



Dear Friends of Wake The Arts,

Hurray! It's a new school year at Wake Forest! I love the powerful energy exuding from Scales Fine Arts Center in the beginning days of a new semester... students running to dance classes, art studios, or theatre auditions, musicians happily weighed down with their instrument cases on their way to a private lesson or an ensemble rehearsal, and the effusive chatter throughout the hallways and lobbies of Scales about new and dynamic scholarship.


I am excited to gather with my beloved Arts colleagues and many of our regular collaborators on Friday, September 8th, where we will share updates about our research and creative work and highlight upcoming programming events for the semester. We will also get a sneak preview of Hanes Gallery's new exhibition of large-scale paintings by Guyanese artist Arlington Weithers: **WHITE | Balance**. Later that evening, auditions for "**Turning 15 On The Road to Freedom**", the story of civil rights champion Lynda Blackmon Lowery, will take place in the Ring Theatre. This collaboration, with the Department of Theatre and Dance, the School of Divinity, and **NC Black Repertory Theatre**, invites all Wake Forest students, staff, and faculty to audition and join the cast or choir of this tremendous production.

The 2023-24 academic year will be an exciting time to align the Arts at Wake within Wake Forest's **strategic framework**, ensuring the arts community

continues to thrive and embody our inclusive excellence.

If you haven't already, check out the Wake the Arts Calendar in your **Google calendar** — you'll never lose track of attending an inspiring experience! And another cool update: we have a new centralized ticketing software! Check out **wfu.universitytickets.com**! Until we meet again, enjoy the waning warm days of September.

Yours,



**Christina Soriano**

*Vice Provost for the Arts & Interdisciplinary Initiatives  
at Wake Forest University*

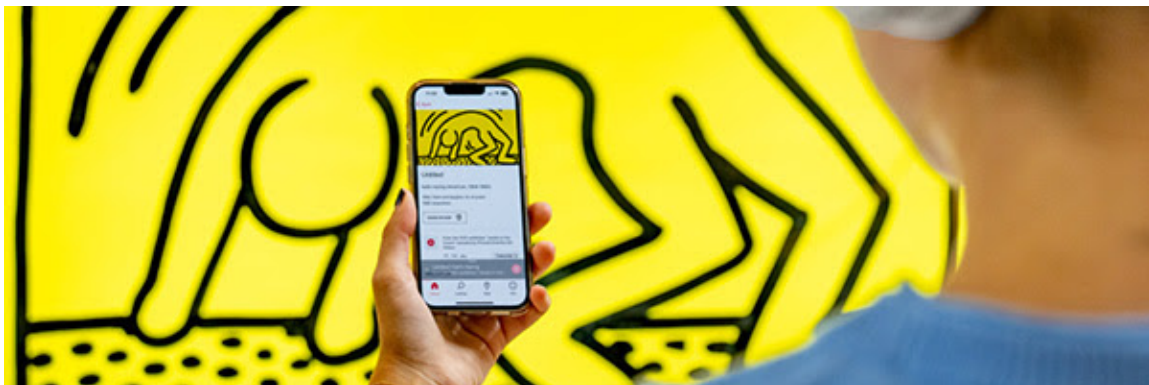
**Add Wake the Arts Events to your Google Calendar**

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## What's Happening



**Bloomberg Connects**

Wake Forest art collections is NOW AVAILABLE in a new digital guide on Bloomberg Connects, a free arts and culture app created by Bloomberg Philanthropies.

“We are thrilled to make our collections available to a wider audience,” said Jennifer Finkel, Acquavella Curator of Collections. “This guide allows us to increase the visibility of art on our campus, and it is a resource for faculty, students, staff and visitors. We can also share how art is being used across the curriculum from engineering to dance.”

We’re celebrating 60 years of the **Mark H. Reece Collection of Student Acquired Contemporary Art**. Explore the Reece Collection and others on Bloomberg Connects — learn more below.

[Read more](#)



## **AUDITIONS: Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom** **Sept. 8-9, 6-8 p.m.** **Ring Theatre**

You can be part of the show. Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom, a new musical directed by NC Black Repertory Theatre’s **Jackie Alexander**, is filled with traditional and original Gospel and Freedom songs. The show tells the moving and inspiring true story of Lynda Blackmon, the youngest person to walk all the way from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama on the Voting Rights March in 1965. Please fill out the form below to join in. Open to students, staff, faculty, and community — no prior experience necessary.

[Sign up today](#)



**WHITE | Balance: Arlington Weithers**

**Sept. 11 - Dec. 8**

**Hanes Gallery**

The exhibition **WHITE | Balance** is centered on six recent large-scale paintings — some exceeding twenty feet in length — by Guyanese-born, New York-based artist Arlington Weithers. Five of these works belong to his “white” series which are a departure from Weithers’ signature paintings, where assertive color and surfaces predominate. However, the white that supplants hue in the ambitious “white” paintings is rich and variegated, with reflectance from flat to iridescent — a subtly tinted spring thaw range of whiteness — which reveals an extended gamut of what the eye will accept as “white.” Ultimately, it is not the absence of color, but the apparent simultaneity of all color in “white,” that Weithers’ paintings provide; an immersive experience of scale, surface, contrast, subtlety and complexity. But they also have other things to disclose about “whiteness.”

