

Honors and Awards

WELCOME

Dr. Jackie Krasas, Dean, Wake Forest College and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

To the class of 2024 College Honors and Awards recipients, and to all your family and friends here with you today, whether in this auditorium or watching via Livestream, welcome. We are delighted you are here. As Dean of the College and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, I think this particular Commencement tradition, across an event-filled weekend, is an especially important one. It recognizes the academic excellence of our students – across the arts, humanities, social sciences, and sciences – and it does so with the implicit understanding that this impressive work, in all its manifestations, is in service to our motto of pro humanitate.

The honors and awards listed in your program represent thousands of hours of research, scholarship, and creative expression by these students, and in partnership with their faculty mentors. Together they have studied, learned, experimented, and designed projects that ask critical questions of our past, present and future, all in an effort to better understand and find solutions to our society's most intractable problems.

Thus we come together today to celebrate these students because they have demonstrated intellectual leadership. They have used their imaginations to create desperately needed new perspectives and new knowledge, and it is important to remind ourselves that so much of this work occurred across two years of devastating COVID challenges—from the disorientation of attending your first College courses on zoom to the heartbreaking loss of loved ones.

To our student awardees of the Class of 2024 here today, you have fulfilled the mission that we set before you to use your liberal arts education to build a pro humanitate spirit that will let you make the world a better place for all. And you delivered.

The intellectual curiosity, passion for knowledge, and concern for others that you evinced across these last 4 years, speaks to the profound contributions that have helped shaped Wake Forest. You have been committed and tenacious, and have inspired not only your fellow students, but also your families, friends, faculty, and myself.

All the more reason that we at Wake Forest eagerly anticipate the positive change you may bring to our communities with the powerful thinking work that you know how to do so very well, and that we are now about to celebrate.

	MUSIC
"G	ran Vals" Francisco Tárrega (1852-1909
	Campbell McEntire ('24), guitar
	AWARDS
	Dr. Sara Dahill-Brown, Associate Professor, Politics & International Affairs
Oı	utstanding Senior in American Ethnic Studies
	The award for Outstanding Senior in American Ethnic Studies is given to the graduating student who has demonstrated excellence in and out of the classroom, and Basia is exceptionally accomplished in both regards. As an Anthropology major and a minor in American Ethnic Studies, she will be graduating with a 3.95 grade point average. In 2022, she worked on a project with the Nature Conservancy of Virginia to amplify the stories of underrepresented Indigenous and African American communities. Over the last two years she has done extensive work with the the Plateau-Africatown Archaeological Research Consortium, using her skill with ARCGIS to digitally document the lives, deaths, and significant historical sites of Africatown, Alabama, a community founded by formerly enslaved people after the American Civil War.
	Dr. Timothy Gitzen, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology
Th	ne Department of Anthropology Outstanding Senior Award
	The faculty of the Department of Anthropology select our Outstanding Senior Award using three criteria: the student's academic excellence across all four subfields of Anthropology, the student's anthropological engagement outside of the traditional classroom, and the student's

ethical application of anthropological knowledge through professional activities and community involvement. Jocelyn's post-graduation plan is

to attend Indiana University Bloomington as a Ph.D. student in Ecology, Evolution, and Behavioral Biology.

Dr. Gloria Muday, Director, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Program

Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Research in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology...... Jieyu (Jessilyn) Gao Brielle-Ann Michel

The Outstanding Undergraduate Research in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology award is presented to graduating BMB majors in recognition of excellence in research and scholarship.

Jieyu (Jessilyn) Gao studies proteins in yeast that control the formation of heterochromatin to control expression of genes. Her work has been performed in the epigenetics laboratory of Dr. Ke Zhang Reid, where she has worked for the last two years both as a researcher and mentor of both WFU students and high school students. Jessilyn has both performed experimental and bioinformatic analyses that have been part of a recently published paper. Upon graduation, she will enroll in a PhD program in Biological and Biomedical Sciences at Vanderbilt University.

Brielle-Ann Michel has been engaged in research for more than 3 years in the laboratory of Dr. Patricia Comstock, where she has studied bacterial enzymes that participate in the synthesis of iron sulfur clusters. Brielle has generated as much interesting data as a graduating MS student and her results are the focus of a manuscript that is in preparation. She has presented her work at two research conferences and received awards for her outstanding research presentations. Brielle will be entering a PhD program in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in the fall at Duke University.

Dr. Gloria Muday, Professor, Department of Biology

The Carolina Biological Supply Company Award for Undergraduate Research..... Eric Wang

The Carolina Biological Supply Company Research Award is given for the best undergraduate research project by a junior or senior major. This year's winner is Eric Wang, who performed his research in the laboratory of Dr. Gloria Muday, in the Biology Department. In one of his nomination letters, it was commented that "Eric is an exceptional student and an exceptional researcher who generated novel ideas and essays that are included in a recently submitted publication, and during that time also trained a new PhD student". His mentor remarked "that the methods he developed, and the data he generated would be impressive for a PhD student, but he generated these results as an undergraduate". Eric plans on doing an NIH post-bac program next year and to then pursue an MD-PhD degree.

Dr. Dan Cohen, John C. Whitaker Executive Director, Center for Entrepreneurship

The Center for Entrepreneurship Senior Award is given to a Wake Forest senior graduating with a minor in Entrepreneurship, selected based on overall performance in Entrepreneurship courses, engagement in entrepreneurship co-curricular programs, and overall involvement in activities designed to enrich the culture of entrepreneurship at Wake Forest. Cameron Storch has been an active entrepreneur and entrepreneurship student since his first year at Wake Forest. He has participated in both of our on campus accelerators, Deacon Springboard and Startup Lab, distinguishing himself with both efforts. He gives back to our students by mentoring them as a current student entrepreneur, and is always available to assist his peers with their ventures. The Center for Entrepreneurship is so pleased to present Cameron with this award.

