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IT IS A WONDERFUL TIME to be a Wake Forester! After finishing my first semester as president, I can share that there is much to celebrate and much to be grateful for right now.

I think of our successful and fully in-person fall semester. Following months of interruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, our campus was rejuvenated by the presence of students, faculty and staff doing what they do best — delivering on the mission of Wake Forest. Together, we celebrated one another’s achievements — from artistic performances and exhibits to outstanding teaching and mentoring to the fields of athletic competition to discoveries gained from distinctive research and scholarship. Our campus is flourishing and energized from our successes with new hopes and ambitions.

This first semester was an opportunity for me to see and experience the power and commitment of the Wake Forest community. I spent time with students in the classroom and teaching labs, at Undergraduate Research Day, at their plays and performances, while walking laps at Hit the Bricks and in conversations hearing what they care about most. I met with our faculty members — in departmental meetings and individually — to understand their perspectives. I engaged with our leadership boards and councils and had many conversations with alumni, parents and friends. With each group, I have also asked a driving question: What is expected of a great university today? What is being asked of us? From the answers to these questions, I am not only learning about who Wake Forest is and what this community values, I’m also discovering the aspirations we have as an institution and our dreams for the future. We are in an incredibly strong position, with limitless potential.

Our conversations and continual journey of discovery together will lead us toward designing a strategic vision for our future. In the spirit of teamwork and transparency, over the coming months, I will be developing a plan to engage our campus community in this pivotal work and will share more information about our efforts on this front. We have much to do in the years ahead, and it will take all of us to help Wake Forest shine even brighter.

As we ring in a new year, we will look toward new beginnings for Wake Forest. I am excited about our future together and invite you to join in shaping the next part of our University’s story.

Sincerely,
Susan R. Wente, Ph.D.
Reading

ULYSSES

in

Baghdad

Navigating global hotspots, William Roebuck (’78, MA ’82) embraces international service in a diplomatic career worthy of his literary background.

By Carol L. Hanner
Bill Roebuck, former U.S. Ambassador to Bahrain, stands in his airy kitchen in Arlington, Virginia, and shares Netflix-worthy stories from his 28-year career in the U.S. Foreign Service. His soft Southern voice bears no trace of adrenaline in the retelling.

In 2003, an armored caravan ferries Roebuck ('78, MA '82) toward Gaza City. He and others in the lead car hear a muffled “ploomff” behind them. Attackers have detonated a bomb buried in the road, exploding the car that would have carried Roebuck if not for a last-minute change of plans. Instead, the assassination attempt kills three of the four American security officers in the targeted vehicle.

In 2009, Roebuck travels across Baghdad in another armored caravan to an Iraqi ministry meeting. The next day, al-Qaida explosions blast the 10-story ministry building, killing at least 95 people, injuring 600 and leaving the rubble of blackened cars for blocks. “It looked like Mad Max,” Roebuck recalls.

In 2013, Roebuck oversees the U.S. Embassy in Libya after Islamic militants have attacked a U.S. compound in Benghazi in 2012 and killed Ambassador J. Christopher
Steve and three other Americans. Roebuck takes a run around the exterior of the embassy walls on the outskirts of Tripoli. Running alongside him is a security guard who is none too excited about the lanky diplomat’s open venue. But running is Roebuck’s go-to exercise.

In early 2018, a C-130 military plane lands at a pitch-black dirt airstrip in northeastern Syria in the secrecy of the wee hours. It delivers Roebuck, a few other people and a pallet of supplies to a remote outpost protected by U.S. Special Forces in yet another war-torn region. Roebuck will work as the senior diplomat, sometimes the lone diplomat, at the complex intersections of tribal chiefs, ISIS terror troops and U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF).

He tells these tales in the same level tone with which he describes his significant but less overtly dramatic duties, whether securing Libyan approval for a flyover to reach endangered Americans or pushing for the human rights of protesters when he was U.S. Ambassador to Bahrain.

Through it all, he walks a tightrope of international and domestic politics.

The question must be asked: Was he scared after finding himself in Gaza a car length away from possible death?

“In terms of professional work, I just compartmentalize it, and I went about my business,” Roebuck says. “I’ve never felt afraid overseas, even though things can happen.”

Did it give him pause when he realized he was a calendar appointment away from a major bombing in Iraq?

“I mean, I wasn’t in danger. I wasn’t there that day.”

A diplomat-scholar

Roebuck’s calm in treacherous environments led the U.S. Department of State to award him the Ryan C. Crocker Award for Outstanding Leadership in Expeditionary
“In terms of professional work, I just compartmentalize it, and I went about my business. I’ve never felt afraid overseas, even though things can happen.”

—Bill Roebuck
Diplomacy for his service in Libya. He also received the Award for Heroism in 2020 for his work in Syria, just as he was reaching the mandatory retirement age of 65.

Eager to continue using decades of knowledge, he transitioned in January 2021 to a new job as executive vice president at The Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington (D.C.).

That Roebuck is a man of great courage is true, but it’s the second most striking thing about him, says Jeffrey Feltman, a former colleague and boss, a former U.S. ambassador to Lebanon and now the U.S. Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa, a world hotspot.

The most striking thing about Roebuck, Feltman says, is his talent as a “diplomat-scholar.” Many Foreign Service officers are highly intelligent and master policy wonks, Feltman says, but Roebuck’s talent is rare. He dives deep into the history, culture and anthropology of wherever he is serving and builds a robust context for analyzing policy.

“The scholarly background does not turn him into a bookworm,” says Feltman of his friend. “It turns him into an intrepid, courageous promoter of U.S. interests in some of the most dangerous places in the world. It’s remarkable.”

Feltman might be too quick to acquit Roebuck as a bookworm. An English major with a master’s degree from Wake Forest, a law degree from the University of Georgia and an appearance that could easily pass for a college professor, Roebuck has never slaked his childhood thirst for reading. He has carried volumes of books with him into the world’s deserts.

He is a writer, framing the conundrums of global politics in a literary landscape. His essays win praise for their writing quality and political insights.

During a year in Baghdad, he chose to use Fridays, his only day off, to excavate meaning from James Joyce’s notoriously challenging novel, “Ulysses.” Roebuck wrangled with it “for a little self-improvement, or at least high-class distraction,” he wrote for the Foreign Service Journal in an essay called “Bloomsday in Baghdad: Reading Joyce in Iraq.”

“Ulysses is a sprawling, confusing, difficult novel, with a narrative arc that never seems to make much progress. A perfect choice for Baghdad,” the essay’s headline noted.

**Wake Forest ‘opened new worlds’**

The son of an Allstate insurance agent and a homemaker, William Vernon Roebuck Jr. grew up with his two sisters in an eastern North Carolina town that still lingers in his accent. Church and sports — basketball and track — filled his young life in Rocky Mount.
Books brought new influences at an early age. “I was from a Southern Baptist family but saw myself as a self-styled, little snotty radical,” he says. “It was a backwash of the ’60s. I liked anything that was dissident in some way.”

Older classmates who went to Wake Forest invited him to campus when he was in high school and took him along to classes. “It was a place I knew and was comfortable with,” says Roebuck, who received a George Foster Hankins Scholarship.

Roebuck stops for a moment, surprised by a surge of emotion as he talks about Wake Forest. It opened new worlds to a boy who craved knowledge and dreamed of moving beyond the South’s racial and equity injustices. The University’s Pro Humanitate values took deep hold. “Wake Forest became a part of my DNA. It just shaped the way I see the world, the way I wanted to be in the world.”

He returns to the topic later in the interview, his equilibrium restored, and talks of professors of the time who influenced him. (In a testament to his willpower, he remains standing for the 3½-hour interview, unable to sit because of sciatica requiring surgery last summer.)

At Wake Forest, English professor Lee Potter encouraged Roebuck’s writing. Patricia Adams Johnson Johansson (MA ’69, P ’80, ’83, ’84), associate dean of the College and lecturer of English, mentored him, as did French professor Suzanne Chamier Wixson and then-Provost Ed Wilson (’43, P ’91, ’93).

Literature captivated him: The visceral South of William Faulkner, the satire and poetry of Jonathan Swift, the activism of James Baldwin and the Victorian social criticism of Charles Dickens, still a favorite. He read early feminist theory. Professor of Religion George McLeod “Mac” Bryan (’41, MA ’44, P ’71, ’72, ’75, ’82) introduced him to radical church and civil rights writers, including the Berrigan brothers, Daniel and Philip.

“The scholarly background does not turn him into a bookworm. It turns him into an intrepid, courageous promoter of U.S. interests in some of the most dangerous places in the world.”

— Jeffrey Feltman, former U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon
Seeds of the Foreign Service

Wake Forest also kickstarted Roebuck’s passport. He mastered French during a seven-week homestay in Switzerland before an undergraduate semester of study in Dijon, France. The Swiss family’s 3-year-old and 6-year-old spoke no English. “I remember the little 3-year-old girl, I was struggling to say something, and she said, ‘Just say it! Just say it!’ That was the breakthrough for me that I had the confidence and the rhythm of it and could build on it.”

After graduation, he served three years in the Peace Corps teaching English in Côte d’Ivoire, a former French colony in West Africa. “I was basically dreaming in French at that point,” he says.

He lived “way out in the sticks,” five hours by car from Abidjan, the country’s largest city. Every few months he visited Abidjan and discovered the charms of “this mysterious thing that I hadn’t known existed before, which was the U.S. Embassy.”

Unlike the village, “they had cheeseburgers in their cafeteria, and they had a little library. I felt I had to find out how that works.”

He returned to Wake Forest to pursue his master’s thesis on the African novel, advised by renowned scholar Germaine Brée, who added the French intellectual tradition to his repertoire. He focused on Chinua Achebe of Nigeria, South African-born journalist Peter Abrahams and Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o of Kenya.

With the travel bug in his blood, he spent five years teaching English in Saudi Arabia, where he met his wife, Ann, a Belgian who is now a U.S. citizen.

“I had already been overseas a lot, and I liked the taste of it,” Roebuck says. “I just didn’t want to do it anymore as a local

Career Timeline

1978-1981
Peace Corps, Sassandra, Côte d’Ivoire, West Africa

1982-1987
English teacher and school administrator, Taif, Saudi Arabia

1992
Law degree from the University of Georgia. Joined the State Department

1995-1997
Political officer, U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem

1998-2000
Studied Arabic, Foreign Service Institute in Washington, D.C., and Tunis, Tunisia

2004-2007
Political counselor and later acting deputy chief of mission, U.S. Embassy in Damascus, Syria

2007-2009
Deputy Office Director, Arabian Peninsula Affairs (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen)
2009-2010
Deputy political counselor, U.S. Embassy in Baghdad

2010-2012
Director, Office of Maghreb Affairs

2013-2014
Chargé d'affaires, U.S. Embassy in Tripoli, Libya. Deputy assistant secretary for Maghreb Affairs (Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia) and Egypt Affairs

2015-2017
U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain

2018-2020
In Syria as Deputy Special Envoy to the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS

2020
Retired from Foreign Service in the U.S. State Department after 28 years

2021
Executive vice president, The Arab Gulf States Institute of Washington (D.C.), independent nonprofit

Left, Roebuck in the Peace Corps in Sassandra, a coastal town in Côte d'Ivoire in West Africa, where he taught English from 1978 to 1981. (Photo courtesy of Roebuck)
contractor, where … something goes wrong (and) you disappear into a prison for 10 years and nobody knows anything about it.”

He left Saudi Arabia to tackle law school in the United States. At age 36, with a law degree fresh in hand in 1992, he joined the Foreign Service. He spent two years of rigorous initiation into consular work in Jamaica, often conducting 100 short visa interviews in a morning. A seven-week rotation in the Jamaica political section was closer to the journalism career he had considered when he wrote for the Old Gold & Black.

“I said, ‘This is more like it. I love this.’ That gave me a chance to write, to get out, to see people, to get interested in the developments, what was going on in the country,” he says.

As a political officer at the consulate in Jerusalem from 1995 to 1997, he monitored the high-profile expansion of Israeli settlements in the Palestinian West Bank.

“I was off and running after that.”

Stationed back in Washington, he began studying Arabic, more difficult than French, especially at age 41. But he could, without a translator, plumb the stories of activists and imprisoned dissidents courageous enough to give an American the insider’s view under repressive governments.

In Israel again in 2000, he covered Gaza politics. Ann and their son, William, joined him in Tel Aviv. He drove 90 minutes three days a week through checkpoints to meet with businessmen, teachers, journalists and others, until violence in the Palestinian uprising allowed only phone interviews.

### Huge crater in the road

Roebuck had resumed trips to the Gaza Strip by 2003 in heavily-guarded caravans of three armored Jeeps, 10 to 15 feet apart. On Oct. 15, 2003, a training mission for new security officers resulted in switching the order of the cars, so he was in the front car instead of a middle car.

As they drove into Gaza, “everybody’s jabbering and talking, telling stories and laughing. Dust blows up on our window first. And then we hear something, but it’s not like a huge kaboom. It was more like a contained ‘ploompff,’ and people were looking. ‘What was that?’”
Roebuck is “one of the best expeditionary war zone diplomats I have seen in my career,” Mick Mulroy, a former CIA and Pentagon official and decorated war veteran, told Defense One online.
You have to make decisions, and you have to be comfortable with it, and you have to live with it. If you don’t want to do that, you need to go do something else. It was exciting, and I loved it.”

—Bill Roebuck
His car did a U-turn, and they found the flipped car behind them, a crater in the road and the bomb's gruesome results, fatal for three officers. An investigation did not definitively identify who was responsible, but Roebuck says Palestinians or others he interviewed had no reason to stop him from telling the stories they wanted told. Someone somewhere “just said, ‘Get us an American pelt.’”

Roebuck worked through his emotions without feeling deep scars. “I wrote about it, little pieces of poetry and things trying to come to terms with it.”

In the thick of it

Roebuck served in posts with ever-increasing responsibilities, his assignments bouncing in and out of dangerous places where he would go alone. His family lived with him in the safer cities, including Tel Aviv and Damascus, Syria, before Syria’s civil war began in 2011. William attended American international schools.

“We loved Damascus,” Roebuck says. “It was a police state, but it was safe. It was incredibly rich, historically and culturally.”

The family returned to Washington in 2007. William, an athletic middle-schooler, “became a very Americanized kid very quickly and never looked back.” He is now 25 and lives in the Arlington area.

Ann, who works at the Foreign Service Institute, shares her husband’s love of living internationally and accompanied him when she could.

Every place has violence, she says, even if it’s one-on-one, rather than the attacks of a landscape in conflict. “We both just really loved the Middle East, so we knew that was our area to be in. We signed up for that together, completely on board.”

The Gaza attack “definitely shook us,” but they moved on, she says. “Then when he went on unaccompanied tours, I’ll tell you, I probably don’t know half of the things that happened.”

The Roebucks were trying to keep family life stable for William, but Roebuck’s superiors required everyone to contribute a stint in Iraq. He took a year’s assignment without his family in 2009 to support Iraq’s critical national elections in March 2010.
“I’m glad I went. But it was just very difficult. It was isolated because you were on this huge triple-, quadruple-secured American embassy compound that just sprawled and loomed.”

Outside meetings required an armored convoy, limiting the number of trips. The day after explosives blew up at the ministry, he ventured back to offer condolences. He saw devastation and glass shards — “it just tears people apart” — spewed across the office where he had chatted the previous day with the foreign minister and his two chief aides, who escaped injury.

“So, Baghdad was dangerous,” Roebuck concedes.

**Libya’s ‘Fort Apache, the Bronx’**

Roebuck took over as chargé d’affaires overseeing the U.S. Embassy in Libya in January 2013 after Ambassador Stevens died in the Benghazi attack in September 2012.

Roebuck’s six months in Tripoli were “super interesting,” he says. “I liked managing the embassy. We had a great little team, sort of ‘Fort Apache, the Bronx’. … We had 85 Marines guarding us. Normally in an embassy you have 10. So, it was just overwhelming security and firepower.”

Roebuck met with top Libyan leaders eight to 10 times a week, appeared at cultural events “if it wasn’t too dangerous” and facilitated education grants, Fulbright Scholarships and international visitor programs. He dealt with joint counterterrorism efforts to capture the Benghazi culprits. (In 2017, the Libya militia ringleader was sentenced to 22 years in prison, and a second militant received 19 years in 2019.) Roebuck managed life in Libya on high alert, still running to relieve stress, but with an escort if chatter indicated threats.

“You have to make decisions, and you have to be comfortable with it, and you have to live with it. If you don’t want to do that, you need to go do something else,” Roebuck says. “It was exciting, and I loved it.”
Roebuck at the new Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial in Washington, D.C. Roebuck admires the 34th U.S. president and commander of the Allied Forces in World War II, whose goal was to build “a peace with justice in a world where moral law prevails.”
“When [Bill] went on unaccompanied tours, I’ll tell you, I probably don’t know half of the things that happened.”

—Ann Roebuck, wife of Bill Roebuck
Roebuck's courage extended to the political arena. In February 2014, he and other Americans walked out of a Tunisian celebration of its new constitution as Iran's parliamentary speaker accused the United States of supporting dictatorships during the Arab Spring.

Roebuck built his career with an ambassadorship as his goal. In July 2014, President Obama nominated him and the Senate confirmed him for the post to the Kingdom of Bahrain. He arrived in Manama in January 2015.

He walked a diplomatic edge as ambassador in Bahrain in the wake of Arab Spring uprisings. He pushed the king on human rights abuses, but Roebuck also needed to keep military relationships secure with this ally against Iranian influence. He appreciated the "really smart, talented people" in the embassy writing speeches or whispering background in his ear as he met people. "It was a joyful three years."

Reaching the goal of ambassador

Stephanie Hallett worked with Roebuck in Bahrain. She is in Washington but most recently was deputy chief of mission in the U.S. embassies in Cyprus and Oman.

"He's the best kind of leader that you want leading an embassy," she says. He was "thoughtful in everything that he approached, really, really wanted to understand issues, was equally decisive, ... empathetic, ... very humble (and) on top of that, someone who is visionary."

Roebuck, Feltman says, "comes across as a really decent Southern boy, … as just someone you love to have a beer with, but he's also someone that you can sit down and listen to really deep analysis about poetry, about literature, about how these things are still relevant today, how these could inform what we're doing in our foreign policy."

Roebuck's superior asked him to leave Bahrain early for a Washington project, with another Middle East ambassadorship to follow. But two nominations stalled internally in the State Department in 2017, Roebuck says. There was a new administration and "a certain degree of Benghazi backlash," given extensive, lengthy investigations and associated political divisions.
Pursuing hope in a desperate land

As Roebuck and his superiors worked on finding him a new role, his boss suggested a week in northeast Syria in early 2018 to advise the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF). They were trying to start a political party to ensure that people in the region were represented in the growing political opposition to authoritarian President Bashar al-Assad.

The pilots wore night-vision goggles to land at the darkened airstrip where U.S. Special Forces collected Roebuck in a beat-up Toyota Land Cruiser. They drove 40 miles, depositing him at 3 a.m. at a makeshift post for American and SDF forces in an abandoned cement factory.
irrigation canals, grain silos and buildings damaged, sometimes inadvertently by Americans. The urban battlefield of Raqqa haunted him with its ragged echoes of Dresden, the German city bombed almost to oblivion in World War II. He kept up his efforts even as the U.S. administration in 2018 cut off funding for rehabilitating Syria and pressured European and Arab allies to assume the costs.

