From precise botanical illustrations to surprising QR codes, artist Meredith Mulhearn ('01) stays rooted in the natural world.

Left, “Succulents” by Meredith Mulhearn ('01). Above, Mulhearn’s “Community Stone” student sculpture commemorating 1999-2000 lies near Tribble Hall. Its spiraling words: “Year of Science and Technology, Ranked #28, Aloha Bowl Champions, Quad unchained, NIT Champions, Divinity School opens, Greene Hall opens, Addition of Victory Bell, Frat Parties until 1:30, Holocaust Revision Controversy”

UNEARTHING TIME IN A BOTTLE
By Kerry M. King ('85)
A Wake Forest alumnus and botanist became a keeper of secrets for one of the world’s oldest scientific experiments.

THE NATURE OF OUR GARDENS
By Katherine Laws ('20)
Enjoy three of our favorite gardens among the abundance of natural spaces treasured by Wake Foresters.

HOW TO THINK ABOUT THE PLANET
By Maria Henson ('82)
Teacher-scholars are posing research questions for their students and guiding them to deeply consider their relationship with the natural world.

INTO THE WILD OF PERU
By Justin Catanoso (MALS ’93)
Students learn the science behind this biodiversity hot spot and the devastation of deforestation. Then, they apply their knowledge as budding science journalists.

CONSTANT & TRUE
By Millie Kerr ('03)
For some, a straight career path is best, but know that deviations are okay — sometimes even necessary, says an alumna who gave up law to write about wildlife conservation.
FROM THE PRESIDENT

WELCOME TO THIS SPECIAL “NATURE EDITION” of Wake Forest Magazine. It’s a fitting topic for a campus adorned with such natural beauty. From appreciating the magnolia trees of Manchester Plaza (grown from seeds taken from the original campus) to wooded trails that connect Reynolda Village and Faculty Drive, Wake Foresters can boast an intimate connection between their natural and academic environments.

This connection is intentional — and it’s a testament to the leadership of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, which in the 1940s and ’50s envisioned a picture-perfect campus carved out of a portion of the equally stunning R.J. Reynolds estate. It’s also a testament to the present work of Wake Forest Facilities & Campus Services staff, who maintain our gardens, footpaths, trees and quads with dexterity and dedication.

I’ve always loved hiking, and one of my favorite hobbies is gardening — so much so that my family has nicknamed my persona “Outdoor Susan” during those times. Furthermore, as a faculty scholar focused on cellular biology, I’ve spent most of my career researching nature “under the hood,” so to speak. Nature at the cellular level is characterized by frenetic activity — millions of seemingly random chemical reactions take place every second (and in every corner) of a cell. But when scientists zoom out, life begins to look more orderly, logical and beautiful.

In a similar way, a university can feel like a frenetic place — especially for new students! But if we zoom out for greater perspective, we start to see patterns and processes, chances and openings. This is one of the reasons I have announced that Wake Forest is embarking on developing a new strategic framework over the course of this 2022-23 academic year — to craft our vision for the future and the actions we must take to achieve further excellence as a great university. We will rise above the hustle and bustle of daily campus life so we can better understand our needs and distinctions, as well as our challenges and opportunities in a rapidly changing world.

From any perspective, it’s easy to see Wake Forest for what it is: a beautiful, diverse and extraordinary community of learners dedicated to humanity through the pursuit and harnessing of knowledge. And it’s easy to see how our confluence of community and excellence — and yes, natural beauty — plays an important role in our university’s distinctive identity. I’m so proud to call this place home.

Sincerely,
Susan R. Wente, Ph.D.
A Wake Forest alumnus and botanist became a keeper of secrets for one of the world’s oldest scientific experiments.

BY KERRY M. KING (‘85)
PHOTOGRAPHY BY DERRICK L. TURNER
knows where the bodies — make that bottles — are buried on Michigan State University’s vast campus in East Lansing. But he’s not telling.

Somewhere on the campus is a time capsule of bottles filled with seeds, buried more than 140 years ago to measure how long seeds can lie dormant underground and still germinate. Scientists at MSU dig up a bottle every 20 years to unlock the mysteries of the seeds. Already one of the longest-running science experiments in the world, it is scheduled to last another 78 years, until 2100.
The secret location of the bottles was passed down through several generations of MSU professors until Telewski (Ph.D. ’83) was given the map marking the spot and entrusted to lead the Beal Seed Experiment. The only clue he shares about the location is that it’s somewhere on the 5,300-acre campus, which isn’t much help considering MSU is 15 times larger than Wake Forest’s Reynolda Campus.

When I ask him if thousands of students walk by it without knowing what lies beneath their feet, he offers only, “I don’t know that there are thousands, but yes, people walk by it every day. It’s not a heavily trafficked area. It’s a little bit off the beaten path.”

Telewski, 67, retired last year after nearly three decades at MSU as a plant biology professor and director of the W.J. Beal Botanical Garden and Campus Arboretum. He first heard about the seed experiment when he was studying for his Ph.D. in biology at Wake Forest, never imagining that he would lead the project one day.

The experiment began in 1879 when Rutherford B. Hayes was president of the 38 states in the United States. William James Beal, a botanist at what was then the State Agricultural College, wanted to help local farmers with a common problem that still vexes gardeners today: Why do those pesky weeds they hoed from their fields every year keep coming back year after year? As farmers plowed their fields, they would expose new batches of seeds previously not exposed to sunlight, and the freshly plowed field would fill with weeds again.

To try to find out how long seeds can survive in the soil, Beal collected freshly grown seeds from 21 species of farm weeds found in the area, including chickweed, ragweed and black mustard. Then he filled 20 ordinary, pint-sized glass bottles with a mix of moderately moist soil and seeds. He put 1,050 seeds — 50 seeds from each of the 21 different species — in each bottle.

Beal buried the bottles along a sandy knoll on the campus. His original plan was that he — and his successors — would dig up a bottle every five years. The study, intended to last 100 years,
“THIS BOTTLE HAS BEEN WAITING FOR US FOR 142 YEARS WITH ITS SECRETS.”

— Frank Telewski

was prolonged by extending the time between digging up bottles to 10 years, then 20 years. What would have been bad news for Beal's farmers is good news for MSU scientists today: Some of the seeds from 1879 are still sprouting.

Telewski joined the project in time to carefully remove a cracked bottle from its hiding place in 2000. In 2021, a year behind schedule because of COVID, he led the team that dug up the most recently recovered bottle. The experiment stokes the imagination with enough mystery and intrigue to captivate even nonbiologists among us.

He marvels at the convergence of history and science as he shows me the bottle recovered last year, unglamorously stored in a small Walgreens cardboard box. “The last person to touch this bottle was professor Beal when he buried it in the ground,” he says. “This bottle has been waiting for us for 142 years with its secrets.”

Telewski can't resist a reference to Woody Allen's 1973 movie, “Sleeper,” in which Allen's character wakes up 200 years in the future, but in this case, it's the seeds waking up in the future.

Only four bottles remain from the original cache of 20. As Telewski prepared to retire, he passed the map on to the next generation of scientists, including the first women on the team. Like Beal, he knows that he'll never see the end of the experiment. “Beal planned it that way. I inherited it. He had the vision to say this unknown, this question, could take decades to answer. ... It will literally cross three centuries and 220 years.”

HE SPEAKS FOR THE TREES

I met Telewski on the MSU campus on a sunny Tuesday morning in May. He'll get around to talking about the Beal Seed Experiment soon enough, but first he gives me an introductory course on the history of MSU’s trees. After all, he dug up a bottle only twice in his time at MSU; he spent most of his time teaching about the trees and plants on campus.

His graduate students called him The Lorax — the character from the Dr. Seuss book of the same name who tries to save a forest — an apt nickname given his mustached-appearance and his role as the keeper of MSU’s trees.

We set off on a tour of campus, crossing a pedestrian bridge over the Red Cedar River that meanders through campus beneath a canopy of overhanging trees that create the feel of a forest. The historic part of campus is filled with trees but largely deserted with most of MSU’s 50,000 students on summer break. Some 9,600 students graduated earlier in the month, but a few students in green caps and gowns are posing for photographs with the larger-than-life bronze statue of the school’s mascot, Sparty, near Spartan Stadium. (No, the bottles aren’t buried under Sparty. That would be a little too obvious, the professor tells me.)
“EVERY SPARTAN TREE HAS A STORY,” HE SAYS. IF IT SEEMS THAT HE KNOWS EVERY TREE ON CAMPUS, IT’S BECAUSE HE DOES.
Telewski shares the stories of old friends: a Dawn Redwood, a Katsura tree and a Norway spruce planted in 1865. He doesn’t talk to the trees, but the trees talk to him. “Every Spartan tree has a story,” he says. If it seems that he knows every tree on campus, it’s because he does. He led the mapping of an online guide of 22,000 trees in the developed part of campus. You can’t preserve the trees if you don’t know what you have, he says. And like The Lorax, he fights for the trees. He once persuaded the MSU president to abandon plans to construct a building on a wooded lot that would have required the removal of swamp white oaks that grew from acorns planted by Beal in 1874. Another time, he talked planners into shifting the footprint of an academic building to save 150-year-old oak trees. If a tree rare to campus had to be removed for construction or because of damage or disease, he ensured that it was replaced.

He has had a lasting impact preserving the trees on campus, says MSU campus planner Steve Troost. “His legacy is making sure that the arboretum has a diversity in its collection and it’s used as a teaching and research tool. He’s kind of a walking historian, too. He knows the history of Professor Beal and what he did for the campus and was very passionate about wanting to maintain that.”

As we walk under red oaks and white oaks, some as much as 350 years old, Telewski is in his element: outdoors, teaching and sharing his love of nature. “This has been my joy my entire life,” he says. For nearly 29 years, in addition to teaching undergraduate and graduate students, he led the Beal Botanical Garden, the oldest continuously operated university botanical garden in the country, and oversaw the campus arboretum, about 2,100 acres in the developed part of campus.

William James Beal, the same professor who buried the bottles, started the botanical garden in 1873 as an “outdoor laboratory” for students. Today it’s a lush oasis on a normally busy campus, sandwiched in a hollow between several buildings and across the river from the football stadium. Although it’s been redesigned over the years, it’s remained true to Beal’s vision with collections that include endangered and threatened species native to Michigan and “useful plants,” such as those used to make medicines and textiles.

Telewski is most at home in the garden. He feels a special kinship with Beal, described by MSU as “the father of Michigan forestry,” who was well ahead of his time in promoting the conservation of forests. As we stroll through the garden, Telewski counts the rings in a downed white oak on campus.

Below: The “sacred space,” anchored by the 1928 gothic Beaumont Memorial Tower, protects some of the oldest trees on the MSU campus; no buildings can be constructed in the space. Right: Telewski counts the rings in a downed white oak on campus.
Rutgers University, he ran to the greenhouse where he found a guy in a lab coat and peppered him with questions.

When friends bought pumpkins before Halloween, he grew his own. At Christmas one year, he put rooting hormones on the trunk of the family tree trying — unsuccessfully — to re-root it. He looked forward to the arrival of the Burpee seed catalog every year and read books on garden design to plan his own garden. By high school, he was treating potatoes and pines and Douglas firs with growth hormones.

He went to college at nearby Montclair State University, where he double majored in biology and chemistry and took care of the orchids and succulent plants in the school’s greenhouse. He earned a master’s degree in botany at Ohio University in Athens, studying under Professor Mordecai “Mark” Jaffe (P '85, '91). When Jaffe was named the Charles H. Babcock Professor of Botany at Wake Forest, Telewski followed him to Winston-Salem to study plant physiology for his Ph.D.

He found a diverse group of scientists and welcoming professors in Winston Hall: Charlie Allen ('39, MA ’41), Jerry Esch (P ’84), Tom Olive ('53), Bob Sullivan and Walter Flory (P ’66, ’67), all deceased now; and Robert Browne, Herman Eure (Ph.D. ’74, P ’23), Ray Kuhn (P ’94), Carole Gibson and Pete Weigl. He heard about the Beal Seed Experiment from a classmate’s presentation. He thought it was interesting, but he was more focused on his research on Thigmomorphogenesis, how wind stress affects the growth patterns in trees.

Jim Ha (MA ’83), who was studying animal ecology with Weigl, got to know Telewski. Ha’s research on fox squirrels required frequent trips to a longleaf pine forest near Fort Bragg, North Carolina,
and Telewski would tag along to help. “If it was pine trees, he’d go anywhere,” says Ha, a retired animal behaviorist and research professor in psychology at the University of Washington. “He’d be out hugging the trees and trying to find the oldest one and thinking about another project.” In turn, Ha helped Telewski conduct research on Frasier firs on Roan Mountain in North Carolina.

Telewski rigged his own experiment in a greenhouse at Reynolda Gardens by setting up a model train track — model railroading is a longtime hobby — over trays of loblolly pine seedlings. Once a day, a timer would go off, sending the locomotive up and down the track; a dowel attached to the locomotive brushed back and forth over the seedlings, duplicating the effect of wind on trees in nature.

Ken Bridle (MA ’85, Ph.D. ’91) was an undergraduate at Ohio University, working in Jaffe’s lab, when he met Telewski. Bridle also followed Jaffe to Wake Forest. He and Telewski were roommates in Ohio and then in an apartment in Bethabara, a 15-minute bike ride for them to campus. By the time Telewski ended his greenhouse experiment, Bridle had already bought the house he still lives in today in Walnut Cove, North Carolina, and he planted some of Telewski’s pine seedlings in his yard. “I have some of his babies that are 40-something years old now.”

His friend “has a childlike enthusiasm for the things that he likes, like trains and all things Disney, and a passion for trees,” said Bridle, who retired in June as stewardship and inventory director of the Piedmont Land Conservancy in Greensboro, North Carolina. “He’s always been interesting and entertaining and eclectic.”

After receiving his Ph.D. in 1983, Telewski joined the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research at the University of Arizona in Tucson as an assistant professor. He moved back across the country in 1990 to become director of the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens, designed partially by Frederick Law Olmstead, and an associate adjunct professor of biology at the University at Buffalo, The State University of New York. Wanting to teach more, he joined the MSU faculty in 1993 and rediscovered the Beal Seed Experiment.

Left: Professor William James Beal started his seed experiment in 1879 when he buried 20 glass bottles filled with seeds on the campus of what was then the State Agricultural College. (Photo: MSU University Archives & Historical Collections) Above: The “secret society” begins digging for the bottles in 2021.
THE ‘SECRET SOCIETY’ REPEATS THE DIG

Only time can answer some questions — such as how long seeds can last in the soil — leading William James Beal to bury his artificial seed bank in the Michigan soil in the fall of 1879.

Beal buried his 20 pint-sized bottles 18-inches deep, surrounded by 10-inch concrete walls, but open at the top. He placed the bottles close enough to the surface to replicate natural conditions, but not close enough to be accidentally dug up. He wrote that he left the bottles “uncorked and placed with the mouth slanting downward so that water could not accumulate about the seeds.”

Beal dug up his first bottle in 1884 and planted the seeds. He kept good records; seeds from 13 of the 20 species germinated that first year. All 50 seeds of Capsella bursa-pastoris (shepherd’s purse) grew, but only one of the 50 Malva rotundifola (low mallow) seeds did. Some of the species never germinated, but at least one seed of more than half the species germinated for the first 25 years before tailing off. By the 100th year, in 1980, only a handful of seeds from three species were still germinating.

When Beal retired, he passed the experiment on to a colleague, who passed it on to another and so on. Professor Jan Zeevaart invited Telewski to join the project in 2000 when they dug up the cracked bottle. When Zeevaart died in 2009, Telewski became the seventh
keeper of the map and the only scientist who knew where the bottles were buried. (Groundskeepers at MSU also have a map, to prevent backhoe mistakes.)

Years later, Telewski gave a copy of the map to David Lowry, an environmental plant physiologist, “just in case” something happened. Lowry was in college when he first heard about a “secret society that goes out in the middle of the night and digs up a bottle and plants the seeds.”

A few months later, Telewski suffered a stroke. Although he’s largely recovered, Telewski says his health scare reinforced the importance of being a good steward of what Beal started and “passing the ball to the next generation.” He later added three other scientists to the team: Lars Brudvig, a restoration ecologist; Margaret Fleming, a molecular biologist who previously worked at the U.S. Department of Agriculture seed vault in Fort Collins, Colorado; and Marjorie Weber, an MSU expert in ecology and evolution.

Snow flurries were falling when Telewski and his fellow scientists gathered on campus one cold April morning last year to dig up the 16th bottle. The “excavation,” as Telewski calls it, always takes place in the dark to keep the location secret and to make sure the seeds aren't prematurely exposed to sunlight.

For the first time, MSU videographers were allowed to come along to film the dig. (The New York Times, NPR and other national media outlets later ran stories on the experiment.) The video opens with Telewski and his colleagues, armed with a shovel, trowel and headlamps with green filters, trudging off to the secret location.
Telewski uses his map and a tape measure to triangulate where the bottles are buried. He begins digging, but they don’t find the bottles. Lowry realizes they’re reading the map wrong, and they move 2 feet to the left and begin digging a new hole. With sunrise quickly approaching, Weber leans into the hole, digs with her hands and pulls out a glass bottle. “Wow! Oh, wow! Hello, bottles!” Telewski exclaims, as the group breaks into applause.

Later that morning in the plant biology building, they take turns dumping the bottle’s stash of seeds into a black tray filled with sterile potting soil. The soil mix is lightly watered and placed in a growth chamber. Then the waiting begins. The video ends as Lowry sees the first shoots of *Verbascum blattaria*, or moth mullein, push their way through the soil.

The seeds are later exposed to a cold treatment to simulate a winter and smoke treatments to simulate a wildfire. More *Verbascum blattaria* and a *Verbascum* hybrid sprout over the next several months as the soil is occasionally disturbed.

Even if nothing had grown, it still would have been a scientific result, although Telewski tells me later that he’s happy that his colleagues had the joy of seeing seeds sprout. “Going back to my childhood and seeing the magic of a seed come out and grow, … it’s the promise of nature,” he says.

*Verbascum blattaria* didn’t appear until the 1930 bottle was unearthed; now it’s the last survivor. But it’s also a bit of a mystery, Telewski says. Beal didn’t include *Verbascum blattaria* on the list of seeds in the bottles, although he did list a close cousin, *Verbascum thapsus*, the common mullein, which germinated for decades. Beal, or perhaps students helping him collect the seeds, might have misidentified the tiny seeds of the two species. But it really doesn’t matter, Telewski says, since seeds buried in 1879, whether they’re *Verbascum blattaria* or *Verbascum thapsus*, are still germinating.

Lowry tells me that Beal’s experiment is moving beyond seed viability to greater questions “about life in general and how it’s evolved into all these different forms. Some of these forms include seeds that last a long time in the soil … while others do not. This one species (*Verbascum blattaria*) just lasts so much longer, and it doesn’t have anything particularly noticeable about the characteristics of the seeds. All of them have very small seeds; small seed plants tend not to last long in the soil, but this one happens to last a really long time. The size of the seeds or the dormancy of the seeds may evolve in response to climate change.”

Telewski takes me to Fleming’s lab, where she shows me trays of 2-foot high *Verbascum blattaria* plants grown from the 1879 seeds and planted in 2021. Fleming
Whether it’s in downtown Manhattan, with street trees, or whether you’re out in the middle of the country or in a forest, ... we depend on all plant life for our survival.

“One thing that I think everybody senses,” he continues, “especially if you live in an urban environment, when you walk into a green space, if it’s a park or a garden and you’re surrounded by trees and plants, or if you go for a walk on Roan Mountain (on the North Carolina/Tennessee border) or along the Appalachian Trail or on the Outer Banks or walk amongst the longleaf pines in North Carolina or the pines in Northern Michigan, you can just feel your body relax.”