[Read more](#)



**Wake the Arts Student Reception Sept. 19, 4:30-5:30 p.m.**  
**Brendle Lobby (upper Scales)**

Students! Get to know your campus arts community and hear updates about



Wakeville 2024, international opportunities, and funding for your creative work. We'll be decorating and eating cupcakes as well!

[Read more](#)

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### **Gallery Crawl**

**Sept. 19, 5:30-7:30 p.m.**

**Hanes Gallery and stArt Downtown**

Join us at Hanes Art Gallery to see the vast, surprisingly chromatic and metaphorically charged “white” paintings of Guyanese artist Arlington Weithers. Then we’ll catch a shuttle to Wake Downtown for the opening reception of “Humans of Downtown” featuring photography by Cassie Tan (’24).

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## **Who’s Making Things Happen**

### **Presidential Scholar Spotlight**

“Being a Presidential Scholar at Wake has been such a wonderful experience. Initially, it was rewarding to be recognised for my accomplishments in theatre, but once I arrived on campus it became rewarding in so many other ways. As part of a cohort of artists, it’s beautiful to see how everyone else in my group of scholars uses their talents and expresses their artistic ability. Also, we are known by all the department faculty members before we even step foot on campus, and having so many adults in your corner supporting you as you transition into college is so affirming. You already have connections with them, and they know the talents you possess, so they become excellent resources in connecting you with



opportunities both inside and outside of the classroom, or even outside of Wake Forest.”

— Evan Souza ('23)

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### **Visiting Artist Rudy Shepherd ('98)**

#### ***Coffee with Artist and Alumnus Rudy Shepherd***

Oct. 2, 10-11 a.m. Scales 103

#### ***“Affirmative Actions:” Talk by Artist and Alumnus Rudy Shepherd***

Oct. 4, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Scales 102



We are fortunate to have the opportunity to welcome Artist Rudy Shepherd ('98) back to Wake Forest, where he majored in biology and studio art. He is currently Professor of Art at Penn State University, and his current work combines painting and sculpture to explore narratives of trauma, guilt, and healing. During his visit, he will interact with students in Art Department classes in Painting and Sculpture, and present a public lecture on his recent work.

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### **Drew Droege ('99) in *Titanique***

Drew Droege ('99) will take over the role of “Ruth” in *Titanique*, the musical send-up of the blockbuster film Titanic. The show spoofs the classic love story of Jack and Rose to the music of Céline Dion. *Titanique* is scheduled to run at the Daryl Roth Theatre in New York City through January 7, 2024.



[Read more](#)

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## **Mark Your Calendar...**

**Never miss an event!**

Use the link below to add Wake the Arts events to your Google Calendar. The

Wake the Arts calendar (which can be toggled on and off) makes it easy to see what arts events are happening day by day so you can plan ahead.

**Add Wake the Arts to your Google Calendar**



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## **variations in the dream of X**

### ***poet's theater:***

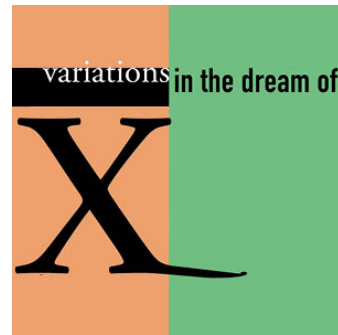
*Sept. 13, 5-6 p.m.*

*Brendle Recital Hall*

### ***readings and performances:***

*Sept. 14, 5-6 p.m.*

*Hanes Art Gallery*



Written and directed by Ken Taylor, this play is about alterity and explores the multiplicities of self, gender and identity politics, the lyric "I", and dreams through poetry and performance.

variations in the dream of x is a poet's theater featuring Fred Moten, Lynn Book, Ken Taylor, and V Riebel and will be held in Brendle Recital Hall on 9/13. On 9/14 we will present a night of poetry readings and performances with Fred Moten, Lynn Book, Ken Taylor, and V Riebel in the Hanes Gallery. The two events are presented by the **Dillon Johnston Writers Reading Series** in the Department of English with the Interdisciplinary Arts Center as a co-sponsor.

**Read more**

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## **Wake The Forest: Focus Week 4 Arts & Culture (9/18-9/23)**

We can't wait to Wake the Forest with the class of #WFU26 this fall!

**TUESDAY 9/19**

**Student Reception** (Brendle lobby)



4:30 p.m.

Gallery Crawl (Hanes / stArt dt)

5:30 p.m.

“Humans of Downtown”

Cassie Tan ('24) Reception at stArt dt

5:30 p.m.

## **THURSDAY 9/21**

Jason Moran and The Bandwagon (Brendle)

7:30 p.m.

## **FRIDAY 9/22**

Family Weekend:

Learn about the WFU Contemporary Art Collection (Benson 3rd)

11 a.m.