Dr. Willie Hinze, Professor, Department of Chemistry

The John W. Nowell Award in Undergraduate Chemistry is given in memory of the late beloved chemistry Professor, Jack Nowell, and is presented each year to a graduating major who has excelled in all aspects of our chemistry program (ranging to outstanding performance in the classroom to independent research in the laboratory). This year's recipient is Zijun Jade Xia. Jade plans to enroll at Cornell University following graduation and pursue a PhD in chemistry.

Dr. E. Ashley Hairston, Chair, Associate Dean for Academic Advising, Department of Classics

Matthew D. Phillips earned a degree in Greek in 1875, the same year his brother John earned a degree in Mathematics. One hundred years later, in 1975, William R. Phillips (WFU class of 1960) established a fund to honor his grandfather and great uncle and to congratulate Wake Forest students in Greek or Latin in Classics and in Mathematics for excellent work. This year's recipient of the M. D. Phillips Prize in Classical Languages is Anna Buyarski. Anna is remarkably thoughtful, remarkably collected, remarkably kind, and remarkably skilled. She's got razor-sharp knowledge of Latin language and literature but doesn't showboat it. Our faculty have loved having class and conversation with her. We're going to miss her over here in Tribble!

Dr. Steven Giles, Chair, Department of Communication

Academic Achievement Award Grace Aronofsky

The Communication Department's Academic Achievement Award is a competitive award given to students selected for their GPA (3.9/4.0) and their above and beyond engagement with curriculum and faculty. In addition to her stellar academic record, Grace (Gracie) wrote an exceptional honors project on the marketing, legal, and ethical ramifications of Generative AI. It is a project with direct application to a career in marketing communication.

The Jeremy Nottingham Award is given in memory of the late Jeremy Nottingham to a student(s) who exemplifies Jeremy's spirit of Pro Humanitate through their involvement in community engaged service beyond Wake Forest. Alexandra (Lexi) is majoring in Communications with minors in English and Film & Media Studies. Lexi's research with faculty in the Law School on hazing and her work with the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women North Carolina (MMIWNC) showcase her deep empathy and desire to advocate for those in need. Lexi will attend Harvard Law School next year.

Dr. Natalia Khuri, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science

Established in 1993 in honor of Dr. Jack Sawyer, Professor of Mathematics from 1956 to 1988 and the first Computer Science instructor at Wake Forest, the Sawyer Prize is awarded each year to the most outstanding graduating senior in Computer Science as selected by the faculty. This is a significant honor and testament to the student's hard work and commitment to their education and to the Computer Science Department. Konghao Zhao is recognized for his excellence in coursework, high level of department engagement, and rich contributions to research.

Dr. Ian Taplin, Director, Contemporary Global Studies Program

Ellen demonstrated an extensive grasp of the often complicated nature of global studies and brought sophisticated analytic skills to her discussion of these varied issues. She is an Anthropology major.

Dr. Andy Rodekohr, Chair, Department of East Asian Language & Cultures

The Outstanding Chinese Major of the Year is given yearly to the graduating senior in Chinese Language and Culture who has not only achieved academic success in the major curriculum, which includes both language learning and cultural studies, but has also demonstrated an engagement with Chinese language and culture outside the classroom and helped to foster a community of students and scholarship. This year's recipient is John Koenig. John has exhibited his commitment to learning Chinese by studying abroad two semesters in a row, and has helped expand the Chinese program's visibility on campus through his involvement in the Chinese Culture Club, initially as an enthusiastic participant, and later as its president. John's thesis project looks at contemporary Chinese war films, with a specific focus on how the representations of Western villains in these blockbusters not only serve to sharpen the propaganda messaging, but also to complicate the development and inevitable triumph of the nationalist hero. John's thesis work exemplifies the kinds of academic diligence and cultural worldview that we value in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, and we congratulate him!

Outstanding Japanese Major of the Year. Jesse Andrews

The Outstanding Japanese Major of the Year is given yearly to the graduating senior in Japanese Language and Culture who has not only achieved academic success in the major curriculum, which includes both language learning and cultural studies courses, but has also demonstrated an engagement with Japanese language and culture outside the classroom and helped to foster a community of students and scholarship. This year's recipient, Jesse Andrews, has dedicated himself to learning Japanese and will be moving to Japan soon to participate in the JET Program. Jesse's Honors thesis project analyzes the popular character of Kirby, whose simple, pink and puffy design becomes, through Jesse's investigation, a powerful measure of how Kirby's consumption, gender expression, and globalization is reconfiguring kawaii culture. Jesse's thesis work epitomizes the scholarly and textual engagement we love to see in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, and his ability to situate a single, cute character within the global network of Japanese cultural significance is truly remarkable. We congratulate him on his achievement!

Dr. Amanda Griffith, Chair, Department of Economics

This award is given to a student in the Economics major who has performed exceptionally well academically. Annie has done wonderful work in the Economics major, culminating in this award. She has excelled in her classes and provided help to numerous other students as an undergraduate teaching assistant in the department. She has also worked as a research assistant and recently completed her honors thesis studying the family and high school factors that influence the Asian-White gap in STEM college major retention and choice.

This award is given to a student in Mathematical Economics who has performed exceptionally well academically. In addition to her outstanding work in the courses of the Mathematical Economics major, Sofia has been an active member of the departmental community and is well known for her insightful and thoughtful comments and questions both inside and outside of the classroom.

