University names three new deans

After a search that attracted top-flight candidates from across the globe, Wake Forest’s Presidential Endowed Professor of Southern History Michele Gillespie was named dean of the college in March. “During our search, it became clear that Michele possesses the understanding of teaching, scholarship and community that are essential for guiding Wake Forest’s undergraduate academic experience and scholarly mission,” said Provost Rogan Kersh. Gillespie joined the faculty in 1999.

Tim Pyatt has been named dean of the Z. Smith Reynolds Library. He currently serves as the Dorothy Foehr Huck Chair and head of the Eberly Family Special Collections Library at Pennsylvania State University. “He will provide visionary leadership in the role of the library in learning, teaching and research at Wake Forest,” says Provost Rogan Kersh. Pyatt, who was recommended by a search committee of faculty and administrators, will begin serving as library dean Aug. 3.

Suzanne Reynolds will become the next dean of the School of Law, effective July 1. Reynolds, who joined the Wake Forest faculty in 1981 and is nationally recognized for her expertise in family law, has served as interim dean for the past year. She is the first woman to head the law school. “Suzanne Reynolds has proven herself to be well qualified to lead the School of Law,” said President Nathan Hatch. “She is a wonderful mentor and model for our law students.”

Stephen Colbert’s Commencement speech at Wake Forest makes headlines

Comedian and late-night talk show host Stephen Colbert had the audience laughing during his talk, but he also delivered serious advice — telling grads to go light on self-judgement. “Do yourself a favor: Be an easy grader. Score yourself on a curve. Give yourself extra credit,” he said. “You are your own professor now.”

Employers are recruiting freshly minted college graduates more intensively this spring. At Wake Forest, 144 employers attended career fairs on campus this year, up from 122 in 2014, says Mercy Eyadiel, who heads employer relations for the school. Many students, she says, are receiving multiple job offers.

Melissa Remmey, who graduated from Wake Forest with a political science degree, weighed four job offers, including positions as a business liaison, an analyst and a sales and marketing associate. “I was surprised at the number I got,” she says. The Doylestown, Pa., resident accepted a Boston-based job from Oracle in sales and business development. Although Remmey has never worked in sales, she says Oracle valued the skills she honed at Wake Forest, including research, writing, analysis and giving presentations.

May 23, 2015

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Message in a Belizean bottle

Justin Catanoso, director of journalism, contributed an article after traveling with biology and sustainability students to Belize for spring break. “The image of a lone bottle washing up on a remote tropical island is the clichéd stuff of literature, movies and New Yorker cartoons...Each of those bottles carries a message, and it’s this: our actions here have an impact there. We produce and consume far too many disposable, single-use plastic containers. And we don’t safely dispose of, or recycle, nearly enough of them.”

Former president of Ireland addresses climate injustice

Mary Robinson, the former president of Ireland and the United Nations secretary-general’s special envoy on climate change, visited Wake Forest as part of the University’s Voices of Our Time guest speaker series. The event was part of a symposium on the “Human Face of Environmental Inequality.”

Robinson encouraged students to take an active role in the debate over how to handle climate change, urging young people to develop solutions and criticizing those who deny its reality. “This is too important to be left to political leaders,” she said. “You have to be the voices of your time.”

Wake Foresters support Nepal

For more than 10 years, Wake Forest students have studied in Nepal with Associate Professor of Anthropology Steve Folmar through the five-week Summer Program in Nepal (SPIN). Most recently, student groups have conducted research in Besisahar, Nepal, located only a couple of miles from the epicenter of the earthquake that devastated the region on April 25. Many of the students who had studied in Nepal banded together to raise awareness and funds.

“While I was tempted to hop on the first plane across the ocean, I realized that the most good that I or any of the other students can do right now is fundraise,” said Anna Grace Tribble, a senior anthropology major from Carrollton, Ga. “In order to recover, money needs to be thoughtfully donated to vetted organizations working on the ground. Our goal is to spread this message, so that the response to the Nepali earthquake is mindful and sustained.”