Telewski lives with his wife, Jill, in Mason, Michigan, about a 20-minute drive from MSU. There, on 7 acres, he has a vegetable garden and flower garden — inspired by Claude Monet’s garden at Giverny, France, minus the pond and

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lily pads — and a mini forest of black walnut
trees, elms, fir trees, oaks, sugar maples and
white pines that he planted himself.

Look no farther than your own backyard
to discover the secrets of nature, he says.
“Dig a hole, mess up the soil and see what
germinates, and ponder how long that seed’s
been there. From last year? From a hundred
years ago? We all have a seed vault in our
backyard. Any patch of dirt is a seed vault.”

I try one more time to learn where the
last four bottles are buried. And this time,
he answers, sort of, with a hearty laugh, but
I was still no closer to finding them.

“Somewhere, while we were walking
around today, we did walk past the bottles.”

“HOW MANY PEOPLE WALK THROUGH THEIR DAILY LIFE AND HAVE NO IDEA WHAT’S GOING ON AROUND THEM IN TERMS OF PLANT LIFE?”

— Frank Telewski
PHOTOGRAPHY OF CAMPUS GARDEN AND TOHI GARDEN BY DesiLu Photography

PHOTOGRAPHY OF REYNOLDA GARDENS BY Ken Bennett
of our
GARDENS
spent a few sunny spring days visiting three of my favorite gardens among the abundance of natural spaces treasured by Wake Foresters. Their gardeners taught me to notice the many roles these lands play in our community. 

The half-acre Campus Garden, a one-minute walk from the soccer field across Polo Road, features crops such as sweet potatoes, green beans and tomatoes, sustainably grown by volunteers since 2009 and donated to Campus Kitchen. The tiny Tohi Garden, which opened in 2010, is tucked behind Maya Angelou Residence Hall. Native plants adorn its pathway along the creek and call to mind Indigenous peoples who walked here — the Saura, Catawba, Cherokee and Lumbee tribes. Its rainwater catchment ponds allow sediment in water to sink, then the cleaner water is reoxygenated as it tumbles down a series of rocks. Reynolda Gardens is a familiar place to students and local residents, and its 134 acres include wetlands, trails and a formal garden. Originally part of R.J. and Katharine Reynolds’ 1917 estate, the gardens draw 140,000 visitors yearly.

Jon Roethling, director of Reynolda Gardens, sees his job as honoring Katharine Reynolds’ original vision for the estate while making it relevant for today by designing gardens to elicit curiosity and surprise. He finds magic at sunrise in the meadow and in visitors’ stories. Nathan Peifer (MDiv ’13) was in divinity school when he first dug into local food and community gardening. He interned at the Campus Garden and, as an alumnus, returned to the Office of Sustainability as Campus as Lab program coordinator to manage the garden and facilitate opportunities for classes to learn there. He shares his enthusiasm with these classes. Recently, students in a class on the music of world cultures turned garden-grown gourds into instruments, first-year seminar students learned about the relationship between climate change and agriculture, and students in a Humanity and Nature class conducted their final exam in the garden by presenting their writing to classmates and harvesting the garden’s bounty, which they grew from seed together.

These garden spaces, while different from one another, all call to us: Come and be restored in nature. — Katherine Laws (’20)
CAMPUS GARDEN
The appeal of the Campus Garden is experiential learning. You can come out, you can plant seeds, you can dig in the soil, you can turn the compost, you use your hands, you use your senses.”

— NATHAN PEIFER

Below: Final exam day for Ron Von Burg’s Humanity and Nature class. Right: Peifer at Campus Garden’s chicken coop.
Peifer interned for Dedee DeLongpré Johnston, vice president for human resources and sustainability, who is widely praised for leading the University’s first campuswide Office of Sustainability and for gaining national recognition for its work. After finishing divinity school, Peifer returned to DeLongpré Johnston, saying, “I have an idea. Do you think I could manage the Campus Garden space for you?” That idea blossomed into the Campus as Lab Program, which gives students experiential learning opportunities at the Campus Garden and across campus.
Peifer invites students:

“Let’s taste the arugula flower. Feel the seed pod on a clover flower and just how soft it is. Grasses can be sticky and kind of sharp. ... Notice different colors, different textures, different heights. ... Utilizing your senses like that helps plant you in that moment.” A diverse garden benefits our well-being, Peifer says, but it also benefits the garden. “The thing that makes sustainable agriculture sustainable is the resilience that comes with diversity.”
The Campus Garden, ... especially after COVID, became a well-being space. ... A lot of students have expressed to me how much they enjoy just getting away from campus, being in a quiet place."

— NATHAN PEIFER
"Gardening for me is first and foremost a community activity. It is about the gardener planting themselves in a community, learning the soil, learning the trees, learning the other organisms that are in the space ... and then sharing that with other human beings."

— NATHAN PEIFER
The garden project, which began in 2008, was completed on Earth Day in 2010 when the Tohi Garden opened with a Native American blessing of the space. In 2021, Sakina Barthe-Sukhera ('22), who interned in the Office of Sustainability, revitalized the space using materials sourced from campus and native plants. This has inspired the Tohi Talks event series in the garden.
We have removed plants; we have planted new plants. ... We have left our mark. Our hope is that it’s a gentle mark, one that allows for the flourishing of many different kinds of life.”

— NATHAN PEIFER
The Cherokee phrase ‘Tohi’ is captured in the essence of how water moves through this space. Tohi is about balance. It’s about stopping, settling and then slowly moving forward.”

— NATHAN PEIFER
My hope is that students and participants come away with a sense that, ‘I am a member of this living thing,’ with the ultimate goal that that sense of identity will drive them to make more sustainable lifestyle choices and to be part of the movement to reverse climate change.”

— NATHAN PEIFER
REYNOLDA

GARDENS
"The value of green spaces and public gardens as a whole is serving as this resource for a community — of respite, of education, of connection. ... They’re vital to healthy communities."

— JON ROETHLING
“You’re always getting emails. You’re always getting texts. Take the cue from nature. There’s a time to rest. ... The trees drop their leaves, and they shut down for the winter.”

— Jon Roethling
Fragrance can trigger memories,” says Jon Roethling, who thinks of scent when he plants in the garden. He says you may smell Ligustrum flowers at the start of summer or think of autumn when the Osmanthus blooms. Perhaps you recognize the smell of your grandmother’s rose.
The Reynolda estate is also a haven for wildlife, including hawks, bluebirds, owls, coyotes, deer, turtles, beavers and foxes.
I love getting to know some of these people. Some of them, you see them in good times and bad,” Roethling says of visitors. “But this is sometimes the place they come to make sense of it all.”

— JON ROETHLING
How to Think About the Planet

ILLUSTRATIONS BY LUCY ROSE
If you've ever wondered about the ways Wake Forest faculty prompt students to contemplate nature, peruse the course listings. You might find yourself impressed, as I was, by the array of courses across disciplines that address some aspect of the environment. They range from Bird Taxonomy to Environmental Anthropology to Environmental and Natural Resource Economics to Sustainable Organizational Management.

Online, you can read how the University heralds its faculty’s research and public commentary on such things as the increasing heat wave stress on pollinators, the destruction of the Amazon rainforest and the biodiversity crisis as a human rights issue. Teacher-scholars are posing research questions for their students and guiding them to deeply consider their relationship with the natural world. In what follows I offer a sampling of courses and highlights from my conversations with a few of the professors, who also shared what inspires their teaching. Excerpts have been edited for clarity and brevity. —Maria Henson ’82

**EARLY INSPIRATION:** Fascinated by weather patterns, Lowman wanted to be a meteorologist when she grew up. Her studies led her instead on a nontraditional path, to degrees in public policy with minors in Spanish and Italian but later, thanks to interest sparked by a statistics class, to advanced degrees in civil and environmental engineering. Along the way, she says, “I rediscovered my love for the environment and climate issues and especially seeing how math and physics can be used to model climate systems.”

**SPOTLIGHT CLASS:** Hydrologic and Hydraulic Engineering: Human and Hydrologic Modeling of Flood Responses (also known as Hydro Ethics), co-taught in 2021 with Joseph Wiinikka-Lydon, then a fellow in the Program on Leadership and Character with a Ph.D. in religion and ethics. Students had hands-on experience evaluating flood risk for the Muddy Creek Watershed in Winston-Salem. They evaluated the societal impacts of water-related issues, analyzed ethical challenges communities face and highlighted the effects that such issues have on individual moral development. Final projects included mapping of flood risks with an overlay of socioeconomic data, describing their prescribed hydrologic modeling frameworks and showing the equations used in their analyses.

Lauren Lowman
Assistant Professor, Department of Engineering
The real learning objectives were to understand the complexity of issues and how they affect people in communities and look at specific case studies within our city of Winston-Salem. Getting the students to meet people around the community, people in municipal government, people who live here (and) historians to really understand all these different dimensions of the city and how people connect to and are impacted by water issues.”

“On the first day we went to the MUSE Winston-Salem museum and talked to (Executive Director) Mike Wakeford about the role water played in how the city came to be and why it looks the way it does. The early Moravians came here for the freshwater springs. ... We learned how (springs) got rerouted and concreted over.”

“People forget Silas Creek and Peters Creek parkways are named after the creeks that run next to them that you don’t (typically) see. You don’t think about it. Maybe you just think it’s drainage, but it’s actually a small stream.”

“We ended up talking for the rest of the class about flooding issues around the city (and) who are the people most affected by flooding issues, why historically you get flooding in those areas because of the changes we’ve made in the landscape here. And then talking about the future — predictions being that you’re going to have more extreme rainfall events. What does that mean for the people in certain areas?”
Ron Von Burg (P '14)

EARLY INSPIRATION: He’s been interested in how scientific arguments play out rhetorically, particularly in discourse around climate change. His research interests include public discourse, public debate around religion and science, sustainability studies and science fiction film studies.

SPOTLIGHT CLASS: Humanity and Nature. Since he started teaching the class nine years ago, he’s experimented with different approaches. In the early days, the class featured role playing, and students put humanity on trial for crimes against nature. They played different stakeholders — human or nonhuman — in the law school’s mock courtroom. The next iteration was “to interrogate the ‘and’ in Humanity and Nature”; most of the readings addressed those interactions. The recent version has featured time in the Campus Garden, extensive writing and reading assignments with, first on the list, Henry David Thoreau. In one exercise, they look at seed catalogs, and each student selects a seed to sow. Von Burg asks students to be mindful of what they see, feel and experience as they return to the garden to watch the seed grow. Eventually they will harvest the plant and write stories “from the plant’s perspective within the ecology of the Campus Garden.”

“What is college but to broaden one’s mind and to think through what it means to be a good person and a good citizen in this world? Well, one of the things to be a good citizen is to be a good citizen with nature. Everything points to being intentional, thoughtful, engaged and open. If that’s not the fundamental of the liberal arts, I don’t know what is. Everything leads to that in the experience in Campus Garden. They’re not learning a skill of agriculture. They’re learning a way to be with nature.”
“This semester we read ‘The Overstory’ (by Richard Powers). It’s fantastic, and we had a conversation about what is their favorite place on campus, particularly their favorite tree. My favorite tree — and there are many — is the magnolia that’s on this side (closest to Manchester Hall). It’s low. If you look inside of it, it’s so spread out. It’s a great place to climb. The thing I always remember (is) when we’re doing summer programs with elementary school kids, every single time you’re walking by there, you’ll just hear the tree with the laughter of children coming out of it. You can’t see them. You just hear the laughter. To me, it’s so beautiful.”
EARLY INSPIRATION: Growing up in a family from Puerto Rico in which she was “first generation stateside” in Hartford, Connecticut, she became active in social justice movements in high school and interested in the environment. “I remember engaging with conservancy groups to do river cleanups in our punk attire,” she says with a smile.

What galvanized her most over time was watching as historic storms devastated places she loves in the Caribbean. “One of the things that has really struck me,” she says, “is that when you start losing places, you start losing the stories they contain. ... It also works the other way around. If you start losing the stories of places, then the places can be expropriated — they can be rezoned, gentrified.” She feels a sense of urgency in teaching about the environment, a sentiment her students “are already attuned to. They’re really struck by 21st century extinctions, by the sense that they are inheriting a world that they want to see changed quickly.”

Judith Madera

Associate Professor, Department of English
Faculty Affiliate, Environmental Studies
I try not to talk about environment as something out there as pristine nature. I think we’re all exhausted by this binary of human damage and pristine nature. I try to talk environs, the felt environment, the environment we are always interacting with and experiencing. Then things like vulnerability and exposure and the different shapes of social justice become all the more tangible, present.”

“I often begin with Rachel Carson as an avatar of the modern environmental movement. By the time she’s writing ‘Silent Spring’ (published in 1962), she’s ill but challenging the orthodoxy of a culture that says control of the environment represents human progress. She’s asking people to step back. She’s discussing the circulation of poisons in a system. She’s asking questions about control, and she’s coming into conflict with certain prevailing orthodoxies.

However, as much as I loved ‘Silent Spring,’ (I also assign) two books she wrote before that — one’s called ‘The Edge of the Sea’ (1955), which is an Eastern Seaboard ecology. This is a wonderful book to read because she looks at animals as transports for all different kinds of knowledges about environments. She traces ancient eels and sea birds. It’s illustrated and comes alive. My very favorite is ‘The Sea Around Us’ (1950). That book evokes magic. She looks at ancient seabeds, islands. ... She’s so interested in tapping into her audience’s sense of wonder, and that becomes such an important vehicle for telling a story.”
Early Inspiration: In college her goal was to be a high school math teacher, but she became fascinated in a summer math program with speakers discussing real-world data that addressed scientific questions. That led her to graduate school to study statistics. What excited her was “the combination of the practical importance and the value that studying these environmental problems had on society with an interest in statistical methods.” Her research has expanded to include public health issues such as the opioid crisis.

Spotlight Class: Applied Bayesian Statistics, incorporating some case studies and applications that relate to environmental science and ecology. (ScienceDirect.com defines Bayesian statistics as the study of uncertain events through the notion of probability.) She uses the data set from the long-running Snapshot Serengeti survey with students in early-level classes to model a binary outcome and in higher-level classes to tackle more advanced challenges to uncover flaws in models and dig into concepts like “imperfect detection.” She says, “It’s a fun application, and it gets students excited about how statistical methods can be used in environmental science.”
When (information) gets to the statisticians, we basically have a spreadsheet of a bunch of zeros and ones — ‘zero’ meaning these types of species were not observed in this location at this time. Or the ‘one’ means that a species was observed in that location in that period of time. One of the goals of our project is to understand how different features of the environment might explain why certain species are more likely to be in some geographical regions versus other geographical regions.”

“With Michael Anderson our focus is on migratory herbivores, so we do a lot of modeling of zebra, wildebeests and Thomson’s gazelles (to understand) their spatial distribution and the migratory patterns. Those species are known to have some relationships to each other as well. One of the challenges (of statistical modeling) is with the dependence (in the observations) across space and time, but there’s also dependence between species themselves. So, if you want to build a really good model for understanding migratory patterns of zebra, you should also probably jointly consider migratory patterns of wildebeests. And so statistically, it’s a challenging question of how to think about jointly thinking about these different things together.”

“These new applications in ecology are important for, as the environment changes, trying to understand what the implication on the species could be and how they relate to a changing environment.”
**Early Inspiration:** His childhood didn’t feature exceptional outdoor excursions, but his ability to run organizations well led him to join and excel at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (At Wake Forest, his major was politics. His M.A. and Ph.D. are from Johns Hopkins University.) He capped his 39-year EPA career, filled with regional leadership roles and awards, by becoming the EPA’s acting deputy administrator from 2014 to 2017. “I’ve had the gift of going to a lot of places where you can see remarkable things, all the way from the North Slope of Alaska to 800 feet underground in a coal mine in Kentucky and just how these different systems work,” he says. “I’ve gotten educated by a lot of really smart people, and it gives you a visual sense of the system as well as the things you read about analytically.”

**Spotlight Class:** U.S. Environmental Policy and Politics, where he introduces students to complexities of policy generally and environmental policy in particular. He stresses how U.S. environmental laws are a structured set of laws adopted between 1970 and 1990; the U.S. program is “still a legacy” of that period. In a spring course, he takes graduate, undergraduate and law students to Washington, D.C., to meet with policy advocates, environmental regulators and legislative staff involved in environmental protection and sustainability.

**Stan Meiburg**

Director, Graduate Programs in Sustainability (2017-2022)

Executive Director, Center for Energy, Environment and Sustainability
My biggest issue with students now is (for them) not to succumb to despair. There are some immense challenges we have out there. You can’t make light of that. And it’s going to require not just individual changes but really systemic changes. And (I teach) that sustainability is not just environmental. It is also social. It is also economic. All these elements are blended together in thinking about sustainability because to be sustainable, activities have to make it work on all those levels.

The metaphor I use: the first sort of level is economic, but that’s surrounded by society, because the economy of a community exists at the sufferance of society, but society exists at the sufferance of the environment. If the environment is not right, it doesn’t matter what social structure you have. As my son (a naturalist nonfiction writer) says, ‘Nature doesn’t care what you think.’ They are all related, and they all have to work.”

“I use this in class: In 1970 when the Clean Air Act was passed, it required a reduction of 90% in pollution from automobiles by 1975. Well, nobody had any idea in 1970 when the act passed how they were going to do this. In fact, the experts said this was crazy, that you couldn’t do this, ... that to make this work you are going to have to have a computer in your car. ... They didn’t get there by 1974, but by 1994 they did. And now cars are far cleaner. ... It’s really a great story. ... (Along with the reduction in air pollution in major cities) that gives you hope you can succeed at other things, too.”
Students learn the science behind this biodiversity hot spot and the devastation of deforestation. Then, they apply their knowledge as budding science journalists.
That was my introduction to biology professor Miles Silman in early 2013. And while we didn’t know it at the time, that was the first step toward a unique and immersive study-abroad experience we would develop and lead together in the Peruvian Amazon starting in 2017: Tropical Ecology and Science Writing.

After a two-year COVID-19 break, we gathered a great group of students and headed back into the Amazon in late May this year for the fourth time.

The elements of our program? Earth’s richest biological diversity along its greatest gradients in temperature and rainfall. The pristine Amazon and Andes, under threat by climate change. Cascading environmental dangers spreading around the world. An urgent need to understand the science and communicate the message to general audiences.

Here’s how we got there: Biologist and journalist. Expert and novice. Having finished three decades as a reporter and editor covering local issues, I was indeed in need of a new story to complement my teaching role. So, I traveled with Silman in summer 2013 to Peru, where he has spent 30 years studying how tropical forests work, why they harbor much of the world’s biodiversity and how the world depends on the ecosystems services they provide. (Silman is the Andrew Sabin Family Foundation Presidential Chair in Conservation Biology and was founding director of the Wake Forest Center for Energy, Environment and Sustainability.)

It was a steep learning curve, one I welcomed, one Silman helped me climb. I recognized there is no more important story on Earth than the accelerating climate crisis, especially in warm places such as the tropics where so much life is affected. I would come to understand as well that scientists aren’t always good at communicating their knowledge. Yet good journalism can make important scientific concepts broadly understood.

After a few years embracing this new story as a freelance correspondent covering climate change and climate policy internationally, I began talking with Silman about combining our twin passions — tropical ecology and journalism — into a study-abroad experience like few others. What follows is how our program works. It is one way Wake Forest enables its faculty and encourages its students to venture into the wild with the goal of making a difference in the world.
official start of the program comes a few days after the group arrives in Peru. Brief stops in Lima on the arid Pacific Coast at sea level, then a flight over the majestic Andes to the ancient Incan capital of Cuzco at 11,000 feet. A long bus ride takes the group to even greater heights. As we cross to the eastern side of the Andes, we are engulfed in a cloud forest at 13,000 feet and enter an entirely new ecosystem — the lush and wet Amazon basin. Silman calls it “the world’s largest tropical wilderness.”

