

Honors and Awards

WELCOME

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

To the class of 2025 College Honors and Awards recipients,

Good afternoon, distinguished faculty colleagues, proud family members, and most importantly, our exceptional students being honored today.

As we gather here in this cherished Wake Forest tradition, I am reminded of the words of our University's motto: *Pro Humanitate* – for humanity. This phrase captures not just the aim of our institution, but the very essence of what we celebrate today.

Each of you being recognized has demonstrated extraordinary dedication to your academic pursuits. You have written insightful papers, conducted meaningful research, participated thoughtfully in discussions, and engaged deeply with complex ideas. You have exemplified the intellectual curiosity and scholarly rigor that define the Wake Forest experience.

But your achievements represent more than impressive transcripts or departmental honors. They embody the transformative power of a liberal arts education – the ability to think critically, communicate clearly, and understand deeply. These are not merely academic skills, but essential qualities for meaningful engagement with our complex world.

As you prepare to graduate tomorrow, I invite you to reflect on how your scholarly accomplishments have shaped you. Consider how the questions you've pursued, the texts you've analyzed, and the problems you've solved have expanded your understanding and refined your perspective. How have these experiences prepared you to live as Wake Forest graduates in service to humanity?

To the families here today: your support has been instrumental in these achievements. The late-night encouragement, the proud sharing of accomplishments, and yes, perhaps the occasional care package – all have contributed to the success we celebrate.

To my faculty colleagues: thank you for your mentorship of these remarkable students. Your dedication to teaching, advising, and inspiring has helped cultivate this next generation of thinkers and leaders.

And to our honorees: as you move beyond the familiar boundaries of this campus, remember that the recognition you receive today isn't simply for what you've accomplished, but for who you've become. The intellectual habits you've developed at Wake Forest will continue to serve you throughout your lives.

Tomorrow, you will join the proud community of Wake Forest alumni. You will carry forward our traditions of excellence, inquiry, and service. But today, we pause to honor your remarkable achievements and celebrate the scholarly distinction you have brought to our University.

Congratulations to each one of you. We are immensely proud of what you have accomplished, and we look forward with great anticipation to what you will contribute to our world in the years ahead.

Thank you.

MUSIC

Haozhen Xu ('25), marimba

AWARDS

Dr. Timothy Gitzen, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology

The Department of Anthropology Outstanding Senior Award......Elaine Lu

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. Our faculty unanimously supported Elaine Lu for this year's Outstanding Senior in Anthropology. Elaine is a prolific thinker who contemplates social theory in everything she does. Departmental faculty were united in citing Elaine's outstanding classroom performance, her insightful questioning, and attempts to integrate knowledge she gained across the curriculum. Elaine also successfully defended an insightful honors thesis about post-COVID language patterns in Hong Kong. Elaine will pursue an MA of social sciences at the University of Chicago in the Fall.

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

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

Keyi Huang's independent research project studies the effects of the signaling pathways that control the growth of pollen tubes to allow successful plant reproduction. She has developed and implemented sophisticated microscopic imaging to detect oscillations in the levels of calcium in these cells, which drive rapid pollen growth that is needed for efficient plant reproduction and formation of seeds. Keyi's work has revealed ways in which calcium signals change in response to high temperate stress that causes plants to be unable to reproduce at high temperatures, impacting production of fruits and seeds in our warming climate. Upon graduation, she will be working in a research lab for a year before entering a PhD program.

Dr. Susan E. Fahrbach, Reynolds Professor, Department of Biology

This year's winner is Hope Nitsche, who majored in Biology and Classics, and worked in the lab of Dr. Erik Johnson. Her project was to characterize how specific sensory neurons respond to different odorants. Hope will continue her studies in a joint PhD program between the University of Bonn, Germany and the University of St. Andrews, Scotland.

Dr. Greg Pool, Associate Professor of Practice, Center for Entrepreneurship

The Center for Entrepreneurship Senior of the Year Award Joseph Doria

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. Joseph Doria 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 Joseph with this award.

Dr. John Lukesh, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry

Dr. Michael Sloan, Chair, 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 Hope Nitsche. Hope Nitsche is an intelligent, enthusiastic, and diligent student. She excelled in the various modalities of course experiences from large sections to small seminars. We are proud that her Honors Thesis has been accepted at Harvard's journal for undergraduate research; we celebrate and congratulate Hope for her excellent work over the last four years.

Dr. Eric King Watts, Chair, Department of Communication

Jeremy Nottingham Pro Humanitate Award in the Department of CommunicationKatie Romhilt

The Jeremy Nottingham Award is given in memory of the late Jeremy Nottingham to a student who exemplifies Jeremy's spirit of Pro Humanitate through their involvement in community engaged service beyond Wake Forest.

Katie has been very involved with Wake 'N Shake for all 4 years at Wake Forest. Wake 'N Shake is Wake Forest University's largest philanthropy event, both in number of participants and amount raised. In 2024, students surpassed \$3.5 million in lifetime fundraising through Wake 'N Shake, benefiting the Brian Piccolo Cancer Research Fund and the Comprehensive Cancer Center at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist. Katie has been on the Executive Board for the last 2 years and her responsibilities include filming and photographing the event. Dr. William Turkett, 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. Heng Zhao is recognized for his excellence in coursework, high level of department engagement, and rich contributions to research. Of particular note are his co-authorship of a manuscript at a top machine learning conference and recognition in the national Computing Research Association Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher Award competition.