The politics were byzantine, but his diplomacy often succeeded. He was the lone diplomat to speak at a ceremony celebrating the surrender of 10,000 ISIS fighters in the Battle of Baghouz.

He had waded into a morass in search of a role, and he had made a difference in a desperate place.

In 2019, the Trump administration announced it was withdrawing U.S. troops from northern Syria. Turkey promptly initiated a deadly incursion. American forces stood by, unable to protect Kurdish and SDF troops, even though the U.S. military and Roebuck had enlisted their help to vanquish ISIS and had promised not to abandon them.

Military helicopters evacuated Roebuck, Special Forces and contractors from their cement-factory base. Fires raged around them as SDF set its armory ablaze to keep it from the hands of Turkish-backed militias.

Roebuck didn’t deny when The New York Times published a leaked internal memo in 2019 in which he argued that the Trump administration had done little to discourage Turkey’s incursion. Roebuck, a career officer through multiple U.S. administrations, publicly acknowledged later that Trump had repaired the damage to relations with the SDF by agreeing to keep troops there, though Roebuck noted that the United States had, practically overnight, lost half the territory it had gained.
"He’s the best kind of leader that you want leading an embassy. [He was] thoughtful in everything that he approached, ... was equally decisive, ... empathetic, ... very humble [and] on top of that, someone who is visionary."

—Stephanie Hallett, former colleague of Roebuck

**Literature as insight**

The gains and losses in war and diplomacy would demand a respite for anyone. For Roebuck, renewal came through immersing himself in literature and writing. He crafted lively dispatches that opened career doors. “I made my name as a writer doing these cables,” he says.

Most restorative in faraway locations were reading projects he assigned himself: tackling all of Faulkner's works or “Ulysses” in Baghdad.

Roebuck digested Dante’s “Inferno” in Syria. As he toured twisted wreckage in Raqqa, “I was seeing a vision of Dante’s hell before my eyes,” he wrote in the May 2021 Foreign Service Journal.

Frederic C. Hof, a former ambassador and special adviser on Syria, said in the Journal’s letters to the editor that he had never read anything better on Syria in 10 years. “I was stunned by the author’s eloquence and insight,” wrote Hof, a professor and diplomat-in-residence at Bard College.

In another letter, Ronald E. Neumann, former ambassador to Algeria, Bahrain and Libya, said the piece captured what a great Foreign Service officer does. “He reports in a way that grabs the reader, that compels understanding of the foreign view, and that lays out what needs to be done as a policy matter for the United States and why it needs to happen. To do so with brevity and clarity is professionalism. To do it with beauty is art.”

Roebuck says in an essay in Defense One online that diplomats sometimes must resort to “pocket-lint diplomacy: the effort to mediate, persuade, cajole, assist, and reassure as if one’s diplomatic pockets were full of expected solutions and commitments, in the full realization one’s pockets, except for the lint, were empty.”
But an effective diplomat can “work some magic” by listening, empathizing, improvising and maintaining “confidence in the might, prestige and values that the U.S. brings to the foreign policy table,” he says.

At The Arab Gulf States Institute, Roebuck is finding a new role, speaking at conferences and overseeing essays and papers. He continues to write.

In a reflection shared with Wake Forest Magazine, he says the University formed a foundation for his life and profession. “Those long-ago struggles at Walden Pond, or contending with Faulkner’s “Light in August,” … or waging a protest for student dorm rights … — all of it created the palimpsest upon which I have over the years written and rewritten my career,” Roebuck wrote.

“I ended my career with yet another version of myself, written like all the others on that sturdy undergraduate parchment that Wake Forest helped me first write for myself.”
Rarefied?

The humanities persist — and not only in universities.

By Dean Franco
Illustrations by Tracy Walker

No.
At the emergency room, my son is having his leg stitched up — again, that’s how it is around here — and the ER doctor tells me he remembers me from when he was an undergrad.

“Kick-ass literature,” he says, and talks about that novel where the girl and boy grow up on the prairie and discover a pluralist America together (“My Ántonia”). “Loved that book,” he tells me, deftly sewing up the wound.

And I am reminded of a different student, one of my all-time favorites, who is now an accomplished doctor, and for whom, in my letter of recommendation for medical school, I reported that she could find meaning in the subllest of Emily Dickinson’s poems. This student returned from her med school interviews with a wry “Thanks, prof,” because it turns out that the first question the faculty interview committee asked her was, “Tell us about Emily Dickinson.”

My car mechanic can speak subtly on “Moby Dick”; my cycling friends elaborate the lessons of the French Revolution for our current democratic moment during our backcountry rides; and the air-conditioner repairman once told me that Emerson’s “Self-Reliance” was a guiding force in his life.

The humanities are everywhere. I don’t simply mean a lot of people have read and remember books from college. More than that, everywhere I go, I find people searching for understanding of the world around and peering into their own life condition through consultation with history, literature, philosophy and religion, be it texts from the established canons or the canons of wisdom that substantiate their own communities.
As director of the
Wake Forest University
Humanities Institute, I am
often asked, “What, exactly, are
‘the humanities’?” though I some-
times worry that the question is a trap.
If I tell you what they are, you’ll know where
they are and where they are not. Yes, the humanities are
housed in the university.

Academically speaking, “the humanities” refers to a set
of disciplines, including literature, philosophy, religious
studies, classics and history, where the study of language,
critical analysis and the practice of interpretation are the
primary methodologies.

This academic organization of the humanities has a cen-
turies-long history, though the modern humanities begins
in the early 1800s in German universities. It was during
this period that scholars argued for the recognition of the
humanities as something other than a static set of knowl-
edge bases — these works of literature, those philosophies,
this Classical canon — and argued instead for a method of
study that was morally good in its own right.

This is why the humanities have long been at the center
of liberal arts education, for their perceived capacity to
form character, prepare students to be morally attuned
citizens or to simply promote self-cultivation. In this
regard, what makes the humanities matter is not just
their content, but the methods for engaging with content:
critique, interpretation, speculation into the unknown and
unknowable. Or, in more quotidian terms, the reiteration of
the questions: What is going on in my life? What does it all
mean for my life? What is “life?”

“Everywhere I go,
I find people searching
for understanding
of the world around
and peering into their
own life condition
through consultation
with history,
literature,
philosophy and
religion ...

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Beginning in the 19th century, the academic emphasis on method and not only content in the humanities was an attempt, especially in the 20th century, to put humanities disciplines on par with the sciences. In this way, humanities scholars could claim the same degree of professional specialization as, say, a biologist or a chemist, and likewise lay claim to the equal distribution of students and of resources across the university.

I am persuaded by other humanities scholars — including Chad Wellmon from the University of Virginia, who gave a talk titled “Against the Humanities” for the Humanities Institute in 2018 — that this is far too narrow a gambit for the humanities to sustain. Yes, we have developed a specialized approach to our work: Close reading, philology, hermeneutics, archival research, language proficiency and translation studies are all deeply refined means of accessing, producing, archiving and — so important — teaching what is and can be known.

Less easy to pin to method, however, are those ethical, political, cognitive or affective engagements with humanities objects and fields that give us so much pleasure: the love for a great novel, the inspiration of a moving religious tract, the sense of recognition and even provocation in encountering a fact of history or a tract of philosophy.

It is no small irony that for many academics, these extra-methodological dimensions of our fields are precisely what got us started down the road leading to our professional careers in the first place, and — back to my ER doctor

“...This discussion really clarified how the humanities and the sciences have common starting points — what don’t we know, what more can we know, and how? — and a recursive arc of inquiry that establishes new questions even as it grounds its answers.”
and my car mechanic — it’s the love of the text (or context, or idea, etc.) that keeps us reading and researching and sharing what we know.

It may be that what the academic and non-academic lover of the humanities have most in common is the thrill for the feeling of wonder or the prick of acute curiosity when encountering some new representation of the world we thought we knew, and the satisfaction of encountering the world’s complexity, including our own complex position within it.

In recent years, the Humanities Institute has maintained an event series we call “How We Know/What We Know” as a way to investigate, share and look beyond our entrenched academic practices. One such event we call “Keyword Crossings,” for which we invite three STEM and three humanities faculty to gather and discuss a keyword common across all six disciplines. My favorite thus far has been around the keyword “uncertainty,” for the way our discussion observed how uncertainty lies at the beginning, middle and end of nearly all of our inquiries, regardless of discipline.

Among other insights, this discussion really clarified how the humanities and the sciences have common starting points — what don’t we know, what more can we know, and how? — and a recursive arc of inquiry that establishes new questions even as it grounds its answers.

I like the topic of uncertainty so much that I’ve taken to regularly teaching a first-year seminar simply titled “Uncertainty,” wherein students read literature and philosophy and watch films to really dwell with the experience of uncertainty: where it comes from and what to do in the face of it. Since the course is for first-year students, I presume they are more their pre-university selves than they are institutionalized, and we tap into all the uncertainty that comes with being a young adult. I also hope the class will prepare students for life beyond the university, where uncertainty is bound up with myriad challenges in daily and political life.

The last few years have brought a dark affirmation of the depth of uncertainty out there, but also the resourcefulness of the humanities. Debates about our nation’s history and how we memorialize it have sent politicians, journalists and art historians (a group discounted even by Barack Obama in 2014) recently emerged as public, sage voices for understanding just what monuments and statues do. Scholars of race, the border and political theory have been working furiously to match readers’ appetite for a depth and breadth of thought on matters of the day.

Books by James Baldwin are flying off the shelves. Baldwin’s renewed popularity suggests that even challenging humanities texts endure as resources for our present moment. The complexity of a Baldwin essay, and the willingness of so many readers to be challenged by it, gives me hope that humanities methods remain vitally important for a broader reading public.

Baldwin’s essays are never simple, always bearing several truths, some of which may seem incommensurate. Essays like those in “The Fire Next Time” or a book like “No Name in the Street” are tightly braided knots of history, memoir, polemic and prophecy, and they bring us devastating but also hopeful news of the world for those who need such news, mourning and the relief of recognition for those who need that.

The humanities are not rarefied, and they are not simply academic because our being human is common and hardly contingent on the short window of university training that — it must be said — the vast majority of the world can’t access or could care less about. The humanities persist not, or not simply, because academics persist, but because we must continually renew our understanding of ourselves here and now.

Whatever “being human” means — individually, communally or in relation to the wider organic and inorganic world of which we are a part — it involves some knowledge of and conscious disposition toward our situation in the world. I am an Americanist by training, so I won’t venture a definition of “Pro Humanitate” here, but I will suggest that we don’t pay enough attention to the speculative intention of the phrase — that “Pro Humanitate” is aspirational, directional and creative. It’s about becoming human and does not simply take our human condition as granted. A worthy project for the humanities now is the retrieval of that aspirational and creative force in the phrase.

Professor of English Dean Franco holds the Winifred W. Palmer Professorship in Literature and is a co-founder of the Humanities Institute. He became the institute’s director in 2017.
Despite a relentless pandemic, students arrived on campus for the fall semester to reclaim places and traditions that bring them joy.

Here is what they captured through their cell phone cameras.
“The (first) football game stands out because that was such a critical piece that we lost, the in-person fan experience, last year. The student body was looking forward so much to the game and having that experience again.”

—Greyson Lehman
I lived on campus last year, but the energy wasn’t the same. More than anything, just seeing professors and students in person again and being able to have those important conversations to build relationships (are the best things about being back). Seeing the campus community come to life again — although I never felt like it “died” last year — it feels like we just picked up right where we left off. There’s still that sense of engagement and community even after a year of being engaged virtually.
“I was with friends, and we were at Krankies (Coffee), and this was the first time we had been to Krankies since before COVID. We were sitting down, chilling. The reason I wanted to focus on this moment is that as a very extroverted person I love going to coffee shops and working instead of working in my apartment or the library. I think it was our first Sunday back. It was our weekend treat.”

— Caroline Kernell
“As a biology major, a lot of my classes are in Winston Hall on the south side of campus. I park my car in the off-campus lot in Reynolda Village and walk to campus. It’s a very meditative walk and the gateway to campus that I take every day.”

—Greyson Lehman
Mary Caroline Funk

Last year was full of rules. Am I breaking a rule? Am I going to get into trouble? It was really limiting on what you could do and who could come in your room. Every day we were wondering, you know, what should we do, because you can only sit on the Quad for so many hours. But it was filled with a bunch of walks and one-on-one talks with friends. It was definitely, in terms of friendships, a more intentional year (with) a lot of deeper talks between two people, more so than it was with big group activity, obviously.

In terms of COVID, I think I have a unique class because we started off with the normal (first) year, and then we got cut short our sophomore year and junior year, and now we’re pretty normal again. We knew what Wake was like before, and now we are seeing it after. It’s still such a special place, and everyone loves it so much. Looking back, I am just so thankful to be here, and this year especially I’m just remembering how much I really do love it and everything about it.

I was telling someone that I think this is a place where I’ve grown more as a person than I would have at any other place. It’s because of those cool opportunities I’ve had — to be a president’s aide and have breakfast with Dr. (Susan) Wente last week and get to know Provost (Rogan) Kersh (‘86) and be in his class and get to know other professors and not just be in their class and leave and never see them again. Wake has definitely been a place where I have, holistically, become a better version of myself.
“That was with (senior) Laney Reed. We decided very spontaneously one afternoon to go kayaking at Salem Lake. It was fun. Instead of sitting outside on the couch or something, we just went and hung out.”

—Mary Caroline Funk
“That’s a Ph.D. student, Sarah Nichols (Ph.D. ’25), who’s over my research project, studying rotavirus reassortment. I’ve done research since my junior year. I’ve learned from Ph.D. students and postdocs who’ve cycled through the lab. I really enjoy the collaborative environment of Wake Downtown, so I go there pretty much daily to work on my project.”

—Jacob Thomas

“I wanted to highlight a few of my favorite places. I run through Reynolda Gardens two or three times a week. I like the reflecting pool because it has life in it; there’s fish and a little frog in there. The purple flower drew me into taking the picture. It’s testament to the beauty that’s directly next to Wake Forest that a lot of people don’t always tap into.”

—Jacob Thomas
I spent last summer working at Wake Downtown. It was an interesting transition to go from having virtually no one on campus to being back at full capacity. One of the things I tried to highlight in my photos was the fact that there was a sense of light, an intellectual and social vibrancy on campus that was really underscored by outside events and the things I saw around campus, where students were congregating and having fun. That's one of the things that excited me most about coming back to school, knowing that we would have the opportunity to engage in social settings again.
“Seeing people sitting outside eating, studying, hanging out, having casual conversations ... faculty and staff and people across (class) years engaging. I wanted to capture the simple intricacies of the Quad being the hub of residential life.”

—Greyson Lehman

“My a cappella group (Minor Variation), the new members, we always take them to Cook Out. That’s our tradition. (This day) was one of the best times. With a cappella, with COVID, we couldn’t sing inside. We had to sing 10 feet apart with masks to rehearse, and we couldn’t go on our fall retreat, and we couldn’t have our Christmas concert. (The photo shows) a really joyous moment for all of us ... not even for just the freshmen but the sophomores. It was the first normal return to tradition. Almost for that hour we were there, it was like COVID didn’t exist, which was really nice.”

—Caroline Kernell
The very first thing I noticed coming back — I was actually a little bit not excited for in-person classes. I felt like I had more free time because I wasn’t physically in class. So I was a little bit wary about coming back to classes. However, I hadn’t realized my lack of exercise from not having in-person classes and walking from my car to class. It had been a really good mood booster. Walking, you clear your head a lot.

Next, I really like seeing people. I probably saw a total of five people last year. Now, I see a lot of people, and it’s the return of those small-talk conversations. I talk with people who I wouldn’t necessarily hang out with outside of class that I really like and really enjoy talking to. It’s a lot more socially fulfilling.

The secondary social network and social support that are beneficial have made this year a lot more exciting. I like seeing professors. I missed talking to professors. It’s definitely easier to pay attention in person than on Zoom, and it keeps you more engaged in the content.

I feel like everybody has come back alive now that everybody can continue to cultivate that social environment that Wake Forest has. It’s made me realize the importance of that in what defines Wake Forest as a community.
“I didn’t realize it until now, but I think that is a powerful thing. It signified there was still joy in the world. It had been raining for days. ... So, there were glimpses of beautiful things in dark times. It was kind of like a nice, deep breath, seeing that rainbow. It can symbolize coming back to Wake after COVID — a nice, deep breath.”

—Caroline Kernell
“The one in front of the Black Student Alliance (in Kitchin Residence Hall) is one of my favorites because it’s so intimate to who I’ve been at Wake Forest and my role as BSA president. It’s become a place for students to come and feel welcome. Cultivating that space has been a delight and a challenge ... to form something that can be long lasting on campus.”

—Jacob Thomas
“That was our first house event of the semester (in the AAP House, a themed residence for Anthony Aston Players, a student-run theatre service organization. She is its theme program adviser.) I had everyone over the summer fill out a little survey (with) their top three favorite songs, and I put them all into a playlist. I asked them to submit a silly photo of themselves and then a nice photo and a little bio. ... I had everyone come into the living room and glue together their bios (while their songs played). We have it all hanging on the wall now. If you don’t know who you’re living with, you could learn about them.”

—Katie Fox

“I had just gotten lunch in Benson, and there was a lot of good, busy energy. It was great to see student organizations back in action and engaging with students.”

—Greyson Lehman
“I’d just finished my biochemistry class upstairs. Heading down, it was a beautiful day outside, closer to when we got the autumn equinox. The weather changed instantly. It was cooler. It was people outside without masks. It brings memories back of what it was before COVID and people’s faces and the beautiful skyline of Winston. It gave me a lot of good memories.”

—Kgosì Hughes
I was the first on campus to get COVID in the spring of 2020. I was fortunate enough to go on a choir trip to London over spring break. We spent about 10 days there. A couple days leading up to (the return), I was feeling a little sick. I actually just thought it was a climate change, going to another country, but I guess I was wrong. When I came back, the next day I felt very incredibly sick, aching in my body. I had a fever that was extremely high, and I was coughing nonstop.

I didn’t know I had COVID, but I was pretty afraid if it was COVID because I didn’t know anyone who had COVID yet. ... It was just the choir that came back, and most of the students in the choir got picked up by their parents and left. There was just a handful of us on campus. I went to Student Health Service. They tested me, and I went straight into quarantine. I was there for over two weeks. It was pretty mentally taxing the whole time.

I managed to get through it, and through that, I actually got a phone call from the president of Botswana, which was a great surprise. I got a phone call from the president and the ambassador at the time in D.C. I was featured in an article, and somehow it got to them. The ambassador called to check up on me. ... He wanted to check if I needed anything. ... It definitely changed my whole mood a lot. He’s the one who asked the president to call me. I got a WhatsApp call one morning. I pick up, and it’s the president. He talks about how the whole country is behind me and that he is going to call my family afterwards to tell them I’m OK. It said a lot about Botswana culture and the values that our people have, especially going to a random person who was sick. I felt very blessed.

The (Botswana) culture is centered around community, very focused on community building. It’s not really an individualistic-centered community where one has to achieve success by themselves. It’s very much (that) success is determined by how your family does and how much they are able to help others (and) give back. It’s social and there’s not a lot of hierarchy and division. It’s not a top-down system.

