Greetings to all, from our gorgeous spring season on campus—an April of timely weather to welcome both visiting accepted students (across our schools; it’s admissions season everywhere at Wake Forest!) and our re-accreditation team of administrators from other universities. That team was a striking group: the presidents of Rice and Mercer; cabinet officials from Emory, Tulane, and Baylor; even interlopers from up north (Bryn Mawr, and a longtime Cornell administrator who moved south a couple years back). Re-accreditation reviewers sign up voluntarily; in my experience most schools don’t attract this level of talent for their on-site visits. A welcome affirmation that others are keenly interested in what’s happening here at Wake Forest. Indeed, along with requisite discussions of accreditation standards, we fielded a host of interested questions from our visitors, about how we successfully manage everything from budgets to sustaining our liberal-arts commitment.

We’ve also had administrators from several schools visit campus this semester, curious about one or another aspect of Wake Forest academic practices, business models, or cultures. And we have positive stories to relate: applications are up across our schools (we topped 14,000 for the College, for example, despite our forbidding seven-essay format; ten years ago, we had around half that number); the Wake Will campaign continues to shatter WFU fund-raising records; and we continue to attract our first-choice candidates for faculty and senior staff positions. Notably, those new arrivals tend to stay: our retention rates are higher than those of most peers, for faculty and staff as well as students.

All this has us continuing to explore the question raised with several of you in groups across campus, as well as at my annual Senate-invited presentation earlier this month: why is Wake Forest succeeding? Our habitual practice is to identify problems, issues, or risks, and work to address those; that commitment remains unflagging. But we also must understand the roots of what is going well. It is a strategic imperative to identify sources of success, both to understand stakeholders’ positive responses and to do more of what’s been working, and less of what hasn’t.

To date the five most frequent responses, collecting together conversations with faculty, staff, and Trustees, are:

Engaged teaching/learning: our signature face-to-face mode of education, carried out by faculty across our schools, is routinely cited (and celebrated). *We are improving our methods for evaluating faculty-student engagement, in order to better understand what benefits such engagement provides—and whether/how we are distinct from peer schools in this regard.

Applied/impactful research and creative work: many respondents note that WFU faculty, across our schools, are distinguished for applied work. We ask meaningful questions about—or create compelling creative works addressing—issues that truly matter. *This claim is difficult to test, but we are piloting ways to understand the extent to which we emphasize applied and impactful scholarship, looking at published work and performances, journal articles, sponsored research projects, and the like.

Commitment to innovative programs and practices: universities are generally great custodians of tradition, and Wake Forest is no exception. And they can also be engines of innovation. Those polled regularly pointed to our accelerating ‘culture of innovation.’ *Here again measurable outcomes are few; we hope to be a pioneer in assessing innovation, as well as exemplifying it. Qualitative as well as quantitative evaluations will be necessary.

Close community ties: groups noted variously that alumni remain closely bound to their alma mater; that current faculty, staff, and students exhibit a strong sense of communal bonds and purposes; or that deep and abiding connections have always been central to Wake Forest. Whatever the particular group, ‘community’ is frequently noted as a secret of our success. *Concrete evidence of stronger bonds felt by alumni, for example, comes through attendance at Wake Will and other alumni events like Pro Humanitate Day.
This is a complicated claim: I’m a frequent extoller of the Wake Forest community, one that I like others often describe in familial terms. Yet we also know that many—current students who feel marginalized, out-of-touch alumni, staff members for whom WFU is merely a workplace—do not share that outlook. Striving to enhance a meaningful sense of inclusion among all Wake Foresters: that would put us on the road to true success.

Leadership: again from Trustees and faculty/staff alike, University leadership along various dimensions—collaborative, visionary, and decisive were three oft-cited traits—was flagged as a leading ingredient. *There’s a large literature on evaluating leadership, in teams and as individuals, and we are tapping into that to better understand what might be salutary and even distinctive about Wake Forest’s leadership team.