Dr. Leni Caldwell, Assistant Teaching Professor, Department of Education

Inaugural Linda B. and Howard S. Stern Family Foundation Award

The Linda B. and Howard S. Stern Family Foundation Award for Outstanding Seniors in Education honors three graduating seniors who identify as education majors and minors and who best demonstrate and/or reflect the core components of the Department of Education's conceptual framework: Knowledge, Purpose, Engagement, Experience, and Leadership. Kate Upchurch is the award recipient for the elementary education major. She is a licensure pathway major and studio art minor who student-taught in second grade at Moore Magnet Elementary School, worked as a Servant Leader Intern at Wake Forest Freedom School, and served on the Department of Education's Student Leadership Council. After graduation, Kate plans to teach at an elementary school in Knoxville, TN.

Dr. Rebecca Alexander, Interim Chair, Department of Engineering

The Whole Engineer Award recognizes a graduating engineering student who has demonstrated academic excellence, outstanding character, and embodies the values of the Engineering Department: Empowerment, Growth, Integrity, Inclusion, Compassion, and Joy. Sydney will matriculate into the PhD program in Biomedical Engineering at Wake Forest University School of Medicine to continue her academic journey.

Dr. Jefferson Holdridge, Chair, Department of English

The H. Broadus Jones Excellence Award is given each year to a graduating senior whose work exemplifies Jones's spirit of scholarship and dedication to the study of literature.

Asya Taylor is one of our most remarkable students and has been an absolute pleasure to teach. This sentiment has been shared by every professor who has had an opportunity to engage with her. She has been an exemplary thinker from the first day she declared an English major. She has an uncanny ability to take constructive feedback and produce written work that not only shows development but that also surpasses any expectations for it. In addition to making an important contribution to the literature program, she has done wonderful work as a creative writing minor. Her stories are deeply imagined and powerfully realized, often displacing contemporary social reality onto settings and situations shifted from the real just enough for readers to gain new perspective even on the familiar. We wish her well as she embarks on graduate study at Yale University. This joint program in English and African American Studies will be lucky to have her.

Dr. Julie Velásquez Runk, Director, Environment and Sustainability Studies Program

The Environmental Science Award is given to a Wake Forest senior graduating with a major in Environmental Science, selected on the basis of overall performance in Environmental Studies courses, accomplishment of original research, and a commitment to justice and community action. Valeria is minoring in engineering and Spanish, and she was praised by multiple professors for optimizing every learning opportunity, her enthusiasm, and respectful interactions with fellow students, professors, and community members in class research projects. Those included a study of plant defense mechanisms, environmental communication in St. Vincent, and the use of ArcGIS and story maps to communicate how diverse socio-economic datasets were integrated into a city decision support tool. Valeria also researched with Dr. Velásquez Runk in Panama on histories and policies of land cover change that affected zoonotic disease prevalence. Among her non-academic activities she mentored first-generation college applicants through a program called EMERGE.

Environment and Sustainability Studies Award Mary Elizabeth Pifer

The Environment and Sustainability Studies Award is given to a Wake Forest senior graduating with a major in Environment and Sustainability Studies, selected on the basis of overall performance in Environmental Studies courses, accomplishment of original research, and a commitment to justice and community action. Mary Elizabeth is minoring in studio art, and she pursued several campus and community opportunities. Among them was working as a summer associate with the Piedmont Environmental Alliance where she engaged in education and outreach in sustainability efforts across Winston-Salem and also coordinated research to advocate for solar energy readiness according to the Inflation Reduction Act with attention to infrastructure disparities, clean energy, and social equity. On campus she worked on sustainability projects as an Office of Sustainability Intern.

Dr. Stephanie Pellet, Chair, Department of French Studies

Established to honor the memory of a longtime colleague and department chair, the Harold Dawes Parcell Award is given to the graduating French Studies major who has the highest grade point average and a record of exceptional scholarship. This year, two students had a perfect 4.0 GPA in French Studies.

Hannah Dove, one of the two recipients, is a stellar student who expresses herself beautifully in French through well-articulated arguments. An excellent speaker of French who was able to take advantage of our Fall Study Abroad program, she was always eager, in her courses, to engage with the material and ask questions that enriched the class discussion and piqued everyone's curiosity. Hannah has been particularly interested in exploring social issues in the French and Francophone context specifically. The French Studies Department is sure that her intellectual curiosity and her ability to ask challenging questions will serve her well in her future endeavors, and is so pleased to present Hannah with this award.

Daniel Parolini, co-recipient of this award, who started his studies of French with us here at Wake Forest. It was his passion for French cinema that motivated him to set out to learn the language. In our intermediate course French 153, he was already an outstanding student. Daniel also studied abroad in the Fall of 2022, and some people in France who heard him speak wondered whether he was French. The French Studies faculty sees him as a stellar thinker and writer. It has been a privilege to witness his academic journey from a beginning student to an advanced and confident French speaker. The French Studies Department is very pleased to present Daniel with this award.

Dr. Tina Boyer, Chair, Department of German and Russian

Dr. Ian Taplin, Professor, Program of Global Trade and Commerce Studies

Dr. Shannon Mihalko, Professor, Department of Health and Exercise Science

The William Hottinger Health and Exercise Science Major Contribution Award was established to honor the long-standing contributions of Department Chair Bill Hottinger, a visionary who led his faculty for decades in their transformation into an interdisciplinary science department. This award is given to the graduating HES major who not only excels in their academic achievements, but also for their overall contributions to the major and the larger campus. It is our honor to present this award to Madison (Maddy) Howard. In addition to her outstanding academic record, during her undergraduate career Maddy represented Wake Forest as a student athlete on the women's soccer team and was highly involved in clinical research. Notably, Maddy was asked to present her honors thesis project, focused on understanding the effects of weight loss and exercise on musculoskeletal health outcomes in older adults, at the 18th Annual ACC Meeting of the Minds Conference in South Bend, Indiana. In addition, she has served as a cancer services volunteer, anatomy teaching assistant, and president of the Athletes in Medicine and Stem (AIMS) club. Upon graduation, Maddy will head to Northwestern University to pursue a 1-year Master of Science degree in epidemiology, with the ultimate goal of attending medical school. Congratulations, Maddy!