(In the fall) I really looked forward to coming back to Wake, seeing my friends, seeing campus full again. I was delighted to go back to in-person class. I looked forward to going back to a class full of people and raising my hand in class and having discussions with people who were right next to me. I also looked forward to playing soccer again. I’m on the club soccer team, and we didn’t manage to play the whole of last year pretty much. It’s pretty much back to normal, except just wearing masks.
Katie Fox

Junior
Northville, Michigan
Major: History
Minor: Schools, Education and Society

I was mostly excited to be back and be able to start photographing events again, and I love being able to capture what campus life is like, seeing people excited to reunite with their friends. I was also really excited for coming back to my classes in person, seeing specific people and specific professors. I’m using the same word — excitement — a lot, but that’s really how I could describe it.

My role (as theme program adviser for the Anthony Aston Players House) is fostering community among the (theatre service) organization members. I put on two events every month, theatre-related, in the house. One of the events was for students to go see the “Men on Boats” production, so we went as a house. We’ve done a game night and a movie night — we watched “Anastasia,” the musical. We also had a release party for the Lil Nas X album. It came out at midnight on a Thursday, so we had everyone in the living room listening to the songs for the first time.

I feel like my work at the Old Gold & Black and also at the Howler (as photo editor) is capturing the history we live through. Last year, online classes and virtual events and masks on campus — that was the theme of our yearbook. This year, President (Susan R.) Wente is definitely an important marker in Wake Forest history, so taking pictures of her at the football games and lots of landmark events on campus I see history all around me.
“I walk past the Chapel around 8 a.m. every day, and I always get that sunrise poking through the pillars. It’s super peaceful. It’s a gorgeous campus to walk around. It gets me in a good mindset for the day, walking to classes and walking to work instead of doing it all remotely.”
—Katie Fox
I’m the president of the National Pan-Hellenic Council (representing Wake Forest’s historically Black fraternities and sororities and a multicultural organization). We wanted to start off the school year with an event in person. We had Kona Ice and inflatables and food. It was on Manchester Plaza for students to come by. There was a DJ. A big thing with our Greek council — we have our strolls and stepping intrinsic in our culture. Certain songs come on, and you just know, ’Oh, this is our song,’ and we have a set stroll to it. I think it was ‘Wipe Me Down,’ and that is the song that a lot of the guys in my fraternity, Kappa Alpha Psi, stroll to. Unfortunately, you can’t see the other side of it, the people watching. There’s a crowd.”

—Kgosi Hughes
“I set up (my camera) on my dresser. I took it to send to my parents to let them know that I made it there safe because I drove down from Michigan by myself. I lived (in the AAP House) last year by happenstance, and I loved living there so much that I moved back into my same room. I knew exactly where everything was going. I was about to get trained for my role (as program adviser). I also was in charge of designing the roster, so I was getting to know who was going in every room. I moved in early. The house underwent some renovations over the summer. It was super exciting. I also got to start putting up some decorations to welcome people.”

—Katie Fox
A quest for students to become ‘biology literate’
Virologist and Teaching Professor of Biology Pat Lord (Ph.D. ’86) taught about viruses and pandemics long before COVID-19. In fall 2018 and fall 2019, she taught a first-year seminar, “Outbreak: Coming Soon to a Neighborhood Near You,” about the cultural, biological, economic and societal factors that contribute to the spread of a pandemic other than just the virus itself. Both years, her students designed on-campus exhibits about infectious diseases to tie into an exhibit at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History on the 100th anniversary of the 1918 flu pandemic. In an ironic twist, the exhibit designed by the students in 2019 was forced to close in early 2020 because of COVID-19.

Last fall, she taught Biology 101, “Biology and the Human Condition,” a course for nonbiology majors that focused on the 1918 flu, Ebola, Zika and SARS CoV2 or COVID-19. Since 2012, Lord and Ana Iltis, director of the Center for Bioethics, Health and Society, have organized annual “Dining Dilemmas” to encourage students to explore ethical dilemmas around health issues during a meal and group discussions. Lord received an Innovative Teaching Award from Wake Forest’s Center for the Advancement of Teaching in 2019.

Kerry M. King (’85), senior editor of Wake Forest Magazine, visited Lord’s class in the fall and talked with her about her mission to teach the nonbiology majors who someday might be decision-makers during pandemics.
**KK:** Why are you so passionate about viruses?

**PL:** My Ph.D. (in microbiology and immunology from Wake Forest School of Medicine) was on cytomegalovirus, which is a herpes virus, and looking at the gene expression of cytomegalovirus. When I came here (in 2000), I had the opportunity to develop a virology course for majors. What I find interesting about viruses is how they have adapted to particular niches, to be able to take advantage of cells.

Primarily I focus on human viruses, because there’s so many out there. But they can infect every life form. (For example) they are responsible for killing off 20 to 30% of the bacteria in the ocean every 24 hours. If they didn’t, the bacteria would continue to grow and suck up all the nutrients. Viruses are crucial in that ecosystem to allow carbon and other resources to get released back into the environment for other organisms. I find that fascinating.

The opportunity came to teach a first-year seminar, which is kind of an out-of-the-box-type class. The more I thought about it, the more I liked teaching (in my Biology 101 class) that there’s more to viruses than just their life cycle. How does society impact the spread of viruses? How does economics? Culture?

I thought the pandemic would be over. But it turned out to be a great launching point to looking historically at so many pandemics that we’ve had lately — Ebola, Zika, H1N1, SARS. It’s important to get these students who are in fields other than biology to think about what factors other than the virus itself led to the spread. They’ll be the politicians, the businesspeople, the entrepreneurs that will be faced with future pandemics.

**KK:** What did you think when COVID emerged?

**PL:** I wasn’t really worried because there have been outbreaks before. We’ve had flu outbreaks and the first SARS. Although SARS of 2003 had a 10% fatality rate, it was quickly contained, and that virus doesn’t circulate in the population anymore. People were quarantined; people followed quarantine.

I’m very surprised at how different the United States and our world are (today) than in 2003. In January, I thought, “We’ll be fine.” But by February, with our political leadership and the errors made … we were behind the eight ball in a short period of time, which surprised me. And still surprises me.

I didn’t think we’d be dealing with this two years later. Once the vaccines were out, I thought, “We’re OK; people are going to get vaccinated.”

**KK:** With you and your students masked in your classroom, that really brought home the reality of a pandemic. How did that change student interest in the course (“Biology and the Human Condition”) and how you taught it?

**PL:** They were really engaged. You were there on the day when we were talking about other epidemics. The discussion just took off. I was impressed with how they could see commonalities between COVID and the 1918 flu. And they’ve been very interested in misinformation. How do we address misinformation? Why is there so much misinformation? We talked about multiple sources. I tried to help them learn where to go for (reliable) sources, because that’s what I had to do. Social media is so prevalent and shared everywhere, with no background information.

I constantly scanned the news to see what the latest change was. When the booster (shot) issue came up, we talked about how vaccines work. When (President) Biden announced the (vaccine) mandate (for certain businesses), we talked about, “Did he have the legal right to do that?” They said, “Put some teeth into the vaccine (mandate), and get it done.” The student body is highly vaccinated, and they’re tired and over it. We talked about selfishness. We are in such a different place in this country. It has become so partisan. And I’m not quite sure how to get past that.
The Office of Diversity and Inclusion has established the Honorifics Planning Group with faculty, staff, students and alumni to gather feedback on the next phase of work, including open dialogues and collecting names, themes and concepts on the guiding principles for naming adopted last year by the Board of Trustees. More at bit.ly/3HgXtv2 and bit.ly/3DaiJ38

Members of the 1970 ACC championship football team and other donors have raised more than $100,000 to establish the Larry Hopkins Football Scholarship in honor of Hopkins (“72, MD ’77, P ’12), who died in 2020. Hopkins was a star running back, a standout chemistry student, a prominent doctor, a Wake Forest trustee and a recipient of the University’s Medallion of Merit. More at bit.ly/3ljq9bo

Bob McCreary (’61), already one of the University’s most generous donors and the largest donor in Wake Forest Athletics history, made a new challenge gift of $20 million toward the completion of the McCrary Football Complex. The $38 million project will be fully funded by donor gifts. More at bit.ly/329zCh1

Business professor Sean Hannah was ranked among the top 1% of the most impactful researchers in all disciplines among 8 million scientists globally by the peer-reviewed journal PLOS Biology. His research on leadership has focused recently on the brain activity of exemplary leaders and leadership in extreme and crisis contexts. More at bit.ly/3b1wTqV

The Darryl Hunt Archives become available this spring at Z. Smith Reynolds Library. Hunt was wrongfully convicted of a 1984 rape and murder in Winston-Salem. He was released from prison after 19 years, thanks to efforts by law professor Mark Rabil, director of the Innocence and Justice Clinic, and a newspaper series by Phoebe Zerwick, director of the journalism program and associate professor of the practice. Zerwick’s book, “Beyond Innocence: The Life Sentence of Darryl Hunt,” comes out in March. More at bit.ly/3BFvNh1b

Senior Anya Brylin and sophomore Brooke Killingsworth became the first Demon Deacon doubles team to win an ITA (Intercollegiate Tennis Association) All-American Championship. More at bit.ly/3k8sHea

The Honesty Project, which launched in 2020 with a $4.4 million grant from the John Templeton Foundation, has awarded grants to 16 projects exploring the science of honesty and philosophical questions related to the virtue.

The School of Business hosted George Herrera, former president and CEO of the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, to talk about diversity, equity and inclusion in “The Changing Dynamics of a DEI Culture.”

Wake Forest Athletics developed the Robert Grant (’68) and Kenneth “Butch” Henry (’68) Trailblazer Award in honor of the first Black football student-athletes to enroll at a Division I institution in the South. It celebrates student-athletes, alumni and staff who have blazed trails in diversity, inclusion, equity and other social issues. Grant and Henry were honored at the Nov. 12 football game. More at bit.ly/3whK1Ce

Eranda Jayawickreme, associate professor of psychology, has been named the Harold W. Tribble Professor of Psychology. The endowed professorship is one of the highest honors the College can award a faculty member. More at bit.ly/3mGAEZz

U.S. News & World Report ranked Wake Forest No. 28 on its 2022 list of the best universities in the nation. The University has been in the top 30 for the past 26 years. The School of Business part-time MBA program, designed for working professionals, ranked No. 22 in the magazine’s rankings for such programs. More at bit.ly/3nPQkL5

The Economist’s 2021 global ranking put the School of Business Master of Science in Management (MSM) program at No. 5 in the United States and No. 24 in the world. The business school was ranked No. 2 nationally for career opportunities and No. 2 in alumni ratings of career services. More at bit.ly/2ZhbNfNg

Hit the Bricks raised a record $202,787 in the annual fall event to support the Brian Piccolo (’65, P ’87, ’89) Cancer Research Fund at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist. A record 1,693 participants across 146 teams ran more than 5,600 miles around Hearn Plaza. More at bit.ly/3k9hky

The Program for Leadership and Character held an initiation ceremony for 14 Leadership and Character Ambassadors, students commissioned to spread the program’s ideals and message across campus, publicize events and shape programming.

The women’s golf team won the Ruth’s Chris Tar Heel Invitational in October, and junior Rachel Kuehn took the individual championship. More at bit.ly/3qMgyiY

The Face to Face Speaker Forum brought Malcolm Gladwell to campus and the LJVM Coliseum in September. He is the best-selling author of “Outliers,” “Blink” and “The Tipping Point.” Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and former Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel appeared at the Coliseum in November.

Peter Kairoff was inducted into the Steinway & Sons Teacher Hall of Fame in October in New York City, where the famous pianos are made. He is a professor and chair of the music department. More at bit.ly/3EMEJBO

In-person alumni events finally resumed last fall with the largest group of alumni to ever return to campus for Homecoming and WAKEWelcome receptions around the country. We have much to look forward to this spring with Wake Women’s Weekend, Pro Humanitate Days, more in-person WAKECommunity and interest groups’ events and the inauguration of Susan R. Wente as Wake Forest’s 14th president. As always, thank you for your support of Wake Forest and our alumni programs!

— Alex Reyes Schroeder (’06, JD ’09) | President, Wake Forest Alumni Council

Wake Women’s Weekend
March 25-27
wakewomen.alumni.wfu.edu

Alumnae are invited to “Reconnect, Reflect and Recharge” at the biennial Wake Women’s Weekend. After being held online last spring, alumnae are invited back to campus this year for personal, professional and intellectual development and meaningful connections with other Wake Forest women. Past programs have included discussion groups, career and leadership advice and one-on-one sessions with Wake Forest career coaches. The weekend events will be held around the inauguration of Susan R. Wente as Wake Forest’s first female president.

Wake Forest Travel
alumni.wfu.edu/programs/travel

Are you ready to travel again? Join alumni, parents and friends on once-in-a-lifetime, small group trips to the Galapagos Islands (March 15-22), Northern Italy (May 22-29) and Alaska (July 20-Aug.5). Visit the travel website or contact Vada Lou Cottrill (’85, P ’13, ’16) at cottrivl@wfu.edu for details.
1960s

Thomas S. Marshall ('65) was honored by UNC Charlotte by being asked to serve as a lead marshal for 2021 commencement ceremonies. He is a lecturer at the Belk College of Business and was the inaugural winner of UNCC’s Award for Teaching Excellence.

Tal Jobe Jr. ('67) was honored by officials in the city of Mebane, NC, which named him to the “Makers of Modern Mebane” class of 2020. Jobe was the longtime men’s basketball coach at Eastern Alamance High School in Mebane. The school’s gymnastics is named in his honor.

Don Britt Jr. ('68, JD '71) was appointed chair of the USS North Carolina Battleship Commission by Gov. Roy Cooper. The battleship, docked in Wilmington, NC, is a memorial to the state’s World War II veterans and the 11,000 North Carolinians who died during the war. Britt is owner of Britt Law Firm in Wilmington.

Robert “Bob” Grant ('68) and Kenneth “Butch” Henry ('68), football teammates at Wake Forest, were honored in 2021 with creation of the “Robert Grant and Kenneth ‘Butch’ Henry Trailblazer Award.” The annual award will go to Wake Forest student-athletes, alumni and staff who have blazed trails in diversity, inclusion, equity and other social issues. Grant, a defensive end, and Henry, a wide receiver, were the first Black football student-athletes to enroll at a Division I school in the South. Grant was drafted by the Baltimore Colts in the NFL’s second round in 1968.

1970s

Charles “Chip” R. Dashieell Jr. ('70, JD '73) was elected by the Maryland State Board of Education as its vice president for the 2021-2022 term. He is a retired attorney.

Kathryn Watson Quigg ('71) had her 2015 novel, “To Any Soldier: A Novel of Vietnam Letters,” selected for use in a creative writing course at the University of California San Diego. Quigg, a writer and artist based in Wake Forest, NC, co-wrote the book with former Marine G.C. “Pete” Hendricks ('67).

Ed Stetz ('72) was inducted into the Trojan Ring of Honor at Greater Johnstown High School in Johnstown, PA, where he was a star football player. He was a linebacker at Wake Forest, earning first-team All-ACC honors and helping lead the team to the 1970 ACC championship. He was inducted into the Wake Forest Sports Hall of Fame in 2005 and holds the school record for tackles in a season (203) and career (460).

Roxanne K. Barrier Livingston (MAEd '73) has written “The Jaguar and Other Stories,” a book with a novella and three other stories. She is a professional counselor whose nonfiction books include “Chronically Hurtful People.” She lives in Scottsdale, AZ.

Timothy J. Fischer ('74) was inducted into the Lourdes High School Sports Hall of Fame in Rochester, MN, where he was a member of the football, basketball and track & field teams. He played football at Wake Forest and was a member of the 1970 ACC Championship team. He lives in St. Louis.

Glenn Bradley Miller ('74) retired after 40 years of general dentistry practice in Asheville, NC. He is a national trustee for the Academy of General Dentistry and a past president of the North Carolina Academy of General Dentistry, and he led regional and local dentistry groups. He lives in Durham, NC.

Bruce A. Gardner ('75) received the Roderick Beddow Award, the highest honor from the Alabama Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, for his lifetime of achievement in criminal defense advocacy. He is an attorney in Huntsville, AL.

Tom Cloud ('76, P '05) received the 2021 Paul S. Buchman Award from the Florida Municipal Attorneys Association. The award goes annually to the state’s most outstanding municipal attorney. Cloud is city attorney for four cities in Central Florida, general counsel to the Utilities Commission of New Smyrna Beach, FL, and a shareholder at GrayRobinson PA in Orlando. He has represented local governments since 1980.

Kevin M. Quinley ('76, P '08) was elected president of the American Association of Insurance Management Consultants. He has more than 40 years of experience and is the principal of Quinley Risk Associates LLC in Chesterfield, VA.

Clare Shore ('76) was inducted into the Hall of Fame at Forks High School, her alma mater, in East Bend, NC. Shore is an internationally acclaimed composer who became only the second woman to earn a doctorate in composition from the Juilliard School in New York. She also is a renowned vocalist and conductor and has taught at Julliard, the University of Virginia, Manhattan School of Music and other universities. Her works are published by E. C. Schirmer and Watchyf Music.

John W. King Jr. ('77) started a new firm, the Law Office of John W. King Jr. PLLC, in New Bern, NC. He is a Superior Court mediator and a certified specialist in real estate law and estate planning and probate. He has been practicing law for 40 years.

Ron Niland ('77, P '10) is mayor of Mount Airy, NC. He was a town commissioner and town manager. Niland and his wife, Marie Hunter Niland ('80, P '10), live in Mount Airy.

Sandra Sasser Baacom ('78) opened Infinity Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine in Smithfield, VA. She has been a pediatrician for 35 years and is an assistant professor at Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk.

Dave M. Combs (MBA '78) has written “Touched by the Music: How the Story and Music of ‘Rachel’s Song’ Can Change Your Life,” about his 40-year career in the music business. A songwriter, musician, executive and entrepreneur, he has recorded 15 albums and written 120 songs, including the well-known instrumental “Rachel’s Song,” and is the founder of CombsMusic.com. He and his wife, Linda, live in Winston-Salem. In 1991 they established the Combs Celebrate Freedom Scholarship in the School of Business.
Mark Leichtenberger (‘78) was named board chairman for NeuroSense Therapeutics, a clinical stage biotechnology company. He has more than 25 years of experience as a senior executive in the biopharmaceutical industry.

Daniel Y. Pharr (MA ‘78, P ‘08) retired as professor of chemistry after 38 years at Virginia Military Institute. He was the founder of the Journal of Undergraduate Chemistry, a quarterly peer-review journal at VMI with more than 1,000 student co-authors from 192 colleges during his 17 years as editor.

William “Dave” Hill (‘79, MS ‘82, PhD ‘89) is co-founder, chief scientific officer and executive vice president of SpheroFill LLC in Aiken, SC. The biotech startup received National Science Foundation funding for its novel drug delivery technology. Hill is a professor of pathology and laboratory medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) and a research scientist at the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center in Charleston, SC. He joined MUSC in 2018 from the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University and continues a research role there in the Center for Healthy Aging.