Another frequently-mentioned reason for what success Wake Forest can claim has been our extended reach and visibility. There’s a certain tautological aspect to this point: we are doing better because we are better known; we are better known because we are doing better. Certainly our Communications/External Relations (CER) team does a terrific job of noting areas of achievement, and publicizing those well beyond campus. Whether greater visibility is itself a contributor to success is also on our list to assess.

We will continue to pose this ‘why succeeding?’ query across campus and beyond, and as noted for each item above are also working to evaluate each of these dimensions (along with other explanations that may arise), ideally using peer schools for comparison. As a social scientist, I genuinely find appealing the challenge of analyzing these explanations.

We know that we have a long way to travel to claim sustained achievement in any of these areas. And it’s been fun asking the question!

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**Eboo Patel to deliver 2016 Commencement address**

**Baccalaureate speaker is Rev. Dr. M. Craig Barnes, President of Princeton Theological Seminary**

Eboo Patel, a leading voice for interfaith cooperation and the founder and president of Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC), will deliver Wake Forest University’s commencement address on Monday, May 16.


He is a regular contributor to the public conversation around religion in America and a frequent speaker on the topic of religious pluralism. He holds a doctorate in the sociology of religion from Oxford University, where he studied on a Rhodes scholarship. For more than 15 years, Patel has worked with governments, social sector organizations, and college and university campuses to help realize a future where religion is a bridge of cooperation rather than a barrier of division.

He regularly contributes to the Washington Post, USA Today, Huffington Post, NPR and CNN.

Also joining Wake Forest for the commencement weekend will be Baccalaureate speaker: The Reverend Dr. M. Craig Barnes, president and professor of pastoral ministry at Princeton Theological Seminary.

Baccalaureate will take place Sunday, May 15 at 11 a.m. in Wait Chapel. Like commencement, baccalaureate is a ticketed event reserved for graduates, their families and guests and is not open to the general public.

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**Writers Camp @ ZSR**

In partnership with the Writing Center, on January 29 ZSR held an overnight camp in the Library for 33 students who wrote poems, essays, and stories inspired by University artifacts and memorabilia documenting the history of Wake Forest. Author and professor Jenny Puckett help launch the event with an assist from the Demon Deacon.

During the course of the evening the students completed an entire book which has been published as *Wake the Artifacts* by Library Partners Press. You can [read the full text online](#). A print copy is also available through Amazon.com. Several of the students who participated were also part of a panel at *Words Awake! 2*, a celebration of Wake Forest writers and writing held April 8-9. A [blog post](#) written by Library Fellow Peyton Barr and Instruction & Outreach Librarian Hu Womack gives greater details about this very special event.

Many thanks to Ryan Shirey and the tutors from the Writing Center as well as the ZSR folks who spent the night in the Library!
Progress on Wake Downtown since January 2016

- Academic programs – in addition to the Chemistry concentration in Medicinal Chemistry & Drug Discovery approved by the faculty in October 2015, the following programs have been approved by the College faculty:
  - B.S. in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology – to be jointly administered by the Biology and Chemistry departments, this major is expected to attract students with a desire for in-depth training in these two fields and passion for research.
  - B.S. in Engineering – designed to educate students in an engineering curriculum that embraces and supports the unique culture of Wake Forest by combining the liberal arts core, innovative entrepreneurship, and engineering. Students will have the option of a concentration in biomedical engineering.
  - Minor in Biomaterial Science & Engineering – designed in consultation with Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine (WFIRM), this minor introduce students to the ways researchers study and mimic biological materials such as bone, soft tissue, and muscle.

- A search committee has been established and the search is on for a chair of the engineering department, with the intention of naming a chair by January 2017.

- Building design and construction – Construction documents have been finalized and walls are going up!

- Recruiting students – Preliminary recruiting materials have been developed, and Admissions is actively promoting the new programs and new downtown space to current high school juniors. The response has been enthusiastic among visitors to campus, and the admissions team will continue to make prospective students aware of the newly available opportunities.

- Student services – Over 50 groups meet regularly to ensure that needs are met from the first day of occupancy. Security, network access, transportation, and many others continue to move forward.

- We are also excited to announce that Dr. Rebecca Alexander has been named the Director of Academic Planning, Wake Downtown
Announcing the 2016-2017 Secrest Artists Series season!