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. Ally has dedicated herself to her study of Chinese language and culture since her arrival at Wake Forest and has a perfect GPA in the Chinese major curriculum. Her enthusiasm led her to spend two formative summers in Taiwan, first doing intensive language study and the second carrying out a linguistic landscape study of Taiwan's coffee shops and bubble-tea houses. Her Honors thesis project looks at the recent television adaptations of the popular PRC science fiction novel, The Three-Body Problem, with a specific focus on how these Netflix and Tencent series represent technological power. These depictions not only serve as allegories for the future of humankind, but, in Ally's thoughtful analysis, reveal the contemporary techno-nationalist narratives that shaped the production, circulation, and reception of these competing series. Ally's thesis work exemplifies the academic diligence and cultural worldview that we value in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, and we congratulate her on this achievement!

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. Nelia's commitment to Japanese language and culture during her time at Wake Forest has set a new high bar for our department. She has a perfect GPA in the Japanese major curriculum, and spent a semester in Tokyo perfecting her language skills and cultural competence. She is also the current co-president of the incredibly active and awesome Japanese Studies Club. Nelia's Honors thesis project analyzes the popular anime Bungo Stray Dogs, a show that recasts actual, historical, modern Japanese authors as gangsters and detectives with supernatural powers that are drawn from their literary masterpieces. In Nelia's examination, the show is more than just intertextual play; rather, the series' reimagination of these authors disrupts our conventional interpretation of them and revitalizes modern Japanese literary history for the contemporary era. Nelia's thesis work epitomizes the scholarly and textual engagement we love to see from students in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, and we congratulate her on this achievement!

Dr. Qiong Zhang, Associate Professor of History for the East Asian Studies Program

Inaugural Academic Excellence Award in East Asian Studies Lankai Chang

This newly established Academic Excellence Award in East Asian Studies is presented annually to an outstanding graduating senior in the Interdisciplinary Minor Program in East Asian Studies. The inaugural recipient of the award is Lankai Chang, recognized for his dedication to rational, wide-angled inquiries into East Asia, the intellectual rigor and originality of his coursework, and his active engagement in academic events related to East Asian studies at Wake Forest.

Dr. Mark Curtis, Chair and Reynolds Professor, Department of Economics

This award is given to a student in Mathematical Economics who has performed exceptionally well academically. Millet is a top performer academically, but also proactive and curious, a support for her fellow majors, and a wonderful contributor to faculty research. Millet has been a research assistant on multiple faculty projects and a teaching assistant in the difficult econometrics course. She also conducted an independent summer research project that led to a thesis earning high honors, studying how variation in geographical distribution of employer-sponsored health insurance is driven by local labor and economic conditions.

David and Lelia Farr Prize for Excellence in Mathematical EconomicsJames Bender

This award is given to a student in Mathematical Economics who has performed exceptionally well academically. James is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and is actively involved in the university community. In addition to being an excellent student, James has taken on leadership roles in organizations such as Wake's Mock Trial and the Presbyterian campus ministry.

Dr. Alan Brown, Chair, Department of Education

Linda B. and Howard S. Stern Family Foundation Award for Outstanding Seniors in Elementary Education Grace Stump

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. Grace Stump is the award recipient for the elementary education major. She is a licensure pathway major and psychology minor who student-taught in second grade at Moore Magnet Elementary School and served on the Department of Education's Student Leadership Council. After graduation, Grace plans to teach at an elementary school in Charleston, South Carolina.

Dr. Erin Henslee, Associate Professor, Department of Engineering

The Whole Engineer AwardJessica Annabel Dickerson

This award recognizes an engineering student that has demonstrated academic excellence, outstanding character, and embodies the values of the Engineering Department: Empowerment, Growth, Integrity, Inclusion, Compassion, and Joy. Jessi majored in Engineering with a concentration in Mechanical Engineering and minored in Mathematics. She was a founding member of the department's formula SAE team, an undergraduate TA for Materials and Mechanics and held leadership positions in Kappa Alpha Theta and club softball. She was also an URECA Summer Research Fellow and continued research in the Henslee Lab which led to several conference presentations and a published journal article. In addition to her affinity for Disney and the color pink, she is widely recognized for embodying the values of the Engineering Department by the faculty, her peers, and younger students, for whom she has made a positive impact through valuable mentorship and support. Congratulations Jessi!

Dr. Monique O'Connell, Interim Chair of English and Professor of History, for the Department of English

Studying literature and language offers us an opportunity to hold together unlike and sometimes even contradictory ideas, concepts, and attitudes. Adam's work, both inside and outside the classroom, exemplifies this ideal. He is a careful and deliberate thinker who has demonstrated an ability to read and write in ways that transcend disciplinary boundaries, synthesize discordant ideas, and maneuver across genres and historical periods.

Sydney Pasceri has accrued a legion of faculty supporters since she first showed up in our English department classes, quickly distinguishing herself as a vital voice in class conversations and a true intellectual. Sydney always asks the hard questions, always perceptively attends to literary form as well as content, and always widens as well as elevates class discussions. Her Honors thesis "explores the everyday and the ordinary in the poetry of Frank O'Hara and the lyrics of Joni Mitchell, [considering] how items and experiences are rendered in writing... and how reading/listening changes our experience of the everyday." This year she has also done impressive, self-motivated public-facing programming related to her thesis with the National Humanities Leadership Council.