1980s

John D. Bryson (‘80, JD ‘85) was named to the 2022 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for criminal law – DUI/DWI defense. He is an attorney at Wyatt Early Harris Wheeler LLP in High Point, NC, and has been an adjunct professor at Wake Forest School of Law since 1994.

Ronald R. Cobb (‘80) was appointed head of science and discovery at Blue Water Vaccines Inc., a Cincinnati-based biopharmaceutical company focused on developing vaccines. He is a geneticist and a molecular biologist with more than 25 years of pharmaceutical research and development and manufacturing experience. He was the chief scientific officer at Ology Bioservices in Florida.

Daniel Lukash (‘80) retired after 40 years in the federal government, including the Food and Drug Administration, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health and Human Services. His retirement plans include supporting his wife in her career at the University of Maryland, his daughter at Auburn University and his son, a kicker on his high school football team.

Steve Berlin (‘81, JD ‘84, P ‘06) was named a 2021 Power Player by Triad Business Journal. He is an environmental lawyer and managing partner with Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton in Winston-Salem. He is general counsel and secretary/treasurer of the Whitaker Park Development Authority, a nonprofit guiding redevelopment of the former R.J. Reynolds Tobacco campus adjacent to Trust Field. Berlin was recently named to the UNC School of the Arts Foundation after serving two terms on UNSCSA’s board of trustees.

Sarah Katherine Burnette (‘81, JD ‘84) has written her debut novel, “Judge's Waltz,” a legal thriller about the mysterious death of a federal judge. Burnette is a North Carolina District Court judge and a former state and federal prosecutor. She lives in Oxford, NC.

Rick Feathers (‘81) retired as senior vice president and general counsel of North Carolina’s Electric Cooperatives. He joined the organization in 2003.

Rick Kopf (JD ‘81, P ‘09) was named to the 2022 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for real estate law and leisure & hospitality law. He is a founding partner and shareholder in the Dallas office of Munsch Hardt PC.

John D. Martin (‘81) was named 2022 Lawyer of the Year in the Wilmington, NC, region for his practice area (medical malpractice law – defendants) by Best Lawyers. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Management partner of the Wilmington, NC, office.

Ted Smyth (JD ‘81) was named 2022 Lawyer of the Year in the Raleigh region for his practice area (bet-the-company litigation) by Best Lawyers. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Raleigh.

Robert E. Wailes (MD ‘81) was installed as president of the California Medical Association. A Southern California physician who is a pain specialist and anesthesiologist, he is founder, co-owner and medical director of Pacific Pain Medicine Consultants of Oceanside and Encinitas, CA, and medical director for the Ketamine Research Institute.

Andrew Avram (’82, JD ‘90) was named to the 2022 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for workers’ compensation law. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Charlotte.

Terri Guest Goodman (’82) was named chief financial officer for Forsyth County (NC). She has worked in Forsyth County’s finance department for more than 30 years, most recently as deputy CFO.

Eric R. Spence (JD ‘82) was named to the 2022 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in commercial real estate law. He is of counsel at Ragsdale Liggett PLLC in Raleigh.

John W. Ormand III (‘84, P ‘19, ‘22) was named a Local Litigation Star for labor & employment litigation as well as personal injury litigation – defendants. He is a partner in the Raleigh office of Brooks Pierce.

Bill Musser (MBA ‘84, JD ‘85) was named to the 2022 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for real estate law. He is an attorney at Winderweedle, Haines, Ward & Woodman PA in Winter Park, FL.

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William W. Pollock (’84) was named to the 2022 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for construction, insurance litigation and product liability litigation – defendants. He is a partner at Ragsdale Liggett PLLC in Raleigh.

James Ivory (’85) was named to the Wake Forest Alumni Council. He is a past member of the Greek Alumni Advisory Board (now the Fraternity and Sorority Life Committee of the Alumni Council). He is also on the Theta Chi chapter advisory board. He is an English professor at Appalachian State University in Boone, NC. His son, Sebastian, graduated in 2017.

Toni D. Newman (‘85) was named interim CEO of the Black AIDS Institute, a national nonprofit based in Los Angeles focused on eradicating HIV in the Black community. She is a faculty member at the Transgender Strategy Center in Los Angeles and a best-selling author.

Nick Ellis (JD ’86) was named 2022 Lawyer of the Year in the Raleigh area for his practice area (mass tort litigation/class actions – defendants) by Best Lawyers. He is a partner in the Raleigh and Rocky Mount, NC, offices of Poyner Spruill, and chair of the firm’s litigation section.

Julia Renfrow Hoke (JD ’86) retired from the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority after 23 years as director of legal affairs and general counsel. She was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine by North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper for her service to the state. She is part-time associate general counsel at Davidson College.

D. Beth Langley (’86, JD ’92) was named a Labor & Employment Star in the 2022 edition of Benchmark Litigation. She was also named to the 2022 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for commercial litigation, labor & employment litigation and employment law – management. She is a partner at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, NC.

Lisa Williams Atkinson (’87) was one of 40 people named to Leadership Blount’s class of 2022. The nine-month program aims to educate and empower class members to positively impact Blount County (TN) and the surrounding community. She is the community resource coordinator at the Black community. She is a faculty member and岩石 Mount, NC, offices of Poyner Spruill, and chair of the firm’s litigation section.

Jeff Richardson (’87) was named to the Wake Forest Alumni Council. He is a past member of the Greek Alumni Advisory Board (now the Fraternity and Sorority Life Committee of the Alumni Council). He is co-owner of Deacon Foodservice Solutions LLC, a food services design and equipment distributor based in Charlotte. He is also the founder and president of the 3R Fund for Immigrants, a nonprofit that assists families in need of legal assistance in immigration proceedings. He and his wife, Missy, live in Newport, KY.

John “Jay” Waters (’87), retired U.S. Army Colonel, completed a 106-day, 3,828.6-mile bicycle ride across the country. He started on May 26 in Washington, DC, and finished on Sept. 7 on a Native American reservation in La Push, WA. He rode through 11 states on bike trails, canal paths, back roads, treacherous interstates and the partially completed Great American Rail-Trail. He stopped at about 200 American Legion posts, VFW posts and other veterans organizations along the ride, which was sponsored by veteran-run Warrior Expeditions. He lives in Alexandria, VA. More at bit.ly/2ZdEJuJ

Helen Williams (’87) is a college basketball analyst, host of “A Coach For The Coach Podcast” and author of “Coach Like a Mother: A Guide for the 21st Century Sports Coach.” She played basketball at Wake Forest and is a former head women’s basketball coach at Merrimack College. She lives in Marietta, GA.

Dan Arnold III (’88) continues his 30-year law career in Fort Lauderdale, FL, operating his own firm since 1998. He is AV Rated by Martindale-Hubbell and was named to the 2021 Florida Super Lawyers list for business litigation. He and his wife, Jori, have twins in fourth grade.
Bob King (JD ‘88) was named a Local Litigation Star for appellate, environmental and general commercial law in the 2022 edition of Benchmark Litigation. He is a partner in the Greensboro, NC, office of Brooks Pierce.

Jeffrey W. Melcher (JD ‘88) joined Stites & Harbison PLLC as a member (partner) in its Atlanta office and also serving clients in Nashville, TN, focusing on commercial and insurance defense litigation. He was a partner with Chartwell Law in Atlanta.

Joel Rhine (JD ‘88), founding partner of Rhine Law Firm in Wilmington, NC, was named to the inaugural Power List of personal injury attorneys by North Carolina Lawyers Weekly. He is the only Wilmington area attorney among the 28 to receive the honor. He has practiced law for three decades.

David Rhoades (MBA ‘88, JD ‘89) was named to the 2022 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in workers’ compensation law. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Raleigh.

Scott F. Wyatt (’88, JD ‘91) was named to the 2022 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for commercial litigation. He is a partner at Wyatt Early Harris Wheeler LLP in High Point, NC.

Nick Valaoras (’89, JD ‘92) was named to the 2022 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in workers’ compensation law. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Charlotte.

David K. Bain (’91) was named executive vice president at INCITS, the InterNational Committee for Information Technology Standards. He is based in Washington, DC. He has more than 25 years of experience in the IT industry as an innovator, adviser, entrepreneur and publisher.

Joseph Ibrahim (MBA ‘91) was named managing director of the investment team at Regal Healthcare Capital Partners, a New York-based health care growth equity and buyout firm. He has 15 years of experience in health care private equity, most recently as a managing partner with MBF Healthcare Partners.

Sam Jaffe (’91) sold his company, Cairn Energy Research Advisors (Cairn ERA), a global research and consulting firm based in Boulder, CO, to E Source Companies LLC, a consulting firm in Boulder that focuses on sustainable technology. Jaffe joined E Source as vice president of energy storage.

Clint Pinyan (’91) was named to the 2022 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for commercial litigation. He is a partner at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, NC.

Patricia Williams Goodson (’92, JD ’96) was named a Labor & Employment Star in the 2022 edition of Benchmark Litigation. She was also named to the 2022 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for labor & management litigation and employment law – management. She is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Charlotte.

Luther “Lew” Starling Jr. (JD ’90) was named to the 2022 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for commercial litigation. Starling is managing partner at Daughtry, Woodard, Lawrence, & Starling in Clinton, NC, and Smithfield, NC. He has been elected mayor of Clinton seven times.

Greg Cox (’90, P ’20) was promoted by Bank of America to Triad market president and a senior vice president in global commercial banking. He has worked for Bank of America since 2001, most recently as senior relationship manager.

James L. DuBose (’90) was recognized as a trailblazer in the media industry at the 2021 Black Media Honors in Atlanta. DuBose is head of programming for FOX Soul, a digital streaming platform launched in 2020. A former captain on Wake Forest’s football team who played briefly in the NFL, he also runs DuBose Entertainment, an L.A.-based production company. He was previously president of Sean “P. Diddy” Combs’ Bad Boy Television.

Patrick H. Flanagan (JD ’90) was named to the 2022 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in civil rights law, employment law – management, labor and employment litigation and municipal litigation. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Charlotte.

David K. Bain (’91) was named executive vice president at INCITS, the InterNational Committee for Information Technology Standards. He is based in Washington, DC. He has more than 25 years of experience in the IT industry as an innovator, adviser, entrepreneur and publisher.

Joseph Ibrahim (MBA ‘91) was named managing director of the investment team at Regal Healthcare Capital Partners, a New York-based health care growth equity and buyout firm. He has 15 years of experience in health care private equity, most recently as a managing partner with MBF Healthcare Partners.

Sam Jaffe (’91) sold his company, Cairn Energy Research Advisors (Cairn ERA), a global research and consulting firm based in Boulder, CO, to E Source Companies LLC, a consulting firm in Boulder that focuses on sustainable technology. Jaffe joined E Source as vice president of energy storage.

Clint Pinyan (’91) was named to the 2022 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for commercial litigation. He is a partner at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, NC.

Patricia Williams Goodson (’92, JD ’96) was named a Labor & Employment Star in the 2022 edition of Benchmark Litigation. She was also named to the 2022 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for labor & management litigation and employment law – management. She is a partner in the Raleigh office of Brooks Pierce.

David E. Inabinett (’92, JD ’96, P ’22) celebrated his 25th anniversary at Brinkley Walser Stoner PLLC, a law firm in Lexington, NC, where he is managing member. He focuses primarily on elder law, trusts and estates. The firm honored
his service with a $500 donation to the Lexington Area Community Foundation Endowment Fund, a cause he has supported for many years.

Robert J. Ramsey Jr. (’92, JD ’95, P ’23) was named to the 2022 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in real estate law. He is a partner at Ragsdale Liggett PLLC in Raleigh.

Scott A. Beatty (’93) was named a Top Lawyer in Southwest Florida in his practice area (appellate practice, business litigation) by Naples Illustrated magazine. He is a stockholder in the Naples, FL, office of Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt PA.

David Blackshear (’93) was named to the Wake Forest Alumni Council. He is a past member of the Greek Alumni Advisory Board (now the Fraternity and Sorority Life Committee of the Alumni Council). He is a manufacturing quality software leader with Cummins Inc. in Columbus, IN. He and his wife, Jacquie Piascecki Blackshear (’93), live in Nashville, NC.

Bernard “Bill” Crippen (’93) was named by fellow staff and faculty members as 2021-2022 Teacher of the Year at Indian Trace Elementary School in Broward County (FL).

Rosalyn Frazier (’93) was named to the Wake Forest Alumni Council. She is a past member of the Greek Alumni Advisory Board (now the Fraternity and Sorority Life Committee of the Alumni Council). She previously served two terms on the Alumni Council and three terms on the College Board of Visitors and was president of WAKECharlotte. She is a pharmacist with Genentech in Charlotte.

J. Gregory Hatcher (JD ’93) was recognized in the 2022 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for family law and family arbitration. He is managing partner at Hatcher Law Group PC in Charlotte and is a fellow in the law firm’s mergers & acquisitions and securities group.

Alex Davit III (’94, MD ’00) is an advisory dean at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and a pediatric hand surgeon at UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh.

Melissa Harris-Perry (’94) was named a non-resident senior fellow with the Brookings Institute, a nonprofit public policy organization based in Washington, DC. Brookings conducts research in a variety of social science fields, including economics, foreign policy and governance, and is considered one of the world’s most prestigious think tanks. Harris-Perry, the Maya Angelou Presidential Chair at Wake Forest, teaches courses on American politics at the intersections of race, place and gender. She is a former MSNBC host and was named the Hillman Prize for broadcast journalism in 2016.

Eric W. Iskra (JD ’94, P ’22) was elected a fellow of the American Bar Foundation (ABF), a global honorary society that recognizes legal professionals who have demonstrated outstanding dedication to the profession and the welfare of their communities. ABF membership is limited to 1% of lawyers licensed to practice in each jurisdiction. Iskra is an attorney with Spilman Thomas & Battle PLLC in Charleston, WV, where he chairs the labor & employment law practice group.

Donny C. Lambeth (MBA ’94) was appointed to the board of myFutureNC, a nonprofit focused on educational attainment. The organization is the result of collaboration among North Carolina leaders in education, business and government. Lambeth, a Republican, is in his fifth term representing state House District 75.

Brian C. Miner (’94, P ’25) joined the Washington, DC, office of Schulte Roth & Zabel as a partner in the law firm’s mergers & acquisitions and securities group.

Pete Seeger (’94) was named chief strategy officer at Kingsmen Software, a leading software solutions firm in Charlotte. He has more than 25 years of experience in the technology industry, previously as CEO and founder of a high-growth cybersecurity company.

Karen Eller Shelton (MAEd ’94) was named vice president and chief medical officer at Bristol Regional Medical Center in her native Bristol, TN. She has worked in health care since 1997, originally as an OB-GYN, and most recently as director of Virginia’s three westernmost health districts (Mount Rogers, Cumberland Plateau and LENOWISCO).

Amy Wallace Stewart (’94), founding partner of the Stewart Law Group PLLC in Dallas, was selected as a 2021-2022 Texas Bar Foundation nominating chair for District 6. Nominating chairs are chosen for their professional achievements and commitment to the foundation. Stewart has received numerous honors, including being named in America’s Top 100 Personal Injury Attorneys and the 2020 National Black Lawyers Top 100.

Jennifer K. Van Zant (JD ’94) was named one of the Top 250 Women in Litigation and a Local Litigation Star for competition/antitrust law in the 2022 edition of Benchmark Litigation. She practices in the Greensboro, NC, office of Brooks Pierce.

Amanda Freedle (’95) was named to the Wake Forest Alumni Council. She is a past member of the Greek Alumni Advisory Board (now the Fraternity and Sorority Life Committee of the Alumni Council) and was on the class of ’95 homecoming committee. She is deputy chief accountant, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency in the U.S. Treasury Department. She lives in Alexandria, VA.

Rebecca Gentry (’95) was named to the Wake Forest Alumni Council. She is a past member of the Greek Alumni Advisory Board (now the Fraternity and Sorority Life Committee of the Alumni Council). Gentry is associate vice president for strategic initiatives at the University of Houston.

Laura Horton Virkler (’95, P ’24) was named voluntary chairperson for the F.M. Kirby Foundation, a family foundation based in Morristown, NJ, that focuses on developing healthy communities in New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and North Carolina and supporting national nonprofits in Washington, DC, and New York City. Virkler, who is overseeing strategic planning, has consulted for Accenture, worked as a real estate broker and owned a 65-acre boarding stable and cattle farm. She lives in Durham, NC.
Charles Curry ('96) has joined Certified Financial Group Inc. in Orlando, FL. He is a certified financial planner who has held executive roles at Charles Schwab Corporation and SunTrust Bank and has more than 20 years of wealth management experience.

Hunter French Jr. ('96) is a senior associate with BDO Digital, a subsidiary of BDO USA LLP. His work focuses on digital transformation and Microsoft Cloud technologies. He and his wife, Sandy Gomila French (MA '94), recently celebrated their 25th anniversary in Iceland.

M. Kyle Thompson ('96) was named general counsel for the 13th Judicial Circuit Solicitor’s Office in Greenville, SC. He advises more than 60 attorneys who prosecute criminal offenses in Greenville and Pickens counties and oversees all civil matters on behalf of the office, the largest in South Carolina. He lives in Greenville with his wife, Christine, a United Methodist pastor, and their three children.

Patricia L. Turner (MD ’96) was named executive director of the American College of Surgeons (ACS), the world’s largest organization of surgeons with more than 84,000 members. Turner, a general surgeon with expertise in minimally invasive techniques, was director of the ACS Division of Member Services from 2011 to 2021. She serves on the Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Board of Directors.

Brian C. Ward ('96) was promoted to senior vice president of marketing and transload at OmniTRAX, one of North America’s largest private railroad and transportation management companies. He was president of OmniTRAX affiliate Winchester and Western Railroad (W&W). He lives in the Jacksonville, FL, area.

Rufus D. Williams Jr. ('96, PA '99) was named to the Wake Forest Alumni Council. He is a past member of the Greek Alumni Advisory Board (now the Fraternity and Sorority Life Committee of the Alumni Council). Williams is a physician assistant with TeamHealth, one of the largest integrated care providers in the country, based in Knoxville, TN. He lives in Raleigh but travels across the Southeast.

Tim Duncan ('97) was named to the NBA 75th Anniversary Team after being voted one of the 75 greatest players in league history by a panel of media members and current and former NBA coaches, players, executives and general managers. A two-time All American at Wake Forest, Duncan was the top pick in the 1997 NBA Draft. He played 19 seasons for the San Antonio Spurs and was a 15-time All Star, two-time league MVP and three-time NBA Finals MVP.

Kyle Garner (MD ’97) was named associate chief medical officer for Sarasota Memorial Hospital’s Venice Campus, which opened in November in Venice, FL. Garner is an OB-GYN and a faculty member at Florida State College of Medicine. He will continue seeing patients in his Gulf Coast Obstetrics & Gynecology practice in Sarasota.

Dan Katzenbach (JD ’97) was named lawyer of the Year in the Raleigh region for his practice area (professional malpractice law – defendants) by Best Lawyers. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Raleigh.

Tyclely Williams ('97) was named to the Wake Forest Alumni Council and is chair of the Fraternity and Sorority Life Committee. She is chief development officer for the Bipartisan Policy Center in Washington, DC. Williams is a director on Tri Delta’s national executive board and chairs the boards of the Nonprofit Alliance Foundation and Monument Academy Public Charter School, both in Washington. She lives in Springfield, VA.