We rise early in the high Amazon to watch what is touted as one of the great sunrises on Earth from 3,000 feet above the clouds. As those clouds dissipate, we are left with a view of unbroken green. So many treetops spreading out far and wide. If you could see national borders, you’d see
Bolivia off to the right, Brazil off to the left. What you can't see is how this dense rainforest is struggling to adapt to warming temperatures.

“There are as many trees in the Amazon as there are stars in the Milky Way,” Silman says.

Traveling down to 5,000 feet, we enter one of the world’s great biodiversity “hot spots.” One out of every nine bird species on Earth is in the jungles we pass through. Thousands of species of trees, many still unnamed, thrive there. We descend farther, closer to the Amazonian lowlands. There we find a dozen species of primates as they scamper through the canopy above our heads: palm-sized pygmy marmosets, emperor tamarins straight out of Dr. Seuss, spider monkeys with long arms swinging gracefully from limb to limb. This remote jungle is a wonderland, nature undisturbed, except by the rising temperatures of climate change.

out of every three species on Earth lives in Amazonia. That includes caiman, tapir, giant otters, spectacled bears and big cats such as puma and jaguar. Smaller creatures include insects and spiders, scorpions and snakes, frogs and toads. Birds and butterflies surround us in stunning variety and colors.

Nature’s blueprint for this jungle is complex, connected and interdependent. Everything, from the tallest tree to the tiniest microbe, has a vital role to play in the forest mechanics at work to keep nature in balance. This vast ecosystem provides services for the species that live in the jungle, as well as for those of us who inhabit the planet.

Look closely. Fungi, ants and termites constantly break down fallen limbs, logs, leaves and plants to keep organic matter from piling up and to keep the jungle soil rich and loamy.
Birds, primates and reptiles are tied inextricably to plants. Most species move pollen from plant to plant, ensuring the next generation of life; others spread seeds for regeneration after eating fruits and nuts, ensuring the continued renewal of this mighty rainforest.

at stake? When fossil fuels are burned for energy or transportation, the pollution created can only go three places: into the atmosphere, where it increases the greenhouse effect and contributes to global warming; into the oceans, where it acidifies the seas, melts ice caps and damages coral reefs; or into trees and plants, which need carbon dioxide for the process of photosynthesis. This process is especially powerful in tropical forests such as those in the Peruvian Amazon. These trees absorb and store megatons of carbon in their leaves, limbs, trunks, roots and soil, helping cleanse the air and slow the rate of warming. In exchange, they expel oxygen and transpire water droplets that rise into the atmosphere to form clouds — clouds that accumulate to create weather around the world.

When these trees are destroyed by clear cutting, they release their carbon just like cars burning gasoline. Globally, deforestation contributes as much to heat-trapping carbon emissions as the entire transportation sector. Worse still, habitats that are home to the biodiversity required to keep these forests thriving are imperiled. You quickly see a connection between deforestation here and drought elsewhere.

interdisciplinary design of this program gives students the rare opportunity to experience one of the wildest places on Earth. We start early, right after sunrise at 6 a.m. We end long after dark, more than 12 hours later. The science leads the learning as students consider the natural and cultural significance of the Peruvian Amazon. Program themes consist of daily hikes, bird spotting, tree and plant identifications, forest ecology, geography, field research, scientific readings and lectures. Journalism follows with skills such as interviewing, reporting, writing and photography. Curiosity and urgency animate both courses.
AN ECOSYSTEM OF INNOVATION

Look to the Center for Energy, Environment and Sustainability as the hub of Wake Forest research and public engagement aiming to create a sustainable future.

Founded in 2010, the center’s 130 scholars work across dozens of disciplines on real-world problems, from engineers and computer scientists who are developing technology to understand changes in marine ecosystems to biologists developing solutions on how to reforest degraded areas in the Peruvian Amazon. The scope of the scholars’ work throughout the University’s undergraduate and graduate schools is vast, from renewable energy, environmental law and policy, enterprise, environmental markets, biodiversity and human behavior. CEES members spearheaded the establishment of the graduate programs in sustainability. At the law school, under the direction of Scott Schang, professor of the practice and a CEES board member, students have worked on environmental and sustainability law cases, such as for a nearby school situated on contaminated land. See more at bit.ly/3M9ZNP8

From the start, CEES’ champion has been Miles Silman, biology professor, CEES founding director and the Andrew Sabin Family Foundation Presidential Chair in Conservation Biology. Stan Meiburg (’75) was named CEES executive director in July. Read the 2016 Q&A with Silman about his visionary work founding the Center for Amazonian Scientific Innovation in Peru’s Madre de Dios river basin, where, he says, “what happens in the Amazon echoes around the world.” See the story at bit.ly/2Gcldnq
BY PROGRAM’S END, STUDENTS ARE DEEPLY INFORMED, ALARMED AND MOTIVATED. THEY’VE WITNESSED NATURE UNTRAMMELED, NATURE DESTROYED, NATURE BEING RESTORED.
I went to Peru as an activist. I was intrigued by the intense geopolitical battle that has enveloped the people and wildlife dwelling in and around the Amazon region. Farmers burn large portions of the rainforest for cattle and produce. Miners excavate iron and gold ore underground, causing deforestation and devastating soil degradation. Such destruction threatens the livelihood of Indigenous groups who have lived within the forest for centuries. Even worse, the fate of the Amazon rests in the hands of a few corrupt politicians whose decisions push our planet increasingly further into the climate crisis. I wanted to understand the complex relationship between these groups and the land they rely upon, each for a distinct region.

I left Peru as a scientist. Living in the dense, untouched tropical forests at the Cocha Cashu Biological Station research center, hundreds of miles from any civilization, I found myself completely captivated by the wilderness. Macaws flew overhead, spider monkeys crashed through the branches of fig trees, chattering as they went, and dense root mats and colorful fungi flourished in the understory. On our class hikes, Dr. (Miles) Silman helped us identify the birds chirping in the surrounding trees and challenged us to learn their calls. At night, we discussed scientific papers written about the exact natural phenomena we had experienced during the day.

Experiencing the wildness of the Amazon helped me understand the value of nature, purely for its boundless opportunities for discovery. Solely focusing on climate change and politics had erased my sense of wonder for wilderness. If we only focus on how nature is disappearing, we lose sight of the reasons to preserve it.

Una Wilson, a junior from Winston-Salem, is a Guy T. Carswell Scholar, a biology major specializing in studies of fungi and a journalism and environmental studies minor. After the study-abroad program ended in June, she remained in Peru for several weeks to research mycorrhizal fungi in recently mined soils of the Amazon rainforest.
three weeks of hiking and boating through, and living in, Eden-like jungles, the group comes back down the Río Madre de Dios and encounters a new reality — the heavy hand of humans. Suddenly, we see nature being obliterated by deforestation and the devastating practice of illegal, alluvial gold mining. It’s a jarring juxtaposition. Students gasp at the treeless landscape they witness at close range. Some miners, no older than the students, wave and smile from the riverside. Climate change? Meet a root cause.

emerges in the form of Wake Forest scientists working in Madre de Dios for Centro de Innovación Científica Amazónica, also known as the Center for Amazonian Scientific Innovation or CINCIA. Students go to research facilities and nurseries to interview CINCIA specialists in forestry, biochar production, seed propagation and seedling growth, mercury mitigation, aquatic life and health, and drones for geo-mapping of deforested lands. They visit mining sites and learn that CINCIA scientists work with the miners, offering insights into how to mine with fewer trees felled and without mercury. In return, CINCIA gains access to deforested lands to transform as test plots for reforestation. CINCIA’s success over the past six years offers hope not only to Peru, but to tropical countries worldwide seeking to reforest damaged lands critical to the health of the planet. By program’s end, students are deeply informed, alarmed and motivated. They’ve witnessed nature untrammeled, nature destroyed, nature being restored. Their final projects communicate in research, stories and photos the arc of their experiences with depth and gravity. And as we leave the Amazon, students embrace a message from Silman they now know the world must appreciate as much as they do:

“Nature just keeps giving. If we let her.”

Justin Catanoso (MALS ’93) is professor of the practice in the journalism program, a board member of the University’s Center for Energy, Environment and Sustainability and a regular correspondent for the environmental news website Mongabay.com.
From precise botanical illustrations to surprising QR codes, artist Meredith Mulhearn ('01) stays rooted in the natural world.

By Carol L. Hanner

Photography by Sisella Johansson
Artist Meredith Mulhearn (’01) grew up amid tall trees and idyllic lakes in the Garden State of New Jersey, but she never recognized the depth of her relationship to nature until she lost it in the high-rise canyons of New York City.

“The urban jungle just was not cutting it for me. … Everything was gray and concrete. The architecture is beautiful; there was art everywhere and culture everywhere, but just not a whole lot of green.”

Saddle River, New Jersey, where she grew up, featured “a whole lot of green,” she says, and as an art student at Wake Forest she felt surrounded by nature. She landed in New York after graduation to earn a master’s degree in art therapy at New York University and studied and produced botanical illustrations. She also taught kindergarten and second grade at a private school and, during her free periods, volunteered to assist the art teacher. When Mulhearn’s daughter was born in 2009, she realized she needed to rejuvenate her visceral love affair with green surroundings.

“I did not want to raise her in a place that didn’t have a backyard, … where you’re standing in line just to be in a park to wait for 10 minutes for a five-minute ride in a swing. I needed that green, and I wanted it for her.”

She moved with young Charlotte to the charming town of Ridgefield, Connecticut, among rolling hills and forests a few miles from the New York state border and 90 minutes from Manhattan. Charlotte, now 12, has grown up not just in any backyard — hers is full of roses and a lush lawn behind their home on a quiet cul-de-sac. A large, magical tree shelters a rabbit warren under its roots. Charlotte spent her childhood wandering with her mother through town and in the wetlands adjacent to their property, taking what Mulhearn calls “sensory walks.”
Meredith Mulhern's "Reforestation Z," which she donated to Wake Forest, hangs in the Office of Sustainability in Reynolda Hall. The work is a functioning QR code made of dried moss. Viewers can scan it, automatically prompting a nonprofit to plant a tree. Photos of Mulhern's artwork by Dylan Miller.
“All we would do was say what we heard, what we smelled, what we saw,” Mulhearn says.

When she moved to Ridgefield, Mulhearn opened a nutrition practice and a tea shop. But she craved the artist’s path as much as she craved nature, so she closed the shop four years ago to pursue art full time again. An advertisement led her to RPAC Art Center and Academy, where in 2019 she became a resident artist at RPAC Gallery. She paints works inspired by plants and trees and creates multimedia pieces with social messages that merge or contrast the technological age with the endangered ecosystems of the planet.

“The universe was telling me, ‘Yes, you’re right. This is exactly where you’re supposed to be and what you’re supposed to be doing. Now go for it,’” she says of finding the artists’ program.

Anne and Tom Geary exhibit Mulhearn’s work in their Geary Gallery in Darien, Connecticut. Anne Geary says she was drawn to Mulhearn’s art by “her attention to and her depth of love for nature itself that she incorporates so beautifully into her work.”

In Ridgefield, Mulhearn often makes the five-minute walk on the serene path through the wetlands to her office and the shared studio space where artists create work and rotate exhibitions in the RPAC Gallery. If rainfall has muddied the woodlands, Mulhearn takes the 13-minute sidewalk route — alongside stone walls and shaded historic homes until she reaches the coffee shops, the organic market and the cafes and galleries of Ridgefield. In 2021, the state of Connecticut declared the 314-year-old town of about 25,000 people as its first cultural district, full of theaters, galleries and performing and visual arts schools and organizations.

One of Mulhearn’s most innovative and challenging recent artworks physically blended nature and technology. She made two 40-by-40-inch pieces, Reforestation 1 and Reforestation 2, with working QR codes made of preserved green moss. She has donated one of them to Wake Forest to add to the University’s art collection and to display on campus. Every time a viewer takes a photo of the work, Mulhearn sponsors the planting of a tree, and she’ll support up to 2,000 clicks/trees. No other action is required of viewers, though they can donate directly to planting more trees through the two nonprofit partners linked to the QR codes.

“It wasn’t until I ended up in the city that I realized how integral (nature) was to me and how much as human beings we need that connection. And with technology, we seem to be getting further and further away from it,” Mulhearn says.

“It is essential for survival, and at a primal level, we cannot exist without nature, … but it’s always in the background, on the back burner. My goal as an artist is to bring that back to the foreground and to inspire people to take action and make a difference.”

Adventures in making art
The concept of a QR code as art landed easily enough in Mulhearn’s mind — dropping in without warning. “It’s not like I was walking down the street and there was a QR code, and I was, like, ‘I should do something with QR codes.’
“It wasn’t until I ended up in the city that I realized how integral (nature) was to me and how much as human beings we need that connection.”
No, it literally just popped into my head one day. And I thought, ‘What an amazing marriage of technology and harnessing the power of technology to support nature, where technology in many ways is what’s creating a problem.’”

The task of turning moss into a QR code was not nearly as simple as the idea had been.

“It was arduous and costly,” Mulhearn says.

She wanted to create with live moss, but that wasn’t feasible, requiring a system that mists the moss three times a day to keep it alive, experts told her. Watering the moss could create mold or damage in a museum or home and require costly alterations with seasonal weather and humidity fluctuations. Instead, she used dried and preserved moss that she had handpicked, removing every pine needle, piece of pinecone or other debris.

The work required special boating materials, car paint and a specialist to laser-cut the Plexiglass framework that provides the structure for the work. Finally, she could work on the moss, applying it to the plastic with a hot-glue gun. She reworked bald spots and kept shaping and sculpting “kind of like a topiary.” Even with gloves, her hands stayed green from constantly tweezing and snipping the moss to make straight lines that a QR scan could read.

The preserved moss is dry and crunchy, so one fingertip on it can leave a hole. Artists generally expect viewers not to touch their work on display, but honoring hands-off is crucial to avoid damage and keep the QR codes readable. While her work was up for months at RPAC, a taped line showed viewers where to stand to scan the code at a distance that would register.

She made two of the works, with the QR code of each linking to a nonprofit. One links to Trees for the Future, which plants trees in nine countries in sub-Saharan Africa, and the other to Eden Reforestation Projects, which plants indigenous trees around the world.

She doesn’t plan to replicate the long process. “There are only two, and there will never be more than two,” she says. The one donated to Wake Forest comes with a partnership between Mulhearn and the University’s Office of Sustainability, and Mulhearn visited in July to deliver and oversee installation of the work. She will return to share with students her knowledge of art and the environment.

grams where she applied, and she was feeling overwhelmed. “I woke up one morning. I walked downstairs and I said, ‘I’m going to Wake Forest.’”

Her parents were surprised.

“I said, ‘I just woke up this morning, and I know that’s where I’m going. That’s where I’m supposed to be.’”

Her early admission offer, the first college acceptance in her high school class, arrived on Halloween. “I bleed gold and black still to this point.”

At Wake Forest, with a major in studio art and a minor in art history, she explored every kind of art and every medium. She credits Professor David Finn, chair of the art department, as her mentor then and now.

“He really pushed me to the next level to think outside of the box, and he still does,” she says.

Finn says Mulhearn did wonderful work at Wake Forest and became very engaged with public messaging and how people perceive the landscape. “The most interesting and curious piece of hers still exists on the campus under a tree near Tribble Hall,” Finn says of Mulhearn’s “Community Stone.” “It is a spiral list engraved in granite of events that happened in the world and on campus during her senior year. I think she hoped it would become a model for subsequent markers — an idea to imbue the landscape with memory that still has great merit.”

In a recent conversation, Finn reminded her of one of his major lessons, Mulhearn says, “which was when you’re creating art that has a message, you have to start with a message and work backward.”

She says she’s tempted to think about process and the look of the final product, but she often goes to the other artists who share studio space at RPAC to get feedback on the clarity of the message. “(I’ll ask), ‘What does this say to you when you look at this visually?’ And if it’s not the message I want, I know I need to adjust it and continue to evolve the concept.”
Turning message into action
Her style has gradually evolved to conceptual art. In New York City, she found a nature refuge at the New York Botanical Garden and took courses there in botanical illustration, which focused on realistic detail and accuracy. In Ridgefield, she says, she rebelled against that rigidity and moved toward a more expressive style with her paintings of plants, which have included a series called “plant blindness” about the modern syndrome of plants becoming invisible to many caught up in modern, technological life. Her paintings grew more abstract and tied not just to nature, but to environmental sustainability.

In a project related to pollinators, she made three QR codes with wood blocks that included a message for a call to action. She was disappointed that people scanned the codes but didn’t take the next step to donate, and she couldn’t track whether they cultivated plants to encourage pollination.

“I came to the realization, which is somewhat disheartening, that if you build it, they will come … but they won’t do anything,” she says.

The same lack of results was true with a project on orchid trafficking, a little-known practice of poaching extremely rare species of orchids in the wild to ship to collectors, leading to elimination of species entirely. “It’s kind of ironic that the people who have this profound appreciation for these plants and their beauty are the ones who are bringing about (their) demise,” she says.

She was determined to produce action with her art, so the QR code project made it even easier for viewers — no follow-up required. If they click and scan the work, Trees for the Future automatically plants a tree at Mulhearn’s expense, up to 2,000 trees at a total cost of $500. “I don’t care how many times you scan it. Scan it 50 times. I’ll plant 50 trees,” she says.

She hopes another sponsor will keep the response going by paying for more trees once the first 2,000 are planted. (The click tally is in the hundreds so far.)

She also sees the value of a message that resonates with many viewers. “Deforestation is probably one of the most widely discussed climate issues,” she says. She notes that planting trees also provides jobs in impoverished areas.

From garbage to art
Her latest focus is on plastics that are overwhelming the oceans and causing other damage, including toxicity in our bodies. The average American ingests an amount of plastic the size of a credit card every week, she says, which is known to disrupt hormones, at the least. “My goal is to get people to understand that every time you sip through a straw, every time you brush your teeth (or drink from a plastic water bottle that has gotten hot in your car), some of it ends up in your organs and your bloodstream.”

She is making textured weavings out of garbage. “The tapestries from a distance will look somewhat beautiful, but then when you approach it, you realize it’s all garbage,” she says.

Two pieces called “One Week” contain only the plastics she accumulated in her own household in seven days, even though she is meticulous in reducing her plastic use. She also created one with food packaging and another with shipping materials.

AS A MEMBER OF HUMANITY,

Mulhearn knows that her work will remain rooted in nature, however her forms change.

“As an artist, I believe in art for art’s sake. But as a member of humanity, I believe in art with purpose,” she says on her artist’s statement at RPAC and at Artists for Conservation, where she is an associate member.

“Nature has always spoken to me in quiet ways, but now I find there’s an inextricable link between me and the natural world that finds its voice in all my work.”