Dr. Julie Velásquez Runk, Director and Weigl Fellow, 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 ENV courses, accomplishment of original research, and a commitment to action. With minors in engineering and statistics, Kirstin is an exceptional student with an infectious commitment to collaborative and technical environmental solutions. During her time at Wake, Kirstin conducted research with Dr. Lauren Lowman in the engineering department for 3 years, where she was instrumental in testing the design of 3-D printed fog gauges and analyzing meteorological data from forests in Costa Rica and Kentucky. She also interned with the environmental consulting firm S&ME doing environmental assessment, stormwater management plans, among other topics. An avid jig-saw puzzler, it seems appropriate that a mystery puzzle that Kirstin donated to ENV remains under completion in our building.

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 ENV courses, accomplishment of original research, and a commitment to action. A double major in English with a minor in Italian studies, Anna is an exceptional student who has combined her degrees as a staff writer for the Old Gold and Black. Among her articles were thoughtful pieces that motivated informed action on environmental justice, greenwashing, and composting. She also was an intern for the Office of Sustainability, where she analyzed micromobility options on campus. She combined safety data from other schools, research on the behavior of e-scooter users, with new data analysis and visualization skills to communicate with the Transportation Working Group on alternative transportation methods at Wake.

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's recipient is Alexandra Ensrud, a French Studies major with a concentration in French for business, as well as a double minor in Linguistics and Global Trade and Commerce Studies. French Studies faculty note that Alexandra is an exemplary student who demonstrates an infectious enthusiasm for French language and culture, and a willingness to engage with the hard work of learning across a range of approaches and topics. Her curiosity and openness led her from a general appreciation for the detective novel as a genre to a successful honors thesis paper that analyzes the question of film adaptation from a variety of angles and in significant depth. It was a pleasure, and so rewarding, to hear Alexandra recently present in very fluid French her honors research to fellow French Studies students. The French Studies Department is confident that her intellectual curiosity and work ethics will serve her well in her future endeavors, and is so pleased to present Alexandra with this award.

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

The James C. O'Flaherty Award for Excellence in German and German Studies......Ethan Rummage

This award honors Professor James O'Flaherty, a foundational member of our department who dedicated his entire career to Wake Forest from 1947 until his retirement in 1984. Today, we honor Ethan Rummage for his exceptional achievements and steadfast commitment to academic excellence. Ethan distinguishes himself in our department, bringing remarkable passion and dedication to every class. He reflects the values championed by Professor O'Flaherty, and his success illuminates the effort and dedication he has consistently demonstrated throughout his time here. His honors thesis reflects his enthusiasm for the German Classics, especially Schiller. Additionally, his unwavering support of our German Honors Society showcases his selflessness and dedication to service. As we celebrate his achievements today, we wish him the best in his future endeavors. May he continue to inspire others and achieve greatness in all of his pursuits.

Dr. Ian Malcom Taplin, Professor of Sociology, for the Global Trade and Commerce Studies Program

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

The Paul M. Ribisl Health and Exercise Science Academic Achievement Award Laurel Marie Ansbrow

The Paul Ribisl Health and Exercise Science Academic Achievement Award was established to honor Department Chair Paul Ribisl for his national contributions to our field and to the development of our department's mission. This award is presented to the graduating HES student with the highest cumulative GPA. It is our honor to present this award to Laurel Ansbrow. Laurel graduated in December 2024 with a 4.0 GPA with her BS degree in Health and Exercise Science. Impressively, Laurel earned this high achievement while a prominent member of the Wake Forest women's soccer team and graduating in only 3.5 years. Laurel was an all-ACC performer on the pitch and earned several awards for her accomplishments in the classroom and in athletics. This included the first Wake Forest student athlete in any sport to receive the Elite 90 award, which is given to the student athlete who has reached the pinnacle of competition at the national championship level in his or her sport, while also achieving the highest academic standard among their peers. Additionally, Laurel was awarded the ACC postgraduate scholarship. Following her current stint in professional soccer, Laurel plans to attend graduate school and pursue a career in the clinical health care field. Congratulations Laurel! The William L. Hottinger Health and Exercise Science Major Contribution AwardCeleste Amelia Childs

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 Celeste Childs. In addition to her outstanding academic record, Celeste was a 4-year travel squad member for the Wake Forest University Cheerleading Team, serving as Captain her Senior year. Celeste has also been highly involved in clinical research. Notably, Celeste assisted with the collection, analysis and authorship of poster presentations at both regional and international conferences in the area of network physiology and cardiovascular coordination. In addition, she has served as a campus kitchen volunteer, gross anatomy teaching assistant, along with shadowing two different physicians over the last two years. During this time, she maintained a 3.95 GPA and participated in the HES Honors Program. Upon graduation, Celeste will serve as a clinical research technician in the Department of Anesthesiology at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist while applying to medical school. Congratulations Celeste!

