



Dear Friends of Wake The Arts,

Congratulations to the Class of 2023! This month, our newsletter greetings are from our outgoing and incoming stArt gallery managers: Riley Philips ('21) and Maya Whitaker ('23).

**From Riley:** Happy end-of-semester! While I have connected with many of you in my cumulative six years at WFU, I'm excited to introduce myself to those of you whom I haven't had the pleasure of meeting. I'm Riley Phillips, a WFU '21 Studio Art and German alumna, and currently, I am the WFU stArt Gallery Manager.

stArt is a special place. stArt provides the incredible and validating opportunity for students (and alumni) to exhibit, curate, and/or sell their artwork in a professional gallery. As stArt Manager, I have matured and honed my career interests in marketing, social media ([follow @startgallerywfu!](#)), and curation, which has been instrumental in preparing me for the next step of my career.

As I transition into my new position as the Social Media Content Producer at UNC Chapel Hill this month, I am so pleased to welcome Maya Whitaker as my successor. I had the privilege of having Maya as the stArt Gallery Operations intern this semester and guiding her through the execution of "[Sustain]ance," her stArt Gallery exhibition with the Artivists. A talented artist, leader, and

admirable activist, I know that Maya will be a great addition to the lineage of fabulous stArt Gallery Managers.

**From Maya:** I am excited to be taking over Riley’s position as the stArt Gallery Manager next year! I am eager to follow in the footsteps of the amazing work that Riley has accomplished, and I am grateful to remain a part of the community of Wake the Arts. The Artists collective, which I founded in 2021, exhibited “[Sustain]ance,” a show of zero-waste/sustainable works, in stArt Gallery for the month of April, and I look forward to continuing to merge art as a tool for community engagement with the mission of the stArt Gallery. I know that this position will aid my career goals and help me grow in my creative endeavors. I can’t wait to work with all of the talented students and alumni in our community!

Warmly,

Riley Phillips (’21) and  
Maya Whitaker (’23)



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## What’s Happening



## Seniors Spotlight 2023

Wake the Arts is shining a spotlight on 30 extraordinary graduates of 2023, and we're only scratching the surface. What makes these graduates so successful? The Arts are the secret ingredient — whether their major was Psychology or Studio Art, Sustainability or Economics, Engineering or Neuroscience. These students embody the engaged liberal arts experience at Wake Forest and point the way forward.

[Read more](#)

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## J. D. Wilson receives Distinguished Alumni Award

Wake Forest and the Alumni Council named trailblazer Beth Norbrey Hopkins ('73, P '12) and arts champion J.D. Wilson ('69, P '01), both of Winston-Salem, to receive the 2023 Distinguished Alumni Awards. They were recognized at a gala in the Sutton Center on campus on April 21 to honor them for their service to the University and for exemplifying Pro Humanitate.

[Read more](#)

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## **Student journalists go behind the scenes with the Reece Collection**

The student art-buying trip is one of the most unique experiences Wake Forest has to offer. It all started in 1963 when Wake Forest's Dean of Men and College Union Adviser Mark Reece and faculty members Ed Wilson and Allen Easley drove to New York with two students who they tasked with purchasing pieces of contemporary art. There is no other program like this at a university in the country, according to University Art Collections. This year we celebrate **60 years of the Reece Collection** and the art buying trip.

[Read more](#)

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## **Who's Making Things Happen**



**BOB WINSLOW ('77)**

### **Why I Support Wake the Arts**

“Why give?”

The way I see it “giving” is simply participating and collaborating in whatever way you can for the benefit of the community. If you care about the work of Wake

Forest “giving” is no different than taking mustard and ketchup to a neighborhood cookout. Those of us connected to Wake Forest, regardless of reason, are a particularly fortunate group. There is great community and camaraderie among us, there is a natural welcoming when we come together, a shared vigor, a shared gratitude. There is pride, too, but not an arrogant pride. It is a joyful, action-oriented pride, the sort that pulls on us to collaborate and share as we can.

Are we grateful for what WFU has given to us, or to our children, or to others in favor of a better life perspective? Are we vigorous because through WFU we discovered in ourselves an ongoing inquisitiveness? Are we comrades due to shared experiences or from learning the value of collaboration? These energies we share come from something uniquely Wake Forest, something we have a responsibility not to preserve but to nurture.

Why WakeTheArts?

The ARTS reflect our soul and our hearts and minds. The ARTS touch, bridge and integrate every aspect of the work and spirit of Wake Forest. The ARTS make the invisible visible, the non-tangible tangible, imbue feeling into the matter-of-fact. Whatever is going on here, the ARTS light it up! Giving to the ARTS is giving directly to the heartbeat and vibrancy of this place, and such giving helps intentionally elevate the experience and value of being here for everyone who steps foot here, regardless what brings them.”

— Bob Winslow ('77, P '13)

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### **DeacLink Spotlight: Sophie Heldt ('20)**

“Be persistent. Follow up, and keep contacting people. Introduce yourself — in person if you can. Don’t be afraid to use your connections or put yourself out there. People appreciate when you make an effort.”