ABOUT MEREDITH MULHEARN
Mulhearn’s art is part of multiple private collections, including the Philoche Collection in New York City. She is an active member of the New Canaan Society for the Arts Inc. and the Rowayton Arts Center, both in Connecticut. Her work has been selected for numerous juried shows. With a focus on philanthropy, she has participated in collaborative projects, such as the Bow WOW Art Dogs initiative in Ridgefield to support dog rescue and the arts.
1 Sherry Moss (P ‘21), Benson Pruitt Professor in Business and professor of organizational behavior, was appointed associate dean for MBA programs. She has received the University’s High Impact Research Award. Her studies have included a focus on abusive supervision and multiple job holding. More at bit.ly/3RKvSrs

Assistant Vice President Allison E. McWilliams (‘95) in the Alumni Personal and Career Development Center was named Mentor of the Year by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE). Wake Forest received a Career Services Excellence Award from NACE for “Your First Five: Supporting the College to Career Transition and Beyond,” a program led by the center’s Associate Director Lauren Rogers Beam (‘07), Assistant Director Megan Bosworth Hoyt (‘12) and McWilliams. More at bit.ly/3RKvSrs

2 Nell Jessup Newton, a professor and former dean for a decade at the University of Notre Dame Law School, is serving as interim dean of the Wake Forest School of Law. Newton was interim dean of the University of Miami School of Law in the 2021-22 academic year. Jane Aiken, dean of Wake Forest’s School of Law, is taking a research leave as consulting counsel with National Advocates for Pregnant Women on issues of reproductive rights, the focus of her legal and scholarly career. Aiken plans to return as a University professor after her leave. More at bit.ly/3zL79el

3 Shelley Graves Sizemore (‘06, MA ‘09) was named director of Wake Forest’s Women’s Center in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. She was director of community partnerships in the Office of Civic and Community Engagement. Her many campus and community roles have included founding coordinator of Campus Kitchen, director of academic community engagement in the Pro Humanitate Institute and director of the Summer Nonprofit Immersion Program that arranges public internships for undergraduates. More at bit.ly/3zL79el

4 Allison C. Perkins, executive director of Reynolda House Museum of American Art and associate provost for Reynolda House and Reynolda Gardens, is one of 11 professionals appointed by...
President Joe Biden to the National Museum and Library Services Board. Perkins, who has led the Reynolda House Museum since 2006, previously was at the Baltimore Museum of Art, the Amon Carter Museum of American Art in Fort Worth, Texas, the Portland Museum of Art in Maine and Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha, Nebraska. The national museum board advises the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the primary source of support for the nation’s museums and libraries. The board also advises on the annual selection of National Medal for Museum and Library Service recipients. More at bit.ly/3JZ4hPN

6 Shanna Greene Benjamin, a noted biographer and scholar of African American literature and Black feminist studies, joined Wake Forest as a professor of African American Studies. She was an English professor and associate dean of the College at Grinnell College in Iowa. More at bit.ly/3oqSSy8

7 A poem by Amy Catanzano, associate professor of English in creative writing and poet-in-residence, was published in Physics Magazine, which commissioned her to create a work to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the discovery of the Higgs boson elementary particle at CERN in Switzerland on July 4. The poem is titled “Higgs Boson: The Cosmic Glyph.” Catanzano was chosen because of her research on the cutting-edge intersections of poetry and physics. More at bit.ly/3JNAWYK

8 Grammy award-winning producer and Winston-Salem native Patrick “9th Wonder” Douthit and renowned poet and nonfiction author Brenda Marie Osbey are teaching in the African American Studies Program this academic year. Douthit has worked with top recording artists, including Jay-Z, Kendrick Lamar, Mary J. Blige, Destiny’s Child, Drake, Erykah Badu and Jill Scott. He is teaching a fall undergraduate seminar, “Where It All Began: A History of Hip Hop,” as a professor of the practice in residence in African American Studies. Osbey has researched the history of the Faubourg Tremé, a community founded by free Blacks in her native New Orleans. She was the first peer-selected Poet Laureate of the state of Louisiana in 2005. She will teach a spring undergraduate seminar, “Modernist Africana Poetry of the Americas,” as a distinguished professor of the practice in residence in African American Studies. More at bit.ly/3v5WN7B

Wake Forest made Money’s 2022 list of the Best Colleges in America, measuring quality, affordability and outcomes, ranking 45 out of 623 colleges and universities. More at bit.ly/3QcD12m

A $9 million grant to the School of Medicine from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke will fund a study of whether oxytocin, called the “love hormone” because it’s produced when people fall in love, can be used to treat long-term pain after injury. More at bit.ly/3Ou59wC

A record 296 Wake Forest student-athletes, or 70 percent, earned spots on the 2021-22 Atlantic Coast Conference Honor Roll, the most in University history and the third year in a row with more than half of all student-athletes in varsity sports registering a grade point average of 3.0 or better for the academic year. The football team had 78 honorees, a program record. They were followed by track & field with 34 women and 16 men. More at bit.ly/3v4jHfx


Wake Forest hosted Freedom School, a free six-week literacy-based summer program to strengthen children’s reading skills and close achievement gaps for 75 students in kindergarten through eighth grade. The program is part of a national initiative by the Children’s Defense Fund, whose President and CEO Starkey Wilson visited Winston-Salem to be the guest reader. Students from Wake Forest and other universities served as teachers. This year, the program, hosted by the University’s Department of Education, included twice-weekly STEM-focused lessons. More at bit.ly/3QgmHh7

Fact Book is a public online compilation of statistics and information about Wake Forest, such as enrollment overall or in each school, numbers of students from each state and numbers of students from a particular country. The updated site is available in a searchable form with filters and a user guide to find what’s useful. It is produced by the Office of Institutional Research. More at bit.ly/3djBciL

Stewart Carter (P ’02), professor of music and chair of the Department of East Asian Languages and Culture, received honorary membership in the Society for Seventeenth-Century Music for his lifetime service to the Society and the field. More at bit.ly/3AarLya

Darren Aaron, director of finance and operations for Wake Forest’s Health and Wellbeing Consortium, was named a Fellow with the American College Health Association, which represents over 700 higher education institutions. He works with Student Health Service; the University Counseling Center; the Center for Learning, Access, and Student Success; the Office of the Chaplain; Campus Recreation; and the Office of Wellbeing. More at bit.ly/3v4MFG
Renaming Roads

Four professors honored with their names on sections of campus streets

**Wake Forest** is renaming four roads on the Reynolda Campus in honor of four trailblazing professors: **Elizabeth Phillips, Dolly McPherson, Marjorie “Marge” Crisp and Herman Eure (Ph.D. ’74, P’23).**

“Each of these exceptional leaders made an indelible mark on the University — honoring them and telling their stories will expand the narrative of leadership and excellence at Wake Forest,” said President Susan R. Wente.

To select the honorees, the University engaged in a pilot process for honorific naming that has been underway for several months.

In the spring, Wente convened the ad hoc Administrative Committee for Honorifics to recommend new names for four roads on campus, including two sections originally named for Washington Manly Wingate. Wingate (1828-79) was the fourth president of Wake Forest College in two terms bisected by the Civil War. He participated — both personally and on behalf of the College — in the ownership and sale of enslaved African Americans.

Wente appointed Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer José Villalba and then-Provost Rogan Kersh (’86) to lead the committee. The group gathered feedback from faculty, administrators, alumni and students and conducted extensive research with the University Archives and Wake Forest Historical Museum to identify and recommend individuals to honor. The final recommendation was approved by Wente and endorsed by the University Board of Trustees.

The Winston-Salem City Council approved the road name changes in August. Wake Forest plans to install new street signs this fall and offer opportunities for the community to learn more about the honorees and their roles in the University’s history.

**Elizabeth Phillips**
Phillips (1919 – 2008) began her career at Wake Forest in 1957. She was one of its first full-time female professors and the first female chair of the Department of English. She was a respected scholar of American poetry and published books on Emily Dickinson, Marianne Moore and Edgar Allen Poe. Phillips helped create the Women’s Studies Committee, laying the groundwork for the Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies Department. She received the Medallion of Merit, the University’s highest honor, in 1992.

**Dolly McPherson**
McPherson (1929-2011) was the first female, Black, tenure-track faculty member at Wake Forest. She arrived in 1974 and during her 27-year career at Wake Forest, she taught courses on British literature, African American fiction and autobiography. She supported the establishment of the Office of Minority Affairs, which has since become the Intercultural Center. She encouraged long-time friend Maya Angelou (L.H.D. ’77) to join the faculty in 1982. McPherson was also the executor of Angelou’s papers donated to the Z. Smith Reynolds Library.

**Marjorie “Marge” Crisp**
Crisp (1912 – 2005) became Wake Forest’s first full-time female faculty member when she was hired in the physical education department in 1947. Crisp founded intercollegiate women’s athletics at Wake Forest and became the first director of women’s athletics 50 years ago. She also created the women’s intramural program, coached the women’s golf team and was one of the first two women inducted into Wake Forest’s Sports Hall of Fame.

**Herman Eure**
Eure (1947- ) completed his Ph.D. at Wake Forest in 1974 and was appointed as the University’s first male, Black, tenure-track faculty member a few months later. He taught in the biology department for nearly 40 years and served in several administrative roles, including associate dean of the college. In 1978, he established the Office of Minority Affairs, which has since become the Intercultural Center. He also paved the way for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. Eure, vice chair of the board of trustees, received the Medallion of Merit in 2017.

—Cheryl Walker (’88, P’21)
MORE THAN 125 WAKE FORESTERS have answered President Susan R. Wente’s call to create 100 new scholarships by the end of 2022. In her inaugural speech on March 25, Wente called on Wake Forest to be “a catalyst for opportunity” when she announced the “For Humanity” scholarship initiative. As of July 1, alumni, parents and friends had given $24 million to create or enhance 126 scholarships in the College, graduate school and professional schools.

Wellmon Family Scholarship
Lindsey Binder Wellmon (‘10, MSM ‘11) and Nick Wellmon (‘11) took different paths to Wake Forest. Lindsey came across the country from outside Seattle and Nick from outside Atlanta. They met at Wake Forest and eventually moved to Lindsey’s hometown.

They decided recently to endow a scholarship to ensure that other students can have the experience they had at Wake Forest. “We’re very passionate about the school and excited about the opportunity to give others the chance,” said Lindsey, executive director of the 47th Avenue Foundation, which supports kids and families in Seattle. “We want to make sure that (lack of) money would not be a reason not to go to Wake Forest.”

Their gift will provide a scholarship to a middle-class student interested in business. “We felt that one group that was being overlooked is the middle-class students who work really hard in high school who don’t fit the financial aid profile, but they still can’t afford to attend,” said Nick, founder and managing partner of Due West Partners. “They deserve an opportunity as much as anyone to come to a great school that helped us get to where we are today.”

1834 Scholars program
Parents’ Council members Kevin Willsey (P ’22) and Delia Willsey (P ’22) made the lead gift to create the 1834 Scholars program to attract students who have demonstrated academic excellence and financial need. The program, initially funded by Parents’ Council members, seeks to provide financial support for at least two 1834 Scholars in every class.

Gary Kosinski (P ’25, ’26) and Penny Kosinski (P ’25, ’26), Parents’ Council members from Ocean Ridge, Florida, were among the first parents to join the effort. “When you look back (on your life), you want to make sure that you had a positive impact on your community,” Gary Kosinski said. “For at least the next four or five years, Wake is going to be our community.”

Gary Kosinski’s aunt and uncle and several nephews graduated from Wake Forest, so he and his wife were already familiar with the University. When their older daughter enrolled last fall, they decided they wanted to be involved and make a difference.

Kosinski said he hopes the 1834 scholarship will “help attract great students who will have a positive impact on the school and community and eclectic young people with the potential to become leaders. Often, you’ll find that those students have overcome adversity of one kind or another and are great candidates for this type of program.”

Dave and Catherine Clawson Scholarship
Football Coach Dave Clawson and his wife, Catherine, answered Wente’s call with a $250,000 gift. Their scholarship will be awarded to an undergraduate, with a preference for students from the Piedmont Triad, first-generation students and students who help contribute to the diversity of the student body.

“This is the longest that we’ve ever lived anywhere,” said Clawson, who is in his ninth year at Wake Forest. “This is where both of our children consider home. We wanted to make an investment in Wake Forest and in the community that we now consider our home.”

The scholarship is not an athletic scholarship, he noted. “We felt really strongly that we wanted this to allow somebody in Winston-Salem or Forsyth County to attend Wake Forest who was qualified but who might not have the opportunity because of finances. We want this to go to someone who has worked really hard in the classroom, who’s a dedicated student and who will make Wake Forest a better place.”

Clawson played football at Williams College, which didn’t offer athletic scholarships. His parents helped pay for his education, with the expectation that he would work during the summer. “I worked at the landfill doing every job you could imagine. I was a garbage collector. I painted dumpsters. I drove a dump truck. I unloaded trucks with all different types of waste in them. My mom and dad were supportive, but they wanted me to do my part as well.”

To support the For Humanity initiative, contact Mike Haggas (P ’21), assistant dean, College development, at haggasm@wfu.edu.
It has given me so much joy to have served as Alumni Council president of our beloved alma mater! I am moved by the resilience of our community in the face of all the changes that the last two years have brought us. It gives me tremendous pleasure to welcome my friend Jane Owens Cage ('78) from Joplin, Missouri, as the next Alumni Council president.

Mary Tribble ('82, MA '19), the senior advisor for engagement strategies in the Alumni Engagement office for the last seven years, has announced her plans to retire. Mary has enhanced the alumni experience by reimagining Homecoming with Party So Dear, starting new programs such as the Streakin’ Deacon road tour, Camp Third Act and Wake Women’s Weekend, and strengthening the mission of the Wake Forest Historical Museum. We’re grateful for all that Mary has done!

Onward and upward! Go Deacs!

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

Alumni Admissions Forum | aaf.alumni.wfu.edu

Alumni and their high-school-age children are invited to the biannual Alumni Admissions Forum on campus on Nov. 11. Whether your child is interested in Wake Forest or another college, you can learn about the college admissions process from the Wake Forest admissions team. Tour the campus with other alumni families and learn more about the programs that make Wake Forest so special.

Lovefeast, Dec. 4 | lovefeast.wfu.edu

There is perhaps no more beautiful sight at Wake Forest than when a dark Wait Chapel slowly brightens as 2,000 people pass the light of beeswax candles from person to person during the annual Lovefeast. Join alumni, students and local residents in Wait Chapel on Dec. 4 or watch the livestream from home. If you’d like to prepare your own Lovefeast for friends and family, visit lovefeast.wfu.edu for recipes for the traditional Lovefeast buns and coffee and information on local bakeries that sell the Lovefeast bun mix and candles.

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

Join other alumni on a once-in-a-lifetime voyage to explore Antarctica and the South Shetland Islands. The 12-day adventure begins Jan. 11, with an optional pre-tour visit to Buenos Aires and a post-tour visit to Iguazú Falls. Reservations are also being accepted for trips to the Galapagos Islands (March 28-April 4) and Southeast Alaska (Aug. 11-18). Visit the travel website or contact Vada Lou Cottrill ('85, P '13, '16) at cottrivl@wfu.edu.
1940s

Doug Aldrich (’44, DDiv ’67) celebrated his 100th birthday on Dec. 26, 2021. He retired in 1985 from full-time ministry but continued in interim ministry in 12 churches for another 20 years. He established the Edna and Douglas Aldrich Scholarship in the Wake Forest School of Divinity. His daughter, Judy Aldrich Planer (’71, P ’99), and son, Joe Aldrich (’73), are also alumni. He lives in Charlotte.

1950s

Major B. Harding (’57, JD ’59) received the Susan Rosenblatt Lifetime Achievement Award, given by the Florida Supreme Court Historical Society, in recognition of his distinguished judicial career and devotion to improving the lives of others. Harding served on Florida’s Supreme Court from 1991-2002 and was chief justice from 1998-2000. He and his wife, Jane Lewis Harding (’58), have served on the historical society board of trustees for more than 25 years.

George Braswell (’58, P ’81, ’92) has written “14 Journeys: Learning to Engage with Christian Civility and Charity in an Increasingly Pluralistic World” on his encounters with religious leaders in different faith traditions. He is professor emeritus of missions and world religions at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and retired professor of world religions at Campbell University Divinity School. He and his wife, Joan Owen Braswell (’58, P ’81, ’92), were the first Southern Baptist missionaries to Iran from 1968-1974. They live in Wake Forest, NC.

1960s

Dallas Clark (’65, JD ’68) won an honorable mention in the general fiction category of the 2022 Los Angeles Book Festival for his debut novel, “The Investigation Officer’s File.” The book is based on Clark’s experiences as a lawyer in the U.S. Marines in Vietnam and Okinawa, Japan. It tells the story about a case in which a Marine is convicted of charges relating to the murder of an officer by grenade, but doubt arises about his guilt.

Barbara B. Leonard (’65, P ’92) was recognized for her 32 years on the board of trustees at Davidson-Davie (NC) Community College, including serving as chair.

Richard S. Towers (JD ’68) received the 2021 Chief Justice’s Professionalism Award for his dedication to professionalism and public service from North Carolina Chief Justice Paul Newby. Towers has been an attorney in High Point, NC, since 1976.

1970s

Rick Gentry (’70) received a special award recognizing his 50 years of service in affordable housing from the San Diego Housing Federation. Gentry was president and CEO of the San Diego Housing Commission from 2008 to last March. He also led housing authorities in Austin, TX, and Richmond, VA, and held leadership positions at organizations that finance affordable housing and community redevelopment. He received the Outstanding Professional of the Year Award from the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials in 2017.


Thomas “Tom” Jones (’70) was inducted into the Athletic Wall of Honor at Decatur High School in Decatur, GA, where he was a baseball player and an all-state football player. He had a 45-year coaching career as an assistant and head football coach and head baseball coach. He was a three-year starter on the Wake Forest football team and was an assistant coach on the 1970 ACC Championship team. He lives in Hoschton, GA.

Beth Eddins Laughridge (’71, MA ’75) joined the board of directors of the Wake Forest College Birthplace Society, which operates the Wake Forest Historical Museum and the Dr. Calvin Jones House in Wake Forest, NC. She is a fifth generation Wake Forest graduate and previously served on the Wake Forest Alumni Council. She and her husband, Digit (’69), live on a farm in Campobello, SC. Two of their three children, Meredith L. Cross (’04) and Matt Laughridge (’09), are also alumni.

Tim Quigg (’71) rejoined the board of directors of the Wake Forest College Birthplace Society, which operates the Wake Forest Historical Museum and the Dr. Calvin Jones House in Wake Forest, NC. He and his wife, Kathryn Watson Quigg (’71), a former board member, have lived in the town of Wake Forest since 1979. He is retired associate chair of the computer science department at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Clyde Jameson Smith (MS ’71) retired after 30 years as a physics teacher at the South Carolina Governor’s School for Science and Mathematics. He sponsored the student chess club, which won 14 state scholastic chess championships. His Wake Forest physics professors contributed greatly to his understanding of physics and his teaching skills. He received a doctorate from the University of South Carolina and spent 10 years in higher education before joining the governor’s school. He and his wife, Vicki, live in Hartsville, SC. He enjoys teaching Bible studies at church and online chess lessons for the South Carolina 4-H chess club.

Laura Stringfellow Wilson (’71) wrote her second young adult novel, “Queen for a Day,” which captures the spirit of the Southeast in the 1950s and the teenaged mindset of any time.

Howard Williams (JD ’72, P ’03) was named to the 2022 edition of Chambers USA: America’s Leading Lawyers for Business in tax law. He is a partner in the Greensboro, NC, office of Brooks, Pierce, McLendon, Humphrey & Leonard LLP.

Saleem Peeradina (MA ’73) has written his 10th book, “An Arc in Time,” a collection of essays and cultural chronicles from his 50 years writing literary journalism in India. He is professor emeritus at Siena Heights University in Adrian, MI, and a poet.

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

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

EMAIL:
classnotes@wfu.edu

ONLINE:
magazine.wfu.edu/class-notes/submit/
Steven J. Sweeney ('73) wrote “The Night After the Christmas,” a children’s book that brings to life the true meaning of Christmas for young and old alike. He lives in St. Augustine, FL.

Cecil Whiteley (JD '73) received the 2022 Citizen Lawyer Award from the North Carolina Bar Association. He received the John B. McMillan Distinguished Service Award from the North Carolina State Bar in 2016. Whiteley is an attorney with Whiteley, Jordan, Inge & Rary PA in Salisbury, NC, and has more than 40 years of experience in criminal, traffic and domestic law.

Phil Thrailkill ('75) taught the Gospel of Luke for two weeks at the Wesleyan United Methodist Training College in Nairobi, Kenya, in April. He has also written a book, “Following Jesus: Discipleship in the Gospel of Luke and Beyond.”

