.

A native of New York City, Lovett grew up in Delhi, New York, and Atlanta. He earned his master’s and Ph.D. degrees from Emory University. He was an avid book collector who amassed nearly 700 rare and unique editions of “Robinson Crusoe,” now housed in the rare-book library at Emory. Lovett loved the Blue Ridge Mountains and spent most summers at the family cabin in Ashe County, North Carolina.

He is survived by his wife, Miriam Möller Lovett (MA ’62), six children, David Lovett, Elizabeth Grover, Charlie Lovett, Peter Lovett (’92, MBA ’01), John Lovett (’98) and Stephanie Lovett (MA ’91), 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his first wife, Ruth Candler Lovett.

MIRIAM ESTHER FELSENBURG (MBA ’78, JD ’91)
Professor Emerita of Law

Miriam “Miki” Felsenburg, one of the longest-serving professors in the law school’s legal analysis, writing and research group, died March 20, 2020, in Longmont, Colorado. She was 72.

Felsenburg taught at the School of Law from 1994 until retiring in 2012. She also taught business law courses in the Wake Forest School of Business.

A native of Denver, Felsenburg was born to Viennese Jews who escaped the Holocaust. She graduated from the University of Denver and worked in public relations for AT&T/Western Electric. She became the company’s national spokesperson and eventually moved to North Carolina.

She earned an MBA from the School of Business, and a decade later she enrolled in the Wake Forest law school. She graduated from the law school in 1991 at age 44, and she was recognized as the Outstanding Woman Law Graduate.

Felsenburg worked for a Winston-Salem law firm for several years before joining the Wake Forest law school. She graduated from the law school in 1991 at age 44, and she was recognized as the Outstanding Woman Law Graduate.

She was predeceased by her wife, Regina Daniel.

E. FRANK TUPPER (P ’92)
Distinguished Professor of Divinity Emeritus

The Rev. Frank Tupper, a founding faculty member of the School of Divinity, died Feb. 28, 2020, in Louisville, Kentucky. He was 79.

Tupper was a Baptist theologian who taught generations of seminary students that when it comes to the problem of evil and suffering, “God always does the most God can do.” He joined the divinity school faculty in 1997 and retired in 2016.

A native of Mississippi, Tupper graduated from Mississippi College and became active in the civil rights movement. He earned his Master of Divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. After pastoring a Baptist church in Kentucky, he taught at Southern Seminary from 1973 until coming to Wake Forest.

Survivors include two children, Elgin Frank Tupper III (’92) and Elizabeth Michelle Tupper Butler.

EVA MARIE RODTWITT
Lecturer Emerita in Romance Languages

Longtime French teacher Eva Rodtwitt died March 3, 2020. She was 96.

Rodtwitt taught French literature and language from 1966 until retiring in 1997. She was also director of the French House in Bernard Cottage on the grounds of the Graylyn estate in the 1970s and 1980s.

A native of Oslo, Norway, Rodtwitt received degrees in English, history and French from the University of Oslo. She taught in Norway before receiving the Smith-Mundt scholarship for visiting international teachers and a Fulbright grant to study in the United States. She joined the Wake Forest faculty a few years later.
David Richardson Gates (’85), Jan. 13, 2020, Brattleboro, VT. He owned and operated Dis- count Beverage in his native Brattleboro, after working in the banking industry. He was a member of the American Legion and served as president of the Elks Lodge.

Elizabeth Chappell Gordon (MAEd ’85), Dec. 27, 2019, Clemmons, NC. She was a guidance counselor, most recently at Davie County High School in Advance, NC.

Kelly Lee Hatfield (’85), Sept. 25, 2019, Wichita Falls, TX. She was co-owner of Ninja Academy and Supplies, a studio and store in Ironton, OH. Prior to that she worked in retail management at Linens ’n Things, Phar-Mor and JOANN Fabrics.

William W. Pepper Sr. (JD ’85), Dec. 27, 2019, Harrington, DE. He enjoyed a successful legal career that spanned nearly 35 years and was most recently a partner at Schmittinger & Rodriguez PA in Dover, DE. He was a volunteer firefighter, a diehard Philadelphia Eagles fan and a devoted father and husband.