Dr. Shannon Mihalko, Professor, Department of Health and Exercise Science

The Michael S. Lawlor Award for Outstanding Student in the Health Policy and Administration Minor is named in honor of Dr. Michael Lawlor, former Director of the HPA minor and Professor of Economics, who, more than 20 years ago, had the vision and dedication to create this interdisciplinary minor that encompasses public health, economics, and epidemiology. The award is presented to the graduating student with the highest grade point average in the HPA minor and overall. It is our pleasure to present this award to Hanna Vaidya who not only has a 4.0 in the minor, but a 3.965 overall! Hanna is a statistics major who also minored in Biology and Computer Science. In addition to her excellence in the classroom, Hanna has completed research in multiple settings, leading to 4 discipline-based presentations and 2 publications! For her internship in HPA, Hanna was a data analyst for Forsyth Futures, where she conducted a thorough inventory of community resources to quantitatively evaluate their influence on social determinants of health. After graduation, Hanna plans to work as a data scientist at RVO Health. This award comes with a cash prize and her name will be engraved on a plaque honoring the annual winners.

Congratulations Hanna!

Dr. Rais Rahman, Chair, Department of History

Josh Singh has been an exemplary student who has gone above and beyond the requirements of a History major which he completed much earlier than most and earned an honors in History while completing two capstone projects. In his research, Josh examined how the Indian indentured laborers who immigrated, mostly forcibly, to work in the colonial plantations in the Caribbean, engaged with people of other cultures to forge a new creolized culture of their own. As a scholarly contribution, his study reveals a nuanced understanding of how communities interact in a diverse environment as they relocate to a new place. This research was supported by a Richter scholarship that facilitated month-long research that Josh conducted over the summer of 2022 in the archives, libraries, repositories, personal collections, and universities across Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago. The History Department is proud to present this award to Josh Singh for his outstanding work, intellectual curiosity, and excellence in History.

Dr. Víctor Hernández-Huerta, Director, Latin American and Latino Studies

The Outstanding Senior Award for Excellence in Latin American and Latino Studies recognizes the graduating minor whose work in and outside the classroom is most meritorious.

Nicholas Aime is an exceptional student with an extraordinary record of academic achievements, intellectual curiosity, and engagement in Latin American and Latino Studies (LALS). He is a major in Politics and International Affairs with a minor in LALS, and was part of the program Wake Forest University Chile: Across South America. Throughout his academic journey, Nick has demonstrated a diligent and rigorous approach to learning, excelling in both coursework and research endeavors. He has conducted research regarding the plight and condition of non-Black Latino and Black Latino communities, and has co-authored articles with professors Lina Benabdallah and Betina Wilkinson. Moreover, Nick's passion for social justice extends beyond the classroom, as he actively engages in extracurricular activities and community service initiatives. His leadership roles within organizations like the Black Student Alliance and his involvement in initiatives such as voter mobilization and educational outreach demonstrate his commitment to effecting positive change at local, national, and global levels.

Dr. Tiffany Judy, Director, Interdisciplinary Linguistics Program

The M. Stanley Whitley Award is given annually to the senior Linguistics student whose academic achievement and intellectual curiosity pertaining to the formal study of language has been deemed most impressive. The Linguistics Core faculty has chosen Hannah Murrow as the winner of this year's award in recognition of her exceptional interdisciplinary academic achievement, her research accomplishments both nationally and internationally, her community service work, and her plans to pursue a Master's degree in Education to teach Spanish.

Dr. Stephen B. Robinson, Taylor Professor and Chair, Department of Mathematics

The John Y. Phillips Prize was established in 1975 by William R. Phillips and other descendants of Dr. M.D. Phillips of Stokes County. John Y. Phillips, brother of M.D. Phillips was a member of the Wake Forest College Class of 1875. A superior student of mathematics who later studied at Richmond Hill Law School in Yadkin County, John Y. Phillips practiced law in Stokes County and also served in the North Carolina General Assembly. The John Y. Phillips Prize is awarded each year to one or two outstanding seniors in the Department of Mathematics. For 2023-2024, the Phillips Prize is being awarded to Emily Wang.

Emily has maintained a 4.0 GPA while taking many upper level courses in both Mathematics and Physics. She has also participated in substantial research projects in both disciplines. Emily's professors describe her as dedicated, insightful, and independent. She is known for her deep understanding of the material and for her ability to figure out solutions for tough problems and clever strategies for proving theorems even before the professor talks about them in class.

Dr. C. Wilkins, Associate Professor, Middle East and South Asia Studies Program

Award for Outstanding Senior in Arabic. Dalal Ahmidouch and Jason Najjar

The Senior Excellence Award in Arabic is given to a Wake Forest senior who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in the study of the language.

Dalal has been a very diligent and committed student with an unwavering dedication to the study of Arabic language and culture. Apart from her academic work, Dalal has been actively involved in the Student Association for the Advancement of Refugees (SAFAR). Dalal Ahmidouch is double majoring in both Computer Science and Mathematics, with a minor in Arabic. After graduation, Dalal will be attending the University of Pennsylvania to pursue a master's in Computer Science.

Jason has been an exemplary student with a deep intellectual curiosity, not only for the language but also for the Arab culture and its richness. Jason will be graduating with a double major in Economics and Art History and a minor in Arabic. He is planning on working in a finance related position for a few years before pursuing his MBA or PhD in Art History.