Forrest “Don” Bridges Sr. (JD ’77, P ’03) received the 2020 Chief Justice’s Professionalism Award for his dedication to professionalism and public service from North Carolina Chief Justice Paul Newby. Bridges is the senior resident Superior Court judge for District 27B (Cleveland and Lincoln counties).

Elaine Smith Cooke ('77) joined the board of directors of the Wake Forest College Birthplace Society, which operates the Wake Forest Historical Museum and the Dr. Calvin Jones House in Wake Forest, NC. She is also a member of the Z. Smith Reynolds Library Board of Visitors. She and her husband, John ('75, JD '78), live in Raleigh. Their son, Jason Cooke, graduated from Wake Forest in 2010.

Arthur D. Anastopoulos (MA ’79) developed ACCESS (Accessing Campus Connections & Empowering Student Success), a cognitive-behavioral therapy program for college students with ADHD. He is the lead author of a clinical guide, “CBT for College Students with ADHD.” Anastopoulos is professor emeritus in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at UNC Greensboro, where he also served as director of the ADHD Clinic for 25 years.

James “Chip” Burrus ('79, JD ’83) is vice president of corporate security at Penske Media, publisher of digital and print brands, including Variety, Rolling Stone, WWD, Billboard, Deadline Hollywood, Hollywood Life and The Hollywood Reporter. He is based in Park City, UT.

Carla Damron ('79) has written a new novel, “The Orchid Tattoo,” a thriller that exposes the dark realities of human trafficking. Damron is a social worker, justice advocate and author who uses her experiences in her novels. She was named by NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) as an Outstanding Mental Health Professional of the Year.

Terri L. Shelton (MA ’79) received the Engagement Scholarship Consortium’s 2022 Distinguished Engaged Scholar Award, which recognizes exemplary contributions to community-engaged scholarship at higher education institutions. Shelton is vice chancellor for research and engagement at UNC Greensboro.

Bob Singer (JD ’79) was named to the 2022 edition of Chambers USA: America’s Leading Lawyers for Business in banking and finance. He is a partner in the Greensboro, NC, office of Brooks, Pierce, McLendon, Humphrey & Leonard LLP.

Barbee Myers Oakes ('80, MA ’81) was named the first chief diversity officer of the American Accounting Association, based in Lakewood Ranch, FL. She had been chief diversity officer at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and assistant provost for diversity and inclusion at Wake Forest.

Stephen “Steve” J. Owens (JD ’80) was named senior counsel at Husch Blackwell LLP in Kansas City, MO. Previously, he was general counsel of the University of Missouri System for 14 years.

Gerald F. Roach (’80, JD ’82, P ’09, ’12) was named to the 2022 edition of Chambers USA: America’s Leading Lawyers for Business in corporate/mergers and acquisitions. He is firm chair at Smith Anderson in Raleigh and past chair of Wake Forest’s Board of Trustees.

Sandy Barbour ('81) was named the Sports Business Journal’s Athletic Director of the Year. She retired this summer as Penn State’s vice president for intercollegiate athletics, concluding her 41-year career.

Michael Jeske ('81, P ’17) retired as vice president-corporate controller after more than 33 years at Hanesbrands Inc. He was elected to the board of directors of the Senior Services Foundation in Winston-Salem. He and his wife, Lea Anne (P ’17), live in Clemmons, NC.

Rick O. Kopf (JD ’81, P ’09) was recognized in the 2022 edition of Chambers USA in his practice area (real estate law). He is a founding partner and shareholder in the Dallas office of Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harlan PC.

John R. Nelson ('81, MD '85) received the 2022 Achievement Award from Wake Forest University School of Medicine’s Medical Alumni Association. He is one of the principal founders and architects of the specialty of hospital medicine (hospitalists) and remains a national leader in the field. After completing his internal medicine residency training in 1988, he became one of the nation’s early hospitalists and co-founded the Society of Hospital Medicine in 1997. He is at Overlake Medical Center in Bellevue, WA, where he started the hospital medicine and palliative care services.

William T. Corbett ('82, P ’23) was named to the 2022 New Jersey Super Lawyers list in insurance coverage. He is a partner in the insurance and reinsurance services group at Coughlin Midile & Garland LLP in Morristown, NJ. He received his JD from the University of Connecticut School of Law.

James J.S. Johnson ('82) completed his doctor of ministry degree from Tyndale Theological Seminary in Hurst, TX. Taking Hebrew and Aramaic at Wake Forest was a huge help for the program. Johnson lives in Double Oak, TX.

Bryan Fichter ('83) retired after 38 years with the National Security Agency as a linguist and intelligence analyst. He received numerous awards and commendations for his work from other government agencies and combatant commands. He and his wife, Debbie, live in Ellicott City, MD.

Neal Jones (’83) retired as the minister of Main Line Unitarian Church in Devon, PA. He is a clinical psychologist and has joined the team of therapists at The Psgah Institute in Asheville, NC.

Suzanne Moyers (’84) has written her debut novel, “’Til All These Things Be Done,” about a young woman grappling with her father’s disappearance in 1919 and how that mystery unravels across her lifetime. Moyers has spent much of her career as a writer and editor for educational publishers. She and her husband, Edward Martin, live in Montclair, NJ. Their son, Jassi Martin, is a senior at Wake Forest. Their daughter, Sara Jane Martin, is taking a gap year before going to college.

Jim Phillips (JD ’84) was named to the 2022 edition of Chambers USA: America’s Leading Lawyers for Business in litigation: general commercial. He is a partner in the Greensboro, NC, office of Brooks, Pierce, McLendon, Humphrey & Leonard LLP.

David C. Pollock ('84, MD '92) was recognized by Continental Who’s Who as a Top Pinnacle Orthopedic Surgeon. He is a professor and section chief of adult reconstruction in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist in Winston-Salem.

Mike Mitchell (’86, JD ’89, P ’18) was named to the 2022 edition of Chambers USA: America’s Leading Lawyers for Business in litigation: general commercial. He is an attorney at Smith Anderson in Raleigh.
Billy Andrade ('87) received the PGA Tour’s Payne Stewart Award. The award is presented annually to a professional golfer who exemplifies character, charity and sportsmanship. Andrade has enjoyed a 35-year career on the PGA Tour and the PGA Tour Champions. A four-time All-ACC golfer, he played on Wake Forest’s 1986 NCAA championship team under coach Jesse Haddock ('52, P ’68) and was inducted into the Wake Forest Sports Hall of Fame in 2004. He is the third former Wake Forest golfer to win the award after Arnold Palmer ('51, LLD ’70) and Jay Haas ('76, P ’04, ’09). He lives in Atlanta with his wife, Jody Reedy Andrade ('88).

Doug Graham ('87) was named president of The American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncolgy. He is chief of the Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta and the division chief of pediatric hematology/oncology/BMT at Emory University.

Bob King (JD ‘88) was named to the 2022 edition of Chambers USA: America’s Leading Lawyers for Business in environmental law. He is a partner in the Greensboro, NC, office of Brooks, Pierce, McLendon, Humphrey & Leonard LLP.

Scott Muri ('88) was appointed by Texas Gov. Gregg Abbott to the State Board for Educator Certification and by Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick to the Texas Broadband Development Office Board of Advisors. Muri lives in Odessa, TX, and is superintendent of schools for the Ector County Independent School District. He earned his master’s degree from Stetson University and his Ed.D. from Wingate University.

LD Russell (MA ’88) has received the Daniels-Danieley Award in Excellence in Teaching from Elon University. His lecture on Hinduism, one installment of his Whirlwind Tour of World Religions given at Elon in 2014, has garnered over 1.5 million views on YouTube. After teaching at Elon for 30 years, he is beginning a two-year phased retirement.

Bruce Thompson ('88, JD ’94) was recognized by Best Lawyers in America in administrative/regulatory law and government relations practice. He is a partner at Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP in the Washington, DC, and Raleigh offices. He is an adjunct professor at the Wake Forest School of Law.

Robert “Rob” Outland III ('89) joined the board of directors of the Wake Forest College Birthplace Society, which operates the Wake Forest Historical Museum and the Dr. Calvin Jones House in Wake Forest, NC. He also serves on the Wake Forest Board of Visitors. He is a third generation alumnus. Outland and his wife, Barbara (P ’21, ’25), live in his hometown of Rich Square, NC, where he runs his family’s farming operation. Their son, Robert “Robby” Outland IV, graduated in 2021, and their daughter, Mary Outland, is a sophomore at Wake Forest.

Susan F. Wiltse (JD ’89) was named one of Virginia Lawyer Weekly’s 2022 Influential Women of Law. She is a partner in the Washington, DC, office of Hunton Andrews Kurth. She focuses on labor, employment and OSHA compliance, pandemic preparedness and response, litigation and defense.

1990s

Forrest Campbell (JD ’90, P ’14) was named to the 2022 edition of Chambers USA: America’s Leading Lawyers for Business in healthcare law. He is a partner in the Greensboro, NC, office of Brooks, Pierce, McLendon, Humphrey & Leonard LLP.


Anne Hamrick Pasco ('91) was named assistant superintendent of information, systems and technology for Polk County Schools (FL), one of the 30 largest school districts in the United States.

Catherine Caldwell Wells ('91, P ’22) was elected president of NC Grange Mutual Insurance Company. She lives in Greensboro, NC, with her husband, Robert Wells (JD ’96, P ’22).

Tricia Goodson ('92, JD ’96) was named to the 2022 edition of Chambers USA: America’s Leading Lawyers for Business in labor and employment law. She is a partner in the Raleigh office of Brooks, Pierce, McLendon, Humphrey & Leonard LLP.


John Currie ('93) was named one of the 2021-2022 Cushman & Wakefield Athletics Directors of the Year by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics. He was one of four Football Bowl Subdivision athletic directors honored. Currie was named athletics director at Wake Forest in 2019.
Catherine Hogwood Fowler ('92) is co-director for the U.S. Department of Education-funded National Technical Assistance Center on Transition: the Collaborative, which supports state agencies across the country to provide services for secondary students and out-of-school youth with disabilities. She is also an adjunct instructor at UNC Charlotte.

Andrew Snorton ('93) completed his second term on the Wake Forest School of Divinity Board of Visitors. He is the author of three books and The Author’s Mixtape audiobook series. He was an author at the Juneteenth Community Celebration in Bloomingom, IL, and will be part of the Louisville (KY) Book Festival in October. He is the media coordinator for #AlphaDerbyWeekend, a fundraising event by the Alphas of Atlanta Foundation Inc.

Charles Walker ('93) is a visual artist and author who has exhibited his paintings nationwide for 30 years. His work is in prominent corporate, private and university collections, including Wake Forest’s. His first novel, “Open Shadow,” was published in May. After years in Los Angeles and Dallas, he returned to Winston-Salem with his wife, Katie Womack, and their award-winning cat, Loco, honored with the vet’s certificate of bravery.

Jennifer Van Zant (JD ‘94) was named to the 2022 edition of Chambers USA: America’s Leading Lawyers for Business in antitrust law. She is a partner in the Greensboro, NC, office of Brooks, Pierce, McLendon, Humphrey & Leonard LLP.

Curtis Brewer (JD ’95) was named to the 2022 edition of Chambers USA: America’s Leading Lawyers for Business in banking and finance. He is a partner at Smith Anderson in Raleigh.


Allison E. McWilliams ('95) received the Mentor of the Year Award from the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE). She is assistant vice president of mentoring and alumni personal and career development at Wake Forest. She was also part of the team at Wake Forest that received NACE’s Career Services Excellence Award for the program, “Your First Five: Supporting the College to Career Transition and Beyond.” The program is run through the Alumni Personal and Career Development Center, led by McWilliams, associate director Lauren Rogers Beam ('07) and assistant director Megan Bosworth Hoyt ('12).

James E. Quander ('95, JD '98) joined the Winston-Salem office of law firm Womble Bond Dickinson as of counsel. He is a North Carolina board certified specialist in state and federal criminal law. His practice focuses on complex criminal litigation and white-collar cases. He has tried more than 50 jury cases in the last five years and regularly appears in courts throughout the Southeast.

Jude Stewart ('96) wrote “Revelations in Air: A Guidebook to Smell.” Her latest book explores the history, mysteries, poetry, science and cultural and social influences of the human sense of smell. She lives in Chicago with her husband, Seth Brodsky ('97), and their son. More at bit.ly/3ICLXLQ.

Graham Honaker ('97) is the co-author of “Unbracketed: How Four College Basketball Programs Burst the Bubble.” The book examines how Villanova, Gonzaga, Davidson and Loyola Chicago leveraged their “Cinderella” NCAA tournament runs into a lasting narrative of big-time college athletics done the right way. Honaker has worked at Butler University since 2012 and is executive director of principal gifts. He is also the co-author of "The Cinderella Strategy: The Game Plan Behind Butler University's Rise to Prominence.”

Turner Lewis ('97), a radiologist in Richmond, VA, has launched a line of golf-themed canned cocktail beverages called Fore Craft Cocktails. He and his wife, Burns, distributed the beverages to golf venues across Virginia. The company has signed with Republic National Distributing Company, shipping beverages to 42 states as of this summer.

Sarah Braughler ('98) was promoted to vice president for risk management at United Educators Insurance (UE), a reciprocal risk retention group serving K-12 schools, colleges and universities. She was associate vice president for risk management. Braughler co-authored “Risk Management: An Accountability Guide for University and College Boards, Second Edition” with Janice Abraham, CEO and president of UE. Braughler lives in the Washington, DC, area with her husband and three children.

Andrew “Andy” Dockham ('98) was named a partner in the law firm Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati in Washington, DC, in the strategic risk and crisis management group. For 12 years, he was the chief legal adviser to the top Republican on key investigative committees in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, most recently as chief counsel and deputy staff director for retiring U.S. Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio.

Obadiah “Obie” G. English ('98) achieved a landmark decision in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, “Trust Under Will of Augustus Ashton.” He is a partner at the law firm Mannion Prior LLP in King of Prussia, PA.

Brad Evans ('98, JD '02) was named to Business North Carolina’s 2022 Power List for the second consecutive year. He is a co-managing director at Ward and Smith PA in Greenville, NC. He specializes in civil litigation, trade-secret misappropriation, intellectual property infringement, corporate dissolution and antitrust disputes.

Catherine Mitchell Jaxon ('98) and her husband, James Jay “JJ” Jaxon, of Atlanta teamed with a renowned pediatric allergist to launch Mission MightyMe Proactive Peanut Puffs, a soft, quick-dissolving snack for infants to help reduce the likelihood they will develop nut allergies. The Jaxons were motivated by their oldest daughter’s severe allergies. The product was a finalist in Fast Company magazine’s 2021 World Changing Ideas Awards, honoring innovation for the good of society and the planet. More at bit.ly/3IvyLXn.

Coe Ramsey (JD ’98) was named to the 2022 edition of Chambers USA: America’s Leading Lawyers for Business in intellectual property. He is a partner in the Raleigh office of Brooks, Pierce, McLendon, Humphrey & Leonard LLP.

Amie C. Sivon ('98) was elected treasurer of the North Carolina Bar Association appellate practice section. She is a partner at Ragsdale Liggett in Raleigh.

Stephen E. Anderson (MBA ‘99) was named chief financial officer at the Carroll Companies, a real estate development and management company based in Greensboro, NC. He oversees all construction and real estate management financial activities for the company. He lives in Winston-Salem with his wife, Lauren Paige Richardson Anderson ('98), and their daughters, Shannon, Megan and Isabelle.

Andrew Lampros (JD '99) has an active trial and litigation practice at Hall & Lampros LLP in Atlanta. He represented the family of a Black man killed by a Georgia state trooper in 2020 and negotiated a $4.8 million settlement between the man’s family and the state, a record civil rights settlement with the state of Georgia.
Katherine Bradley Martin ('99) has written a book, “The Colorful Image of God: A White Christian’s Guide to Doing Better,” based on her spiritual awakening to race and racism while working in the social justice and education space. She organizes the book around a quote from her former professor, Maya Angelou (LHD ‘77): “Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better.” Martin lives in Charlotte.

Nicole Moniz ('99) was promoted to director at Goulston & Storrs in Boston, where she is a corporate finance attorney who handles complex institutional banking, commercial and real estate finance deals. She has been recognized in Best Lawyers in America: Ones to Watch in banking and finance since its inaugural edition in 2021. She graduated from Boston College Law School in 2011.

Donyell Phillips Roseboro (MA ‘99) received the 2022 John L. Sanders Student Advocate Award, the highest honor bestowed by the University of North Carolina Association of Student Governments, which recognizes individuals who advocate for the best interests of North Carolina students. Roseboro is a professor and chief diversity officer at UNC Wilmington.

2000

Frank Guido (MBA ‘00, P ‘17) launched Piedmont eBikes in Winston-Salem, an electric bike retailer specializing in premium eBike brands for roads, mountains, forest trails, cities and commuting. Previously, he spent 35 years in the corporate world.

Gretchen Hollar Kirkman (JD ‘00) was appointed by North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper as a district court judge in District 17B for Surry and Stokes counties. She was in private practice in Mount Airy, NC.

David Nathan-Allen Sims ('00) is general counsel and vice president of development for JAMZ Cheer & Dance, the second largest producer of cheerleading and dance events, education, camps and competitions in the United States. He is also executive director of the Youth and Cheer Dance Alliance, which governs rules, safety and education in youth and recreation cheerleading and dance. Sims, his husband, Landon Loeber, and 9-year-old son, Eli, live in Boise, ID.

2001

Jarrod Atchison ('01, MA ‘03) co-wrote “Milestones: Defining Lists of Wake Forest Debate, 1835-2022” with Wake Forest Professor of Communication Allan Louden. Atchison is associate professor of communication and the John Kevin Medica Director of Debate at Wake Forest.

Cameron Cole ('01, MAEd ‘02) edited a book, “The Jesus I Wish I Knew in High School,” a devotional for teenagers. Anna Meade Harris ('90) and Dawson Drinkard Cooper ('08) contributed to the book. Cole is director of Youth Ministries at the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham, AL, and founding chair of Rooted Ministry, an organization that promotes gospel-centered youth ministry.

2002

Rachel Venuti Bullock ('02) was promoted to chief operating officer of Patron Technology, an event technology company. She has been with the company since 2018. She and her husband, Paul Bullock ('02), live in Los Angeles.

Amanda Morton ('02) joined the Indianapolis office of Quarles & Brady LLP as a partner in the business law practice group. She specializes in corporate, commercial finance and real estate matters.

James Raper (MAEd ‘02) was named Emory University’s first associate vice president for health, well-being, access, and prevention. He spent the last three years as Wake Forest’s first assistant vice president for health and wellbeing, after 17 years in the Wake Forest Counseling Center.

Michael Shusko (MD ‘02) was named chief medical officer of the Government Employees Health Association Inc. GEHA, based in Lee’s Summit, MO, is the largest dental and second largest medical benefits provider for federal employees, with 2 million current and retired federal employees and military retirees. Shusko has nearly 20 years of experience as a clinical physician, medical director and Navy medical officer. He retired from the U.S. Navy in 2020 after 35 years of military service, including 13 years in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Maria Toler Velissaris ('02) is founding partner of SteelSky Ventures, which manages $72 million in health care assets. Forbes named her company a top venture capital fund to watch, and she was named to Business Insider’s List of Rising Stars in Venture Capital. New York University, where she earned an MBA at the Stern School of Business, honored her with its 2020 Business Alumni Changemaker award. She lives in Atlanta. More at bit.ly/3lyPdN

2003

William “Bill” Bulfer (JD ‘03) was admitted to the American College of Coverage Counsel, an invitation-only organization of senior lawyers who have devoted most of their practice to insurance disputes for 15 years or more. Bulfer is a partner at Teague Campbell Dennis & Gorham LLP in Asheboro, NC, where he co-chairs the insurance coverage services group.


Tony Thomas (MBA ‘03) helped with the recent launch of Wake Forest’s student environment, social and governance competition, ESG@Wake. He is president and CEO of Windstream.