Martha Azar Stevens (’85), Feb. 12, 2020, Roswell, GA. She was a technical writer, analyst and project manager at various companies, including Coca-Cola and Internet Security Systems (IBM). She was a loving mother and remarkable cook who, above all, loved spending time with her grandchildren.

Larry A. Lindsay II (’86), Jan. 4, 2020, Wendell, NC. He was a social studies teacher and basketball coach in North Carolina and Virginia public schools for 32 years. He loved serving others through his church, Hephzibah Baptist, where he was a deacon, camp director and missions trip volunteer.

Kenneth Westley Smith (MBA ’89), Nov. 21, 2019, Winston-Salem. He retired in 2016 from Reynolds Tobacco Company’s research and development division. Previously he worked for the Forsyth County Environmental Affairs Department until 1980. He loved spending time with friends on the golf course and played some of the world’s best courses, including Pebble Beach and St. Andrews.

Jay Duer Ranlett (MALS ’90), Feb. 18, 2020, Winston-Salem. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He worked in the engineering department at Western Electric for many years, retiring in 1981 as a department chief in data design.

Phillip Martin Earls (MBA ’91), Dec. 24, 2019, Virginia Beach, VA. He worked for Sears, Roebuck & Co. as a regional personnel manager and later worked for OVC as a logistics manager. After retiring, he joined Tele-Video Productions and worked in the Marion Manor retirement community.

Michael Blake Nesser (’91, MAEd ‘93), Nov. 10, 2019, Clemmons, NC. He was a licensed professional counselor with Novant Health and an avid sports fan who loved the Deacons.

Charlita C. Cardwell (’95), Jan. 16, 2020, New York City. She was a successful investor, attorney and philanthropist. She co-founded Moore Frères & Co., her family’s private investment holding company, and served as CEO of its foundation. Prior to that she was vice president and senior counsel at American Express. She is remembered for her unflappable grace, fashionable style and devotion to family. She is survived by her father, husband, two daughters and her twin sister, Charebra Buckhannon (’93).

Rodney Gene Hasty (JD ’95), Oct. 12, 2019, Wakeaville, NC. He was an assistant district attorney in the Buncombe County District Attorney’s Office, practiced civil litigation at a law firm and rejoined the ADA’s office as chief assistant district attorney in 2015. Passionate about computers and technology, he built an innovative website for the DA’s office to improve victim access and coordinate defense attorney schedules for court dockets to free up time to assist victims.

Kimberly Joy Wilson (’97), Oct. 24, 2019, Orlando. After an initial career in marketing and advertising, she earned a master’s degree in clinical social work and focused on crisis intervention, mental health and addiction counseling. Remembered for her infectious laugh, she was passionate about the outdoors, live music and her English bulldogs. Survivors include her parents, Gabriella Wilson Yeaple (’66) and Jon M. Wilson (’67), and a brother.

Jeffrey R. Lichiello (MBA ’99), Feb. 16, 2020, Rensselaer, NY. He worked as a chemist for Emerging Technologies Inc. in North Carolina.

Caroline Cecilia Gaiser (’07), Feb. 12, 2020. She was a gifted floral designer and performance artist whose floral designs were featured on the National Mall in Washington, DC, and in countless venues across the country.

Emerick “Emy” Joseph Corsi III (’10), Oct. 18, 2019, Cleveland. He worked in the real estate industry, most recently as the leasing and development manager at DiGeronimo Companies. He was a dog-lover and advocate who is remembered for his friendly demeanor, humor and devotion to family.

Daniel A. Meggs (’12), Feb. 21, 2020, Mint Hill, NC. He was a member of the men’s golf team at Wake Forest and worked as director of instruction at TPC Piper Glen, a private golf club in Charlotte.


Marilyn McNeely Dunn, Jan. 4, 2020, Winston-Salem. She was the wife of the late James M. Dunn, former professor at Wake Forest’s School of Divinity. The James and Marilyn Dunn Chair of Baptist Studies was created at the school in their honor in 2011. She was a member of the Samuel Wait Legacy Society.