The Senior Excellence Award in Hindi-Urdu is given to a Wake Forest Senior who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in the study of the language. Tarak has been a committed student of the program for the past three years, progressing from elementary to advanced-level courses, with near-perfect attendance. In addition to his prominent role in organizing extracurricular events related to Hindi-Urdu, Tarak's dedication to public service and community-building has been recognized with awards from the Office of Civic and Community Engagement and the Intercultural Center. He will graduate with a major in Economics and minors in MESAS and Politics and International Affairs.

Lieutenant Colonel John P. Flach, Professor, Department of Military Science

The Distinguished Military Graduate Award is given to cadets who have demonstrated exceptional leadership, scholarship, and military skills and have shown outstanding character, discipline, and dedication to their country and their fellow cadets. They have performed in the top 20 percent of cadets in the nation. This award recognizes their commitment to the principles of duty, honor, and country, and their unwavering professionalism, courage, and selfless service.

I am delighted to present this award to Cadets CJ Bartolozzi, Nick Dowling, Sam Henning and Jack Sabatini who all embody the very best qualities of a military leader and who will undoubtedly go on to make significant contributions to our nation's defense.

Dr. Jacqui Carrasco, Chair, Department of Music

A Music Major in the Liberal Arts Concentration, Aimee Lents has been an outstanding scholar in music theory, history, and culture. She has received a Richter Scholarship and a URECA Fellowship to pursue music research in varied areas, including her most recent work, in which she examines how film composers have frequently white-washed the music of women and cyborgs in cyberpunk dystopian films. As a performer, Aimee has contributed much to the WFU community as a carillonneur and as a drum captain in the Marching Band. She will be starting graduate work in musicology next fall at Boston University's College of Fine Arts.

A Presidential Scholar in Music, Campbell McEntire has been a first prize-winner multiple times in our Department's annual Giles-Harris Competitions, bringing incredible focus, beauty, and maturity to his many performances as a Music Major in the Performance Concentration. He has enriched the musical life at Wake Forest beyond Scales by playing as a soloist at numerous University events and in performances on electric guitar with the student-led band Fifth Son. He will be starting graduate work in classical guitar next year at the University of South Carolina School of Music.

Dr. Katy Lack, Associate Teaching Professor, Undergraduate Neuroscience Program

The Florence Robinson Neuroscience Award is given to a Wake Forest senior graduating with a minor in Neuroscience and is selected on the basis of performance in NEU courses, engagement in research, and communication of research results. This year's recipient is Samantha Roslyn Dankner. Sam is a Biology major working under the mentorship of Dr. Erik Johnson and Dr. Mike Rizzo. Her work focuses on Leucokinin neurons of Drosophila melanogaster larvae, which play a role in regulation of meal size.

The Florence Robinson Neuroscience award is funded by Professor Susan Fahrbach in honor of her mother-in-law, an economist with a love for education, who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease in 2003 and passed away in 2009.

Dr. Win-Chiat Lee, Professor, Department of Philosophy

The Pritchard Award is given annually in honor of former WFU Philosophy Professor Gregory D. Pritchard and recognizes "the most deserving graduating Philosophy student(s)."

Ritt, during his time in our department, has stood out for his intellectual curiosity and depth of philosophical understanding. He has developed original ideas in political philosophy, philosophy of law, and metaethics, and has presented papers at several conferences. His professors note that he is remarkably self-reflective and an excellent and empathetic listener. After graduation, Ritt will work as a Fellow in the office of Provost Michele Gillespie and will apply to graduate school in Philosophy.

Brianna's professors describe her as exceptionally insightful, remarkably diligent, always prepared, lively, and brilliant. She is a wonderful and creative philosophical writer and thinker. During her time at Wake Forest, she has held a range of leadership positions and applied what she learned in her philosophy classes to make positive contributions to her relationships and her community. Brianna will be attending Wake Forest University School of Law in the fall.

Dr. Daniel Kim-Shapiro, Chair, Department of Physics

Presented on the occasion of the graduation of an outstanding student in the Department of Physics of Wake Forest University who best exemplifies the spirit and scholarship of Dr. William E. Speas. Dr. Speas was a distinguished Professor of Physics who taught Physics at Wake Forest from 1920 till 1959. Dr. Speas was a distinguished Professor of Physics who taught Physics at Wake Forest from 1920 till 1959.

Josiah Brinson has actively pursued diverse research problems during his time at Wake. In the past year, he worked closely in the group of Proffessor Kandada, where he implemented a novel hyperspectral imaging platform to visualize exciton-polaritons, which are hybrid light-matter particles. He was accepted into several top graduate programs in Physics/Chemistry/Engineering, and he will be joining the DUKE Electrical and Computing Engineering graduate program this fall.

Emily Foley performed research with several groups both here at Wake Forest and elsewhere. Since her junior year, she has been working in Proffessor Anderson's group focusing on theoretical calculations related to quantum effects for a black hole in an expanding universe. She is a coauthor on a paper related to one of the summer projects that involved gravitational waves. She is expected to be a coauthor on one or two papers related to the black hole work. She was accepted into several graduate programs and plans to get a PhD in applied mathematics at the University of Arizona in Tucson.

Xiyue (Emily) Wang performed research in Proffessor Cook's group during her junior and senior years, doing theoretical and computational work related to the analysis of black-hole ring-down signals. She is a co-author of a paper on this work that is currently in preparation, and has been preparing several Gigabytes of numerical data which will be made publicly available to aid in ring-down analyses. She will be joining the PhD program in Physics at California Institute of Technology this fall.

Dr. John Dinan, Chair, Department of Politics and International Affairs

The C.H. Richards Award is given to a senior graduating with a major in Politics and International Affairs who demonstrates excellence in the study of politics.

Ritt Culbreth, one of this year's recipients, has done exemplary work in his Politics classes and has served as a research assistant for multiple professors and presented his research at several conferences. He has served as a WFU student trustee and president's aide, among other contributions to the Wake Forest community.