Nicole Baldwin Beale ('98, MAEd '02) was named to the Wake Forest Alumni Council. She is a past member of the Greek Alumni Advisory Board (now the Fraternity and Sorority Life Committee of the Alumni Council). She is director of Student Services at R.J. Reynolds High School in Winston-Salem.

James “Jamie” E. Harris (MBA ’98) was appointed to Appalachian State University’s board of trustees by the North Carolina General Assembly. He is chief financial officer and treasurer for SPX Corporation, a global supplier of infrastructure equipment headquartered in Charlotte. He is a 1984 graduate of Appalachian State and was a member of the baseball team.

David W. Joyner (’98, MSA ’99) was named board chair for the Venice Symphony in Venice, FL. He is a certified public accountant who founded Joyner Family Insurance in 2009.

Todd King (’98, JD ’02) was named to the 2022 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in personal injury litigation. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Charlotte.

Jennifer Laudadio (’98) was named to the Aubrey J. Hough Jr. Distinguished Chair in Pathology at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) College of Medicine in Little Rock, AR. She joined UAMS in 2013 as an associate professor and director of molecular pathology. In 2020 she was promoted to full professor and named chair of the Department of Pathology. She is a graduate of the Medical College of Georgia.

Eboni Cohen Nelson (’98), dean of the University of Connecticut School of Law, was named one of the “100 Most Influential Blacks in Connecticut” by the Connecticut NAACP. She is the first Black person to serve as the dean on a permanent basis.

Amie Fonville Sivon (’98) was named to the 2022 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for appellate law. She is a partner at Ragsdale Liggett PLLC in Raleigh.

Kai Snead (’98) is a Boeing 737 pilot for Southwest Airlines. He became a pilot in 1999 and, in 2006, began flying for Southwest, who promoted him to captain in 2016. He lives in Melbourne, FL.

Robert “Rob” Wall (’98) was named to the Wake Forest Alumni Council. He is a past chair of the Greek Alumni Advisory Board (now the Fraternity and Sorority Life Committee of the Alumni Council). Wall is a partner in the tax practice group of Akerman LLP in Winston-Salem. He is on the national advisory council for Kappa Alpha Order, chair of the committee on continuing legal education for the North Carolina Bar Association and immediate past chair of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Piedmont Triad. He and his wife, Elizabeth, and their two children live in Winston-Salem.

James B. Black IV (JD ’99) was named to the 2022 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in workers’ compensation law. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Raleigh.
2000

Frederick Adams II (JD ’00) was appointed by North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper as District Court judge in Forsyth County. He had practiced in his own law firm in Winston-Salem since 2005.

Jason R. Harris (JD ’00) was named 2022 Lawyer of the Year in the Wilmington, NC, region for his practice area (admiralty and maritime law) by Best Lawyers. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Wilmington.

Joseph Ladapo (’00) was appointed surgeon general for the state of Florida by Gov. Ron DeSantis. He is also a professor at the University of Florida College of Medicine, specializing in cardiovascular health. He has taught at the UCLA and NYU medical schools.

Cammie Wilson (’00) was selected to create the role of coordinator of organizational development and training for the City of Salem (VA). A longtime adult educator and human resources practitioner, she lives in Rocky Mount, VA, with her husband, Bill Sweeney, and their two rescue dogs.

2001

Amy Kudwa Dunham (’01) was named chief communications officer for Habitat for Humanity International, the global housing nonprofit that works in all 50 U.S. states and more than 70 countries. She is based in its Atlanta headquarters. In more than two decades in communications, she has held senior leadership roles for Strada Education Network, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the NCAA and US Airways. She serves on Wake Forest’s College Board of Visitors.

Nathan A. Huff (’01) was named to the 2022 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for commercial litigation. He is a partner in the Raleigh office of Phelps Dunbar LLP.

Elizabeth Lucas-Averett (MBA ’01) is managing partner of The Trivista Group, a consulting firm she co-founded in 2003. She works with startups and fast-growth companies to manage special projects and organizational change. She is also a founding member of the Washington, DC, chapter of Chief, a private network that connects female leaders across industries. She lives in Alexandria, VA, with her husband, Jeremy Huggins (’87).

Joe Meador (’01, MBA ’07) was promoted to vice president of finance at Cone Health in Greensboro, NC. He was executive director of operational finance.

Leslie Overstreet (’01) was named director of group sales for Playbill Travel, a full-service travel agency and subsidiary of the iconic theater magazine Playbill. The travel company specializes in alumni and affinity travel on luxury river cruises and small ocean cruises with entertainment by Broadway talent.

Scott A. Wowra (MA ’01) was named dean of the colleges of education, liberal arts & sciences and social science at Baker College in Owosso, MI, one of Michigan’s largest private, nonprofit colleges. A leader in the field of psychology, he came to Baker in 2012 as an adjunct faculty member.

2002

Erin Connors Bromaghim (’02) is director of Olympic and Paralympic Development in Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti’s Office of International Affairs, where she leads Host City engagement for the 2028 Games in L.A. She also is the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation Fellow on Sustainable Development Goals for the city and a Senior Fellow on City and State Diplomacy at the Truman Center for National Policy. She and her husband, Pete Bromaghim (’02), and their two children live in Long Beach, CA.

Shane Porzio (MBA ’02) was named president of Profile Products LLC in Buffalo Grove, IL, a global leader in horticulture, environmental and sports turf management solutions. He was a senior vice president at Vantage Specialty Chemicals.

Melissa McGhie Proctor (’02) was appointed to a three-year term on the board of the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, a leading art museum in the Southeast. She is chief marketing officer for the NBA’s Atlanta Hawks and State Farm Arena. In 2021 she was honored with Adweek’s CMO Award, given to 30 of the most innovative marketing executives in the country.

Bryan Starrett (’02) was named to the Wake Forest Alumni Council. He is a partner with Brooks, Pierce, McLendon, Humphrey & Leonard LLP in Greensboro, NC. He and his wife, Lauren McSwain-Starrett (’02), and their two children live in Greensboro.

2003

Allan Funk (MBA ’03) was named EVP, chief credit officer, at Touchstone Bank, a full-service community bank headquartered in Prince George, VA. Funk has more than 37 years of banking experience, most recently as senior credit officer for First Community Bank of South Carolina.

Seth Hennes (’03) was promoted to director of operations for Levy Restaurants at Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte. He oversees the food and beverage operations for all events at the stadium, including the NFL’s Carolina Panthers games and Charlotte FC MLS games.

Dionne Jenkins (’03, JD ’06) was named to the Wake Forest Alumni Council. She is a past member of the Greek Alumni Advisory Board (now the Fraternity and Sorority Life Committee of the Alumni Council). She is general counsel for the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools and a board member of the local Dress for Success nonprofit. She and her husband, Anthony, live in Winston-Salem.

C. Bryan Link (MBA ’03) was named executive vice president of products and services for Plow Networks, a leading IT service provider based in Brentwood, TN. Link, a seasoned financial technology executive, was the founder and CEO of SimpliFi, an award-winning fintech company that created web-based financial planning software.

Erin Lunn Malone (’03) was named to the 2022 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for management-related employment law. She is a partner in the Tampa, FL, office of Phelps Dunbar LLP.
John M. Martinez (’03) was appointed by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis to the Valencia College District Board of Trustees. Martinez is executive director with J.P. Morgan Private Bank and president of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Orlando. He lives in Orlando with his wife, Helen Owens Martinez (’03).

Esharan Monroe-Johnson (’03) was named executive director of Read Write Spell, a not-for-profit in Winston-Salem that offers free, one-on-one reading instruction to students struggling with literacy skills. She joined the staff in 2017 as marketing and development director.

Anna Warburton Munroe (’03, JD ’09) was named to the 2021 North Carolina Super Lawyers list and recognized in The Best Lawyers in America for family law. She is a shareholder at Allman Spry Davis Leggett & Crumpler PA in Winston-Salem.

Robert Pompey Jr. (MBA ’03) was named to the board of directors for Bank of Oak Ridge (NC). He has been vice chairman for business and finance at North Carolina A&T State University since 2007. He was associate controller at Wake Forest for nearly 10 years.

Laura Herndon (’06) was named vice president of Multitude Films, an LGBTQ-led independent production company dedicated to telling nonfiction stories by and about underrepresented communities. Multitude’s recent productions include the Netflix Original PRAY AWAY, in partnership with Ryan Murphy and Blumhouse, which chronicles the rise and fall of Exodus International, the largest and most controversial conversion therapy organization in the world. Devaney’s critically acclaimed films have been programmed at dozens of festivals internationally, including Sundance, Tribeca, SXSW and Telluride. She received DOC NYC and TOPIC’s inaugural 40 Under 40 Award and the 2019 Cinereach Producers Award.

Katherine “Maeve” Goff Gardner (’04) was named to the Wake Forest Alumni Council. She is the director of state government affairs for GlaxoSmithKline in Raleigh. She and her husband, John Russell Gardner (JD ’04), live in Raleigh.

Mike Hamlar (’04) was elected president of the Virginia Morticians’ Association. He is a funeral director, embalmer and third-generation owner at Hamlar-Curtis Funeral Home & Crematory in Roanoke, VA, where he has worked since 2004. In addition, he and his wife, Katina, manage their property management and real estate development business. More at bit.ly/2MnZBPx

Benjamin “Ben” R. Norman (JD ’04) was named to the 2022 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for commercial litigation. He is a partner at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, NC.

Bemetra Liggins Simmons (MBA ’04) was named president and CEO of the Tampa Bay Partnership, a coalition of local business leaders who aim to improve the quality of life in Tampa Bay (FL). She is the partnership’s first female and first Black CEO. Since 2020 she has been chief strategy and operations officer for United Way Suncoast after a banking career.

Kate Rigby (JD ’05) joined the Boston office of Epstein Becker Green PC in the law firm’s employment, labor and workforce management practice. She has more than 16 years of labor and employment experience in the life sciences industry.

2005

Tamara Hughes Akinbo (MAEd ’05) is teaching Spanish in the high school academic program at UNC School of the Arts in Winston-Salem. She has been a teacher since 2001.

Ben Halfhill (’05, JD ’12) joined the Gaston County District Attorney’s Office in Gastonia, NC, as an assistant. He was in private practice in neighboring Mecklenburg County (NC).

Emily Carter Hare (’05) was named to the Wake Forest Alumni Council. She is a past member of the Greek Alumni Advisory Board (now the Fraternity and Sorority Life Committee of the Alumni Council). Hare is executive director of the Central Carolina Community College Foundation in Sanford, NC. She is on the Leadership Harnett (County) Board of Directors and the Opioid Abuse Epidemic Commission for the city of Sanford. She and her husband, Walter, and two children live in Sanford.

2006

Wynter P. Allen (JD ’06) was appointed by President Joe Biden to the Federal Service Impasses Panel, a component of the Federal Labor Relations Authority that resolves impasses between federal agencies and unions representing federal employees. Allen is a partner at the Alden Law Group PLLC in Washington, DC, where she practices labor and employment law.

Karl Brady (’04) was named to the Wake Forest Alumni Council. He is a past member of the Greek Alumni Advisory Board (now the Fraternity and Sorority Life Committee of the Alumni Council). He is director of development in South Carolina for Teach for America and a member of the Charleston City Council. He and his wife, Kate, live in Charleston.

Katie Delsandro (’06) was named director of admissions at the University of Virginia School of Law, where she earned a law degree in 2012. She was associate director in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action at Columbia University.

Jessica Devaney (MA ’06) is the Brooklyn-based founder and president of Peabody-nominated Multitude Films, an LGBTQ-led independent production company dedicated to telling nonfiction stories by and about underrepresented communities. Multitude’s recent productions include the Netflix Original PRAY AWAY, in partnership with Ryan Murphy and Blumhouse, which chronicles the rise and fall of Exodus International, the largest and most controversial conversion therapy organization in the world. Devaney’s critically acclaimed films have been programmed at dozens of festivals internationally, including Sundance, Tribeca, SXSW and Telluride. She received DOC NYC and TOPIC’s inaugural 40 Under 40 Award and the 2019 Cinereach Producers Award.

Laura Herndon (’06) was named vice president of development for the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina, a nonprofit based in Asheville, NC. She had worked at UNC Asheville since 2013, most recently as associate vice chancellor for External & University Relations.

D.J. O’Brien (JD ’06) was named a Labor & Employment Star in the 2022 edition of Benchmark Litigation. He was also named to the 2022 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for employment law—management. He is a partner at Brooks Pierce in the Raleigh and Greensboro, NC, offices.
Sarah Slappey (’06) opened a solo art show entitled “Self Care” at Sargent’s Daughters Gallery in New York City, which was reviewed by Artforum International Magazine. More at bit.ly/3nMNWmF

James Bacon (’07) is director of outreach & operations for Edfiency, a logistics company he co-founded in Oshkosh, WI, in 2020. The company offers easy software solutions that allow K-12 school districts to simplify scheduling and logistics around flex time.

Joshua L. Ellis (’07) joined Embry Merritt Shafar Womack PLLC as a senior attorney in its Lexington, KY, office. He concentrates on complex civil litigation and insurance defense.

Taylor Toombs Imel (’07) was named a 2021 Role Model by the Greater Houston Women’s Chamber of Commerce. She is a shareholder at KoonsFuller Houston’s office of family and divorce law. At Wake Forest, she played on the women’s soccer team.

Chris Paul (’07) was named to the NBA 75th Anniversary Team after being voted one of the 75 greatest players in league history by a panel of media members and current and former NBA coaches, players, executives and general managers. Paul, in his 17th NBA season, is an 11-time All Star who plays for the Phoenix Suns. In October he became the first player in NBA history to reach 20,000 points and 10,000 assists.

Erin Marie Tanner Choi (’08, JD ’11) was named to the 2022 edition of “Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch,” which recognizes the nation’s top attorneys who have been practicing law for less than 10 years. She is an associate in the Dallas law firm Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, where she focuses on commercial litigation.

Brittany Chappell Farner (’08) is a lead financial institution policy analyst for the Federal Reserve Board of Governors in its Division of Consumer & Community Affairs. She lives in Winston-Salem with her husband, John, and son, Owen.

Lee Ferran (’08) was named managing editor at Breaking Defense, a digital magazine that covers the strategy, politics and technology of defense. He was at ABC News for more than nine years as a national security reporter, investigative reporter and editor of the enterprise investigations unit. He received two news Emmy awards.

Kevin Cain (MBA ’09) joined High Point University as the senior associate dean for administration and finance and associate professor for the dental school.

Brian T. Freeman (MBA ’09) is the founder and CEO of Mployer Advisor, a leading independent platform that enables employers to find the best benefits and insurance for their companies’ needs. The company, launched in 2020, part-
ners with nearly half of the top 25 brokerages nationally and several of the largest insurance companies. He lives in Nashville, TN.

Jason M. Tyson (MALS ’09) was named communications director for the North Carolina Alliance of Public Health Agencies, the North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors and the North Carolina Public Health Association. He has more than 20 years of experience in journalism and communication and was media relations director for the UNC System office.

Laura Ware Adlington (‘10) led a team of researchers from University College London (UCL) who made a landmark archaeological discovery. Using a new analytical approach developed by Adlington, the team discovered that a stained-glass panel in Canterbury Cathedral dates back to 1130-1160, making it the oldest existing stained-glass window in England.

Zach Forward (JD/MBA ‘10) was named a 2021 Rising Star by Super Lawyers of Upstate New York. He is a partner at Barclay Damon LLP in Syracuse, NY, and a member of the corporate & tax practice group.

Will Geiger Jr. (‘10) is the co-founder of Scholarships360, an edtech startup based in Chapel Hill, NC, that was recently named “startup of the week” in the Research Triangle area by WRAL Techwire. Geiger, a first-generation college student, created the startup as a side project with his brother in hopes of helping other first-generation students pay for school. In 2020 he left his career in college admissions and school counseling to operate Scholarships360 full time. This past year, the startup helped 1.1 million students pay for college.

Janelle Summerville Peifer (‘10) is co-hosting “In Session,” the official HBO podcast companion to the HBO series “In Treatment.” In addition to breaking down new episodes on each podcast, Peifer and other hosts aim to demystify the process of therapy and examine the relationship between therapist and patient. Peifer, a clinical psychologist, is the founder of the Center for Inclusive Therapy + Wellness and an assistant professor of psychology at the University of Richmond.

Liz Shumate (‘10) was named to the Wake Forest Alumni Council. She is an assistant project manager with Zubatkin Owner Representation, a project management and owner representation firm in New York. She is a past president and co-president of Wake NOW (Network of Women) in New York.

Evan Leadem (‘11, JD ‘15) was named chief of staff and board secretariat at the University of Portland in Portland, OR, where he has worked since 2018.

Kara Peruccio (‘11) is assistant professor of history and women’s, gender and sexuality studies at the University of Maine. She defended her doctoral dissertation in the University of Chicago Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations in 2020.

Varian Tunstall Shrum (‘11) is community manager at Charlotte’s Camp North End, a renovated 1920s Model T factory and World War II quarter-master depot that houses offices, shops, restaurants and public art across 76 acres. She worked on the international Immersive Van Gogh exhibit at Camp North End that opened last fall. She lives in Charlotte with her husband, Austin Shrum (‘11).

Jeff Teague (‘11) became an NBA champion as the Milwaukee Bucks defeated the Phoenix Suns in the 2021 NBA Finals. It marked the first title for the Bucks since 1971 and the first for Teague in his 11-year NBA career. The former All-American played two seasons at Wake Forest before entering the 2009 NBA Draft.

Anna Marie Carr-Reinhard (‘12, MA ‘23) was promoted to director, Office of Family Engagement, at Wake Forest. She has worked at the University since 2017, previously as associate director of Family Engagement.

Phillip Iler (‘12) was named vice president of manufactured products at Pritzker Private Capital (PPC), a Chicago-based venture capital and private equity firm. He was an associate at PPC from 2016-19 before enrolling at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and earning an MBA.

Dan Murdock (JD/MBA ‘12) joined global management consulting firm McKinsey & Company as associate general counsel for pharmaceuticals & medical products. He is based in the Richmond, VA, area.

Jasmine Pitt (‘12, JD ‘15) joined the law firm Akerman LLP in Winston-Salem in its litigation department.

Allen T. Stanton (‘12) has written “Reclaiming Rural: Building Thriving Rural Congregations” (Rowman & Littlefield). The book focuses on modern challenges and opportunities facing rural churches and their leaders. Stanton is an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church and executive director of the Turner Center for Rural Vitality at the University of Tennessee Southern, formerly Martin Methodist College, in Pulaski, TN.

Patrick M. Campbell (MDiv ‘13) was named executive director of the Group Against Smog and Pollution (GASP), a nonprofit working to improve air quality in southwestern Pennsylvania. He previously worked for Protect PT, an environmental nonprofit in the Pittsburgh area, and spent six years as pastor of Peace United Church of Christ in Hickory, NC.

Perrin B. Fourmy (JD ‘13) was named to the 2022 edition of “Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch,” which recognizes top U.S. lawyers who have been practicing less than 10 years. Fourmy, recognized for commercial litigation, is a senior associate in the Dallas office of Bell Nunnally & Martin LLP.