Joshua M. Foldy, Dec. 26, 2019, Greensboro, NC. He taught theatre courses at several universities, including Wake Forest, UNC Greensboro and UNC School of the Arts. He also was a talented actor and director who worked in theatres across the country.

Vonnie Slate Gage, Jan. 16, 2020, King, NC. She worked at Wake Forest for nearly two decades and retired in 2007 as assistant registrar of the Babcock Graduate School of Management. She was an active member of King Moravian Church and volunteered with the Stokes County Agriculture Fair.

Lowell Wilson McClure, March 19, 2020, Pfafftown, NC. He retired in 2008 from Wake Forest’s Office of Information Systems (IS) as a software programmer and analyst. He was a devoted member of Reynolda Church, serving as an elder and deacon.

Timothy Mack Morgan, Nov. 22, 2019, Winston-Salem. He was a biostatistician at Bowman Gray School of Medicine for 36 years and a professor emeritus. He loved the outdoors with his family and completed more than a dozen ultra-marathons.

Billy James Sizemore, Jan. 1, 2020, Boonville, NC. He was a staff member with Facilities & Campus Services at Wake Forest for 36 years, retiring in 1998. He loved the outdoors, playing golf, watching the Atlanta Braves and caring for his grandsons. He is survived by his wife, Betty, and a daughter, Donna S. Chamberlain (’90).

Lemonydue “Lemont” White, Dec. 19, 2019, Winston-Salem. He was a familiar, friendly face on campus, where he had worked in Deacon Dining since 2013. Most recently, he was a manager with the Fresh Food Company (“The Pit”). He took pride in making The Pit “the best place for food on campus,” as he used to say. He was an active volunteer in the Winston-Salem community, helping feed the less fortunate.

Sara “Sally” Newpher Willard, Oct. 29, 2019, Raleigh. She was a budget analyst at Wake Forest, George Mason University and Virginia Commonwealth University, where she retired as director for financial affairs for the academic campus. She is survived by two sons, Franklin Willard and Christopher Willard (JD ’92), and five grandchildren.

Friends, Faculty, Staff, Students

Katherine Brown (’06) turns her twin sister’s cancer diagnosis into a blessing for young adult cancer survivors

By Kerry M. King (’85)

When she was a little girl, Katherine Cardwell Brown (’06) always worried that something would happen to her identical twin sister, Susan. Years later, when Susan was diagnosed with cancer, Brown was facing her worst nightmare.

Brown’s sister, Susan Cram-Smith, was 30 when she felt a pea-sized lump behind her left shoulder in early 2015. Active and outwardly healthy with two small children, she was diagnosed with stage IV metastatic melanoma of unknown primary, which has a five-year survival rate of less than 25%, according to the Melanoma Research Alliance.

But nearly five years later, Cram-Smith has beaten the odds, and Brown has become an advocate for “cancer survivors and fighters.”

Brown took what she learned from her sister’s cancer journey to found The Boon Project (boonproject.org), a nonprofit specifically for young adults with cancer in the Charleston, South Carolina, area, where the sisters live with their families. (She defines young adults as those between 18 and 40ish.)

The name represents what she wants the organization to be — a blessing and a resource for young adults, who face different challenges than children or older adults with cancer. Adults aged 20 to 39 account for about 4% of all cancers diagnosed, or 80,000 people a year, according to the American Cancer Society.

“My passion is helping other people get through what Susan went through,” says Brown, a former elementary school teacher. “The weight we were carrying would have been impossible if others weren’t helping us. It seems natural to help others and pay it forward.”

The Boon Project provides free support programs, community-building events, financial assistance, care packages and other programs, all funded by donations and special events.

Two of the largest programs are the Courage Club, which connects cancer survivors through monthly social gatherings, and the Fitness Force group, which helps survivors stay physically active through free classes. Believing that no one should fight cancer alone, Brown provides companions to appointments if patients don’t have family or close friends nearby.

Cram-Smith was fortunate that Brown and their younger brother and parents all lived near Charleston, supporting her through surgeries, immunotherapy, clinical trials in New York and more.