Catherine Pitterle, one of this year's recipients, has done exemplary work in her Politics classes and also founded an organization, Women in Politics, and served the university in various capacities. She has held internships in the White House, State Department, and North Carolina General Assembly.

Tahjanee Givens, one of this year's recipients, has done exemplary work in her Politics classes and served as a research assistant for multiple professors in the Politics and Psychology departments, presented her research at conferences, and submitted for publication. She has been a Race Inequality and Policy Initiative fellow and has volunteered and interned for organizations on and off of the Wake Forest campus.

Dr. Terry D. Blumenthal, Professor, Department of Psychology

Dr. Beck was a beloved faculty member in our department for 50 years, who helped guide and shape our department and who we still deeply miss. He was a perfect exemplar of the teacher-scholar ideal. Leanna majored in Psychology (with Honors) and minored in Health and Human Services, and she has excelled as a student, a researcher, and a community volunteer, spending all four years here at Wake Forest as both a Stamps Scholar and on the Dean's List. She has conducted research on the topic of post-traumatic growth, and has volunteered in the area of mental health and well-being, both on campus and in the community. Leanna will spend the next year on campus as part of the Wake Forest Fellows Program, and she will then move on to pursue a PhD in Clinical Psychology.

Dr. Joseph A Soares, Chair, Department of Sociology

The American Sociological Association's Departmental Prize for Outstanding Student Camille Grace Bosshard and Nia K Thompson This year the sociology faculty selected two graduating majors to receive the American Sociological Association's Departmental Prize for Outstanding Student. We honor Camille Grace Bossard and Nia K Thompson for their outstanding academic achievements. Camille will go forward to study law at the University of Virginia and Nia intends to do a gap year followed by entry into a PhD program in sociology. Their names will be placed on a brass plaque which is displayed prominently in the Sociology Department.

Dr. Kathryn Mayers, Chair, Department of Spanish

The Award for Excellence in Spanish is named for Professor Emeritus of Spanish, Dr. Ruth Foster Campbell, and it is given each year to a graduating senior in Spanish whose inquiry into the languages and cultures of the Spanish-speaking world has been extraordinary. This year's highly deserving recipient is Sid Subramanian. During Sid's time at Wake Forest, he studied abroad in Spain, presented comparative linguistics research on Spanish and Hindi at a professional linguistics conference, and completed internships and volunteer work across four local community care clinics, Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist hospital, and two local food pantries. He is completing majors in Spanish and Biochemistry and a concentration in Spanish Interpreting with the highest possible GPA. We look forward to hearing how his language skills inform and brighten his future work.

Dr. Robert Erhardt, Chair, Department of Statistical Sciences

This year's undergraduate award is given to Hanna Vaidya. Hanna is a statistics major, with minors in biology, computer science, and health policy administration. Hanna is recognized for her accomplishments in research and coursework, as well as for her strong leadership and spirited intellectual engagement in the department and beyond. Hanna completed her senior thesis with Dr. Ciaran Evans, conducting research on the detection of abnormal brain behavior from high-dimensional electroencephalography (EEG) data. Her service in and outside the department included tutoring, serving as an executive in Wake Forest's chapter of the Association for Women in Mathematics, and volunteering as a judge at the North Carolina Science Festival. After graduation, she will begin a position as a data scientist at RVO Health.

Dr. Lynn Neal, Easley Professor, Department for the Study of Religions

The Easley Award for Excellence in Religious Studies, which honors Dr. John Allen Easley, former Professor and Chair of the Department, is awarded to the most outstanding graduating senior majoring in Religious Studies. The Department for the Study of Religions faculty has selected Anabel Adams Ford as this year's recipient in recognition of her academic excellence in religious studies. Anabel has been a consistently dedicated, thoughtful, and curious scholar throughout the major. In addition to the Easley Award, she has also been chosen to receive the John Thomas Albritton Award for excellence in biblical studies for her work in biblical Hebrew. We congratulate Anabel on her academic achievements and applaud her contributions to the Wake Forest community.

Professor Mary Wayne-Thomas, Chair, Department of Theatre and Dance

This award is given to the senior theatre major for academic achievement and with the highest GPA. Evan Souza is a double theatre and biology major from Winston-Salem. While at Wake, he has performed in nine productions and served as lighting designer or assistant on four. In addition to being a constant presence in Scales, Evan has served as an Ambassador in Admissions for four years and a trainer for guides for the past two. He has also served as a Presidential Aide. Last week, Evan received three additional departmental awards. Next year he will be an acting apprentice at Florida Studio theatre where he will be acting, understudying, writing, teaching and studying mime and improvisation.

Associate Professor Brantly Shapiro, Co-Director of the Dance Program, Department of Theatre and Dance

This award was established by Mr. & Mrs. Wycliffe Knox Jr. of Georgia, in honor of their daughter Shell, who was a dancer and a graduate of the class of 1993. The award, given to a graduating senior Dance minor and/or company member, is based on overall academic achievement and contributions to the Dance Program and Dance Company. Margaux Miller is a double major in Russian and Politics and International affairs with a minor in Dance and Concentration in French for Business. As a Presidential Scholar in dance, she has been an outstanding member of the dance company and community. She is a beautiful dancer, creative choreographer and was the administrative leader of the community ballet program. After graduation, she will be working for Booz Allen Hamilton as an aerospace and defense consultant at the NASA Headquarters in Washington, DC.