Lauren Lukacsko (‘13, MSM ‘14) produced a video called “Empty Spaces” that opened The Clio Awards. The video, filmed in the offices of three of the nation’s top ad agencies, featured choreography and dancing by Bri Butler (‘14). The awards, described by Time magazine as the world’s most recognizable advertising awards, recognize innovation and creative excellence in advertising, design and communication as judged by an international panel. More at bit.ly/3AoWhAt

Hillary Pierce (MFA ‘13) is an Emmy Award-winning documentary filmmaker based in Texas. Her newest film, “AT THE READY,” premiered at the 2021 Sundance Film Festival. It follows high school students in El Paso, TX, as they train to become police officers and Border Patrol agents.

Ian Western (‘13) has started his own in-person and virtual business, Brothers Reborn, a newwave holistic life-coaching organization and community for men. The program aims to help men overcome personal challenges through hands-on guidance, alternative health practices, mentoring and accountability. Western lives in San Diego.
2014

Matt Antonelli (’14) was named head baseball coach at Bishop Fenwick, a Catholic high school in Peabody, MA. Antonelli played for nearby St. John’s Prep before coming to Wake Forest, where he was a three-year starter at third base and a first team All-ACC selection in 2006. He was drafted in the first round of the 2006 MLB Draft and played professionally for eight seasons before becoming an assistant coach at Holy Cross College and St. John’s Prep. He also runs a youth development program, Antonelli Baseball.

Sean Baetjer (JD ’14) joined the Gaston County District Attorney’s Office in Gastonia, NC, as an assistant. He was assistant district attorney in Catawba County (NC).

Bri Butler (’14), who performed in “Stomp” on Broadway, showcased her choreography and dancing in “Empty Spaces,” a video produced by Lauren Lukascko (’13, MSM ’14) that opened The Clio Awards. The video was filmed in the offices of three of the nation’s top ad agencies. The awards, described by Time magazine as the world’s most recognizable advertising awards, recognize innovation and creative excellence in advertising, design and communication as judged by an international panel. More at bit.ly/3AOwhAt

Tris Faulkner (MA ’14) earned a Ph.D. in Spanish linguistics at Georgetown University and is an assistant professor of Spanish linguistics at Kalamazoo College in Michigan. She has been a translator and interpreter, including for a law firm, a business school, the Chilean government and the Embassy of Venezuela in her native Jamaica.

Matt James (’14) competed in the fall on “Dancing With the Stars” on ABC. James, who was a wide receiver on Wake Forest’s football team, made his reality TV debut in early 2021 as the star of ABC’s “The Bachelor.” With roommate and former teammate Tyler Cameron (’15), he co-founded ABC Food Tours in New York City, where he lives, to inspire underserved students. More at bit.ly/3Eencmr

Kevin Jordan (’14) and Wake Forest Baseball Coach Tom Walter received the Stuart Scott ENSPRIDE Award from ESPN during the 2021 Sports Humanitarian of the Year Awards. Jordan is director of community relations for “Get in the Game,” a nonprofit he and Walter launched in 2020 that empowers middle and high school students to foster meaningful conversations on race and social justice in the classroom and on the field. Jordan and Walter made national headlines in 2011 when Jordan received a kidney transplant from Walter, who was his baseball coach.

John Nail (JD ’14) joined Fox Rothschild LLP in Atlanta as an associate in the taxation & wealth planning department. He represents individuals and businesses in complex tax matters.

Emily G. Simpson (MA ’14) is an assistant professor of psychology at East Carolina University.

She taught at Claflin University and the University of Connecticut and did her postdoctoral work at Penn State University.

Elizabeth “Ellie” Thiemann (’14) was named to the Wake Forest Alumni Council. She is a past member of the Greek Alumni Advisory Board (now the Fraternity and Sorority Life Committee of the Alumni Council). She is a vice president, Corporate Risk, at Wells Fargo in Charlotte.

2015

Tyler Cameron (’15) has written a book, “You Deserve Better” (Plume Publishing), which combines his life story with a how-to guide to building healthy, respectful relationships in the tricky world of modern dating. Cameron played football at Wake Forest. He rose to fame as the runner-up on “The Bachelorette” reality show in 2019. He co-founded ABC Food Tours, a charity organization to enrich the lives of underserved students in New York City, with his roommate and former teammate, Matt James (’14).

Allison Emrey (’15) earned her Tour card for the LPGA Tour 2022 season. She has been a professional golfer since 2015 on the Symetra Tour circuit, previously known as the LPGA Futures Tour. She earned her first Symetra Tour victory in 2021 and finished in eighth place for the year. Emery was a 2015 All-ACC selection at Wake Forest and ranks 10th in career scoring average. She lives in Charlotte.

Zachary Pipkorn (’15, MSM ’16) was promoted to the rank of captain by the U.S. Marine Corps. He is a UH-1Y Venom helicopter pilot stationed at Camp Pendleton, CA.

Safyah Usmani (MFA ’15) directed a documentary, “A Life Too Short,” that examines the tragedy behind the killing of Pakistani activist and social media star Qandeel Baloch. The film, released by MTV Documentary Films, received a special screening at DOC NYC, the country’s largest documentary film festival. Usmani is an Emmy-nominated producer.

Monica M. Berra (MFA ’16) is a New York City-based documentary filmmaker and a producer with Kunhardt Films. She recently produced, “A Choice of Weapons: Inspired by Gordon Parks,” which traces the career of the iconic photographer and filmmaker. The film debuted at the 2021 Tribeca Film Festival and is currently streaming on HBO Max.

Hannah Duane (’16) was named assistant director of engagement programs on Wake Forest’s Alumni Engagement team. She has worked at the University since 2018, previously as project coordinator for the Call to Conversation program.

Gabrielle B. Shea (’16) received the 2021 Security Industry Association’s Industry Advocate Award, which recognizes leadership in public policy. She is a public policy manager at NEC Corporation of America in the Washington, DC, area.

Davis Womble (’16), who was a golfer at Wake Forest, won the 2021 North Carolina Amateur Match Play Championship at Forsyth Country Club. Womble, who lives in Winston-Salem, is a regional account manager at Gilbarco Veeder-Root in Greensboro, NC.

2017

Jared Adams (JD ’17) is an associate attorney at Chambless, Bahner & Stophel PC in Chattanooga, TN, for health care and nonprofit clients, entrepreneurs and startups. He was legislative counsel to U.S. Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee, worked with the Tennessee General Assembly and was a transactional attorney in Roanoke, VA.

Hunt Harris (JD ’17) joined the Wilmington, NC, office of Law Firm Carolinas, where he focuses on civil and business litigation, real estate, community associations and planned community law and estate planning.

Emily Jeske (JD ’17) was named to the 2022 edition of Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch, which recognizes the nation’s top attorneys who have been practicing law less than 10 years. It is the second consecutive year Jeske has been named to the list. She is an attorney with Bosquez Porter Family Law in Raleigh.

Cheslie Kryst (JD/MBA ’17) was named fashion retailer Express Inc.’s ambassador to Big Brothers Big Sisters of America (BBBS) as part of the company’s Big Dream Project. Kryst, who was crowned Miss USA in 2019, is an Emmy-nominated TV correspondent based in New York City and a BBBS national board member.
2018

Abby Revele (’18) was promoted to Southeast development officer in the University Advance- ment office at Wake Forest. She has worked at the University since 2018, previously as a develop- ment associate.

Christina Thompson (’18) competed in the 2021 Miss USA pageant on Nov. 29 after being crowned Miss Virginia USA 2021 in July. She is an award-winning reporter for ABC 13 News – WECT in Lynchburg, VA, and the founder of a mentor- ship program, Purposeful Positions, that helps women break into the news industry.

Jerome Williams (MBA ’18) was named a Top 25 Innovator for 2021 by Modern Healthcare, a leading source for health care business and policy news. He is senior vice president of consumer engage- ment for Novant Health in Charlotte. During the pandemic, his team pushed care into vulnerable communi- ties via mobile health units and led an effort to tap into ZIP code data to ensure equitable vaccine rollout.

Will Zalatoris (’18) was voted by fel- low PGA Tour golfers to receive the 2020-21 Arnold Palmer Award, renamed from Rookie of the Year award in 2019 to honor golfing icon Arnold Palmer (’51, LLD ’70). Zalatoris fin- ished second at The Masters and had numerous top 10 finishes throughout the season. At Wake Forest, Zalatoris was ACC Player of the Year in 2017 and an All-American.

2019

Ben Campbell (’19) was promoted to eMobility analyst at E Source Companies LLC, a consulting company in Boulder, CO, that focuses on sus- tainable technology. Among his responsibilities are tracking and forecasting global sales of elec- tric vehicles, analyzing EV charging infrastruc- ture and mapping needs for charging stations and infrastructure.

Meg Kuryla Daniels (MFA ’19) and Manie Rob- inson (MFA ’19) co-produced a documentary, “Proper Pronouns,” which follows four transgen- der, ordained ministers fighting intolerance and discrimination in the Bible Belt. The film, which aired on UNC-TV, was an official selection at several top film festivals, including the New Orleans Film Festival, and is being screened as part of the Southern Circuit Tour of Indepen- dent Filmmakers.

Nicholas Deel (MFA ’19) and Huiying Wang (MFA ’19) co-produced, “Adventures of T-Man,” a documentary that follows a 26-year-old with autism striving to live independently. Deel also directed the film, which has aired on PBS stations across the country thanks to support from the National Educational Telecommunications Asso- ciation. Deel is a freelance filmmaker, videogra- pher and editor in Raleigh. Wang is a freelance editor and cinematographer.

2020

Kathleen Bashur (’20) is senior manager of media relations at the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) in Arlington, VA, where she helps execute the communications and media relations strategy to help advance pro-pa- tient, pro-pharmacy priorities. She interned for

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Please visit wfu礼物.org to learn more about including Wake Forest University in your estate plan and lifetime membership in the Wake Forest Legacy Society.
Rachel H. Boyd (JD ’20) joined the Raleigh law firm Young Moore as an associate. She represents businesses in commercial litigation. At Wake Forest, she was outreach coordinator for the law school’s Domestic Violence Awareness Coalition and a student attorney at the Community Law & Business Clinic. She is a classically trained opera singer.

Sam Chason (’20) was honored by Triad Business Journal/Triad Inno in the article “Inno Under 25,” which highlighted five innovative entrepreneurs aged 25 or younger in the Triad (NC). Chason is the founder of Storage Scholars, a pickup and delivery storage service for college students. He launched the company in 2017 for fellow students at Wake Forest.

Molly Espenan (MA ’20) has started a handmade craft business, Wild Iris Crafts, specializing in custom geode-inspired artwork and accessories, lettering and acrylic paintings. She is a psychometrist and clinical research coordinator in the neurology department at UNC Chapel Hill (NC). Her art is on Etsy and Instagram @WildIrisCrafts.

Lillian Johnson (’20) is covering innovation, health care and higher education as a reporter for Triad Business Journal based in Greensboro (NC). She was the news editor and editor in chief of the Old Gold & Black and received the Bynum G. Shaw Prize for Journalism in 2019. She was an intern at the Winston-Salem Journal in 2020.

Katherine M. Laws (’20) joined the University Advancement team at Wake Forest as a territory development coordinator. A former Wake Forest Magazine intern, she was a President’s Aide and co-chair of the Traditions Council as an undergrad. After graduation, she completed a year-long fellowship in Wake Forest’s Office of Personal and Career Development.

Natalya Khan Lewitt (MSM ’20) joined University Advancement at Wake Forest as a development coordinator for the School of Law development team. She was an account executive at Inmar Intelligence in Winston-Salem.

Tara Schipof (MSM ’20) was named Miss Macon 2022 and will compete in the summer for the title of Miss Georgia 2022, part of the Miss America pageant series. She is a marketing specialist with Stanley Black & Decker in Atlanta.

Lily Woodall (’21) is a national security associate at Cornerstone Government Affairs, a bipartisan consulting firm in Washington, DC. She was an intern there when she was in the Wake Washington program.

Mary Scott Hardwick (’07) and Matthew Balys, 8/21/21 in Castleton, VA. They live in Washington, DC.

Daniel Taylor Applegate (’09) and Rachel Rose Hong, 9/18/21 in Ocean Isle Beach, NC. They live in Brooklyn, NY. The ceremony was officiated by Athena Thomasson-Bless (MDIV ’17).

McArn Bennett (’09) and Katie Jeter (’12), 10/9/21 in Moreland, GA. They live in New Orleans. The wedding party included Dryw Davies (’09), Colston Edgerton (’09, MD ’14), Elizabeth Elliott (’12), Will Farmer (’09), Barron Jeter (’15), Justin King (’09), Alison Meares (’12), Chrissie Morison (’12), Jennifer Nolan (’12), Tanner Smith (’10), Jeff Speir (’09) and Matt Woeste (’09, MSA ’10).

Holly Elizabeth Fuller (’12) and Austin Randall Brantd, 10/9/21 in Crozet, VA. They live in Arlington, VA. The wedding party included Andy Bunker (’12), Erica DeBrock Bunker (’12), Claire Dunn (’12), Drew Fozzard (’12), Sandhya Ghanta (’12), Sarah Sanford Fozzard (’12, MSA ’13) and Molly Mitzner (’13).

Maggie Alice DelVecchio (’14) and Steven Randall Thompson (’14), 8/14/21 in Winston-Salem. They live in McLean, VA. The wedding party included Katie Albright (’14, MSA ’15), Cole Crowson (’14), Natalie Flammia (’14), Thomas Irvin (’13, MSBA ’20) and Chelsea Parish Wilson (’14).

Casey Thomas (’14) and Nicholas Carey, 7/31/21 in Asheville, NC. They live in Charlotte. The wedding party included Victoria Erb (’14) and Lauren Lewis Mann (’11, MSA ’12).

Jackson Eubank (’15) and Kelsey Kuhn (’15), 9/18/21 in Kiawah Island, SC. They live in Seattle. The wedding party included Eleni Angelides (’15), Robert Boyce (’15), Starling Gamble (’15), Adam Kuhn (’09), Andrew McElhinney (’15), Margaret Mercer (’15), Reid Nickle (’15), Denise Peek (’15), Rich Roddy (’15) and Ally Ward (’15). The groom is the son of Eric Eubank (’86) and Martha McCrorey Eubank (’86).

Megan Victoria Jarrell (’15) and Alec “Kyle” Robbins, 9/18/21 in Greensboro, NC. They live in Durham, NC. The wedding party included Olivia Beck (’15), Hannah Breden (’15), Laura Juritch (’15), Caroline Angle Maguire (’15), Alcyn Reverdy Pearson (’15), Rachel Severance (’15) and Kelly Watson (’14).

Ethan Christopher Green (’19) and Sara Rice Nakamura-Peeck (’19), 8/7/21 in Nazareth, PA. They live in Bethesda, MD. The wedding party included Victoria Elliott (’16, M5 ’21) and Emma McCauley (’20). Reece Hagler (’21) and two former ROTC professors, Melissa Grider and Lawrence Korson, were a part of the saber arch.

Ella “Ellie” JoAnne Bruggen (’20) and David Storm Filston, 9/4/21 in Winston-Salem. They live in Athens, GA. The wedding party included Emily Biesel (’20), Maggie Burns (’21), David Deering (’20), Noah Dill (’20), Ashley Farley (’18), Ben Gilbert (’20), Coleman Greene (’20), Larisa Hanger (’19), Katherine Laws (’20), Carly Liebich (’20, MSM ’21), Taylor Schumpert (’20), Kellie Shanaghan (’19) and Colson Streitmatter (’20, MA ’21).

Jill Anne Rowley Smith (’04) and Derek Smith, Whitman, MA: a daughter, Mae Anne. 7/20/21

Adrienne Hillery Gaziano (’05) and Matthew Gaziano, Alexandria, VA: a daughter, Bianca Celeste, 1/14/21. She joined her brother, Vincent (7), and sister, Claire (3).

Diana Santos Johnson (’05) and Gil Johnson (MBA ’10), Winston-Salem: a daughter, Louise Graham. 1/19/21. She joined her sister, Mary Ines “Nessy” (7).

Tiffanney Lord Simerson (’05) and Tyler Simerson, Greensville, NC: a son, Finn Eliot. 7/22/21. He joined his brother, Miller Lucas (5).

Graham B. Hall (’06) and Candice Castellino, Stallings, NC: a daughter, Penelope Rose. 5/26/21. She joined her sister, Ruby Elisabeth (3).

Alex Reyes Schroeder (’06, JD ’09) and Courtney Schroeder, Minneapolis: a daughter, Maya Jean. 9/24/21

Lauren Hanny Wilson (’07) and Hadley Kitchin Wilson (’08), Winston-Salem: a daughter, Georgia Claire. 5/29/21. She joined her sisters, Madeleine Hanny (5) and Kathryn Mills (2).

Ashley Christine Graham Phipps (’08, MSM ’09) and Devin Phipps (’08), Winston-Salem: a daughter, Lillian Christine. 4/21/21

Matthew Burrows (’09) and Jacqueline Buff Burrows (’11), New York: a daughter, Willa Patricia. 6/28/21

Brian Allen Dunstan (’09) and Courtney Miller Dunstan (’09), Basking Ridge, NJ: a son, William Allen. 7/21/21. He joined his sister, Whitney Lee (3).

Abigail “Aby” Kamens Engel (’09) and Robert Engel (’09), Lexington, MA: a daughter, Avery Rose. 6/18/20. She joined her brother, Graham (5), and sister, Blake Olivia (3).

Kirk Lawrence Kissner (’09) and Andrea May Kissner (’10), Alexandria, VA: a daughter, Elise Michelle. 9/14/21. She joined her brother, Declan Kirk (2).

2021

Chris Flurry (JD ’21) has joined the litigation team at Ellis & Winters LLP in Raleigh, where he focuses on torts, insurance defense and employment law. He served more than 14 years in the U.S. Marines before graduating from Germanna Community College and the University of Mary Washington in Virginia. In law school, he was executive online editor for the Wake Forest Law Review.

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Wesley Thomas Riley ('09) and Catherine Coelho Riley ('10, MA '12), Winston-Salem: a son, Ambrose Thomas. 2/7/21. He joined his brother, Augustine Jude (5), and sister, Brigida Louisa (4).

Rory P. Agan ('10, JD '13) and Laura M. Esseesse ('10, JD '13), Apex, NC: a son, Nico Alexander Agan. 8/24/21. He joined his sister, Everly Rose "Rosie" (3).

Matthew Joseph Cashman ('10) and Sarah Luvisi Cashman ('10), Charlotte: a daughter, Eleanor Leigh. 2/9/21

Mikaela Pinzl Hillesheim ('10, MSA '11) and Rich Hillesheim, Memphis, TN: a son, Edwin Nelson. 7/9/20

Elizabeth Armstrong Owen ('11) and Jack Owen ('11), Saline, MI: a daughter, Anna Margaret. 8/22/21. She joined her sister, Nala (9), and brother, William (2). She is the granddaughter of Amy Sanborn Owen ('83) and the late Jack Walden Owen II ('85) and niece of Courtney Owen ('14).

Abby Rudd Sights (MSM '11, MBA '14) and Brian Christopher Sights (MBA '12), Jupiter, FL: a daughter, Molly Elizabeth. 2/10/21. She joined her brother, Jack Emery (3).