2004

Melanie Barnes ('04, MSA ’05) was named an audit partner at Sikich LLP. She and her husband, Chris Barnes ('03), live in Chicago.

Courtney Lee ('04) received a Standing Ovation Award from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants for her achievement in and contributions to the field of forensic accounting. She received her master of accounting from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. In the Harvard Business Analytics Program, she specialized in organizational strategy and data science pipelines. Harvard published her essay on the economics of ethics in artificial intelligence.

Cambra Overend ('04) was named to the Women to Watch on Broadway list by the Broadway Women’s Fund. She is a producer and co-founder of SRO Productions and an executive producer
of “Oslo,” which won a Critics’ Choice Award for Best Movie Made for Television and was nominated for two Emmy Awards and a Producers Guild of America Award.

2005

Nathalie Davis Bennett (’05) was named the 2022 Charlotte County School District (SC) Teacher of the Year. She is a sixth-grade math teacher at a Title 1 school and is in her 13th year of teaching.

Ashley Austin Edwards (’05) was named to the Charlotte Business Journal’s 40 Under 40 list. She is a partner at Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP and practice leader for the financial restructuring group. Edwards is a member of Parker Poe’s pro bono committee and averages more than 80 hours of pro bono services each year. She lives in Charlotte with her husband, Hunter Edwards (’05), and their two children.

Matt Gallagher (’05) spent two weeks in March in Lviv, Ukraine, training civilians to defend their city against the Russian invasion. His first-hand account of his time in Lviv was in Esquire magazine, and he was in a story on CNN. Gallagher served in the U.S. Army from 2005 to 2009 and is the author of several novels and a memoir, “Kaboom: Embracing the Suck in a Savage Little War,” about his time serving in Iraq. He moved from Brooklyn, NY, to Tulsa, OK, last year for a two-year Tulsa Artist Fellowship to teach and work on his next novel. More at bit.ly/3wqeMa3

Vincent Guglielmotti (JD ’05) was elected CEO of Brown Rudnick LLP and chair of the firm’s management committee. He is a tax partner in the New York office and was previously managing director of the corporate and capital markets department. At 41, he is the youngest partner to join the firm.

2006

Ramelle McCall (MDiv ’06) was called to serve as canon for leadership in the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina in Charleston. He was rector of the Church of the Holy Trinity in Baltimore and an urban missioner.

Shelley Graves Sizemore (’06, MA ’09) was named director of the Women’s Center at Wake Forest after 13 years in the Office of Civic and Community Engagement.

2007

Lauren Rogers Beam (’07) was part of a team at Wake Forest that received the Career Services Excellence Award from the National Association of Colleges and Employers. The award recognized the program, “Your First Five: Supporting the College to Career Transition and Beyond,” run through the Alumni Personal and Career Development Center. Beam is associate director of the center. Two of her colleagues were also recognized: assistant director Megan Bosworth Hoyt (’12) and Allison E. McWilliams (’95), assistant vice president of mentoring and alumni personal and career development.

Emily Hart Cobb Breece (’07) joined the Atlanta office of Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP as counsel.

Brooks Sterritt (’07) wrote his first novel, “The History of America in My Lifetime,” which was praised by Pulitzer Prize finalist Luis Alberto Urrea, among others. Sterritt lives in Victoria, TX.

Ben Wood (MD ’07) joined Chapter Aesthetic Studio as chief medical officer, based in Raleigh. He is a board-certified plastic surgeon with expertise in non-surgical aesthetic treatments.

2008

Andrew Smith (’08, MAEd ’09) was appointed assistant superintendent of innovation in the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Previously, he was the chief administrative and strategic planning officer in Rowan-Salisbury Schools (NC). He lives in Rowan County (NC).

2009

Frank E. Schall (JD ’09) was selected as one of Law360’s Rising Stars in the white collar category. He is a member at Moore & Van Allen in Charlotte.

2010

Edward G. Shaw (MA ’10) received the 2022 Faculty Award from Wake Forest University School of Medicine’s Medical Alumni Association. He was a professor and chair of radiation oncology at the School of Medicine and director of clinical research at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Comprehensive Cancer Center. After his late wife, Rebecca, was diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer’s disease, he earned a master’s degree in counseling at Wake Forest. He established the Memory Counseling Program in the medical school’s Section of Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine and was the first Rebecca E. Shaw Professor of Geriatrics.

2012

Megan Bosworth Hoyt (’12) was part of a team at Wake Forest that received the Career Services Excellence Award from the National Association of Colleges and Employers. The award recognized the program, “Your First Five: Supporting the College to Career Transition and Beyond,” run through the Alumni Personal and Career Development Center. Hoyt is assistant director of the center. Two of her colleagues were also recognized: associate director Lauren Rogers Beam (’07) and Allison E. McWilliams (’95), assistant vice president of mentoring and alumni personal and career development.

2013

Perrin B. Fourmy (JD ’13) was elected a partner at Bell Nunnally & Martin LLP, a Dallas-based law firm. He practices civil litigation in state and federal matters.

Corvaya Jeffries (’13) was named manager of audience development overseeing email marketing and SMS strategy at REVOLT, a media company in Miami.

Mykala Walker (’13) was named assistant coach and recruiting coordinator for the women’s basketball team at Arizona State University. She was an assistant coach with the University of Delaware women’s basketball team; in 2022 the Blue Hens won the Colonial Athletic Association Championship and received a bid to the NCAA women’s basketball tournament. Walker played on the Wake Forest women’s basketball team from 2009-13 and earned her master’s in sports industry management from Georgetown University.
2014

Brittany Whitaker Lavis (MBA ’14) was appointed group chief executive officer of Detroit Medical Center. She was the group chief financial officer.

Celia Quillian (’14) graduated as valedictorian from Emory University’s Goizueta Business School, where she completed the evening MBA program. She was class president and worked full-time as a product marketing manager at an Atlanta unicorn startup, Greenlight. She attributes her success to the leadership, collaboration and time management skills learned through her theatre major at Wake Forest.

2016

Rolf Garcia-Gallont (JD ’16) is associate general counsel at PSPDFKit. He lives in Winston-Salem.

David Hanks (’16, MSBA ’20) was promoted to product information, compliance and analytics manager at Big Rock Sports LLC, one of the largest outdoor sporting goods distributors in North America. He is based in the Graham, NC, office and lives in Raleigh.

William A. Neinast (’16) has joined Fox Rothschild LLP in Greenville, SC, as an associate in the litigation department. He received his JD from the University of South Carolina School of Law.

Kenneth A. Pettigrew (MDiv ’16) was named executive director of the Winston Lake Family YMCA by the YMCA of Northwest North Carolina. He will oversee branch operations and community partnerships. Previously, he was chief operating officer of the Winston-Salem Urban League.

Phillip Weinstein (’16) was named one of Nashville’s Top 30 Under 30 professional and philanthropic leaders for 2022 by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. He is a senior associate at Ankura Consulting Group LLC.

2017

Luis F. Benavides Jr. (JD/MBA ’17) was named to the Hispanic National Bar Association’s Top Lawyers Under 40 list. He is a debt finance lawyer at McGuireWoods LLP in Charlotte, where he represents lenders and borrowers in finance transactions.

Christine Trethaway Fariss (MBA ’17) is owner and president of Hayden Design, a leading female-owned interior design firm, in Winston-Salem.

2018

Alex Colorado (MSM ’18) joined the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency as a staff

IT’S ABOUT LIVING

When talking about gift planning, it’s difficult for many to get past the idea of no longer being here. We understand. But we’d like to offer you another perspective, one that’s centered around the connection between vitality and opportunity, and the fulfillment found in empowering others to live their best lives.

When it comes to gift planning, you have options. We’d love the chance to discuss them with you.

Shaida Horner, Associate Vice President, Gift Planning at hornersj@wfu.edu or 336-758-4696
Please visit wfugift.org to learn more about including Wake Forest University in your estate plan and lifetime membership in the Wake Forest Legacy Society.
action officer to the deputy director. He supports senior leadership and assists in the execution of strategic initiatives, policies and programs.

Meg Schmit (‘18) joined J.Jill, a national retailer of women’s apparel and accessories, as a copywriter in the Boston area. She is a former Wake Forest Magazine intern.

Allison Thompson (‘18) was named a semifinalist in the 2022 Miss Rhode Island USA competition. She is the project manager at Shore-Creative, a graphic design agency based in Newport, RI.

Will Zalatoris (‘18) won the FedEx St. Jude Championship in August, his first PGA Tour title. He was runner-up at the U.S. Open at The Country Club in Brookline, MA, in June. He also finished second at the 2022 PGA Championship and the 2021 Masters. He was the PGA Tour Rookie of the Year last season.

2019

Lyndsey Hannah (‘19) is one of 13 fellows in the 2022-2023 Capitol Hill Fellows Program, which places Teach for America alumni in full-time congressional staff positions in Washington, DC. She taught in New Orleans through Teach for America after graduation.

Jennifer Kupcho (‘19) won the Meijer LPGA Classic for Simply Give in a three-way playoff at the Blythefield Country Club in Belmont, MI, in June. She joins Laura Philo Diaz (‘97) as the only Demon Deacon to win two LPGA titles in a season. Kupcho won her first major title at the Chevron Championship in April at Mission Hills Country Club in Rancho Mirage, CA. She won the inaugural Augusta National Women’s Amateur in 2019 and the NCAA individual women’s golf championship in 2018.

Chuck Wade Jr. (‘19) has returned to the Wake Forest football program as an offensive analyst. Wade played wide receiver for three years before becoming a defensive back. He was a team captain his senior year. After he graduated, he was a marketing intern with the ACC and defensive backs coach for his Jacksonville, FL, high school football team.

Cameron Young (‘19) finished second at the 2022 British Open at the historic Old Course at St. Andrews, Scotland, in July and tied for third at the 2022 PGA Championship at Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa, OK, in May.

2020

Justin K. Bartee (‘20) was named regional sales manager of the Washington Capitals, a National Hockey League team in Washington, DC. Bartee played football at Wake Forest.

Wubetu Shimelash (‘20) wrote and directed a short film, “Countryless Woman,” a political drama about an Ethiopian activist who immigrates to the United States after being forced to leave her country. It won Best Drama at the Hollywood Gold Awards and Best Indie Short Film at the New York Movie Awards.

2021

Zach Hutchinson (JD ‘21) joined the law office of Alexander Ricks in Charlotte as an associate attorney. He focuses on mergers and acquisitions, corporate finance and corporate lending.

Patrick “Cade” Spivey (JD ‘21) joined Boyd & Jenerette PA as an associate attorney in the Jackonville, FL, office. He earned his undergraduate degree from the U.S. Naval Academy and was a U.S. Navy surface warfare officer.

Madeline Coelho (‘22) joined University Advancement at Wake Forest as coordinator, Presidential Advancement. She studied communication and education at Wake Forest and was a student adviser, tutor and member of Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity. She is originally from Hilmar, CA.

2022

David John Middleton III (‘81) and Mary Michel Dalton (‘83), 1/1/22 on the stage of the Carolina Theatre in Greensboro, NC. They live in Jamestown, NC.

Randall Thomas Husbands (‘82) and Rena Lehrer Hellberg, 4/23/22 in Wilmington, DE, where they live.

David Nathan-Allen Sims (‘00) and Landon Ted Loeb, 12/01/21 in Boise, ID, where they live.

Justin Rossel King (‘09) and Marja Gabrielle Brolinson, 6/18/22 in Cincinnati, OH. They live in Indianapolis and Bethesda, MD. The wedding party included McArn Bennett (‘09), Becka Brolinson (‘15), Dryw Davies (‘09), William Farmer (‘09) and Matthew Woeste (‘09, MSA ‘10).

Caroline Thornton Sutton (‘09) and William Eric Vogler, 3/5/22 in Raleigh, where they live. The wedding party included Austin Hester (‘09), Lukia Kloossis (‘09) and Darcy Delph Stanton (‘09).

Sarah Ann Sebton (‘13) and Daniel Stephen Steinberg, 10/21/22 in San Antonio, TX, where they live. The wedding party included Sara Feldman (‘13), Lauren Hiznay (‘13) and Katelyn McDonough (‘14).

Celia Quillian (‘14) and Neil Bancherosmith, 5/28/22 in Atlanta, where they live. The wedding party included Sarah Wheeler (‘12).

Sarah Martin (‘15, MD ‘20) and John Toliver Reel (‘15), 6/5/21 in Lexington, NC. They live in Cincinnati. The wedding party included Kyle Adamson (‘15), Alex Adcoch (‘14), Peyton Barr (‘15), Neha Garg (MD ‘20), Krissy Cantin Garside (‘14), Noland Griffith (‘15, MBA ‘23), Ted MacDonald (‘15), Rainsford Reel (JD ‘20), Candace Caughron Roberts (‘15), Jordan Schuler (‘15), Lynnee Vaughn (‘16) and Olivia Whitener (‘15).

Kathryn Thieman (‘16) and Matthew Cole (‘18), 4/9/22 in Hilton Head Island, SC. They live in New Orleans. The wedding party included Ali Daud (‘19), Sophia Faltin (‘16, MSM ‘17), Jud Millon (‘17), Kyle Rosenberg (‘18, MSBA ‘19), Daniel Sechtin (‘16) and Lauren Sussman (‘16).

Caitlin Rebecca Herlihy (‘17, JD ‘20) and Harris Walker Hickman (‘17, MSA ‘18), 8/28/21 in Charlotte, where they live. The wedding party included Nikiar Ahmad (‘17), Hannah Carter (JD ‘20), Kelli Geisel (‘17), Kyle Hamilton (JD ‘20), John “Daniel” Herlihy IV (‘11), Sally Hunt (‘17), Katherine Kacsr (JD/MA ‘20) and Samantha Moench (JD ‘20).

Matt Jamison (‘17, MD ‘22) and Lacey Worsham (‘17), 4/30/22 in Wake Forest, NC. They live in Boston. The wedding party included David Caliguire (‘17), Michael Hamanirian (‘17, MA ‘18), Kellin Jamison (‘21), Brendan Kemple (MD ‘22), Mike Mathieson (‘17), Ricky Nelson (‘17), Ethan Perellis (‘17), Shaitam Prabhu (MD ‘22), Sam Raffa (MD ‘22), Samantha Moore Stinson (‘17), Claire Tuffey (‘17), Maddie Wilder (‘19) and Charles Wilson (‘17).

Sebastian Luke Ivory (‘17) and Anny Kelly Sainvil, 7/9/22 in Rutherfordton, NC. They live in Middlefield, CT. The wedding party included Sebastian Serrato (‘18), Mitchell Tague (‘17, MA ‘20) and the father of the groom, James Ivory (‘85).

Ashley Elizabeth Farley (‘18) and Luis Antonio Herrera (‘18), 2/19/22 in Dallas, where they live. The wedding party included Blair Dunaway (‘19), Collins Earp (‘19), Petey Fabian (‘18), Ellie Bruggen Fiston (‘20), Alec Gannon (‘20), Larisa Hanger (‘19), Avery McClure (‘19), Guha Rajan (‘19), Conner Song (‘19), David VanEenenaam (‘19) and David Wolff (‘20).

Rebecca Hudson Hill (‘20, MAEd ‘21) and David Edwyn Wolff (‘20), 4/2/22 in Cashiers, NC. They live in Augusta, GA. The wedding party included Emily Biesel (‘20), Jay Dixon (‘20), Collins Earp (‘19, Luis Herrera (‘18), Carly Liebich (‘20, MSM ‘21), Guha Rajan (‘19), Alex Roege (‘20) and Caroline Wolff (‘23).
**Births**

Robert Leon Shaw Jr. ('21) and Jessica Lynn Shaw, Oviedo, FL: a daughter, Mackenzie Mary Frances. 9/10/21. She joined her sister, Meredith Riley (20).

Dennis E. Healy ('01) and Kelly Healy, Hanover, MA: a daughter, Hadley Mairead. 5/9/22. She joined her sisters, Hannah (12), Heather (5) and Harper (2).

Christopher Douglas Marks (MBA '03) and Marideth Rus, Houston: a son, Noah William Marks. 7/12/21. He joined his siblings, Ethan (17), Micaela (15) and Grayson (2).

Jaime Weisenberger Mountjoy ('03) and James Mountjoy, Newport News, VA: a daughter, Quinn Elizabeth. 8/19/21

Nicole Ashley Murphey ('03) and Brian J. Tych, Charlotte: a daughter, Philippa Maxine Tych. 3/25/22

Katherine Niemiec Van Lenten ('03) and Kevin Van Lenten, Lebanon, NJ: a daughter, Ayden Quinn. 11/3/21. She joined her sisters, Cara (12), Brynn (9) and Madelyn (7), and brother, James (3).

Courtney Lee ('04): adopted a daughter on 4/19/22

Katherine Rigby Oliver ('04) and Alexander Oliver, Atlanta: a son, Pennington Troy. 6/2/22

William Luke Orman ('04) and Elizabeth Prince Orman, Lynchburg, VA: a daughter, Leighton Quinn. 1/19/22. She joined her sister, Willa Elizabeth (2).

Carey Scheible Southern ('04) and Brian Southern, Land O' Lakes, FL: a son, Chase Michael. 1/10/22. He joined his sister, Adalind (4).

Sean Vincent Dolan ('05) and Caridad Dolan, Boston: a son, Nicholas James. 3/22/22

Dustie Lanier Erik ('06) and Karl Erik, Winston-Salem: a son, Oliver James. 3/21/22. He joined his sister, Anna Jane (2).

Ana Arnaudovitch Likman ('07) and Todd Edward Likman ('08): Denver: a son, Duncan Blaise. 2/22/22. He joined his sister, Isabel Rose (4).

Alexander Dadakis ('08) and Cassandra Dorris Dadakis ('08): Winnetka, IL: a son: Henry Lee. 2/26/22. He joined his brothers, William Alexander (6) and Jack Mackenzie (2), and sister, Anna Grace (4).

Lindsay Donohue Joo Kristiansen ('08) and Ørjan André Joo Kristiansen, Stavanger, Norway: a daughter, Amelia Gayle. 1/31/22

William Henry Parrish V ('08, MSM '10) and Alisaon Boy Parrish ('10): Richmond, VA: a daughter, Elizabeth Sharond. 2/3/22. She joined her brother, William Henry (3).

Judith Haensel Whelan (LLM '08, JD '10) and Matthew Whelan, Charlotte: a son, Samuel Felix. 6/10/22. He joined his sister, Sophie (4).

Bryan Kliefoth ('09) and Kristin Kliefoth, New York: a daughter, Lily James. 5/24/22. She joined her sister, Evelyn Vera (2).

Michael Blair Crouse ('10, MS '12) and Ashley Snead Crouse ('11), Seattle: a daughter, Collins Blair. 2/13/2022. She is the granddaughter of Kathy McMurtry Snead ('76).

Carolyn Daman Gladson ('10) and Marc Gladson ('10), Marion, IA: a son, Lucas Daman. 1/08/22. He joined his brother, Brooks Richard (3).

Benjamin Warner Lynch ('10) and Nancy-Kerr Jennings Lynch ('11), High Point, NC: a daughter, Noelle Reighn. 1/17/22

Natalie Halpenr Hales ('11) and Woody Hales ('11), Washington, DC: a son, Henry Robert Hales. 3/4/22

Matthew “Gray” Grayson Garner ('12, MSA '13) and Kelsey Luvender Garner ('14), Raleigh: a daughter, Margaret Elizabeth. 4/6/22. She joined her brother, Thomas Grayson (2).

Edward Joseph Caughlin V ('13) and Chelsea Lynne Klein Caughlin ('14, MA '16), Mebane, NC: a daughter, Iveson Elise. 3/25/22

Katherine Blake Vogelsang ('13) and Daniel Vogelsang ('14), Nashua, TN: a daughter, Anna Blake. 4/26/22. She joined her brother, Isaiah (1).