Dr. Julia S. Jordan-Zachery, Chair, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

This award pays tribute to Elizabeth Phillips, Professor Emerita of English, for her exceptional scholarly commitment to the advancement of women's, gender, and sexuality studies. Xiaoya Yang completed her Honor's Thesis titled: "Alternative Narrations: An Ethnography of Sinophone Queer Imaginaries and Identity Construction"

Marianne Magjuka, Executive Director, Office of Civic & Community Engagement

Established in honor of Chaplain Ed Christman, who retired in 2003 after 49 years of service to Wake Forest, each year the Christman Award acknowledges a senior who has engaged in outstanding service to the Winston-Salem community. This student has gone above and beyond in their campus service to Project Pumpkin, Wake Forest University EMS, Student Advising Leadership Council, and Ambassadors in Admissions. They impressively balance their commitments to academics and community engagement throughout their time at Wake Forest. They engaged in biochemistry research and conference presentations along with direct service to the Community Care Center and the Guide Dog Foundation.

The Changemaker Award honors a student who has demonstrated a long-term commitment to a social issue and has worked to lead their peers in the same commitment. As student director of the Virtual Tutoring Program in the Office of Civic & Community Engagement, this student has exhibited exemplary leadership and organizational skills. They successfully recruited and trained over 150 tutors each semester and facilitated meaningful connections between tutors and local families. Additionally, this student's involvement and leadership in the Sexual Health Ambassadors Group showcases their passion for education and advocacy. They played an integral part in planning the annual Sex Week, curating educational and engaging discussions on topics related to sexual health, presented at ConsentCon, and consistently led their peers in programming to build a healthier and safer campus community.

Dr. Mark I Vail, President of the Wake Forest Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa

The Carlton P. West Phi Beta Kappa Award was established in 1985, and honors Carlton P. West, who retired in 1975 after serving Wake Forest University as faculty member and librarian for forty-seven years. Carlton West was the person responsible for bringing a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa to Wake Forest in 1940. He then served as President of the chapter for six years and as Secretary-Treasurer for twenty-two years. The award is presented annually to the graduating senior or seniors with the highest academic average based on at least eight semesters of work at Wake Forest.

Dr. Marina Krcmar, Associate Dean for Faculty

The Recognition of Senior Orators

Surround Sound	Austin	Torain
Whatever is True.	Christa I	Dutton
The Eleventh Hour	Iae (Canetti

Every fall semester, Wake Forest faculty nominate graduating seniors as orators; these are students, who, the faculty believe, have something significant to say about their time at Wake Forest. This is in keeping with a tradition of senior speeches that dates back to the founding of the College in 1834 and was in fact required of all Wake Forest seniors up until the early 1880s. Following faculty nominations, 38 students took the opportunity to reflect on their experience at Wake Forest and submit an oration. We convened a panel of faculty to read these reflections and select ten students who presented orations at our senior colloquium. A panel of faculty selected a short list of three orators and the top orator for 2024, who then read the oration at the Founders' Day convocation. Our top orator for 2024 is Austin Torain with his oration, "Surround Sound". Austin is from Hurdle Hills, NC and is majoring in Psychology with a minor in Neuroscience and Counseling.

Christine Kirby, a Mathematical Economics major, graduating with Honors, and a minor in Music, has embodied the spirit of liberal learning, scholarship, and the ideals of Wake Forest College. Christine is a brilliant student and every class she has been a part of at Wake Forest has benefited from her presence. Her academic journey has been truly interdisciplinary, weaving together elements of Economics, Computer Science, Environmental Studies, Mathematics, Statistics, and Music - playing in the Wake Forest University Symphony Orchestra. She has displayed a relentless pursuit of new knowledge and skills that extends far beyond traditional classroom experiences. Christine has been heavily involved in research, completing a URECA research project on how economics is portrayed in TED Talks, working closely as a research assistant in the Department of Economics to research labor transitions in the emerging renewable energy sector, and for her Honors thesis digging deeply into the pioneering paper that introduced the concept of "chaos" into mathematics. Christine was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa as a junior has played Cello in the Wake Forest Symphony Orchestra for many years, served as a Resident Advisor on campus, and has worked as a tutor in athletics. Christine is known for sharing her knowledge freely with all, out of a true love for helping others to excel, a perfect combination of liberal learning, scholarship, and Pro Humanitate. Christine will begin as an Analyst at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas this fall.

Tahjanee Givens is a remarkable student and an ideal candidate for an award honoring students for their scholarship, liberal learning, and commitment to the ideals of Wake Forest. As a double major, Tahjanee excelled in her courses and completed major research projects as part of her courses of study in Psychology and Politics and International Affairs. She also conducted significant research on her own initiative, undertaking archival research in ZSR's special collections and conducting interviews exploring the history of minority students at Wake Forest. Working with Psychology faculty, she presented her research at several international and national conferences, and she is the first author of a paper analyzing bilingualism and well-being among Latinx youth that has received encouraging feedback from the Journal of Research on Adolescence, all while excelling in the department's highly selective Honors Program. She has held numerous service and leadership roles on and off campus and was an active participant in volunteer organizations and department seminars, while maintaining a 4.0 GPA and being selected as a recipient of the C.H. Richards Award for Excellence in Politics. Tahjanee has worked in various ways to make Wake Forest more inclusive and live up to its Pro Humanitate ideals, as she discussed in her senior oration, "The Footsteps of the Past," where she connected her experience as a Black woman student with others who came before her at Wake. Wake Forest is fortunate to have benefited from Tahjanee's impressive contributions as a student researcher, university citizen, and very special person.