The Michael S. Lawlor Award for Outstanding Student in the Health Policy and Administration Program . Alexandra Elizabeth Aker

The 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 Alexandra "Alex" Aker who not only has a 4.0 in the minor, but a 3.87 overall! Alex is an Economics major who also minored in Bioethics. In addition to her excellence in the classroom, Alex completed several internships, including for HPA working alongside Dr. Meng Yun Lin to examine how the Merit-Based Payments System Program affects the quality of patient care and risk profiles across providers. Alex has managed fundraising finances, worked with marketing strategies and served as the secretary for Women in Economics. After graduation, Alex plans to work as an analyst for Harris Williams & Company. This award comes with a cash prize and her name will be engraved on a plaque honoring the annual winners. Congratulations Alex!

Dr. Rais Rahman, Chair, Department of History

The Forrest W. Clonts Award for Excellence in History is given to an outstanding history student each year; faculty consider academic achievement, intellectual engagement, and service to the department. As a history major, Jiale Zhu sought a deeper understanding of the past from multiple contexts and perspectives, with the goal of crafting inclusive historical narratives that challenge entrenched misinterpretations and prejudices.

Based on a diligent analysis of archival sources in Chinese, Spanish, and English, Jiale's honors thesis embodies her commitment to the discipline of History and challenges dominant narratives that portray Chinese coolies as passive victims. Through her meticulous research, she has highlighted the agency of the Chinese coolies expressed through acts of resistance ranging from suicide and escape to violent rebellion. We congratulate Jiale, a first-generation college student from an impoverished village in rural China, for her rigorous and deeply engaged work as a student of History and for her research that exemplifies the Pro Humanitate ideal in historical scholarship.

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

The Award for Outstanding Senior in Latin American and Latino StudiesLuis Manuel Bou López de Victoria

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.

Luis Manuel Bou López de Victoria is an outstanding student with a remarkable academic record, deep intellectual curiosity, and strong engagement in Latin American and Latino Studies (LALS). He is a double major in Philosophy and Environmental Studies, with a minor in Latin American and Latino Studies. Fluent in both Spanish and English, Bou also participated in the "Chile: Across South America" program. His professors describe him as "an engaged and thoughtful scholar," with genuine interest in a wide range of topics from music and anthropology to philosophy and politics.

Throughout his academic journey, Bou has consistently demonstrated rigor and dedication in both his coursework and research. His Philosophy thesis aims to make several significant contributions to the debate about the root causes of the ecological crisis. He argues that current discourse mistakenly treats the crisis as something external—limited to the environment—rather than recognizing its deeper connections to spiritual, social, economic, and migratory crises. Bou exemplifies the transformative power of a liberal arts education, drawing on four years of interdisciplinary study in his work. His research on bioregionalism in Puerto Rico, focused on self-governance, solar energy, and land preservation, was presented at an undergraduate research forum. For his LALS honors thesis, he conducted a comparative study of public transportation systems in Santiago, Chile, and the San Juan metropolitan area in Puerto Rico, highlighting the critical role of metro systems in promoting social mobility and integration. Bou is a deeply engaged member of our intellectual community, and we are confident he will go on to become an exceptional scholar.

Dr. Tiffany Judy, Director, Interdisciplinary Linguistics Program

M. Stanley Whitley Award for Excellence in Linguistics...... Alexandra Ensrud The M. Stan Whitley Award is given annually to a Wake Forest senior graduating with a Linguistics minor, and whose academic achievement and intellectual curiosity pertaining to the formal study of language has been deemed most impressive. The Linguistics Core faculty has chosen Alexandra Ensrud as the winner of this year's award in recognition of her rigor, engagement, curiosity, diligence, and insights. Faculty who have taught Alexandra shared that she was a stand-out student in all the best ways, and that they knew they could count on her to bring excellent observations and questions to class. We applaud Alexandra for her academic achievement in Linguistics, and are proud that her career at Wake Forest spans both Linguistics and French. Dr. Miaohua Jiang, Professor, 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 2024-2025, the Phillips Prize is awarded to Yiqing Penelope Jiang. Penelope has maintained a 4.0 GPA while taking many upper-level courses in Mathematics. She has also participated in a substantial research project. Penelope's professors describe her as energetic, hard-working, and independent. She is often complimented for her high quality and insightful oral presentations on challenging topics. Dr. Charles Wilkins, Co-Director, Middle East and South Asia Studies Program This award is named after Darlene R. May, who established the Arabic program at Wake Forest in 2005 and taught with distinction until her retirement in 2021. This year, MESAS is pleased to honor Ramond Lomax for his outstanding achievement and contributions to the Arabic program. While pursuing the MESAS Minor, Raymond completed six courses in Arabic language and literature and spent a summer studying abroad in Egypt. As President of the Arabic Activities Club known as Kalimat, he led many initiatives to explore and celebrate Arab culture. Among these efforts, Raymond helped organize thematic workshops, film screenings, musical performances, and cooking nights. The Arabic program is pleased to present Raymond with this award.

This award is named after Professor Balkrishna Govid Gokhale, who established the Asian Studies Program at Wake Forest in 1960 and remained a leader in South Asian Studies until his retirement in 1990

This year, MESAS is pleased to honor Mariam Raja for her outstanding achievement and contributions to the Hindi-Urdu program. While pursuing the MESAS minor, Mariam completed six courses in Hindi-Urdu language and literature and throughout her studies demonstrated a deep intellectual curiosity in South Asian cultures and religions. Mariam has achieved excellent proficiency in Urdu and has drawn upon her language skills and knowledge of South Asian culture to serve the local community, working as a translator and scribe for health organizations that support underserved patients and cross-cultural communication in medical settings. The Hindi-Urdu program is pleased to present Mariam with this award.