Molly Kay Rozeboom Richter ('14) and Nicholas Tumulty Richter ('14): Fitchburg, WI: a son, Owen Dale. 2/28/22

John Jordan Tippett (MBA '14) and Katie Tippett: St. Simons Island, GA: a son, Grant Michael. 1/17/22. He joined his sisters, Raines Madison (7), Mae Lanier (5) and Bonnie Ray (3).

**Deaths**

Jessie John Morris ('42), July 3, 2022, Elizabeth City, NC. He was 100. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. He earned his D.D.S. from Emory University and was a dentist for 31 years.

Owen “Will” Williamson ('42), Feb. 1, 2022, Bala Cynwyd, PA. He was 100. He served in the U.S. Army Air Forces as a radio operator for the Army Airwaves Communications System during World War II. He was a longtime copy editor and layout editor at The Inquirer in Philadelphia.

James “Jim” Collins ('46), Feb. 20, 2022, Richmond, VA. He served in the U.S. Army. He owned Leonard Paper Ruling Co. and was a past president of the Printing Industries of Virginia.

Daniel Lane ('48), March 8, 2022, Chesapeake, VA. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He spent 45 years in public schools in North Carolina and Virginia as a teacher, coach, assistant principal and principal. He was preceded in death by brothers Clarence Lane ('49) and Rowell Lane ('37, MA '48).

Evelyn Hester Church ('49), May 15, 2022, Winston-Salem. She was a high school teacher and a teacher at Juniata College in Pennsylvania. She was preceded in death by her husband, Ralph Bruce Church ('49).

Richard Washington Sawyer Jr. ('49), April 30, 2022, Raleigh. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and fought on Okinawa, Japan. He was a high school principal and basketball coach in Frankfort, NC, and director of North Carolina Historic Sites. He was a substitute teacher until age 90. Survivors include son Richard Sawyer III ('87) and granddaughter Ashley Sawyer Menzel ('12).

Fred White Dixon ('50), May 26, 2022, Salisbury, NC. He served in the U.S. Army. He was president of White Packing Co. and president of the North Carolina Meat Processors Association. He served on the board of trustees of Hargrove Military Academy and received the school’s Outstanding Alumnus Award.

Bill F. Hensley ('50), March 11, 2022, Charlotte. He was editor of the Old Gold & Black and a member of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity and was named one of the 10 outstanding seniors at Wake Forest. He was a Navy Seabee in World War II. When the Atlantic Coast Conference was formed in 1953, he was named Wake Forest’s first sports information director and then served in the same position at NC State University. He was director of travel and tourism for the state of North Carolina and later founded his own public relations firm. He organized the North Carolina Golf Panel to rate the state’s golf courses and became one of the best promoters of golf in the state. He was named one of North Carolina’s tourism pioneers of the 20th century by Appalachian State University and received the state’s Order of the Long Leaf Pine. He was named to the Wake Forest Sports Hall of Fame, the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame, the North Carolina Media and Journalism Hall of Fame and the Carolinas Golf Hall of Fame. He was preceded in death by his wife, Carol Moore Hensley ('53).

Marvin Eber Hudson ('50), April 2, 2022, Statesville, NC. He served in the U.S. Navy and was a teacher and principal in the Iredell-Statesville Schools (NC).

Ernest "Bud" Morton Jr. ('50, JD ’53), March 10, 2022, Albemarle, NC. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps. He practiced law in Albemarle for 59 years and was legal counsel to the Stanley County (NC) Board of Education for 20 years. He started running at age 51 and completed his last marathon when he was 78. He carried the Olympic torch before the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta. He received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine from then-North Carolina Gov. Beverly Perdue. He was preceded in death by his wife, Joann G. Morton ('53).
Betty Head Rosseter ('50), March 5, 2022, Eaton Rapids, MI.

Max Emerson Harris ('51), Feb. 19, 2022, Fuquay-Varina, NC. He served in the U.S. Navy. He was a research chemist at DuPont in Kinston, NC, where he earned two patents for techniques of spinning Dacron polyester fiber. He was preceded in death by brothers Ralph Harris ('44) and Guy Harris Jr. ('49).

David Scott Humphries ('51), May 28, 2022, McDonough, GA. He served in the U.S. Army Reserve as the officer in charge of the 3297th hospital unit based in Charlotte. He retired in 1992 from the Nalle Clinic in Charlotte, where he specialized in total joint replacement and taught orthopaedic residents. He helped establish the Hands of Hope Clinic, a free medical clinic in Henry County, GA.

Henry Judson Rosser ('51), May 2, 2022, Rocky Mount, NC. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II as a pharmacist mate. He was a tobaccoconist with Liggett & Myers Tobacco Company and a tax auditor with the North Carolina Division of Employment Security. Survivors include son Robert Judson Rosser ('79).

Charlie “David” Winston Jr. ('51), Feb. 23, 2022, Grassy Creek, NC. He and his wife, Eunice, ran their family farm for 50 years, one of the oldest continuously operated farms in North Carolina, raising tobacco, corn, soybeans and timber.

Bruce Collins Cresson ('52), May 12, 2022, Waco, TX. During his 34-year career at Baylor University, he was vice provost, dean and the W.W. Melton Professor of Religion. He spent 25 summers in archaeological excavations in Israel and helped establish the Institute of Archaeology, the Institute of Biblical and Related Languages and the University Scholars Program at Baylor.

Robert Owen Reid ('52), May 29, 2022, Greensboro, NC. He served in the U.S. Army and National Guard. He sold electrical equipment for Graybar Electric Co. for 30 years.

Edwin O. Floyd ('53), June 12, 2022, Cary, NC. He was president of Sigma Chi at Wake Forest. He was a design engineer for the North Carolina Department of Transportation for 38 years.

Jennette Shiver Moore Heyerd Franklin ('53), May 22, 2022, Norfolk, VA. She was a licensed clinical social worker and president of the local League of Women Voters.

Jerome “Jerry” Cannon Prevette ('53), Jan. 3, 2022, Elkins Park, PA. He was a vice president and managing director of several financial services firms. He established the Luke Cannon Prevette Scholarship at Wake Forest and was a member of the Wake Forest Legacy Society.

Betty McAfee Ziebell ('53), June 22, 2022, Utica, MD. She was a real estate agent who specialized in historic properties in Frederick County (MD). Survivors include son Michael Ziebell ('82).

Catherine Lee Bass ('54), May 24, 2022, Four Oaks, NC. She worked in a lab at Newton Grove Medical Center (NC). She and her husband also managed the Bass Family Farm, recognized as a North Carolina Century Farm with over 200 years of continuous farming.

Gene Mercer Correll ('54), April 12, 2022, Franklin, VA. He was a member of the tennis team and Sigma Chi fraternity at Wake Forest. He served in the U.S. Army. He retired as general operating superintendent at Union Camp Corp. and was board chair of the Franklin City Public Schools. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Ann Dunn Correll ('55).

Daphne Franklin Ledford ('54), March 24, 2022, Charlotte. She founded Charlotte Tourists Inc., a local tour company, and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Celiac Support Group. She volunteered at the Charlotte Speech & Hearing Center and the American Red Cross and was named a “Home-town Hero” by WBTV. She also received the James Gray Canyon Award from Healthy Charlotte Alliance for her volunteer leadership. She was preceded in death by her husband, Laurie “Wesley” Ledford ('54).

Robert “Bob” Allen Jr. ('55), May 23, 2022, Winston-Salem. He served in the U.S. Army Reserve and was a land broker.

Norma Upchurch Davis ('55), April 30, 2022, Greensboro, NC. She was a longtime French professor at the University of Georgia. Survivors include sister Myra Upchurch Deane ('64).

Don Gerding ('55), May 16, 2022, Baltimore. He was in Sigma Chi fraternity and was vice president of Gerding Printing Inc. in Baltimore.

Bruce Fraser Hillenbrand ('55), March 1, 2022, Marco Island, FL. He played football at Wake Forest and was MVP his senior year. He served in the U.S. Army and U.S. Army Reserve and was a safety officer for the U.S. Department of Labor. He was preceded in death by brother Deane Hillenbrand ('57).

Marilyn Wall Phillips ('55), March 25, 2022, Glenville, WV. She was a teacher in Gilmer County (WV).

James “Jim” Raeford Robinson ('55), June 22, 2022, Daytona Beach, FL. She was an artist and member of the Hands of Hope Clinic, a free medical clinic in Charlotte, where he specialized in total joint replacement and taught orthopaedic residents. He helped establish the Hands of Hope Clinic, a free medical clinic in Henry County, GA.

Ronald Conrad Dilthey ('57, JD '60), March 26, 2022, Raleigh. He was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity at Wake Forest and the Southerners Dance Band, a group of students who played around the state. He served in the U.S. Army in the Military Police Corps. He was a trial attorney at Patterson Dilthey LLP in Raleigh and an adjunct professor at Campbell University School of Law. He was vice president of the board of governors of the North Carolina Bar Association and a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. He gathered twice annually with a group of lawyers and judges from Wake Forest, called the “Wake Forest Fishing Team,” to fish, eat and swap stories. He took annual reunion trips back to the original campus with his Kappa Sigma brothers. Survivors include his wife, Shirley Burrus Dilthey ('57). He was preceded in death by daughter Lauren Dilthey Sink ('92).

Mary “Esther” Seay Thomas ('57), March 19, 2022, Daytona Beach, FL. She was an artist and president of Art Gallery Originals in Winston-Salem and charter member of the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, DC. Survivors include son Bynum Tudor III (JD/MBA '86).

D. Lamar Dowda ('58, JD '60), June 19, 2022, Asheville, NC. He was a paratrooper in the U.S. Army. He was an attorney in Greensboro, NC, and former district attorney of Guilford County (NC).
Emil F. “Jim” Kratt (’58, JD ’61), May 1, 2022, Charlotte. He was a lawyer for over 50 years and president of the North Carolina State Bar. Survivors include son Bill Kratt (’84, JD ’87), daughter Laura Kratt (’85) and sister Toni Kratt (JD ’74).

William “Bill” Lee Powell Jr. (’58, JD ’61), March 11, 2022, Greenville, NC. He served in the U.S. Army and practiced real estate law for 44 years in Goldsboro, NC. He was preceded in death by his father, William Lee Powell Sr. (’27), and sister Jo Anne Powell Crawford (’56).

Thomas Joseph Walsh (MD ’58), April 24, 2022, Darien, CT. He served in the U.S. Army and Army Reserve. He had an ophthalmologic practice in Stamford, CT, for over 30 years and was on the faculty at the Yale School of Medicine in the Department of Ophthalmology and Neurology for 50 years. He also was a consultant to the Surgeon General of the Army for 50 years. Survivors include son Thomas Raymond Walsh (’80, MD ’84).

Bruce Boddie Ayscue (’59), March 15, 2022, Cary, NC. He was a high school English teacher in Winston-Salem before a career in textbook sales.

John “Jackson” Dean Jr. (’59), April 26, 2022, Louisburg, NC. He owned Dean Farms egg processing plant and Tri-Venture Marketing, a food marketing company. He was a member of the Louisburg College Board of Trustees and president of the North Carolina Poultry Federation. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Shirley Catlette Dean (’57). Survivors include daughter Mary Martha Dean Ellis (’87) and son John Jackson Dean III (’93).

James Elbert Huey Sr. (’59), June 28, 2022, Clyde, NC. He played football and baseball at Wake Forest. He ran his own manufacturing business for several decades.

James “Jim” Addison Knight (’59), Feb. 12, 2022, Charlotte. He served in the U.S. Army and was a sales and branch manager for Georgia-Pacific in Raleigh for nearly 40 years.

Jack H. Morton (JD ’59), May 5, 2022, Savannah, GA. He served in the U.S. Army and was the chief regional counsel for the criminal tax division of the IRS.

Victor Wang-Ta Ng (MD ’59), May 21, 2022, Pine Knoll Shores, NC. He practiced general family medicine and acupuncture in Robersonville, NC, for many years. He was preceded in death by his wife, Alice Sui Har Wong Ng (MA ’57). Survivors include son Christopher Ng (’80).

Constance “Connie” Pinyoun Gamble (’60), March 20, 2022, Wooster, OH. She was a second grade teacher in the Charlottesville, VA, area. Survivors include son Harry Gamble (’89).

Joseph “Joe” Mims (’60), July 2, 2022, Raleigh. He served in the U.S. Navy and built a beer and wine business, Mims Distributing Co.

Nicholas “Nick” Paul Patella Sr. (’60), June 12, 2022, Winston-Salem. He was an All-ACC and honorable mention All-American football player at Wake Forest. After playing professional football, he was co-owner and president of several radio stations and co-founder of Vincenzo’s Italian restaurant.

Larry Smith (’60), July 23, 2021, Pittsburgh. He was a member of the Wake Forest Legacy Society.

Lewis William Thompson (MD ’60), June 15, 2022, Tulsa, OK. He was a pediatric plastic surgeon at Oral Roberts University School of Medicine in Tulsa. He was the chief surgeon of a team that was the first to perform a craniofacial deformity surgical correction in the United States west of the Allegheny Mountains.

Mikal “Mike” Linwood Barnes (’61), May 19, 2022, Winston-Salem. He was a teacher and linguist, and he played tuba in the Winston-Salem New Horizons Band and Salem Community Orchestra.

William “Bill” Henry Biggers (MD ’61), Feb. 26, 2022, Atlanta. He served in the U.S. Army in the Medical Corps. He was a psychiatrist for
more than 60 years and director of the adolescent psychiatry unit at West Foscas Ferry Hospital in Atlanta. He was named Psychiatrist of the Year by the Georgia Psychiatric Physicians Association in 1986.

Louis Pikula Jr. (MD ‘61), June 27, 2022, Winston-Salem. He served in the U.S. Army Reserve as the chief of neurosurgery at hospitals in Vietnam. He was a neurosurgeon at Forsyth Medical Center in Winston-Salem, an author and teacher, and a fellow in the American Board of Neurosurgical Surgery.

Alfred L. Baker (’62, MD ’66), March 1, 2022, Chicago. He was professor of medicine and director of the liver study unit at the University of Chicago. He helped develop the first liver transplant program in the Midwest, which became one of the largest in the world. In 2000, he moved to Northwestern University, where he remained an emeritus professor after his retirement from patient care. He received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Liver Foundation. He was a member of the Wake Forest Legacy Society and established the Al and Dot Baker Scholarship at the Wake Forest School of Medicine.

Carl J. Beacham Jr. (’62), March 20, 2022, Hampstead, NC. He was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon and the rifle team at Wake Forest. He served in the Air National Guard. He managed family businesses in Jacksonville, NC, for over 50 years, was a city council member and was a founding member and past president of the New River Rotary Club. Survivors include his wife, Nancy Carpenter Beacham (’63).

Barbara Hatchcock Turner (’62), Feb. 25, 2022, Union City, GA. She was a real estate agent.

Peter Driscoll (JD ’63), May 27, 2022, Milwaukee. He was an artist in Winston-Salem, where he studied engraving under Wake Forest Professor David Faber, and in Columbia, SC. He was chosen by U.S. Sen. Richard Burr (’78) of North Carolina to paint the state’s ornament for the White House Christmas tree in 2008. He also created a sculpture for Centenary United Methodist Church in Winston-Salem. He was recognized by the New Bern (NC) Historic Restoration Commission for his leadership of downtown redevelopment.

Julia Erwin Westmoreland McGirt (’63), April 24, 2022, Franklin, TN. She learned to play piano at the age of 4 and later was the first keyboardist for the beach music band The Catalinas. She was a school teacher and a piano and organ teacher.

Joshua J. Morton Jr. (’63, JD ’66), April 6, 2022, Albermarle, NC. He was an attorney in Stanly County (NC) for 56 years and the county attorney for years. He was on the Stanly County school board and board of commissioners.

Walter Vernon Murray (’63), June 20, 2022, Winston-Salem. He was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha at Wake Forest. He and his father ran Murray Supply Co., a plumbing supply house in Charlotte and Winston-Salem.

Herbert Keith Young (’63), Feb. 4, 2022, Richmond, VA. He served in the U.S. Navy and worked with Kemper Insurance.

Joy Wackerbarth Bashore (’64), May 20, 2022, Forest, VA. She was an associate professor of English and chair of the English department at Central Virginia Community College.

William “Bill” Albert Chapman (’64), March 12, 2022, Conway, SC. He was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity at Wake Forest. He served in the U.S. Army Reserve during the Vietnam War. He worked in his family business, Tom Chapman Tire Service, and developed many new products and startups, including Diamond Back Classic Radials, which manufactures tires for vintage cars.

Daniel Clark Custer (’64), July 9, 2022, Palmyra, PA. He worked at the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants in New York and the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants in Philadelphia.

Sherrill Dunevant Griffis (’64), March 1, 2022, Little Elm, TX. She was an interior designer.

Harold Dean Jackson Jr. (’64), May 2, 2022, Cheraw, SC. He played football at Wake Forest and was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity. He was a fast-food pioneer and a real-estate developer and flew his own planes. He was a past member of the Wake Forest Alumni Council.

Wayne Carrico Martin (’64), April 24, 2022, Woodstock, GA. He played baseball at Wake Forest and helped lead the team to the ACC Championship in 1962 and 1963. He was selected to the All-ACC first team in 1962 and 1963 and named an All-American in 1963. He was drafted by the Philadelphia Phillies and played on minor league teams before being called to active duty in the U.S. Army Reserve. He worked at IBM for 25 years.

Martha McClure McCabe (’64), Feb. 22, 2022, Portland, CT. She worked in summer stock theatre and was an administrative assistant at the Connecticut Correctional Ombudsman Inc. and the Hartford Ballet.

John Raymond Phythyon (’64), Feb. 11, 2022, Kennebunk, ME. He was a professor at St. Norbert College (WI) for more than 30 years until retiring. He moved to Maine and was an adjunct professor at Southern Maine Community College and the University of New England. He won the West Virginia State Chess Championship in 1972 and was on the board of the Wisconsin Chess Association.

Lanny Owens (’65), Feb. 28, 2022, Kernersville, NC. He retired from Lucent Technologies as an IT professional. Survivors include his twin brother, Larry Owens (’65), and brother John Owens (’61).
Jean Elledge Dostal ('66), April 23, 2022, Kernersville, NC. She was a teacher and the owner of Metalcrete Industries. She was president of the Encore Society for the Winston-Salem Symphony. Survivors include her husband, Bob Dostal ('66).

Jeanne Blanchard Fites ('66), Feb. 23, 2022, Falls Church, VA. She worked at the Pentagon and held the highest rank in senior executive service.

Vann Ashley Wilder Sr. ('66), June 22, 2022, Miami. He was a financial adviser.

Bonnie Conway Wright ('67), June 13, 2022, Raleigh. She taught speech and language therapy in the Wake County (NC) schools for more than 20 years.

William “Kelly” Johnson (JD '68), April 18, 2022, Montezuma, NC. He served in the U.S. Army and was an attorney in Newland, NC. Survivors include son Jamie Johnson ('92) and daughter Paula Johnson Swindle ('95).

James E. Starmer ('68), April 29, 2022, Greensboro, NC. He served in the North Carolina Army National Guard. He was a leader in the outdoor power equipment industry and worked for 45 years at his family business, Dixie Sales Company, including 25 years as president. Survivors include his wife, Linda Taylor Starmer ('70), and son David L. Starmer ('95).

Lynn Mixon Hale (MD '69), May 6, 2022, Winston-Salem. She was one of three women in her medical school class. She was a physician and health director of the Forsyth County (NC) health department.

William “Bill” Donald Brewer Jr. ('70), Feb. 22, 2022, Charlotte. He served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War and received the Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters. He was an investment adviser at WealthShield Partners in Cary, NC, and a retired senior vice president and market president at Wachovia bank.