“Witness for the Prosecution” (Tedford stage) 7:30 p.m.

## **SATURDAY 9/23**

“Written on the Wind” (film at Reynolda)

1 p.m.

“Witness for the Prosecution” (Tedford stage)

7:30 p.m.

## **ONGOING EXHIBITIONS**

(open daily during regularly posted hours)

“White Balance: Arlington Weathers”

(9/11 - 12/8, Hanes)

“Humans of Downtown” Cassie Tan ('24)

(9/11 - 10/27, stArt dt)

“Still I Rise: The Black Experience at Reynolda”

(2/22-12/31, Reynolda)

“Coexistence: Nature vs. Nurture”



(4/7-9/24, Reynolda)

“MINE: What is Ours in the Wake of Extraction”

(9/7-12/8, Lam Museum of Anthropology)

“Smith & Libby: Two Rings, Seven Months, One Bullet”

(9/9 - 12/31, Reynolda)

“Life After Death: Celebrating Day of the Dead”

(9/12 - 12/8, Lam Museum of Anthropology)

[See the campus life Arts calendar](#)

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**Secret Artists Series: Jason Moran** Sept. 21, 7:30 p.m.

Brendle Recital Hall

Since his emergence on the music scene in the late 1990s, Kennedy Center Artistic Director for Jazz, Jason Moran has proven more than his brilliance as a performer. In almost every category that matters—improvisation, composition, group concept, repertoire, technique, and experimentation—Mr. Moran and his group The Bandwagon, with bassist Tarus Mateen and drummer Nasheet Waits, have challenged the status quo. A graduate of New York’s Manhattan School of Music, Mr. Moran was awarded a MacArthur Foundation fellowship in 2010 and was named the 2015 Musician of the year by the Jazz Journalists Association. He has since performed and/or recorded with artists such as Cassandra Wilson, Wayne Shorter, Charles Lloyd, Dave Holland, Marian McPartland, and many others.

[Read more](#)

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**Learn about the WFU Contemporary Art Collection with curator Jennifer Finkel**

*Sept. 22, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.*

*Benson University Center, Third Floor Rotunda*



Please join Acquavella Curator of Art Collections, Jennifer Finkel, on an art tour of Wake Forest's contemporary art collection. The tour will start in the Benson student center, which houses the university's premier collection: The Mark H. Reece Collection of Student-Acquired Contemporary Art. This year marks the 60th anniversary of this one-of-a-kind student art-buying trip. This revered tradition has empowered three generations of students to amass a world class collection of contemporary art of national note.

[Read more](#)



**Theatre: Witness for the Prosecution**

*by Agatha Christie, directed by Sharon Andrews*

Sept. 22-23 & 28-30 at 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 24 & Oct. 1 at 2 p.m.

Tedford Stage, Scales Fine Arts Center

The remarkable Agatha Christie is perhaps the world's most famous mystery writer — her works are reportedly outsold only by Shakespeare and the Bible. Leonard Vole, a young man admittedly strapped for money, is accused of murdering a wealthy older woman. The high-profile trial has London buzzing and many are curious about Leonard's enigmatic German wife that he rescued and brought to London after the war. This thrilling courtroom drama with its twists and shocks has long kept theatre goers on the edge of their seats dying to know, "guilty or not guilty."

[Read more](#)

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**Cole Swenson & Michael Snediker poetry reading**

*Oct. 19, 5 p.m.  
ZSR auditorium*

A poetry reading by brilliant writers Cole Swensen and Michael Snediker.



[Read more](#)

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**Arlington Weithers artist talk**

*Oct. 19, 3 p.m.  
Hanes Gallery*

Guyanese painter Arlington Weithers will discuss the evolution of his work that led to **WHITE | Balance**, his current exhibition in Hanes Gallery.



[Read more](#)

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**Choral Reunion Concert: Homecoming Weekend**

*Oct. 22, 1:30 p.m.  
Brendle Recital Hall*

See multiple generations of Wake Forest Choir members perform together in Brendle Recital Hall this

**Homecoming Weekend**. All choral alumni are also **invited** to join former and current faculty for a weekend of events in conjunction with Homecoming Weekend 2023.



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**Looking Ahead**

## Save the Date: A Conversation with Debbie Allen

*Nov. 12, Wait Chapel*

Debbie Allen is the inaugural recipient of the Maya Angelou Artist-in-Residence Award. Join us this Fall as we celebrate and learn from her remarkable life and career.



[Read more](#)

## Save the Date: Reece Collection 60th Anniversary Celebration

*Jan. 19, 2024*

*Of The Times: Sixty Years of Student-Acquired Contemporary Art at Wake Forest*, an exhibition at Hanes Gallery in Scales Fine Arts Center will run from January 19 - March 31, 2024. Join us on January 19 to see more of this historic Collection in person than ever before.

STUDENT ART BUYING TRIP



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WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY  
1834 WAKE FOREST RD., WINSTON-SALEM, NC 27109  
1.336.758.5000