**Thursday, October 13, 2016** | **Fretwork**
Brendle Recital Hall, Scales Fine Arts Center
7:30 pm

Currently celebrating their 30th anniversary, Fretwork is the world’s leading viol consort—a historically-informed chamber ensemble who plays the music of early modern England on Renaissance instruments that are the forerunners to modern-day stringed instruments. Their recordings have won both the Grand Prix du Disque and a Gramophone Award, and they have been featured on the soundtracks of two films by the American director Jim Jarmusch.

**Thursday, November 10, 2016** | **Classical Savion**
Wait Chapel
7:30 pm

The award-winning dancer and choreographer Savion Glover—described by his mentor Gregory Hines as “perhaps the greatest tap dancer who has ever lived”—brings his unprecedented talents and creativity to his dance interpretation of musical classics: Bach, Mozart, Vivaldi, Shostakovich and others. Accompanied by both a chamber orchestra and a jazz ensemble, this performance will be a genre-bending mixture of dance and music at its most extraordinary.

**January 26, 2017** | **eighth blackbird**
Brendle Recital Hall, Scales Fine Arts Center
7:30 pm

This multi-Grammy and MacArthur Foundation award-winning new music ensemble eighth blackbird (named from a poem by Wallace Stevens) has provoked and impressed audiences for 20 years across the country and around the world with its virtuosity and sense of theater. A Chicago-based sextet of flute, clarinet, piano, percussion, violin, and cello, eighth blackbird combines the finesse of a string quartet with the power of a rock band.

**Thursday, February 23, 2017** | **Orchestre National de Lyon, Leonard Slatkin, conductor / Gil Shaham, violin**
Wait Chapel
7:30 pm

One of the oldest and most respected orchestras in France, Orchestre National de Lyon comes to Wake Forest for a performance featuring internationally-renowned conductor Leonard Slatkin and violin virtuoso Gil Shaham. The program will feature works by Ravel, Berlioz’s *Symphony Fantastique*, and Shaham’s signature work, the richly romantic violin concerto by American composer Samuel Barber.

**Thursday, April 6, 2017** | **Alina Ibragimova, violin and Cedric Tiberghian, piano**
Brendle Recital Hall, Scales Fine Arts Center
7:30 pm

Russian/English violinist Alina Ibragimova and French pianist Cedric Tiberghian are considered among the finest collaborating musicians in Europe. *The London Times* concluded its review of the duo’s recital at the 2007 Cheltenham Festival with the statement “Both of these players have the potential to conquer the world.” The duo’s concerts at London’s Wigmore Hall were received with great acclaim, and Ibragimova’s many recordings on the Hyperion label have established her as one of the world’s greatest younger violinists. Their performance will feature music by Brahms and Schumann.
Wake Forest School of Divinity named top seminary that integrates faith and ecology into our curriculum

Wake Forest University School of Divinity has been named one of the top 25 seminaries that has courses on faith and ecology as an integral part of its curriculum. In its first ever Report on Faith and Ecology Courses in North American Seminaries released by The Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development, 213 seminaries were surveyed.

“It is our hope that our seminaries and houses of formation will provide an education in responsible simplicity of life, in grateful contemplation of God’s world, and in concern for the needs of the poor and the protection of the environment,” the report states in its introduction.

In its Master of Divinity curriculum, the School of Divinity offers many courses on faith, ecology, and sustainability that can be taken as electives or foundational courses within the Food and Faith degree concentration. In addition to academics, over the past three years the School of Divinity has emerged as a national leader in addressing sustainability, climate change, and food insecurity through its Food, Faith, and Religious Leadership Initiative, a robust continuing education program. The initiative’s workshops, conferences, and retreats have attracted hundreds of participants from 17 states and five countries, and from more than a dozen Christian denominations, as well as from other faiths. With support from Kalliopeia Foundation and the Byron Fellowship Educational Foundation, the initiative created the Re:Generate Fellowship, a national program for young faith leaders who work in the areas of food justice and sustainable agriculture. Every June it also convenes a 5-day summer immersion course in Food, Faith, and Ecology in the North Carolina mountains. The full report can be reviewed at interfaithsustain.com.