Jane Barnes Dolbin ('70, MA '73), May 17, 2022, Arlington, VA. She was a varsity cheerleader, a member of the Laurel Society and a gymnast at Wake Forest. She was preceded in death by her husband, Jack D. Dolbin ('70).

Bahnsen “David” Hall ('70, MD '74), May 13, 2022, Salisbury, NC. He was an OB/GYN at Salisbury Clinic for Women for 30 years. He served on the boards of Rowan Helping Ministries and Ruff-Holmes Senior Center. Survivors include sons Brian David Hall ('98) and Jason Robert Hall ('92).

Donna M. Burke (MAEd '71), May 28, 2022, Santa Fe, NM. She was a psychotherapist in Winston-Salem.

Barry S. Crawford (MA '71), March 27, 2022, Topeka, KS. He was professor emeritus of religious studies at Washburn University and the editor of “Redescribing the Gospel of Mark” and author of “Many Jesuses: The Quest for the Historical Jesus.”

Even if you didn’t take an anthropology course with David Evans or travel with him on a research trip somewhere in the world, you probably remember seeing him walking across campus with his dog named Dog or driving around in his Land Rover named Agnus.

“His was known for his quick wit, sarcasm, love of animals, tendency to dream big, fascination with human nature, and, above all, his kindness to every single person he came across,” his family wrote in his obituary. Students remembered Evans in online tributes as a wonderful teacher and mentor. “He opened up the world for me by including me on several of his research trips to Central America. He was one of the greatest influences in my life,” wrote Tammy Smith ('70, MA '72). “He was a great professor who made me love anthropology,” wrote Bobby Touchton ('85).

Evans grew up in Portsmouth, Virginia, and graduated from Tulane University. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1957 until 1959, when he was honorably discharged following an injury on a destroyer in the South Pacific.

After earning his Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of California, Berkeley, he joined the Wake Forest faculty in 1966. He received the first Reid-Doyle Prize for Excellence in Teaching in 1971. Evans purchased his first Land Rover in the early '70s, and he and Renate, with a young Dog along, drove to Panama and Costa Rica.

Evans bought his second Land Rover, Agnus, a few years later and kept it until after he retired, when he sold it to a former student. Dog, an Old English Sheepdog, was always by his side in the classroom and on the board of the Laurels society, a group of Wake Forest alumni who served in the U.S. military.

Evans was one of the first professors to start an overseas program and to involve undergraduates in field research. He founded the Overseas Centre for Area Studies and Research in British Honduras (now Belize) in 1967 and took nine students there to conduct research during the summer.

For many years, he led students on field research trips to Central and South America, including Saba and Roatán Islands in the Caribbean. He bought property on Roatán and built a house and a bunkhouse for students coming there to study.

“The field research trip to Saba was unforgettable, as were his classes with Dog present by the door,” wrote Dawn Jameson Morgan ('86) on Facebook. Wrote Cindy Davis Sheaffer ('82), “I will always treasure memories of my trip to Roatán with him and a fabulous group of students.”
Charlene Curtis, the first Black head coach of the women’s basketball team at Wake Forest and in the ACC, died Aug. 18, 2022, at age 67. Her first love was music, and she was the first Black musician in the Roanoke (Virginia) Youth Symphony in her hometown. She was the first Black player on the women’s basketball team at Radford University, an assistant coach at Virginia, the first Black head coach of the women’s teams at Radford and Temple, and an assistant at Connecticut before coaching at Wake Forest from 1997 to 2004. She was ACC supervisor of officials for women’s basketball for 11 years until retiring in 2019.

(We learned of her death at press time; see more at bit.ly/3dLtbGE)

CHARLENE CURTIS

Michael Hohlfelder (’73), June 18, 2022, Fairfax, VA. He served in the CIA for 35 years, retiring in 2009. He received the Intelligence Commendation Medal for exceptional achievement as chief, Counterterrorism Training Branch.


Richard Lyon Morgan (MAEd ’74), March 25, 2022, Greensburg, PA. He was a Presbyterian minister, a professor at Peace College (NC), Presbyterian College (SC) and Mitchell Community College (NC) and director of counseling at Western Piedmont Community College (NC). He wrote 20 books and co-founded Clergy Against Alzheimer’s. He received the 2013 Legacy Award from Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network and was named Man of the Year in Lenoir, NC, in 1988.

Stephen Ray Melvin (’75), June 5, 2022, Fayetteville, NC. He was an attorney.

Frank Washington Millar IV (’75), June 19, 2022, Montgomery, AL. He was a business developer for IT companies.

David Abernethy (’76), April 8, 2022, Hickory, NC. He practiced patent law in Hickory and was a district court judge and staff attorney for Catawba County Social Services. He was preceded in death by his father, J. Carroll Abernethy Jr. (JD ’49). Survivors include brother Jones C. Abernethy III (’73).

Annie Pauline Boyd (’76), May 4, 2022, Charlotte. She worked at Wachovia/Wells Fargo for over 35 years.

Amelia Ann Goulding Little (’76, MAEd ’80), May 26, 2021, Mocksville, NC. She was a retired teacher and counselor in Davie County (NC). Survivors include her husband, Harry Little (’76, MD ’80), and brothers E.C. Goulding (MD ’82) and Richard Goulding (’87).

Victor Lefkowitz (JD ’77), June 28, 2022, Winston-Salem. He served in the U.S. Air Force and the Air National Guard in New York and North Carolina and ended his almost 30-year military career as commander of the 263rd Air National Guard in Badin, NC. He practiced law in Winston-Salem for 45 years and was an adjunct professor at the Wake Forest School of Law.

Lisa Rose Huff (’78), June 7, 2022, Mesa, AZ. She was a member of the flag team at Wake Forest and received her MD at the Medical University of South Carolina. She and her husband had an OB/GYN practice in Mesa. After receiving a Master’s of Public Health from Johns Hopkins University, she was a Peace Corps volunteer in Zambia.

James Frederick Mulling II (’78), June 1, 2022, Raleigh. He was a project engineer at the Institute for Maintenance Science and Technology at NC State University.

Roger Allen Richardson (MA ’78), April 19, 2022, Winston-Salem. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was a former executive director of The Little Theatre of Winston-Salem and a horticulture instructor at Forsyth Technical Community College. Survivors include his wife, Lynn Ellis (MA ’89).

John Sherwood Solms (’78), June 2, 2022, Atlanta.

Rudy Langdon Ogburn (’79, JD ’82), March 30, 2022, Raleigh. He was an attorney for Young Moore and Henderson PA for 31 years and developed its estate planning department. He received the 2020 Estate Planning Section Distinguished Service Award from the North Carolina Bar Association. He was president of the Raleigh Jaycees and chair of the board of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Eastern North Carolina.

Rick E. Hines (MA ’80), May 15, 2022, High Point, NC. He retired from JCPenney as the assistant manager at the High Point store.

Terry Randal Vogler (’81), July 5, 2022, Winston-Salem. He played football at Wake Forest.

Terrence “Terry” J. Bolan (’82, JD ’86), July 1, 2022, Allenhurst, NJ. He was a member of ROTC at Wake Forest. He was a commissioner in Allenhurst and a founding partner of the law firm Bolan Johnson Dacey in Shrewsbury, NJ.

James Arthur Reynolds II (’82), March 15, 2022, Smithville, TN. He was a chiropractor whose practice included humans and animals.

Carolyn Bassett (’84), April 9, 2022, Tacoma, WA. After coming to Wake Forest late in life, she was a history and government teacher.

Susanne Marie Robicsek (JD ’87), Jan. 15, 2022, Charlotte. She was a bankruptcy attorney.

Caryl J. Riley (MBA ’89), May 26, 2022, Aurora, IL. She was a marketing and sales director for building industry magazines.

David “Scott” Sylvester (MBA ’90), March 25, 2022, Winston-Salem. He was IT director at Hubbard Commercial LLC for 30 years.

Donald Ramon “Boomer” Harsh III (’91), July 6, 2022, Hagerstown, MD. He was marketing director at Blue Ridge Risk Partners and past president of the Hagerstown Sunrise Rotary Club. Survivors include his wife, Megan “Meg” Lewis Harsh (’94).

Walter Kirkpatrick Pugh (’91, MBA ’97), June 4, 2022, Raleigh. He was a financial consultant.
Survivors include sister Holly Pugh Johnson ('82, P '14).

Wanda Carol Schmidt (MBA '91), May 17, 2022, Virginia Beach, VA. She served in the U.S. Navy Reserve and was deployed to Sarajevo, where she collected evidence for the International Criminal Tribunal.

Gail Elder Hurt (MA '92), May 21, 2022, Yadkinville, NC. She retired as associate director of the hereditary cancer program at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center.

Valerie Lynn Hardison Thomas (‘92), March 11, 2022, Wilmington, NC. Survivors include her ex-husband, Robert Thomas (‘92).

Brian P. Chmura (‘94), April 23, 2022, Falls Church, VA. He was a member of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity at Wake Forest and worked in international telecommunications for Verizon and Tata Communications.

William “Bill” Siders (PhD ’95), May 26, 2022, Franklin, MA. He worked in biotechnology research and was committed to discovery of novel treatments to improve patients’ lives. Survivors include his wife, Christine DeMaria (PhD ’96).

Ernesto Esteban de la Torre y Cabo (MA ‘96), May 25, 2022, Winston-Salem. A native of Cuba, he graduated from medical school in Havana and completed his residency at North Carolina Baptist Hospital. He was a neurosurgeon in Winston-Salem for 30 years and helped organize the Community Care Center, a free health care clinic. He earned his master’s degree in religious education at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center.

Suzanne Elizabeth Deddish Taylor (JD ’00), June 18, 2022, Acworth, GA. She was associate general counsel for employment at Aaron’s corporate offices in Atlanta.

Alison Elizabeth Gibson (‘02), Nov. 19, 2021, Atlanta. She was Student Union president and helped organize the 2000 presidential debate on campus. She was a physician recruiter for hospitals and universities.

Kenneth Brian Cade (MBA ‘04), April 27, 2022, Newland, NC. He served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps and was deployed in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm. He was an engineer in the industrial gasses industry for over 25 years.

Grant David Powers Madden (‘04), June 28, 2022, Frederick, MD. He was editor of The Student literary magazine at Wake Forest. He was assistant general counsel in the employment law branch in the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Survivors include his parents, James Madden (‘77) and Kimberly Smith Madden (‘78).

Albert Lawrence “Larry” Stallings III (MAL’s ‘06), Feb. 28, 2022, Atlanta.

Glenda Holder Rawley (MAL’s ‘10), June 22, 2022, Asheboro, NC. She was an accomplished pianist and art dealer who sold 17th- to 19th-century paintings. Survivors include her husband, Joseph Rawley (‘60, MBA ‘75).

Paul Christopher Reis (‘20), April 25, 2022, Raleigh. At Wake Forest, he was president of the Quiz Bowl team, captain of the Overwatch Esports team and a member of the German National Honor Society, Delta Phi Alpha.

Friends, Faculty, Staff, Students

Clyde Carter, April 2, 2022, King, NC. He worked at Graylyn International Conference Center for more than 20 years and was a maintenance technician.

Ellen Anna Daugman, June 30, 2022, Winston-Salem. She retired as a humanities librarian in the Z. Smith Reynolds Library after 23 years at Wake Forest.

Charles Anthony Dellinger, April 16, 2022, Lewisville, NC. He served in the North Carolina Air National Guard and was a maintenance technician at Graylyn International Conference Center after retiring from R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.

Drew Edwards (MA ’68), July 20, 2022, Clemmons, NC. He was a clinical child psychologist for 50 years and an adjunct professor of psychology at Wake Forest for 40 years.

Caroline Sandlin Fullerton, June 18, 2022, Advance, NC. She was 102. She came to Wake Forest in 1967 as a speech consultant on theatre productions and taught the first regular class in speech offered for academic credit. She taught in the theatre department for 23 years until retiring in 1990. A native of Asheville, NC, she graduated from Rollins College in 1940 and, on her 90th birthday, was inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa at Rollins. She earned a master of fine arts from Texas Christian University. She established the Caroline Sandlin Fullerton Theatre Endowment Fund at Wake Forest.

Arthur R. Gaudio, March 22, 2022, Springfield, MA. He was dean of Western New England University School of Law from 2001 to 2013 and professor of law until retiring in 2019. He also was a professor and dean of the University of Wyoming College of Law and a professor of law at Wake Forest.

John Eric Jakob, March 6, 2022, Front Royal, VA. He worked in the physics department at Wake Forest as a lab manager.

Lola “Jane” Essick King, June 28, 2022, Lexington, NC. She was retired from the accounting department at Wake Forest.

Ann Listokin, Feb. 1, 2022, Winston-Salem. She was a piano teacher and accompanist for the music department at Wake Forest for many years.

Sylvia Stallings Lowe, May 27, 2022, Alexandria, VA. She was a published poet and an accomplished writer, editor, translator and book critic. She was the daughter of prominent novelist, playwright and screenwriter Laurence T. Stallings Jr. (1916) and Helen Poteat Stallings and the granddaughter of Wake Forest President William Louis Poteat (1877, MA 1889). She and her late sister, Diana Poteat Stallings Hobby, donated the correspondence of their father and some of the personal library of their grandfather to the Z. Smith Reynolds Library. She and her sister also supported the Poteat Scholarship at Wake Forest and, for many years, welcomed Poteat Scholars to the family’s ancestral home, Forest Home, in Caswell County, NC.

Paul J. Meis, April 17, 2022, Winston-Salem. He served in the U.S. Army as a general medical officer. He was professor emeritus of obstetrics and gynecology at Wake Forest School of Medicine and head of the section of maternal fetal medicine and director of the fellowship program. In 2003, he published a breakthrough study on the first effective treatment to prevent preterm birth in mothers at risk. He was recognized by the North Carolina Governor’s Commission on Infant Mortality in 1993 and received the 2013 Distinguished Award from the North Carolina Obstetrical and Gynecological Society.

Maxine Beddow Moore, June 18, 2022, Winston-Salem. She worked at Wake Forest in the sociology and anthropology departments and as a librarian in Special Collections & Archives (Rare Books Collection) in the Z. Smith Reynolds Library until retiring in 1993. She took courses in medieval studies at Wake Forest before earning her undergraduate degree and graduate degree in library science from UNC Greensboro. She was president of the Winston-Salem chapter of Friendship Force and led trips around the world. Her late husband, Harold S. “Pete” Moore, was director of the physical plant at Wake Forest for 40 years and helped build the Reynolds Campus. Survivors include her daughter, Barbara Moore Bowling (‘73, MAL’s ‘07).

Jean Canaday Reader, Dec. 12, 2021, Clemmons, NC. She was circulation desk supervisor at the Wake Forest School of Law Professional Center Library for 14 years. Survivors include daughter Catherine French (‘08).

Barbara Stanley Swisher, July 8, 2022, Greensboro, NC. She was a member of the Society of 1834 at Wake Forest. The Swisher Commons Lounge in Worrell Professional Center is named in honor of her and her husband, James L. Swisher (’61, JD ’62). Survivors include her husband, daughter Laura Swisher Nye (’85, JD ’89) and son-in-law, Ward Nye (JD ’87), and grandchildren Elizabeth Nye (’14), Eleanor Nye (’18) and James Nye (JD ’23).
I always knew I’d become a lawyer. From an early age, all signs pointed toward a legal career: my need for precise communication, a love of debate, and role models who succeeded in the field. My dad and grandfathers practiced law, and I was determined to walk in their footsteps.

When I arrived at Wake Forest in 1999, I had a 10-year plan rivaled only by that of my freshman roommate, Caroline Thomas Brown (’03, MD ’07). While hallmates struggled to choose classes, Caroline and I bonded over our academic and professional certitude. Mine involved studying history and attending law school at the University of Texas, after which I would join a firm and climb the partnership ladder. The path was predictable, the starting point obvious.

Although I stayed on track for a decade, experiences along the way hinted at an eventual deviation from my type-A, “I have it all figured out” approach to life. At Wake, my favorite classes were writing seminars, and I spent my free time organizing Student Union events. I was active all four years and served as the organization’s president my senior year. For my law school admissions essay, I penned a creative piece about finding my Wake Forest home in the Student Union. I don’t think I mentioned law — study or practice — once. It’s a wonder I got into law school. Didn’t the admissions officers see what was written between the lines? That I wasn’t interested in law, not really, not anymore.

In May 2009, I swished through the revolving doors of a sleek office building in London grinning from ear to ear. I’d just given up a coveted job at one of the world’s biggest law firms, and I couldn’t have been happier. For the first time in my life, I didn’t have a plan. Would I explore a different type of legal practice or try something new? Stay abroad or move home? What I did next was unfamiliar: I listened to my gut instead of my head.

My instincts led me to take a career break and travel to Africa, a place I’d longed to visit since childhood. I’ve always loved animals and nature, but it wasn’t until I volunteered at a Namibian wildlife sanctuary that I discovered a blazing passion for protecting wildlife. Identifying this passion was a start, but I had no idea how to deploy it.

Family and friends urged me to pursue environmental law jobs. Their pleas were reasonable but misguided. Law, I knew, would suffocate my enthusiasm, so I made a radical change, trading law for journalism and wildlife conservation. The journey that followed was incredibly challenging, but I held my passion close as I inched toward a career in “conservation storytelling.” It began crystallizing in 2015 and finally feels sturdy now that my book has been published. It describes my “personal rewilding” while spotlighting global rewilding projects such as the overhaul of an Argentinian national park.

People sometimes ask if my winding journey prompts regret. They wonder if I dream of a do-over, the chance to study biology instead of history, or journalism versus law. My answer might surprise you. I don’t regret my choices. My meanderings made me who I am, but it’s more fundamental than that. History and law degrees prepared me for what I do now — analysis, research and writing.

My history professors were un forgiving critics, and the many classes I took outside of my major, from introductory psychology to anthropology, inform how I look at the world. In law school, I learned how to analyze situations from all angles — a skill that benefits me in all that I do.

Which isn’t to say that I would recommend a circuitous career. Taking the long way has plenty of drawbacks (economic instability, for one). For some, a straight path is best, but no matter where you start, or where you stand now, know that deviations are okay — sometimes even necessary.

Millie Kerr (’03) is a London-based writer and wildlife conservationist. As a child she collected caterpillars, saved bees from drowning in the pool and dreamed of joining a lion pride. Her articles have appeared in a range of magazines and newspapers, and her new book is “Wilder: How Rewilding is Transforming Conservation and Changing the World,” published by Bloomsbury. Her website is milliekerr.com. Wake Forest Magazine published an interview with her in 2018 by Scott Thompson (’05). Read it at bit.ly/2KFJN2x
Opportunity is in the air, and on October 4 we’re rallying all Deacs to once again support their favorite corner of campus. The Deacs Day of Giving is almost here, and your gift — no matter the amount — can make a world of difference for deserving students and faculty.

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Inner Workings: Wake Forest Fellows immerse themselves in University offices

Eight 2022 graduates began July 1 as Wake Forest Fellows working in administration, including the offices of the President, the Provost and the Dean of the College. Each fellow will spend a year learning from top administrators, participating in leadership activities and interacting with faculty, staff and students to understand the workings of higher education. The fellows program for exceptional graduates has been in place since 2008.

The 2022-23 fellows, from left, are:

**President’s Office:**
Molly Olson, Clemmons, North Carolina

**Information Systems:**
Libby Welborn, Lookout Mountain, Tennessee

**Office of Personal & Career Development:**
Kaylah Bozkurtian, Indian Land, South Carolina

**Provost’s Office:**
Brooke Blair, Thomasville, North Carolina

**Campus Life:**
Bea Pearson, Mount Holly, New Jersey

**Wake Downtown:**
Jordan Buzzett, Tampa, Florida

**Dean of the College:**
Paputchar “Bam” Purcell, Greensboro, North Carolina

**Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist:**
Jacob Thomas, Greensboro, North Carolina