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## Wake the Arts on the road

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### **Dear Friends of Wake The Arts,**

As we wrap up another academic and fiscal year, it is fitting that this newsletter highlights two exciting travel opportunities our students experienced in Art (at the Venice Biennale) and in Music (as the Chamber Choir toured throughout venues in the Southeast). I too head on an adventure very soon as I travel to Barcelona, where I will co-teach my Neuroscience and Dance course during summer session 2 with my neuroscience collaborator, Dr. Christina Hugenschmidt. I am thrilled to offer this course with 8 students in such a thriving, international city.

This exciting beginning aligns with another change we are delighted to share with our Wake the Arts community: the launch of the Wake the Arts Center. As I transition from my role as Vice Provost this month after 7 years, I am thrilled the work of Wake the Arts will continue powerfully as I co-direct the Wake the Arts Center next year with my colleague Chris Zaluski, the newly appointed director of Wake's Documentary Film program and a dedicated member of our Center advisory board. I am grateful to the administration for supporting me with a year-long research leave and a Reynolds Professorship, which will generously support my research in the arts and health space. I am thrilled to return to the faculty and regularly engage with students once again, as I will be appointed in both Dance and Health and Exercise Science departments and teach courses that support the dynamic intersections of dance and science!

Next year will be a powerful one. Wake the Arts looks forward to ongoing partnerships in the Provost's office as Michele Gillespie's extended appointment as Provost at Wake Forest, the appointment of Stacie Petter as Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs, and we look forward to sharing continued Wake the Arts highlights — stay tuned as we officially launch the Wake the Arts Center in September.

All best wishes for a restful and inspiring summer. Go Deacs!

Yours,

**Christina Soriano**

*Vice Provost for the Arts & Interdisciplinary Initiatives*



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## Wake the Arts on the road



### Students experience the Venice Biennale

Joel Tauber's visited the 60th Venice Biennale, including the "All African

**People's Consulate,”** artist Dread Scott’s conceptual artwork along the Grand Canal. The exhibition, curated by WFU director of galleries Paul Bright and supported by Cristin Tierney Gallery (Cristin Tierney ’93), is dedicated to an imaginary union of African countries that would protect the rights of its citizens to freely move around the world.



### **Chamber Choir sings across the Southeast**

The Wake Forest University Chamber Choir enjoyed an enormously successful tour in Atlanta, Memphis, Nashville, and New Orleans! From their concerts on the campus of Emory University and their collaboration with the choir of First Presbyterian Atlanta in that remarkable and historic acoustically satisfying venue, to their moving performance of the Duruflé Requiem in collaboration with a noted concert organist and local choirs in Memphis, each of their four concerts delighted audiences of supportive WFU alumni and parents, current WFU students, and new admiring fans of Wake Choirs.

The students added to their concert experiences touring the world-class aquarium in Atlanta, taking line dancing lessons in Nashville, two inspiring trips to Buc-ees (which, if youve never experienced that, is a life-changing event in itself!), hours of friendship building and memory making on the bus, in hotels, touring the cities, and an emotional “farewell banquet” at the fabulous Arnauds in New Orleans. The students rounded out their successful tour with a final performance at the Universitys annual Baccalaureate service, and the Chamber Choir seniors continued their annual tradition of leading the Alma Mater at their own graduation.

Read more to hear a moving story of the Chamber Choirs impact in Memphis, and to learn more about the Chamber Choirs “WHY.” As always, special and enduring thanks go out to Frank and Kathy Bragg for their support through the Thane McDonald Tour Fund, and to the family of Dr. Brian Gorelick for the new Fund for Choral Activities. Its thanks to those initiatives, along with others, that

the Chamber Choir is able to share their impact with audiences domestically and internationally.

[Read more](#)

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### **International Black Theater Festival**

Finding Holy Ground: Performing Visions of Race and Justice in America is a collaboration between NC Black Rep, Wake Forest School of Divinity, and Wake the Arts. Examining the intersection of race, religion, sexism, and justice in America, the project features the world premiere of two commissioned plays: ***I Am...A Shepherdess***, by Eljon Wardally and ***Heritage***, by JuCoby Johnson. The festival also features a celebrity staged reading of *Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom*, which tells the story of Lynda Blackman Lowery, the youngest participant in the 1965 Selma Voting Rights March (Benton Convention Center - 5:30pm on July 31). In addition, the festival features a concert by Common Hymnal, a group of artists whose music centers life, justice and underground spirituality, covering a wide range of subject matter in a broad range of styles (Wait Chapel - 5:30pm, August 3).