Three divinity students participate in fourth annual MACHE Bowl

On March 19, Monica Banks (MDiv ’17), Nikki Scheidecker (MDiv ’17), and Sophia Russell (MDiv ’18) joined three interdisciplinary teams of graduate students from Appalachian State University, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Winston-Salem State University, Wake Forest University, and the Wake Forest School of Medicine to compete during the fourth annual MACHE Bowl.

Presented by the Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity, the event fosters interactive conversation about health disparities affecting communities. Each team is given a fictional health care case prior to the event to craft an analysis and response about the case. On the day of the event each team presents their responses to a panel of judges comprised of faculty members of the participating universities. A second round follows where teams are given more information about the case and have twenty minutes to formulate responses. The event also featured a keynote address from Cornell P. Wright, the Executive Director of the North Carolina Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities. This year’s MACHE Bowl was co-sponsored by Gramercy Research Group and Novo Nordisk.

The Center for Bioethics, Health & Society accepts, on a rolling basis, applications for small grants (up to $1,000) to support Bioethics activities.

For more information and the application form for this funding opportunity, please see the CBHS Funding Application on the Center’s website, also available at: Funding Opportunities.
eduroam wireless service for WFU travelers and visitors

Information Systems is pleased to announce the launch of eduroam at Wake Forest University. eduroam, which stands for education roaming, is a secure worldwide wireless network that enables students, faculty and staff to use their Wake Forest credentials when traveling to connect to the Internet at more than 5,500 participating locations worldwide. Additionally, visitors from any participating eduroam institution can securely connect to the eduroam wireless network while at Wake Forest using their home institution credentials.

If you have questions or need assistance with eduroam, please contact the Information Systems Service Desk at help@wfu.edu or 336-758-4357 (HELP).

Information Security Updates

Google 2-Step Verification

Google 2-Step Verification is a great way to prevent hackers from logging into your account, even if they have your password. When you enable 2-Step Verification, you add an additional layer of security to your account. You sign in with something you know (your password) and something you have (a code sent to your phone). To learn more and to set up this service, visit http://go.wfu.edu/google2step

Updated Policy on Responsible and Ethical Use of Computing Resources

As computer use and social media continue to evolve, there is a heightened need for awareness and vigilance with regard to individual responsibility in the ethical use of computing resources. As part of a University-wide information security campaign to protect information, we have updated the Policy on Responsible and Ethical Use of Computing Resources in partnership with University technology advisory committees. All University students and employees are responsible for complying with this policy.

The Wake Forest University Police Department is excited to announce the establishment of our student-based security division, Deacon Student Patrol.

University Police will employ students to work with Police and Security Officers to augment patrol and other security services. They will not be armed, but will be uniformed and trained to provide support during special events, assist with securing buildings, responding to extra security needs, monitoring public areas and more.

Deacon Student Patrol

Do you know a student that might be interested? Is there a student that you would like to recommend for this opportunity to further enhance their personal responsibility and help us to provide a safer campus? Now accepting applicants for Fall 2016!

Contact Major Derri Stormer, Patrol Services and Coordinator of Deacon Student Patrol, stormerdg@wfu.edu, (336)758-5057
Announcing the Summer Institute on Intercultural Professional Development and Pedagogy

Please consider joining your colleagues for the first Summer Institute for Intercultural Professional Development and Pedagogy, June 15 and 16, at the Graylyn International Conference Center. This 2-day retreat, sponsored by the Office of the Provost, is intended for faculty and staff across the Reynolda campus who are interested in better understanding campus climate concerns, diversity and inclusion practices, and connecting with a broad range of colleagues. The retreat will provide the space and time necessary to deliberately explore pedagogical ideas, philosophical differences, and personal accounts related to issues of diversity and inclusion in collegiate settings, including but not limited to student experiences, the cultural context of student-faculty-staff relationships, and the experiences of those who play crucial (and sometimes forgotten) roles in shaping our campus and greater community.