Lieutenant Colonel John P. Flach, Chair, 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 Abigail Grace Costello and Timothy Robert Pearson, who 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. Elizabeth A. Clendinning, Interim Chair, Department of Music

Outstanding Graduate in Music...... Adam Waszkiewicz and Haozhen Xu

A Music Major in the Performance Concentration, Adam Waszkiewicz is known both for his exceptional performances on the clarinet and the infectious curiosity with which he approached his studies. As a Presidential Scholar of Music, Adam served as principal clarinetist and section leader in both the Wake Forest University Symphony Orchestra and Wind Ensemble, where he also held student leadership roles. His achievements in Music were additionally recognized with Christian Cappelluti Memorial Scholarship, the K. Wesley Lacy, Jr. Music Scholarship, and an honorable mention in the Giles-Harris competition. After graduation, he will pursue a Master of Science in mathematics at Wake Forest University.

A Music Major in the Performance Concentration, Haozhen Xu has excelled not only in his primary instrumental area, percussion, but also as a researcher and a composer. A first-place winner of both the WFUSO Concerto Competition and the Giles-Harris Music Competitions, he served as Assistant Principal Percussionist and soloist with the Wake Forest University Symphony Orchestra, while also performing with the Wind Ensemble, Collegium Musicum, and Chinese Ensemble. With support from a Richter Scholarship, he conducted international field research on the socio-political significance of the East Asian two-string spike fiddle, to be presented at an international conference in June 2025. Following graduation, he will pursue a Master of Arts in Global Thought at Columbia University.

Dr. Susan Fahrbach, Reynolds Professor, Department of Biology, for the Undergraduate Neuroscience Program

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. The award is given to a Wake Forest senior graduating with a Minor in Neuroscience and is selected based on performance in NEU courses, engagement in research, and communication of research results. This year's award goes to Yuan "Jo" Cai. Jo is a Biology Major working under the mentorship of Dr. Joost Maier at WFU School of Medicine. Her work investigates how multisensory principles apply to flavor perception to understand how sensory integration guides food choice behavior. Jo will be attending the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in the fall as a Neuroscience Ph.D. student.

Dr. Emily Austin, Professor, Department of Philosophy

Sydney is an excellent all-around philosopher — a quick, yet careful thinker and an engaging conversationalist who approaches philosophical questions with an open mind. Over and above her remarkable and wide-ranging academic excellence, Sydney captures philosophy's true spirit. She decided college was not only about getting into medical school, but also about seizing the rare opportunity to explore life's big questions in the company of peers. Sydney begins her first year at Wake Forest School of Medicine this summer.

Ethan has been a consistently outstanding student, both in the classroom and in the wider philosophical community. His professors report that his work is sharp, insightful, and draws on an impressive intellectual familiarity with a wide variety of subjects. Above all, they describe Ethan as an ideal classroom citizen — an engaged, kind, and generous interlocutor who intervenes with timely and perceptive comments that stimulate further discussion and help other students join the conversation. Ethan will begin Wake Forest Law School this fall.

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

The William Eugene Speas Memorial Award for Distinguished Work in Physics Amanda Peake

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. Amanda Peake performed research at Wake Forest University and with several groups elsewhere. Since her sophomore year, she has been working with Paul Anderson focusing on theoretical calculations relating to quantum effects inside and outside of a black hole. She is coauthor on a paper related to a summer project at the University of Valencia in Spain. She is expected to be a coauthor on one or two papers related to the black hole work at WFU. She has been accepted into the graduate program in physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MIT, where she will pursue a Ph.D. in physics.

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

Meredith Prince

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.

Natalie Borsuk, one of this year's recipients, has done exemplary work in her Politics classes and has held leadership positions in philanthropic organizations and groups committed to boosting engagement in politics and the electoral process.

Connor Deir, one of this year's recipients, has done exemplary work in his Politics classes and presented his research at a national conference. He has served as a president's aide and held numerous positions in student government.

Meredith Prince, one of this year's recipients, has done exemplary work in her Politics classes and has shown dedication to community and philanthropic service and involvement in the political process.

Dr. Christy M. Buchanan, Chair, Department of Psychology

Dr. Michael Ramirez, Chair, Department of Sociology

The American Sociological Association's Departmental Prize for Outstanding Student Alex Mojica and Lucy Sinwell

This year the sociology faculty selected two graduating majors to receive the American Sociological Association's Departmental Prize for Outstanding Student. We honor Alex Mojica and Lucy Sinwell for their outstanding academic achievements. Alex will pursue law school and coach debate at a gifted elementary school in Chicago. Lucy will be moving to New York City after graduation to work at UBS in their Sales and Trading division. Their names will be placed on a brass plaque which is displayed prominently in the Sociology Department.

The Department of Sociology Community Engagement Award Alexis Williams

The Sociology Community Engagement Award recognizes a student who embodies Wake Forest University's Pro Humanitate motto and who has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to community service and leadership. This year, we honor Alexis Williams for the incredible work she has done for our university and larger community. Alexis will take a gap year before pursuing law school with a specific orientation towards civil rights or criminal law.