Brown wondered how young adults without such support navigate through treatment options, financial concerns and emotional needs or if they just need something as simple as a ride to the doctor’s office. “You’re not expecting to be diagnosed with something life-threatening in your college years or in your 20s or 30s,” she says. “You’re not prepared, and none of your friends have gone through it.”

Young adults are the most underserved age group in the cancer-fighting community and more likely to be misdiagnosed, which means a greater chance of a late-stage diagnosis, according to the American Cancer Society. They’re often caught between seeing doctors who treat children and doctors who treat older adults.

Young adults may face their first major health crisis just as they’re starting careers or having children, sometimes far away from family, Brown says. They may lack adequate insurance, finances or paid time off. Unlike younger or older patients, they face questions about fertility or what to tell their children.

Most support groups are by cancer type, Brown says, but young adults need peers who understand their isolation and depression. “I’ll find your tribe,” Brown told her sister. “She had been through something very traumatic that no one understands, even as close as we are. None of the rest of us were facing mortality as a 31-year-old.”

Dr. Charles Holladay of Charleston Oncology was involved in Cram-Smith’s treatment and has referred numerous patients to The Boon Project. He says such groups are helping medical professionals pay more attention to the sometimes neglected emotional and social needs of young adults.

“The bulk of our attention is on pediatrics patients or older patients, because that’s where the incidence of cancer is statistically higher,” Holladay says. “We’re starting to see more and more diagnoses that we would normally associate with a more advanced age, such as colon cancer and breast cancer.”

Brown and Cram-Smith were inseparable growing up as their father’s career in the U.S. Navy took them to Virginia, Maryland, Scotland, Greece and Bahrain. “I always had a friend wherever we moved,” Brown says. “We’ve been through so much together.”

They took separate paths to college. Brown majored in elementary education and minored in dance at Wake Forest and became a teacher. Cram-Smith graduated from Carson-Newman University and is a dance teacher.

Nearly five years after Cram-Smith’s diagnosis, her cancer is “not detectable,” Brown says. “We expect her to continue beating the odds for a long time.”
May 7, 1860. Enslaved individuals were sold at auction to create a fund to educate Baptist ministers at Wake Forest College in Wake Forest, North Carolina. May 7, 2019. Faculty, staff and students gathered on the steps of Wait Chapel to speak aloud the names of these persons who lived 159 years earlier and whose stories are not often recounted in our University’s public genealogy.

Isaac, Jim, Lucy, Pompie, Emma, Nancy, Harriet and child, Joseph, Harry, Ann and two children, Thomas, Caroline and Mary.

Through a service of remembering, we commemorated these ancestors and their descendants as vital witnesses that encircles our educational work. We acknowledged their memory as interwoven with our past, present and future identities as individuals. We acknowledged the testimony of their lives as fundamental to our identity as a University.

That ritual moment stretched me — heart, mind and body — toward a deeper and more radical understanding of Pro Humanitate, the University’s motto, than I had considered before then. I was challenged as I spoke those names aloud — all of us gathered there were challenged — to ask anew: What does it mean for a community of learning to be “for humanity,” the common translation of Pro Humanitate?

In 2012, then-Chair and Associate Professor of Classical Languages James Powell excavated the Latin roots of Pro Humanitate:

If we look at how the ancient Romans used humanitas, they never use it for “humanity” as a collective. Often it means “kindness”: the ability to show kindness is what defines us. But they also used it to point to human cultivation and learning: that is where they saw real humanness.

If Pro Humanitate encapsulates ideals that guide our University, then our classrooms and co-curricular activities, our playing fields and community service sites, our office spaces and shared gathering places should all function together to encourage us — faculty, staff and students — to interrogate, explore and deepen how we understand and embody humanness.

Striking about the ancient Roman understanding of “humanitas” is the link between culture, or cultivation of learning, humanness and kindness. Kindness? What does cultivating kindness have to do with disrupting systems that degrade and demean people’s humanness?