For more details on other exciting events at the International Black Theater Festival, [see brochure](#)

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## **1LoveFestival**

The 1LoveFestival will be this weekend from June 27-29 in various locations across Winston-Salem, including music on Friday and Saturday at The Ramcat. The festival is a cultural arts festival that centers African diasporan music, art, innovation, entrepreneurship and wellness practices. It is co-curated and founded by Assistant Teaching Professor Dr. Melva Sampson.

[Read more](#)

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## **WFU Curator of Collections presents with Museum Exchange**

Jennifer Finkel, Acquavella Curator of Art Collections, presented at “Donating Beyond the Museum: Strategies for Giving and Receiving Art” hosted by **Artwork Archive**. The other panelists were from the **New York City Health + Hospitals** and **Museum Exchange**.

The logo for MuseumExchange, featuring the text "MuseumExchange" in a white sans-serif font on a dark grey rectangular background. The "X" in "Exchange" is stylized with a blue and white geometric design.

[Museum Exchange webinar](#)

[Interview with Museum Exchange](#)

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## **Honoring Retiring Faculty in the Arts**

### **Teacher-Scholar Legacies: Sharon Andrews**

Congratulations to Sharon Andrews! In her nearly three decades at Wake Forest, Sharon has been an inspiring and prolific artist, as well as an exemplary teacher



and citizen of the university. She has served on dozens of committees and task forces; represented Wake Forest at regional and national conferences; and advised, mentored, and advocated for both colleagues and students. Sharon leaves a legacy of artistic rigor, deep faith in her students, and abundant kindness.



[Read more](#)

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### **Teacher-Scholar Legacies: Peter Kairoff**

As Dr. Peter Kairoff looks back on his teaching and performing career at Wake Forest, what strikes him most is his incredible luck in finding a home where he could explore and share his myriad interests and talents. I'd, of course, argue that we in the Wake Forest community were the lucky ones: for 35 years, Peter has inspired us daily with his profound musicianship, intellect, and humanity.



[Read more](#)

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### **Teacher-Scholar Legacies: Brantly Bright Shapiro**

Associate Professor of the Practice Brantly Bright Shapiro has served and taught in the Department of Theatre and Dance for forty years. A remarkable teacher, colleague, and friend, she began as an instructor in our Community Ballet program, which provides ballet training for students five years and up. She went on to direct the program for many years and became an invaluable member of our Dance faculty. The hundreds of dancers who passed through our programs have been the beneficiaries of Brantly's brilliant diagnostic mind, her impressive training, and her career as a professional dancer.



[Read more](#)

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### **Teacher-Scholar Legacies: Mary Wayne-Thomas**

Mary Wayne-Thomas often chuckles and recalls, “I thought I’d come to Wake Forest for three years and then move on. I’m still here.” Professor Mary Wayne-Thomas has served the Wake Forest Department of Theatre and Dance as a scenic and costume designer for the past 44 years. Joining the department in 1980, Mary has also worked as a technical director, carpenter, scenic painter, property master, costume craftsman, tailor, draper, stitcher, makeup artist, cobbler, puppet builder, and armorer on over 100 productions. She is currently serving her third round as chair of the department before she retires in December 2024.



[Read more](#)

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### Composer in residence Dan Locklair reviewed by BBC

Read the glowing review of Locklair's latest album **From East to West** at the link below.

[Read more](#)

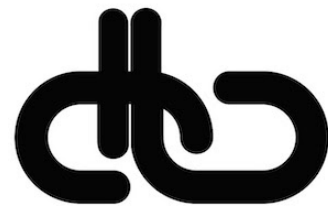


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## Alumni: We'd love to feature you on DeacLink!

Alums — do you have an exciting update you want to share with our community? We'd love to feature you on DeacLink, our platform for Wake Forest Arts alumni.

[Send us a note](#)



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