Dr. Kathryn Mayers, Chair, Department of Spanish

Dr. Robert Erhardt, Chair, Department of Statistical Sciences

The Undergraduate Award for Academic Achievement in the Statistical Sciences......Zhongyang Su

Since her freshman year, Celine has been a hard-working and engaged student. She excelled in her coursework and took almost every class offered by our department. In her senior honors thesis titled "Using Smartphone Data to Measure Recovery of Essential Tremor Patients after Focused Ultrasound Therapy", she has demonstrated herself as an inquisitive and meticulous researcher. She analyzed accelerometer data to uncover postoperative recovery patterns of tremor patients, in collaboration with biostatisticians and medical doctors. Her work will contribute to a neurosurgery paper. In addition to being a wonderful student, Celine has made major service contributions to our department, serving as a teaching assistant and tutor for 5 semesters in a variety of classes, such as "Design and Sampling" and "Statistical Computing". This fall, Celine will join the Master's in Statistics and Data Science program at Yale University.

Dr. Jarrod Whitaker, Professor, Department for the Study of Religions

The John Allen Easley Award in Religious Studies...... Ashleigh Claire Hampson

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 Ashleigh Hampson as this year's recipient in recognition of her academic excellence in religious studies. Ashley has been a consistently dedicated, thoughtful, and curious scholar throughout the major. We congratulate Ashley on her academic achievements and applaud her contributions to the Wake Forest community.

Dr. Cindy Gendrich, Chair, Department of Theatre and Dance

The Wake Forest University Theatre Association Award for Academic Excellence......Ellie Howell

The Wake Forest University Theatre Award for Academic Excellence is given to a Wake Forest senior with a major in Theatre, selected on the basis of overall grade point average. Ellie Howell is majoring in Theatre, with a double major in History. She has been an outstanding student and a mainstay of the University Theatre, and most recently directed a lovely production of Brian Friel's The Yalta Game in the Ring Theatre as her Honors project.

Nina Lucas Rice, Professor and Director of Dance, Department of Theatre and Dance

The Knox Dance Scholar Award...... Meg Campbell

Katie Poulton

The Knox Dance Scholar Award was established by Mr. and 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 is given to graduating senior dance minors and/or company members, and is based on overall academic achievement and contributions to the Dance Program and Dance Company. The recipients will receive an engraved paperweight and monetary award.

Meg Campbell is a major in English with a triple minor in Dance, Spanish and Chemistry. She has made significant contributions to the dance program serving as a dancer, choreographer and a member of the Executive Board. After graduation, she will be attending University of College London working on her masters in Archival and Record Management.

Katie Poulton is a major in Accountancy with a double minor in Dance and Psychology. During her time as a company member, she has performed in over 10 pieces of choreography. Katie served on the Dance Co. executive board and is a role model amongst her peers promoting trust, collaboration and comradery. After graduation, she plans to work in Boston as an Auditor.

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. Kevin Dunn's impact reaches across every corner of our community - from Admissions to Athletics, Greek Life to the greater Winston-Salem community. Through his leadership with Hit the Bricks, Kevin helped to raise over half a million dollars for cancer research, rallying thousands of students and dozens of community partners around a common cause. As a leader, student, and friend, he's shown what it means to serve with humility, passion, and heart. Kevin's legacy as a Deac is one of tireless dedication and quiet, meaningful moments that have left our community stronger, kinder, and more connected.

The Changemaker Award honors a student who doesn't just speak about change—but leads it. This award recognizes someone with an unwavering commitment to a social issue, inspiring others to create meaningful, lasting impact. Through years of volunteer service at the Community Care Center—one of the largest free health clinics in the Southeast—Amelia Suhocki not only lent a helping hand but went on to identify a major gap in care and took action. Working with the Director of Behavioral Health, she developed and implemented a mental health screening tool that has since been used in thousands of patient encounters, helping providers respond in real time and connect patients to both the medical and social support they need. Beyond the clinic, she mobilized fellow students, leading workshops, speaking at mental health forums, and inspiring her peers to engage in public health advocacy. Amelia's efforts have not only reshaped a system but also changed countless lives.

Dr. Marina Krcmar, Associate Dean for Faculty

The	Recognition of Senior Orators
	Ephemeral Moments, Eternal ImpactZac Anderson
	Uncertain CertaintyAnne Rack
	Unmasking Confidence Elise English
The	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, 22 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 10 students who presented orations at our senior colloquium. A panel of faculty selected a short list of 3 orators and the top orator for 2025, who then read the oration at the Founders' Day convocation. Our top orator for 2025 is Zac Anderson with his oration, "Ephemeral Moments, Eternal Impact". Zac is from Eagen, MN and is majoring in Marketing Communications with minors in Theatre and Entrepreneurship.
	Aidan Norris, an Engineering and Physics double major has consistently demonstrated his dedication to humanitarian work, leadership and character, and technical research that best exemplifies the spirit of Pro Humanitatae.
	In his first two years at Wake, Aidan spent both summers in Uganda; one analyzing the impacts of school water runoff on local streams that locals utilized for use and consumption, and the other investigating humanitarian aid and how executive donations were not being used for their intended purposes. He then created a website for Batwa Indigenous Power Organization to raise awareness.
	In his third year, Aidan's research led him to New Zealand for a project on local energy sources as providers for off-grid electricity for schools, and also here at Wake where he conducted research on using machine learning to identify how and when wind speed sensors were malfunctioning, and to use this data to increase systems control to optimize safety and renewable energy production.
	Aiden spent his senior year under the guidance of Dr. Josh Dickenson designing gravity flow electricity generation technology as a system meant to be implemented in a remote community in Uganda as a renewable energy source.