Nicholas Karl Corak (MAEd '12, MA '20, PhD '25) and Kate Elizabeth Douglass (MAEd '12), Winston-Salem: a son, Max Douglass Corak. 9/19/21

Timothy H. Doolittle (JD '12) and Erin Doolittle, Manlius, NY: a son, Hudson Timothy. 1/13/21

Donavan John Hylarides (JD '12) and Lauren Ashley Stutts Hylarides (MBA '21), Clemmons, NC: a son, Owen Wiley. 9/10/21

Ella Douglas Brigagliano ('13, MSM '14) and John Martin Brigagliano ('13), Atlanta: a daughter, Callie Pearl. 9/3/21

Stacey Blair Wilson Walker ('13, MAEd '16) and Thomas Scott Walker ('13), Winston-Salem: a daughter, Eliza Scott. 10/31/21. She joined her sister, Meredith Blair (2).

Michelle Hartenstein Wilson ('14, MSA '15) and Jack Wilson, San Diego: a son, John "Jack" Brady. 8/1/21

George Raymond Aldhizer IV ('15, MSA '16) and Rachel Roth Aldhizer ('15), Winston-Salem: a son, David Samuel. 7/8/21. He joined his brother, George Raymond "Gray" (4), and sister, Ellis Elizabeth (2).

Deaths

Ervin "Wiley" Biles ('43), Feb. 24, 2021, Houston. He served with U.S. Army occupation forces in Japan after World War II and was the only radiologist for a 500-bed hospital in Osaka. He operated a radiology practice in Houston from 1952 until retiring in 1991.

Joseph K. Isley Jr. (MD '48), June 24, 2021, Fort Myers, FL. He served in the U.S. Navy and was a medical officer in the U.S. Air Force. He was a radiologist and chair of the radiology department at Lee Memorial Hospital in Fort Myers, where he helped establish the area’s first X-ray department and first school of X-ray technology. He was president of the Lee County and Florida divisions of the American Cancer Society, the Lee County Tuberculosis Association and the American Lung Association of Florida. He was elected to the Lee County School Board and the Lee Memorial Health System Board of Directors.

Hooper Dubois "Doc" Johnson (MD '48, MD '53), Aug. 26, 2021, Myrtle Beach, SC. He served in World War II as an aviation metalsmith with the U.S. Navy. He was an ear, nose and throat specialist and also spent time as an emergency room physician.

Carolyn Twiggs Fox ('49), Aug. 4, 2021, Winston-Salem. She was a pharmacist who owned Professional Building Pharmacy in Winston-Salem with her husband, Howard Fox.

William Benjamin Herring ('49, MD '53), Oct. 17, 2021, Greensboro, NC. After serving as a medical officer in the U.S. Navy, he joined the faculty at UNC School of Medicine, where he became an expert in hematology. In 1966, he came to Moses Cone Memorial Hospital in Greensboro to lead two new residency programs in family and internal medicine. He retired in the early 2000s with professor emeritus status from UNC and numerous honors, including the Distinguished Alumni Award from Wake Forest School of Medicine. He was preceded in death by his wife, Elizabeth "Betty" Hawks Herring ('51).

Harold Keith Bynum ('50), Aug. 23, 2021, Providence, NC. He served in the U.S. Navy as a hospital corpsman during World War II. He was a social worker in Guilford County (NC) for 30 years.

David Lee Fletcher ('50), July 28, 2021, Carrollton, TX. He was a professor of religion at Dallas Baptist University for 42 years until retiring in 2000.

Nathaniel Wilkerson Fox ('50), Sept. 16, 2021, Norwood, NC. He was the founding pastor of Memorial Baptist Church in Norwood.

William "Bill" Albert Myers III ('50), Raleigh, NC. He joined his brother, William (2). He is the granddaughter of Augustine Jude (5), and sister, Brigida Louisa (4). Survivors include brother Ruth V. Rann Jr. (’64).

Marion White Mason ('51), Oct. 18, 2021, Winston-Salem. He served in the U.S. Army and Army Reserve and was a dentist for the VA.

Jacquelin "Jackie" Beard Nutt ('51), Sept. 7, 2021, Raleigh. She taught math at Broughton High School in Raleigh for 25 years and was the first female head of the math department.

Raymond "Ray" Ludwell Rogers ('51), Aug. 21, 2021, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL. He was an accountant and comptroller at Singer-Link Company in Hyattsville, MD.

John Gilbert Roland ('51), July 31, 2021, Winston-Salem. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War and was a chiropractor before retiring in 1999.

Joseph Eugene Wynn ('51), Oct. 9, 2021, Richmond, VA. He served in the U.S. Navy. He was an accountant, a certified fraud examiner and the first business manager at John Tyler Community College in Chester, Va.

Robert Donald "Don" Efird Sr. ('52), Aug. 22, 2021, Kannapolis, NC. He was a building contractor and owned R.D. Efird Realty. He was president for six of his 60 years in Gideons International and presented a dignitary Bible to President Jimmy Carter in the Oval Office in 1978. He was Kannapolis Young Man of the Year in 1961 and received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine from North Carolina Gov. Mike Easley in 2006. Survivors include his wife, Iris Harrington Efird ('50).

Milton Palmer Fields (JD '53), Aug. 8, 2021, Rocky Mount, NC. He served in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Saratoga during World War II. He was an attorney in Rocky Mount who co-founded the law firm Fields & Cooper PLLC in 1959 with Roy A. Cooper Jr. (’49), father of North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper.


Clara Ellen Francis Peeler ('53), Nov. 24, 2020, Charlotte. She was a teacher at Providence Day School in Charlotte. Survivors include her husband, J.L. Peeler ('53).

William Kyle Eller ('54, P ’83), Aug. 6, 2021, Wilkesboro, NC. He served in Germany in the U.S. Army. He was vice president of marketing for Lowe’s Companies Inc. Survivors include son Greg A. Eller ('83).

Sue Tillman Strother ('54), Oct. 11, 2021, Newport News, VA. She served alongside her husband, a minister, at churches in Maryland, California and Virginia in teaching and counseling roles. Survivors include daughter Donna S. Highfill ('82).

Edgar “Ed” Reel Bain ('55, JD ’57), Sept. 8, 2021, Lillington, NC. He practiced law for more than 60 years in Harnett County (NC) and was the attorney for the town of Lillington and Campbell University. He co-founded Cape Fear Christian Academy in Harnett County.

Kenneth Gene Conner ('55), Sept. 4, 2021, Blacksburg, VA. He was a construction superintendent and an environmental site inspector.

Philip Rosser Johnson ('55), Sept. 8, 2021, Richmond, VA. He was a retired executive of Life Insurance Company of Virginia. Survivors include his wife, Frances “Fran” Tharrington Johnson ('55).

Robert “Bob” E. Lee Jr. ('55, JD ’60), Oct. 4, 2021, Kure Beach, NC. He was an officer in the U.S. Army for three years. He retired as district counsel for the Veterans Administration in Winston-Salem in 1989. He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert E. Lee Sr. ('28, JD ’28), dear emeritus of the Wake Forest School of Law, and Louise Lee. Survivors include sister Betty Lee Recoulley ('68, P ’02).

William Daniel “Dan” Poole ('55), Aug. 3, 2021, Statesville, NC. He was editor of the Old Gold & Black at Wake Forest. He was a reporter in Norfolk, VA, and an editor with the Washington Star newspaper in Washington, DC. He was an executive with the Insurance Information Institute and publisher of its monthly trade magazine until retiring.

Shirley Moore Bolick ('56), Sept. 26, 2021, Yadkinville, NC. She was a retired elementary school teacher.

Preston H. Bradshaw Jr. ('56), Sept. 10, 2021, Raleigh. He was a general surgeon in the U.S. Air Force. He practiced urology in Raleigh for more than 40 years and was team physician for NC State University for many years. Survivors include son Michael Bradshaw ('87).

Axel Werner Hoke (MD ’56), June 21, 2021, Novato, CA. He was a medical officer in the U.S. Coast Guard. He was a dermatologist in private practice and a clinical professor at the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine. He was president of the San Francisco Dermatological Society, which named him “Physician of the Year” in 2006.

Alvin “Al” Lawing Jr. ('56), Aug. 11, 2021, Easton, MD. He served in the U.S. Army Reserve. He was vice president of finance for Hardee’s Food Systems and retired as CEO of Major Realty Corporation in Orlando, FL.

Paul Daniel Webster III (MD ’56), Aug. 13, 2021, Lancaster, SC. He served in the U.S. Army Medical Corp and commanded multiple field hospitals during World War II, earning the Legion of Merit and the Army Commendation Medal, among others.

WILLIAM S. “BILLY” HAMILTON
Professor of Russian

The pipe-smoking, banjo-picking Russian professor Billy Hamilton often held court in front of Greene Hall on Manchester Plaza. Setting up two folding blue chairs, he’d settle into one, wearing a Buffalo Bills cap and smoking his ever-present pipe, and happily chat with any student or colleague who stopped by to sit in the other chair.

He was a character in the best sense of the word: brilliant, witty, kind, quick with a pun, a talented bluegrass musician, consummate teacher and wise adviser. He once said that he was a fortunate man to spend his life doing the two things he loved most: teaching foreign languages and playing bluegrass music.

Hamilton joined the Wake Forest faculty in 1983 and was an associate dean of the College for three decades. He taught Russian languages and linguistics, wrote a 1980 textbook, “Introduction to Russian Phonology and Word Structure,” still in use, and took students to Moscow and St. Petersburg. He taught a first-year seminar on the history of bluegrass music and played banjo in Wake Forest’s Unbroken Circle old-time string band.

He had an impact on many lives, said Rachel Earp Knowles ('93). “He has been the most important mentor of my life,” she said. “For a long time I thought that was because he taught me Russian, which gave me so many opportunities. But that was not it. What mattered was the effort he made to encourage me and show me that I could do hard things well.”

Hamilton, who was 80, died Oct. 9, 2021. He is survived by his wife, Cindy, and children Sage Hamilton Rountree ('94) and John Hamilton ('98), and their spouses and children.

Hamilton grew up in Cincinnati, listening to late-night radio, captivated by the soulful strains of bluegrass music. By age 7 he was hooked, and his grandmother bought him a five-string banjo from an antique shop. He founded a bluegrass band when he was in college at Yale and dropped out of graduate school at Yale for a time to play with Walter Hensley and the Dukes of Bluegrass.

He taught at the State University of New York at Buffalo for a dozen years before an ACE (American Council on Education) Fellowship brought him to Wake Forest in the early 1980s. He won the Jon Reinhardt Award for Distinguished Teaching in 2021.

“Billy’s teaching, mentorship and encouragement impacted hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Wake Forest students,” said Sarah D. Phillips ('93), professor of anthropology and director of the Robert F. Byrnes Russian and East European Institute at Indiana University Bloomington. “His mentorship did not end at graduation but was a lifelong commitment.”

Hamilton could speak numerous languages in addition to Russian and could play many instruments including the mandolin, guitar, fiddle and dulcimer. “This wide-ranging skill meant he could walk into a Soviet police station or an Irish pub and immediately make friends — which he regularly did,” his family wrote in his obituary.
He retired as a brigadier general after 25 years and practiced gastroenterology, retiring as chair of the Department of Medicine at Medical College of Georgia. He was a member of 30 medical societies and president and co-founder of the American Pancreatic Association.

Frederick “Ray” Kinder ('57), Nov. 6, 2020, Tampa, FL. He served in the U.S. Air Force in World War II and was a public school teacher and vice principal in Hampton, VA.

Robert “Bob” Ledford Sr. ('58), July 30, 2021, Matthews, NC. He was a Baptist minister and retired building inspector for Mecklenburg County (NC).

John G. Mills III ('58, JD ’60), Oct. 3, 2021, Wake Forest, NC. He served in the U.S. Naval Reserve. He was an attorney for more than 50 years and taught law courses at NC State and Campbell universities. He was a town commissioner and mayor of Wake Forest and served on the board of directors of the Wake Forest College Birthplace Society.

Jeanette Haywood Roper ('58), Aug. 21, 2021, Raleigh. She was a homemaker and church volunteer. She was preceded in death by sister Joan Haywood Hamer ('50).

Fred Jackson Braswell ('59), Oct. 6, 2021, Midlothian, VA. He was a Baptist minister at churches in North Carolina and Virginia.

Karen Walker Copp ('59), Sept. 8, 2021, Winter Springs, FL. She was an arts administrator and teacher at Seminole State College in central Florida and a founder of the Seminole Cultural Arts Council.

James “Jim” Dalrymple ('59), Sept. 1, 2021, Summerville, FL. He was a quarterback and running back on Wake Forest’s football team and a member of ROTC. He was a military policeman in the U.S. Army. He was director of the Benton Convention Center and the Winston-Salem Coliseum in the mid-1970s and early 1980s. He was director of the Washington DC Sports Commission, overseeing RFK Stadium and leading efforts to bring professional major league baseball to the city, for 15 years until retiring in 1999.

Robert Henry “Bob” Harmon ('59), July 26, 2021, Boone, NC.

Sylvia Nash Redwine ('59), Aug. 30, 2021, Raleigh. She operated a retail plant shop and a landscape and design business in Raleigh.

Barbara Ann Smith Church ('60), Dec. 30, 2020, Raleigh. She was a retired middle and high school math and science teacher.

Max Eugene Deal ('60), Aug. 26, 2021, Winston-Salem. He was a Presbyterian minister who pastored at churches in Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Carolina and New York City.

Paul “Kitt” Francis Kittinger Jr. ('60), Sept. 24, 2021, Fayetteville, NC. He served 29 years as a public school teacher.

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Harold Tedford's jovial invitation, “Why don’t you take a theatre course?” or “Why don’t you come see this play?” hooked many a student to a love of theatre.

The merry thespian, teacher and mentor inspired numerous students to become actors, directors, screenwriters or costume designers.

During his 33 years on the faculty from 1965 to 1998, “Dr. T” directed more than 40 plays, took students and alumni to see plays in New York and London, taught at Worrell House in London twice and helped design the theatres in the Scales Fine Arts Center. But more than anything, he made students feel like family. Several hundred alumni honored him when the main theatre in the Fine Arts Center was named the Harold C. Tedford Main Stage in 2016.

“He put his life’s work into making this theatre not only a theatre of quality, but a theatre with a heart,” Professor Emeritus of Theatre Jim Dodding wrote at the dedication of the Tedford Stage. “His spirit has been behind everything which has taken place here. Harold’s heart is here in this theatre. His spirit will remain here for all time.” (Watch the dedication: bit.ly/3FbzITB)

Tedford, who was 88, died Oct. 20, 2021, in Winston-Salem. He is survived by his wife, Josie, and daughters Vivian Tedford (’83), Beth Tedford (’85) and Rosalind Tedford (’90, MA ’94) and her husband, Patrick Morton (MA ’97, MBA ’02), and two grandchildren.

A native of Clarksville, Arkansas, Tedford grew up staging plays in his family’s garage. He came from a family of storytellers — his mother, a teacher, and his father, a preacher — so telling stories from the stage made sense, he once said.

He graduated with a degree in theatre from Ouachita Baptist College (now University) in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, and served two years in the U.S. Army in Germany. After earning his master’s degree and Ph.D., he taught at Southwest Texas State (now Texas State University) in San Marcos, Texas, until coming to Wake Forest.

The theatre program flourished under Tedford, despite makeshift space — “our little magic factory,” he fondly called the two theatres on the top floor of the Z. Smith Reynolds Library — until the Fine Arts Center opened in 1976. He directed the last play in the library, “The Comedy of Errors,” and the first play in Scales, “Look Homeward, Angel.” He preferred comedies to tragedies and directed his favorite, “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum,” on the library stage and in Scales.

“There are some teachers in your life that not only share with you their knowledge but become a part of your journey as an artist,” said Michael Baron (’92), producing artistic director for Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma. “For so many students, he became a caring and kindhearted part of their family.”

Other former students shared similar sentiments on Tedford’s Facebook page, remembering “a kind man and beautiful soul,” “a tsunami of puns and good humor,” “a larger-than-life character” and “an amazing, generous, intelligent and caring man.” “Like so many of us, he set me down the path my life is on now.”
in the U.S. Army, including tours in Korea and Vietnam, and received the Bronze Star and Air Medal. He was chief of logistics at Fort Bragg (NC) until retiring from the military in 1993 and joining the executive team at Robeson Health Care in Pembroke, NC.

John Joseph Niznik ('60), Oct. 8, 2021, Franklin, TN. He served in the U.S. Army and was a wide receiver on Wake Forest’s football team. He retired as vice president of transportation for Rudy’s Farm.

Dayle Kelley Phillips Sr. ('60), Aug. 19, 2021, Winston-Salem. He owned a commercial development company and was a football and basketball referee for the ACC.

Helen Marie Stinson ('60), July 26, 2021, Greensboro, NC. She practiced cosmetic and reconstructive surgery in Greensboro for 25 years. She served in the U.S. Army Reserve Medical Corps and served in Kuwait during the Gulf War. She received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, North Carolina. She was a past member of the Wake Forest College alumni board and co-founded the Afro-American Society. He was a member of the Samuel Wait Legacy Society.

James Franklin Graham Jr. ('61, MD '65), Oct. 7, 2021, Myrtle Beach, SC. He played golf at Wake Forest under legendary coach Jesse Haddock ('52, P '68). He served six years in the U.S. Air Force as a flight surgeon and fighter pilot during the Vietnam War, earning the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal, among other honors. He operated a family medicine practice in Myrtle Beach for 18 years. In 2007, he founded the Coastal Recovery Center & 8:36 Ministries, a Christ-centered addiction counseling and treatment center in Myrtle Beach. Survivors include son Clay Graham ('88).

John Russell “Russ” Hamlin ('61), Oct. 16, 2021, Longwood, FL. He served in the U.S. Army and was an accountant more than 50 years. He was a member of the Samuel Wait Legacy Society.


Peggy Joyce Newkirk Evington ('63), Sept. 24, 2021, Gastonia, NC. She was a church secretary and organizer.

John L. Fischer ('63, JD '66), Sept. 4, 2021, Conroe, TX. He was an attorney with Exxon Corporation.

Robert “Bob” R. Fulp ('63, MS '67, MBA '73), Aug. 1, 2021, Winston-Salem. He was director of environmental affairs for Forsyth County (NC) for more than 40 years.

Virgil Marvin Messer ('63, MD '67), Oct. 13, 2021, Waynesville, NC. He served in Vietnam as a flight surgeon in the U.S. Army. He practiced internal and emergency medicine in his native Western North Carolina.

Judith “Judy” Palmer Newsoroff ('63), Sept. 20, 2021, The Woodlands, TX. She was a retired court clerk in Montgomery County, TX.

Joe Neal Cagle (JD '64), Aug. 26, 2021, Vale, NC. He founded the law firm of Keener & Cagle in Hickory, NC, and directed the paralegal studies program at Gaston College.

Patricia Lundell Carter ('64), Oct. 16, 2021, Rockledge, FL. She was a teacher at Covenant Christian School in Palm Bay, FL. Survivors include her husband, John M. Carter II ('65).

Bruce C. Fryer (MA '64), April 6, 2021, Zieglerville, PA.