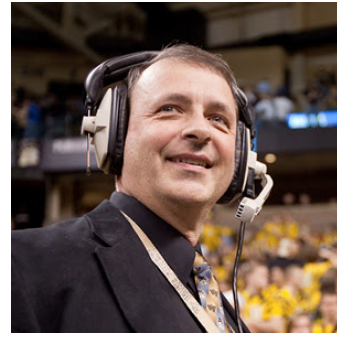
Sophie Heldt ('20) recently returned for a campus visit as part of **stArt Gallery's 5&Under** program. Be sure to check out our **DeacLink website** and **LinkedIn Group** for more alumni highlights.

**Read more**

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## Teacher-Scholar Legacies: Kevin Bowen

Dr. Kevin Bowen never imagined a long tenure at Wake Forest University when he arrived in 1994 to temporarily direct the marching and pep bands. He was convinced that the previous director, a Wake Forest grad, would soon be back, and his own doctoral work at Florida State University led him to assume that his career would focus on mentoring future high school band directors.



[Read more](#)

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## Teacher-Scholar Legacies: David Finn

David Finn, Professor of Art, has taught sculpture at Wake Forest University since 1988. He created and championed Wake Forest's public art program, where students experience making artwork with and for campus or community organizations. His renowned teaching and courses, such as Public Art, Bodies and Objects, Fabrication, and Installation Art, have been formative experiences that will continue serving his students throughout their lifetimes.

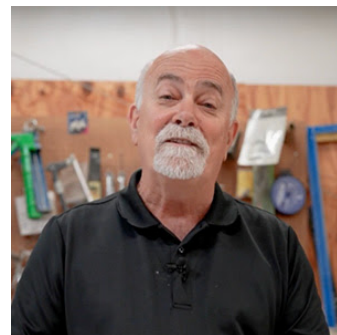


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## Facilities partner JL Bolt retires

Thank you, JL Bolt, for building a better Wake Forest for over 30 years. JL was part of the 2019 production **From the Ground Up**, and has been integral in creating and expanding storage facilities for **WFU Art Collections**.



[Watch the video](#)

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### **The Art Connector: Caitlin Berry ('09) featured in Wake Forest Magazine**

Caitlin Berry ('09) makes public access and community conversations a focal point as director of the new Rubell Museum DC, where she assumed the role of inaugural director last August.

[Read more](#)

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### **Force of Nature: Kate T. Parker ('98)**

Photographer Kate T. Parker ('98) couldn't be stopped in creating a career that led to best-selling books about the power of letting girls and boys be themselves.



[Read more](#)

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### **“Event of the Year” awarded to Wakeville**

Congratulations to Roscoe Bell ('23) and Liam Kimbro ('23), who accepted the

SOAR Award for “Event of the Year” for the inaugural Wakeville Interdisciplinary Arts Festival.

[Read more](#)

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### **Wake the Arts Alumni gather at the Mint Museum**

We recently connected with over 100 Charlotte area Wake alumni at the Mint Museum in Charlotte, NC for a private tour of “Picasso Landscapes: Out of Bounds” led by Mint Director and CEO, Dr. Todd Herman. This inspiring gathering was a collaboration with Alumni Engagement and Wake the Arts.



### **Quynh Vu ('22) at the Mint Museum**

Congratulations to recent graduate Quynh Vu ('22), whose solo show “Softened Scars” was at the Mint Museum in Charlotte (January 20 - May 7, 2023). Quynh’s work reflects the continuous process of attempting to understand her identity as a Vietnamese American woman, an identity that invokes strong sentiments towards both Western and Vietnamese culture and history.



[Read more](#)

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## **In Case You Missed It**





### **Kristen Chenoweth performed with Ellie Howell ('25)**

Broadway superstar Kristin Chenoweth and Ellie Howell ('25) performed “For Good” from *Wicked: The Musical*. A touching and thrilling moment captured on film.

[Watch the video](#)



### **Student Exhibition Opening**

The Annual Student Art Exhibition in Hanes Gallery featured 73 works of art by over 50 students, selected by Studio Art faculty. This year’s opening reception of the Student Art Exhibition also celebrated the inaugural Hanes Gala — visitors attended the opening in an outfit responding to this year’s theme, Fashion as Art // Art as Fashion, complete with decorations, red carpet, and Gala paparazzi.

Congratulations to the student below whose work was purchased from the show and added to the **John P. Anderson Collection of Student Art**:

- Angel Amador: Capital | Capital, 2022, cyanotype
- James Chacharone: waterfall, 2023, photograph

- MC Goff Self-Portraits I and II, 2023, color pencil and watercolor
- Alaura Knoop: Untitled, 2023, oil on wood
- Austin Margol: Runway, 2022, intaglio
- Kate Upchurch: The Entanglement of Gratitude, 2022, digital print
- Lilly Yerkes: Recital, 2023, oil on Duralar
- Elise Young: A Time Remembered, 2023, photo booklet
- Ziyang Zhang: To Darker Nights: An Exploration of Light Pollution, 2023, video

[See more on Instagram](#)

[Event info at Hanes Gallery](#)

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## **Spring Dance Performance**

Choreographed by Dance students across campus and directed by faculty member Chris Martin, the Spring Dance Concert featured a diverse evening of dance styles. Celebrate the inspiring show with these beautiful photos.

[See the Photostory](#)



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