During his time at Wake, Aidan was a scholar in the Program for Leadership and Character, and he spent time in London studying character and leadership across different cultures. As a Stamps Scholar, he led a workshop at their national convention focusing on community building around play. He looks forward to joining the Peace Corps next year and to working to help create opportunity for others.

The Chair of the Engineering department notes, "Aidan is the epitome of a liberal arts engineer who has and will continue to do great things For Humanity."

ADDITIONAL AWARDS

Amgen Scholar	he
Goldwater Scholarship	an
JET Award	in
National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Honorable Mention Amanda Peal	ke
PPIA Fellow	7ei
Udall Scholarship Honorable Mention	ris
Elton C. Cocke Scholarship in BiologyJack Carso	on
Walter Flory Outstanding Student in Biology	on
The Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Scholar AwardElena Singer-Freema	an

The Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Service Award	Collin Sharp
The Grant Madison Backerman, American Institute of Chemists Foundation Undergraduate Student	Award Kaizhen Zhang
The Royal Society of Chemistry Certificate of Undergraduate Excellence Award	Xinchen Huang
The WFU Chemistry Departmental Certificate of Undergraduate Excellence Award	Madelyn Hope Cohen Caroline Reed Nett Catherine D'Arcangelis
The ACS Division of Inorganic Chemistry Undergraduate Award in Inorganic Chemistry	Kaizhen Zhang
The ACS Division of Physical Chemistry Undergraduate Award in Physical Chemistry	Gaelen Thomas Criswell
The ACS Division of Biological Chemistry Undergraduate Award in Biochemistry	Madelyn Hope Cohen
The ACS Division of Analytical Chemistry Undergraduate Award in Analytical Chemistry	Yang Zeng
The ACS Division of Organic Chemistry Undergraduate Award in Organic Chemistry	Gaelen Thomas Criswell
Blackbyrd Scholarship in Chemistry	Lillian Lauren Getter
The Harton Scholarship in Chemistry	Ana Elena Bilbao
Christen Balady Award for Outstanding Critical and Creative Media Student (Communication)	Vir Gupta
Andronica Award in Classics	Jack Peterson
CAMWS Award for Outstanding Accomplishment in Classical Studies	Scotty Kennon
SCS Outstanding Student Award in Classics	Abby Komiske Sarah Davenport Brystol Habermacher
William Royall Scholarship in Classics	Hilina Asfaw Kailani Carbon
The Patty Lanier Award in Communication	Theo Berson
The Patty Lanier Award in Communication Academic Award in Communication	
	Luke Anders
Academic Award in Communication	Luke Anders James Li
Academic Award in Communication Outstanding Minor in Chinese.	Luke Anders James Li Sally Lu
Academic Award in Communication Outstanding Minor in Chinese Outstanding Minor in Japanese	Luke Anders James Li Sally Lu Steven Cayea
Academic Award in Communication Outstanding Minor in Chinese. Outstanding Minor in Japanese Claire and Dan Hammond Economics Award for Leadership and Service	Luke Anders James Li Sally Lu Steven Cayea Caliway Buchanan
Academic Award in Communication Outstanding Minor in Chinese. Outstanding Minor in Japanese Claire and Dan Hammond Economics Award for Leadership and Service John C. Moorhouse Economics Paper Prize .	Luke Anders James Li Sally Lu Steven Cayea Caliway Buchanan Ana Bilbao
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Academic Award in Communication Outstanding Minor in Chinese. Outstanding Minor in Japanese Claire and Dan Hammond Economics Award for Leadership and Service John C. Moorhouse Economics Paper Prize Michael Lawlor Macroeconomics Prize. Linda B. and Howard S. Stern Family Foundation Award for Outstanding Seniors in Schools, Education, and Society Linda B. and Howard S. Stern Family Foundation Award for Outstanding Seniors in Secondary Education. Innovation Award in Engineering Pro Humanitate Engineer Award.	Luke Anders James Li Sally Lu Steven Cayea Caliway Buchanan Ana Bilbao Campbell Lambeth Sydney Paige Falk Avelina Axonov Aidan Donald Norris Caroline Thompson
Academic Award in Communication Outstanding Minor in Chinese. Outstanding Minor in Japanese Claire and Dan Hammond Economics Award for Leadership and Service John C. Moorhouse Economics Paper Prize Michael Lawlor Macroeconomics Prize. Linda B. and Howard S. Stern Family Foundation Award for Outstanding Seniors in Schools, Education, and Society Linda B. and Howard S. Stern Family Foundation Award for Outstanding Seniors in Schools, Education, and Society Linda B. and Howard S. Stern Family Foundation Award for Outstanding Seniors in Schools, Education, and Society Linda B. and Howard S. Stern Family Foundation Award for Outstanding Seniors in Secondary Education Innovation Award in Engineering Pro Humanitate Engineer Award. Bashir El-Beshti Prize in Renaissance Studies in English	Luke Anders James Li Sally Lu Sally Lu Steven Cayea Caliway Buchanan Ana Bilbao Campbell Lambeth Sydney Paige Falk Avelina Axonov Aidan Donald Norris Caroline Thompson Emily Meinert
Academic Award in Communication . Outstanding Minor in Chinese. Outstanding Minor in Japanese . Claire and Dan Hammond Economics Award for Leadership and Service . John C. Moorhouse Economics Paper Prize . Michael Lawlor Macroeconomics Prize . Linda B. and Howard S. Stern Family Foundation Award for Outstanding Seniors in Schools, Education, and Society . Linda B. and Howard S. Stern Family Foundation Award for Outstanding Seniors in Secondary Education . Innovation Award in Engineering . Pro Humanitate Engineer Award. Bashir El-Beshti Prize in Renaissance Studies in English Beulah Lassiter Raynor Scholarship in English	Luke Anders James Li Sally Lu Steven Cayea Caliway Buchanan Caliway Buchanan Campbell Lambeth Campbell Lambeth Avelina Axonov Aidan Donald Norris Caroline Thompson Emily Meinert Bella Santos