Joel E. Futral (MD '64), Sept. 28, 2021, Cornville, AZ. He served in the U.S. Army and ran a medical clinic in Germany. He was a cardiologist in Arizona for more than 30 years and established the first cardiology department in Northern Arizona.

Joe Pearson McCollum Jr. ('64, JD '67), Sept. 16, 2021, Monroe, NC. He served in the U.S. Marines and was a lawyer for nearly 50 years in his native Monroe.

Betty Beatty Counts ('65), Sept. 24, 2021, Aiken, SC. She retired from the Savannah River Site, a former nuclear production site.

Charles K. Gardner ('65), Aug. 25, 2021, Matthews, NC. He served in the U.S. Air Force. He spent 27 years in Taiwan as a missionary and pastored churches in Germany, Virginia and North Carolina.

Robert “Bob” Ward Porter (JD '65), Sept. 13, 2021, Winston-Salem. He served in the U.S. Army and was an attorney.

Everett “Duke” Burgess ('66), May 22, 2021, Shawboro, NC. He was a U.S. Army veteran and a farmer.

John Osborne Fulenwider III ('66), July 18, 2021, Charlotte. He worked under the professional name Jon Osborne in event production and management and was producer/director of the Miss World pageant in London. He began a second career in the hospitality industry in Charlotte hotels for 20 years, including DoubleTree by Hilton.

Charles W. Harden IV (JD '66), July 16, 2021, Greensboro, NC. He practiced law in Greensboro for 34 years.

Richard Barry Trostel ('66), July 31, 2021, Biglerville, PA. He was a public health adviser for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for 33 years.

Gabriella Maria Eordogh Yeaple ('66), Sept. 25, 2021, Lake Mary, FL. She was a stay-at-home mom. She was preceded in death by daughter Kimberly Joy Wilson ('97).

Robert “Bob” Meldrum (MD '67), Aug. 22, 2021, Bloomsburg, PA. He was a medical officer in the U.S. Air Force. He practiced family medicine for nearly 40 years and delivered more than 3,000 babies. He also was the coroner for Columbia County (PA) and the football team doctor for Central Columbia High School.

James “Jim” Eugene Snyder Jr. ('67, JD '70), Sept. 12, 2021, Lexington, NC. He played varsity basketball at Wake Forest from 1964-1967 under Coach Bones McKinney. He was elected senior class president. He practiced law in Davidson County (NC) nearly 50 years, retiring in 2018. He was heavily involved in local politics, serving as chair of the Davidson County Republican Party and completing his late father’s term in the North Carolina House of Representatives. Survivors include daughter Courtney Snyder Brown ('91).

Ernest “Bud” Talley III ('68), Oct. 14, 2021, Randall, NC. He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He managed his family’s business, A&F Vending, for 25 years before spending another 25 years as a financial representative of Modern Woodmen of America. He was on the Randleman Board of Aldermen for 18 years.

Edward “Ed” Atkinson ('69), Sept. 18, 2021, Greenville, NC. He played football at Wake Forest and was a sporting goods manufacturer’s representative. Survivors include his wife, Sally Ann Whitehurst Atkinson ('70).

James Nello Martin Jr. ('69), Sept. 10, 2021, Winston-Salem. He was a leading figure in women’s health for nearly 50 years as a researcher, author, professor and specialist in maternal-fetal medicine. He was a faculty member at the University of Mississippi Medical Center for 33 years, earning professor emeritus status. He was an adjunct professor at the Wake Forest School of Medicine. He was preceded in death by his parents, James Nello Martin (41, JD '43) and Winifred Nelson Martin. Survivors include his wife, Gloria Howard Martin ('70), son Brent Howard Martin ('98, MBA '07), daughter Rachel Martin Butler ('01), and brother Darrell Shelton Martin ('71). He was a member of the Samuel Wait Legacy Society.

Howard J. Stanback ('69), Sept. 16, 2021, Hedgesville WV. He played football at Wake Forest and co-founded the Afro-American Society. He was a past member of the Wake Forest College
Sam Gladding was a towering figure in the counseling profession, a one-time aspiring minister who became one of the most highly regarded counselor educators of his time and inspired a generation of students and counselors. At Wake Forest, his home for the last 31 years, he was a generous colleague, teacher, mentor and friend who touched countless lives. “(Imagine) what our lives would be like had we not met certain people,” he wrote in an essay in the fall 2020 Wake Forest Magazine.

Gladding, who was 76, was teaching last fall when he was diagnosed with brain cancer. After his death on Dec. 6, 2021, colleagues, students and counselors reflected on what he meant in their lives.

“If I had to choose a word that many might use to describe Sam, it was ‘beloved,’” wrote Richard Yep, CEO of the American Counseling Association, on Facebook. “He was very kind, caring, supportive and humble, as well as exceptionally creative, whimsical and productive,” wrote Chair and Associate Professor of Counseling Nate Ivers (MA ’06). “There has never been a kinder, warmer and gentler soul than Sam,” wrote a school counselor. Gladding grew up in Decatur, Georgia. After receiving his undergraduate degree in history from Wake Forest, he earned master’s degrees in religion at Yale University and in counselor education at Wake Forest and a Ph.D. in family relations at UNC Greensboro. He taught at several colleges, including The University of Alabama at Birmingham, before returning to Wake Forest in 1990 as an assistant to then-President Thomas K. Hearn Jr. He also taught undergraduate and graduate counseling courses and chaired the counseling department when it was formed in 2004. He was associate provost from 1997 to 2007, when he returned to teaching full time. He went with students to work in Mother Teresa’s homes for the dying in Kolkata, India, in 1995 and counseled survivors in New York following the 9/11 attacks and after the Virginia Tech shootings in 2007.

Gladding wrote dozens of counseling books, “The History of Wake Forest University, Volume 6” and “Off the Courthouse Square: A Memoir of My Life Up to Age 21.” He was president of the International Association of Marriage and Family Counselors and the American Counseling Association, which awards the Samuel T. Gladding Unsung Heroes Award. He was named to the U.S. Army’s ROTC National Hall of Fame.

He is survived by his wife, Claire, and sons Ben (’09, MAEd ’14), Nate (’07) and Tim. He “loved his students,” Claire Gladding told the Winston-Salem Journal. “He loved teaching, and he loved Wake Forest. He couldn’t have been happier.”
James “Jimmy” Rogers Hargrove ('80), Oct. 8, 2021, Mount Holly, NJ. He was a running back at Wake Forest who played professional football for seven seasons with the Bengals, Raiders and Packers and the USFL’s Michigan Panthers. He retired from football in 1988 and was a correctional officer and a probation/parole officer for the North Carolina Department of Public Safety.

George H. “Chip” Peraldo ('80), Aug. 10, 2021, Wexford, PA. He owned and operated Bluewell Drilling Co. for 12 years and was a pharmaceutical representative and manager.

John “Scott” Robinson ('81), Jan. 22, 2021, Salisbury, NC. He was a real estate appraiser for 35 years and a former president of the Appraisal Institute, an international association of real estate appraisers. He was past president of the Salisbury Kiwanis Club and past chair of the Salisbury Planning Board.

Cornelius “Chip” Edwards Bullock Jr. ('82), Aug. 2, 2021, Raleigh. He was an entrepreneur and founder of CC Intelligent Solutions Inc., an IT solutions provider in Raleigh. Survivors include his wife, Lisa Pash Bullock ('85), and son Cornelius “Cory” Bullock III ('11).

Jeffrey Stewart Almony ('85), Sept. 19, 2021, Southern Pines, NC. He was an oral and maxillofacial surgeon who served in the U.S. Army more than 30 years. After retiring from service, he was in private practice in Pinehurst, NC.

Lani A. Hustace George (JD '87), Oct. 22, 2021, Murchison, TX. She served eight years in the U.S. Navy, achieving the rank of lieutenant commander and earning honors, including the Navy Expert Pistol Shot Medal. She was an accountant in Texas.

Thomas Ray Cloninger (MBA '89), Sept. 27, 2021, Gastonia, NC. He was the CFO of his family’s business started by his mother, Mary Jo’s Cloth Store.

Sean Patrick Pflauging ('90), June 23, 2021, Charlotte. He was president of Delta Kappa Epsilon at Wake Forest and worked in the telecom industry.

Jeffrey Allen Johnston (MS '92), Aug. 25, 2021, St. Petersburg, FL. He was a professional beekeeper who rescued and recycled honeybees and volunteered at schools to teach students about the importance of bees.

Andrew “Andy” Thomas Harper ('93), Aug. 27, 2021, Kernersville, NC. He was a social studies teacher at Kearns Academy in High Point, NC, and head baseball coach at neighboring High Point Central High School. He also coached local AAU and Little League teams.

Stephen Rex Smith (MBA '94), Sept. 26, 2021, Chicago. He was vice president of marketing for Cabot Microelectronics in Naperville, IL, and later worked with mission-oriented nonprofits.

David Allen Lee (MBA ’96), Aug. 13, 2021, Fort Wayne, IN. He was founding division manager of Pyrotek Inc., an industrial-products manufacturer, in Columbia City, IN.

Scott D. Humble (MD '98), July 6, 2021, Clarksburg, WV. He was a pathologist at the Louis A. Johnson VA Medical Center in Clarksburg.

Brian Marquis Wade ('03), Lake Wyke, SC, Oct. 6, 2021. He was a real estate agent with The Lake Wyke Man Team/Keller Williams. Survivors include his wife, Elizabeth Thornton Wade ('02).

Pierre Tristan Easley ('06), Aug. 6, 2021, Ellenwood, GA. He was a linebacker on Wake Forest’s football team. He was a police officer in Winston-Salem and Gwinnett County (GA) and an investigator for the district attorney’s office in Dekalb and Fulton counties (GA).

Charles “Keith” Taylor (JD '06), Sept. 16, 2021, Atlanta. He was a partner at the law firm Parker Hudson.

Danielle Barsky (JD '14), July 3, 2021, Leland, NC. She was a member of the New Hampshire Bar Association and an advocate for animal rescue and adoption.

Friends, Faculty, Staff, Students

Betsy Clement, Oct. 10, 2021, Garner, NC. She was an administrative assistant at Wake Forest from 1991 to 2000 in the capital campaign and law school development offices.

David B. Freedman, Sept. 3, 2021, Winston-Salem. He practiced law for nearly 40 years, becoming one of North Carolina’s most prominent criminal defense attorneys. He was a past president of the Forsyth County Bar Association and an adjunct professor at Wake Forest School of Law, teaching courses on criminal procedure and trial practice for 15 years.

Gloria Flippin Graham ('57, MD '61), Sept. 30, 2021, Pine Knoll Shores, NC. She practiced dermatology in Wilson, NC, and Pine Knoll Shores for more than 60 years and was a pioneer in the use of cryosurgery. She was an attending physician at UNC Chapel Hill and Duke University and an associate professor of dermatology at the Wake Forest School of Medicine. She was a founder and president of the American College of Cryosurgery and a founder of the Women’s Dermatologic Society. She was named Doctor of the Year by the North Carolina Medical Society in 2015. She was named Woman of the Year by the Women’s Residence Council at Wake Forest in 1982 and received the Medical Alumni Association’s Distinguished Achievement Award in 2007. She co-founded the Country Doctor Museum in Bailey, NC, in 1967, dedicated to the history of rural health care. She served on the Wake Forest Board of Trustees, Alumni Council and the College Board of Visitors and the Medical Center Board of Directors. She was a member of the Samuel Wait Legacy Society. Survivors include grandchildren Scott Graham ('03) and Deana Worthwood ('06).

Virginia “Ginny” Priddy Hall, Nov. 17, 2021, Winston-Salem. She worked at Wake Forest for many years in human resources and the comptroller’s office. She was predeceased by her husband, Jerry A. Hall ('52). Survivors include son James Hall ('84). She was a member of the Samuel Wait Legacy Society.

Pamela Joan Howland, Sept. 22, 2021, Winston-Salem. She was an acclaimed pianist and composer who taught for many years in the Department of Music at Wake Forest. She recorded 19 albums and performed across the globe, often playing the works of Polish composer and virtuoso pianist Frédéric Chopin. She was a Steinway Artist and a 2017-18 Fulbright Scholar in Poland. Survivors include her husband, Wendell Myers (MD '90).

Kikuko Imamura, Oct. 4, 2021, Washington, DC. She emigrated from Japan to the United States in 1960 with her husband, Hideki Imamura. She taught Japanese language and culture at Wake Forest for 20 years and was assistant director of the Center for International Studies before retiring in 2006. She and her husband helped establish exchange programs between Wake Forest and Tokai University and the medical school and Keio University School of Medicine.

Charles Talbert, Nov. 21, 2021, Winston-Salem. He was a professor of religion at Wake Forest from 1963 to 1996. After leaving Wake Forest, he was Distinguished Professor of Religion at Baylor University. A New Testament scholar and Baptist minister, Talbert wrote more than 20 books and more than 100 articles in scholarly journals, edited a series of commentaries called “Reading the New Testament” and served on the editorial boards of several journals. He studied and taught in Germany, Italy and England and traveled to biblical sites in Israel, Greece and Turkey. A native of Mississippi and son of a Baptist minister, he graduated from Samford University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and earned his Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University.

James Francis Toole, Sept. 12, 2021, Winston-Salem. He served in the U.S. Navy as a flight surgeon on the USS Guadalcanal and later as a MASH officer in the Korean War. He joined Bowman Gray School of Medicine in 1962 as a neurology professor and was founding director of one of the first stroke centers in the country. He treated patients, conducted clinical research and was chair of the medical school’s neurology department for 20 years. In 1967 he wrote “Toole’s Cerebrovascular Disorders,” the first modern textbook on stroke care. Survivors include his wife, Patricia Wooldridge Toole (MA ’82), and sons James Toole ('87) and William Toole (JD/MBA ‘89).

Marvin “Jimmy” Turner III (MS '84), Oct. 2, 2021, Axton, VA. He taught at Wake Forest and Salem College and most recently was an assistant professor of chemistry at his undergraduate alma mater, Averett University. He also had a Ph.D. in theology and was a minister.
The gifts of a tattoo, a hidden curriculum and a struggle

By Betsy O’Donovan (’98)

I was a terrible undergraduate even before I registered for classes. Sometime during a scholarship weekend visit in February 1994, I decided to attend Wake Forest. It was shortly after I watched a tattoo artist persuade a blisteringly drunk frat brother not to immortalize a Grateful Dead teddy bear on his shoulder.

Instead, Tattoo Joe etched an iguana on the student’s bicep in the Poteat lounge. College seemed amazing. I attended some classes, too.

That opened the list of questionable decisions I made related to Wake Forest, which extends from Casa Artom, where I was invited to spend a semester but didn’t, to Z. Smith Reynolds Library, where decades of undergraduate mischief, mine included, have leached into the mortar.

But I was impervious, an unprepared surface on which to write a college education. Like every teenager, I was stuffed with potential, but I had no idea what I was doing.

The “hidden curriculum” of how serious learning communities work, and how to work within them, eluded me. I met with my major adviser once and left confused, with a mild fear of James Joyce. I wrote an A paper about Elizabeth Bishop’s “One Art” the year I lost a Carolina trout (MA ’82, P ’95) taught me to take care of my mind. Philosophy professor Charles Lewis (‘63, P ’13), classics professor James Powell and the phenomenal Dr. McPherson demonstrated kindnesses: Pro Humanitate.

I graduated with a 2.75 GPA, gratefully. And that struggle is the most useful experience I bring to my work as a journalism professor. It helps that I know who and what pulled me through.

When I attended office hours — rarely — it was with female faculty in the English department (medievalist Gale Sigal, Michele Ware for American literature and Dolly McPherson for memoir, narratives of enslavement and more). They were gifted teachers and researchers but made time to ask who we were beyond our homework. I responded with passionate, hard work.

And while the emotional labor of college classrooms disproportionately falls on female faculty, the lesson for me was not that women should do less, but — as I experienced — that a strong learning community does more, even (especially) for those who struggle.

Beyond Tribble Hall, then-Vice President Ken Zick (P ’01, ’03, ’13) helped me navigate the scarier byways of the college administration. Scholars program director Tom Phillips (‘74, MA ’78, P ’06) and his brilliant wife, Janine Tillett (’76, P ’06), opened their family and bookshelves to me. The University Counseling Center’s Johnne Armentrout (MA ’82, P ’95) taught me to take care of my mind. Philosophy professor Charles Lewis (‘63, P ’13), classics professor James Powell and the phenomenal Dr. McPherson demonstrated how students thrive when they are welcomed into homes and churches, fed and allowed to eavesdrop on intellectual life beyond the classroom.

Alumni from the baffled to the brilliant emerge from Wake Forest with experiences like these. Academia may be a maddening bureaucracy, but the purpose of our liberal arts education was engraved on every seal, printed on every mailing and apparent in those kindnesses: Pro Humanitate.

Reading Yeats, studying Kant, attempting a paradiddle on a snare drum: I would have held myself in less contempt, I think, if I had understood that those were the tools, and I was the work. That is what my advocates at Wake knew, something I try to make explicit for my own students.

What are we here for? The answer isn’t unique to Wake Forest (or struggling undergrads), although that is part of where I found it.

We’re here for humanity, to explore and then write our humanness across blue books and skin and communities. To begin where we are — wonderful, terrible, bewildered in the Poteat lounge — and never stop as we figure out how, and who, to become.

Betsy O’Donovan (’98) is an assistant professor at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington, and was a 2013 Nieman Fellow at Harvard University. She remains, against strong odds, untattooed.

[1] This detail was omitted from the article in the Old Gold & Black archives. If someone who was there has a photo of that tattoo, I would love to see it.

[2] Of course I did. “Faith and Imagination” by Religion Professor Ralph Wood (P ’95) set off sparks in my brain, and Edwin Wilson (’43, P ’91, ’93) deserves the stack of laurels piled upon him. I was immature, not a complete idiot.
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‘Good to great’: Mission accomplished

The Wake Forest football team closed out a thrilling season with its 38-10 victory over Rutgers in the TaxSlayer Gator Bowl in Jacksonville, Florida, on New Year’s Eve.

On national television after the game, Coach Dave Clawson called it “a magical year,” and fans would agree. Students set records for attendance during the season. Truist Field packed in the black-and-gold-wearing legions known for their back-and-forth shouts of “Wake!” and “Forest!” After the Demon Deacons won the Atlantic Division title in November, fans showed up in droves for the ACC Football Championship in Charlotte on Dec. 4 (photo at right). They watched as No. 18 Wake Forest played No. 17 Pittsburgh. That game didn’t go the way the Deacs wanted — Pitt won 45-21 — but there was still magic in the air when the sixth consecutive bowl invitation arrived.

COVID-19 led to a few bowl cancellations, but the Gator Bowl proceeded with Rutgers as a late substitute after Texas A&M pulled out because of COVID and other issues. It was a festive finale to the Deacs’ (11-3 and 7-1 ACC) season. Highlights of the season included the Deacs’ finishing with a perfect 6-0 mark for home games, becoming the second team in program history to win double-digit games and setting a program record with seven conference victories. The team also had the good fortune to be led by Clawson, named 2021 ACC Coach of the Year and the first coach in program history to win four bowl games.

Proud of his team, Clawson said, “Eleven wins for the second time in school history. We have the second-longest bowl streak in the ACC now, and we came out this year with a very bold goal of going from good to great. We accomplished that.”