ADDITIONAL AWARDS

Fulbright ETA Scholarship to Germany
Fulbright Research Scholarship to Germany
Fulbright ETA Scholarship to South Korea
Fulbright ETA Scholarship to Spain
Fulbright Canada-Mitcas
Goldwater Scholarship
National Institutes of Health Student Intramural Research and Training Award Tahjanee V. Givens and Eric Yicheng Wang
National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship
Yenching Scholarship
Best Paper in American Ethnic Studies
Cocke Award in Biology
Walter Flory Outstanding Student in Biology
Senior Leadership Award for the Center for Entrepreneurship
The Grant Madison Backerman, American Institute of Chemists Foundation Undergraduate Student Award John W. Skelton
The Royal Society of Chemistry Certificate of Undergraduate Excellence Award
The WFU Chemistry Departmental Certificate of Undergraduate Excellence Award Abigail Mcalley Davis Dawen Rachel Huo Saachi Kheterpal Franz A. Stolpen Justin Pax Vinca
The ACS Division of Inorganic Chemistry Undergraduate Award in Inorganic Chemistry
The ACS Division of Physical Chemistry Undergraduate Award in Physical Chemistry Natalie Grace Christiano
The ACS Division of Biological Chemistry Undergraduate Award in BiochemistryZijun Jade Xia
The ACS Division of Analytical Chemistry Undergraduate Award in Analytical Chemistry
The ACS Division of Organic Chemistry Undergraduate Award in Organic Chemistry
Blackbyrd Scholarship in Chemistry
Joe and Sue Newhall Scholarships in Chemistry
Joe and Charles Fields Chemistry Scholarships
Christen Balady Award for Outstanding Critical and Creative Media Student (Communication)Jason Zhang
Andronica Award in Classics
CAMWS Award for Outstanding Accomplishment in Classical Studies
SCS Outstanding Student Award in Classics
William Royall Scholarship in Classics
D.A. Brown Award for Excellence in Creative Writing
Outstanding Minor in Chinese
Outstanding Minor in Japanese
Claire and Dan Hammond Economics Award for Leadership and Service

John C. Moorhouse Economics Paper Prize	Aman Khemlani
Lawlor Macroeconomics Prize	Nicholas Zuga
Inaugural Linda B. and Howard S. Stern Family Foundation Award for Outstanding Seniors in Schools, Education, and Society	Hannah Murrow
Inaugural Linda B. and Howard S. Stern Family Foundation Award for Outstanding Seniors in Secondary Education	Anahel Novo
Innovation Award in Engineering	Benicio Costales
Pro Humanitate Engineer Award	Mireya Reyes
Beulah Lassiter Raynor Scholarship in English	Mary Outland and Maddie Stopyra
Claudia Kairoff Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Service in English	Anna Gramling and Frances Gray Riggs
Emily Crandall Shaw Scholarship in Liberal Arts in English	Katherine Sherlock
H. Broadus Jones Shakespeare Prize in English	Megan Tibe and Claire Tucker
H. Broadus Jones M.A. Student Award for Excellence in English	Katie Wooten
H. Broadus Jones Memorial Scholarship in English	Adam Coil and Sydney Pasceri
Justus & Elizabeth C. Drake Scholarship in English	
Bynum G. Shaw Prize in Journalism	
Bynum G. Shaw Prize in Journalism (Finalists).	Bella Ortley-Guthrie Breanna Laws Shaila Prasad Hope Zhu
The Beulah Lassiter and Kenneth Tyson Raynor Scholarship in Applied Mathematics	Shelby Horth
The Beulah Lassiter and Kenneth Tyson Raynor Scholarship in Mathematics	Ruiqi Lin and Emily Wang
Goldwater Scholarship in Applied Mathematics	Shelby Horth
The Thomas E. and Ruth Mullen Scholarship in Applied Mathematics	Shelby Horth
The Thomas E. and Ruth Mullen Scholarship in Mathematics/Applied Mathematics	Jiachen Liu
Walter Tatum Scholarship in Mathematics	Ruiqi Lin and Emily Wang
Robert N. Shorter Medieval Prize in Medieval & Early Modern Studies Program	Yuhong Yan
Braswell Student Leadership Award in Philosophy	
The Major Field Test Award in Physics.	Josiah Brinson Carson Cajka Addison Crowell Ziyang "Skye" Zhang
The John Thomas Albritton Award in Religious Studies.	Anabel Adams Ford
The Joseph B. Currin Award in Religious Studies	Joseph Hunter Wyche
G. McLeod Bryan Pro Humanitate Award for Community in Religious Studies	Taylor Denise Graham
Harold C. Tedford Dedication to Theatre Award	Evan Souza
Senior Service to the Department of Theatre and Dance	Sarah Cadena and Evan Souza

Car	roline Fullerton Award for Acting	Nathaniel Avery
		Elsa Mauriz
		Evan Souza
Aca	ademic Excellence in Mathematical Business	Riley Moran
Aca	ademic Excellence in Finance, School of Business	Mary Kate Englehardt
Del	lmer P. Hylton Accountancy Award in the School of Businesss	Khadijah Smith
Lau	ara Baker Paden Award, School of Business	Charles Stuhr
Pate	tel Prize in Finance, School of Business	Mary Kate Englehardt
The	e Levar Hairston Courage Award, School of Business	Colin French

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Emily M. Mabe

Katherine Elizabeth Mahon Erin Leigh McCollum Meredith G. Morrison Hannah L. Murrow Reyan Janak Naik Kristen Erin O'Sullivan Rachel Elizabeth Peterson Andie Morgan Pines Catherine Joy Pitterle Margaret Hannah Quick Hannah Caroline Riley Lillian Raine Robinson Michael Rucker Robinson Emma Blake Rosenfelt Robert Peerson Sandlin Sofia Elisabeth Scordley Joseph R. Sedlacek Zishan (Bruce) Shao Joshua M. Singh

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Wake Forest College began in 1834, with an initial class of just 16 young men. Today, more than 5,400 undergraduates and more than 480 premier teacherscholars comprise the cornerstone of our collegiate university, Wake Forest College. Wake Forest remains dedicated to maintaining the highest standards of education and to preparing our students for life in a challenging, global environment.