Emily Crandall Shaw Scholarship in Liberal Arts in English	Abigael Thibault
H. Broadus Jones Senior Excellence Award in English	Adam Coil Sydney Pasceri
H. Broadus Jones M.A. Student Award for Excellence in English	Rachel Rosen
H. Broadus Jones Memorial Scholarship in English	Lauren Carpenter
Inaugural Jerry B. and Callie Irene Stone Award Honoring Professor Alonzo Kenion Fund for English	Alexis Williams
Justus & Elizabeth C. Drake Scholarship in English	Hope Brill Maria Fernandez
Bynum G. Shaw Prize in Journalism	Ella Klein
Bynum G. Shaw Prize in Journalism (Finalists)	Beza Zelalem Skyler Villamar-Jones Virginia Noone
The Beulah Lassiter and Kenneth Tyson Raynor Scholarship in Mathematics	Millet Ding
Walter Low Tatum Scholarship in Mathematics	Scott Zhao Yiqing Penelope Jiang
Robert N. Shorter Medieval Prize in Medieval & Early Modern Studies Program	Anne Jones
General George C. Marshall Award in Military Science	Abigail Grace Costello
Braswell Student Leadership Award in Philosophy	Luis M. Bou Roman Conway
The Joseph B. Currin Award in Religious Studies	Shelby C. Balmer
G. McLeod Bryan Pro Humanitate Award for Community in Religious Studies	Leah Morgan Cabiness
Caroline Sandlin Fullerton Award for Acting	Aderinola Adepoju Isabella Biricik Joe Bruno Ashlyn Collings Ellie Howell
The Henry and Dyeann Jordan Scholarship in Theatre and Dance	Carly Galbreth Abigail Parr Maggie Payne John Mark Stowers Callie Wittmann
The Hugo Award in Theatre and Dance	Vir Gupta
The James Dodding Award in Theatre and Dance	Bella Grace Cave Mary Caroline Kolar Callie Wittmann
The Johnnie Collins Scholarship in Theatre and Dance	Tracy Xie
The Marie Bagby Award in Theatre and Dance	Bradley Jiang
Senior Service to the Department of Theatre and Dance	Zac Anderson Riley Shanaghan
The Tedford Award in Theatre and Dance	Abigail Parr
Academic Excellence in Mathematical Business	Dylan Mini
Delmer P. Hylton Accountancy Award in the School of Business	Matthew Littrell
Laura Baker Paden Award, School of Business	Aashna Kumar
Patel Award in Finance, School of Business	Nicole Sung
The Spirit of Wayne Calloway Award, School of Business	Paul Sposato

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Ann McKinney Russell Aleyna Elizabeth Schuett Sophia Sethi Elena Hanna Singer-Freeman Madelyn Faatz Stopyra Allie Streck Lillian Elise Sutton Adina Sweet Caroline Brown Thompson Grace Trask Wendy J. Wei Alyssa Zaepfel

РНІ ВЕТА КАРРА

Kyle Austin Shelby Balmer Anna Beim James Bender Allison Benton Mia Bergier Ana Bilbao Molly Bochner Ally Bonnet-Eymard Cora Cahill Steven Cayea Emma Chang Xiaomi Ding Michael Dorn Amelia Dunat Olivia Duvall Sophie Eldridge Hannah Elluru

Isabel Flicker Morgan Galvin John Gannon Lillian Getter Robert Graham Emily Gunn Jayden Haukos Eleanor Howell Yiqing (Penelope) Jiang **Reilly Jones** Jacob Kathman Sophia Khakee Campbell Lambeth James Wenhan Li Katherine Liontis Qianyu Lu Lauren McKinnon Katherine Miles

Alex Mojica Nicole Namath Sadie Nipon Hope Nitsche Aidan Norris Amanda Rae Peake Molly Pluta Madeline Pollock Andrew Prete Meredith Prince Morgan Rees Kate Reilly Ethan Rummage Liza Russell Catherine Ryan Addison Schmidt Collin Sharp Emily Silva

Elena Singer-Freeman Jordan Smith Wyatt Strassmann Allison Streck Nicole Sung Gavin Troy Sam Wank Madeline Wecker Wendy Wei Tian Xia Jingyu Yao Evan Zelt Yang Zeng David Zhen Alexandra Zolman

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.



WAKE FOREST COLLEGE