Adam Phillips and Barbara Taylor write in “On Kindness” that genuine “kindness is hazardous because it is based on a susceptibility to others, a capacity to identify with their pleasures and sufferings.” This susceptibility to others extends beyond contemporary sentiments such as benevolence or altruism. Kindness that is “for humanity” demands that we link our well-being to the well-being of others, even the most distant-from-us or different-than-us others.

This means that being kind is about more than charitable acts or volunteer service, though such acts and service can be important to individual growth and communal transformation. To embody kindness that changes hearts and minds is to seek knowledge about what in our society degrades people’s humanness and then work to disrupt inhumane systems. To adopt a stance of radical humanness and thus radical kindness toward others is to acknowledge the full range of our communities’ histories, especially when those histories awaken us to times and places where people’s humanity has been exploited or maligned, and then to imagine ways to change the present and future.

Wake Forest is taking steps to examine its ties to slavery. This work is essential as our learning community reimagines what it means for
“KINDNESS THAT IS ‘FOR HUMANITY’ DEMANDS THAT WE LINK OUR WELL-BEING TO THE WELL-BEING OF OTHERS, EVEN THE MOST DISTANT-FROM-US OR DIFFERENT-TAN-US OTHERS.”
our educational endeavor to be “for humanity.” Perhaps as we undertake this project we can rediscover and reclaim a more radical understanding of “kindness” than common usage of the word suggests.

At its root, “kindness” is connected to the word “kinship” — being “of a kind,” sharing a lineage with others. Kindness that arises out of and returns to our humanness reminds us that we are all kin to, connected in lasting ways to, each other.

A profound gift of this dimension of our motto is that as we live into Pro Humanitate we can develop habits of genuine kindness — dispositions of generosity and care — toward one another in our everyday tasks and actions such as offering gratitude to servers in campus dining halls or entertaining generous conversations across study tables about divisive contemporary issues. We can at the same time plumb the depths of art, sciences, histories, languages and religions to consider what constitutes human flourishing and reflect on our individual and communal callings to adopt a stance of fierce kindness toward and on behalf of all of our kin — neighbors near and far and this planet we call home.

A sacred text in my religious tradition urges believers: “Be ye kind to one another” (Ephesians 4:32). Today, I hear that text in a new way: “Be ye kindred to one another.” When I was introduced to Isaac, Jim, Lucy, Pompie, Emma, Nancy, Harriet and child, Joseph, Harry, Ann and two children, Thomas, Caroline and Mary on May 7, 2019, I encountered people whose lives made possible my vocational journey. They are a part of our lineage as members of the Wake Forest University community. Our responsibility now is to honor their contributions to our identities by embodying Pro Humanitate — considering our humanness in all of its rich and troubling dimensions and taking up vocations through which we can exercise what might just be our most radical calling: “Be ye kindred to one another.”

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No matter where you are,
THIS WILL ALWAYS BE YOUR HOME.

Congratulations to our newest alumni. You are officially Demon Deacons for life.
Awaiting visitors at Reynolda House Museum of American Art is Gilbert Stuart’s double portrait, “Anna Dorothea Foster and Charlotte Anna Dick” (1790-1791), by the leading portrait artist of the Federalist period in American art history. Charlotte Metz Hanes donated this first painting acquired by her late husband, R. Philip Hanes Jr. (LHD ’90), an arts leader in Winston-Salem, the state and the nation.

“Phil was so committed to Winston-Salem’s legacy of the arts, and painting was such an early love for him, I just knew that the first work that he bought belonged in Winston-Salem,” said Charlotte Hanes, whose gift was in memory of Phil Hanes and his first wife, Joan.

Shown at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the National Gallery of Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and Yale University Art Gallery, the portrait shows Anna Dorothea Foster, daughter of Speaker of the House John Foster, and her cousin, Charlotte Anna Dick, on the left. Stuart painted it in Dublin, where he lived from 1787 to 1793.

The portrait is the Reynolda museum’s second by Stuart. His portrait of Sally Foster Otis (1809) originally included her son, Alleyne, but Stuart painted him out. Over the years, Alleyne’s face has emerged through the paint in a ghostly pentimento.