Attendees will need to commit to spending 2 days and 1 night in this retreat-like setting at the Graylyn International Conference Center. The intent behind this requirement rests in the strong belief that an uninterrupted opportunity to "sit" with these complex issues will help clarify paths to move forward as we all strive to make Wake Forest University the type of community that values the different voices, experiences, and perspectives that make up our extended community.

All food and single-occupancy lodging expenses for participants will be covered by the Provost’s office; however, funding is only available for 20 participants. Consequently an application needs to be completed in order to be considered for this opportunity. All interested individuals must complete their application by April 30. You will be notified of your application status no later than May 15. Please understand that once you have accepted an invitation to participate in the Institute, you will be expected to attend.

If you have any questions about the Institute, please feel free to contact José Villalba at villalja@wfu.edu at your convenience. Thanks again for all that you do for our greater campus community.

Faculty Publications


Resident Professors at Wake Forest Houses Selected

Sandeep Mazumder (Economics) and Wayne Pratt (Psychology) have been selected to serve as resident professors at the Flow House in Summer 2017. Barry Maine (English) has been chosen to serve in the same capacity at Casa Artom. Also, John Llewellyn (Communications) has been selected to fill an unexpected vacancy as resident professor at the Worrell House in Spring 2017.

News from Global Affairs and GPS

As of mid-April, Wake Forest investigators received over $11.3 million from external sponsors and have submitted 94 proposals, requesting $21.5 million.

Four new Pilot Research Grants were awarded this spring:

- Cliff Zeyl, Biology, *The Role of transposable elements in the evolution of eukaryote genomes*
- Fran Flanagan, Economics, *Do Peremptory Challenges Create Biased Juries? The Effect of Peremptory Challenges on Jury Composition and Verdicts*
- Gary Miller, Health and Exercise Science, *Caloric Tapering - Weight Loss Success and Metabolic Adaptations*
- Mary Good, Anthropology, *Working Towards Morality: Economic Choices and Moral Cultivation for Newly-Employed Youth in Tonga*

Collaborative Pilot Grants:

- Mark Welker, Chemistry, *Modification of Naturally Occurring Polysaccharides for Use in Regenerative Medicine*

Julie Edelson is retiring May 31

Sadly, the rumors you may have heard are true. ORSP’s longest serving employee, Julie Edelson, is retiring on May 31.

For more than 20 years Julie has worked tirelessly in ORSP to help faculty craft winning applications that provide funding for their research programs and sabbaticals. She will be missed by ORSP and the rest of the WFU community.

CFP: AY 2016-2017 Deadline reminder

The Humanities Institute [Call for Proposals](https://hi.wfu.edu) for the 2016-2017 Academic Year are now on the HI website. Priority consideration will be given to proposals received by or before **May 15** for many HI programs. Proposal forms for all HI programs are also on the Humanities Institute website.

HI Annual Spring Symposium

The Humanities Institute [Annual Spring Symposium](https://hi.wfu.edu) is scheduled for **Thursday, April 28th at 2:00 pm**. The symposium will take place in DeTamble Auditorium with a reception to follow in the Tribble Hall Atrium. Please mark your calendars now for this event, which will feature the work of WFU colleagues in the humanities and special remarks by Dean Michele Gillespie. Contact HI Program Coordinator Aimee Mepham at mephamam@wfu.edu with questions.

THATCamp Piedmont 2016

The Humanities Institute and Z. Smith Reynolds Library will host [THATCamp Piedmont 2016](https://hi.wfu.edu) from **9:00 am-4:00 pm on May 11th** in the ZSR Library Auditorium (Room 404) on the Reynolda Campus. Anyone with energy and interests in the humanities or technology should attend! This “unconference” will be an informal, one-day gathering to share ideas, insights, resources, questions, problems, tools, methods, and projects about digitally inflected humanities research and pedagogy with other area faculty. The goal of the event is to provide an open, inexpensive meeting where humanists and technologists of all skill levels learn and build together in sessions proposed on the spot. While most of the day’s schedule will be determined on location, special guest Sharon Leon, Director of Public Projects at the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media at George Mason University, has agreed to teach two OMEKA workshops (one beginning and one advanced)!

Additional information and registration are [online](https://hi.wfu.edu).