Class publishes “Critical Media Studies: Student Essays on ‘The Wire’”

This spring, as the nation focused on racial tensions in Baltimore, professor Mary Dalton and the students in her Critical Media Studies class published a book on the acclaimed HBO series “The Wire,” set in that city. NPR affiliate WFDD featured the project and interviewed students Conner MacKenzie and Ally Harper about the book, “Critical Media Studies: Student Essays on ‘The Wire.’” (available on Amazon).

Conservationist murders threaten Costa Rica’s eco-friendly reputation

The brutal murder of Jairo Mora, who was trying to protect endangered turtle eggs, was the latest in a string of crimes against environmentalists in the country. Many worry activists will stay away if poachers continue to go unpunished.

“Government officials often characterize deaths like that of Jairo Mora as regular crime,” said Wake Forest law professor John Knox, an independent expert on human rights and the environment for the United Nations. “These cases are treated as one individual case after another, as a normal robbery or murder. This approach fails to acknowledge how these cases form a pattern.”

Two knee-jerk reactions that lead to bad choices

Decision-making isn’t always easy, which is why people tend to go with their gut. Trouble is, sometimes the biases behind those knee-jerk reactions lead to bad choices, said Norma Montague, assistant professor of accounting at Wake Forest. Biases, or what Montague’s research describes as “mental shortcuts that allow people to make quick, efficient decisions,” help to keep things orderly and predictable, but problems arise when people exclude or ignore outside information.
Students in a communication class planned a music festival, called DashPop — for the dash in Winston-Salem — a year-long class project that was the brainchild of communications professor Len Neighbors. He developed the class as a way for students to experience real-life risks involved with the entrepreneurial field.

About 30 students organized the project, including sophomore Georgia Hunsinger. "It was a vision of the class to be able to connect with Winston-Salem — with the people and the culture," she said. "This is a pretty artsy city, so being able to meet people who are involved with the arts and music industry here was a great way to connect the two.”

The Reynolda campus received widespread national exposure when prominently featured in “The Longest Ride,” a feature film based on Nicholas Sparks’ latest novel. In the movie, a young cowboy played by Scott Eastwood falls in love with a Wake Forest senior art student. Crews with 20th Century Fox spent time last August on campus filming scenes for the movie.

Studying in Venice and conducting research with health and exercise science professors Peter Brubaker and Anthony Marsh set Wake Forest graduate Robert Musci ('12) on a course toward winning a Fulbright scholarship for the 2015-2016 academic year.

Musci is among nine Wake Forest seniors and recent graduates awarded Fulbright grants this year. From researching public health in Nigeria to teaching English in the Czech Republic, they will travel to countries around the world. Including this year’s winners, 102 Wake Forest graduates have been named Fulbright scholars.

Bradley Davis, a freshman at Wake Forest, has always advocated for autism awareness and has done it for a simple reason — the love for his 12-year-old sister, Casey, who is autistic. But he wanted to do something on a larger scale for National Autism Awareness Month. He made a few calls to Wake Forest officials and on April 1, the first day of National Autism Awareness Month, Wait Chapel was lit up in blue.

About 1,300 students, alumni and faculty members participated in the University’s 10th annual Wake ‘N Shake, a 12-hour dance marathon to raise money for the Brian Piccolo Cancer Research Fund. By the end of the night, they had raised $164,157 for cancer research — an increase of more than $20,000 from last year’s marathon-day total.
A new Commencement tradition

Since 1966, Wake Forest has held Commencement on the Quad with the exception of four years when the ceremony was forced inside (1973, 1983, 1991, and 2010). In 1989, a rain and windstorm knocked down the tent the night before graduation, but the program proceeded on schedule without a tent. Just like the previous four decades, the Wake Forest tradition of an outdoor graduation ceremony continued, but this year the University updated and refined the experience on Hearn Plaza for graduates and their guests, including:

• A modern set-up designed to complement the structure of iconic Wait Chapel;
• An open-air stage providing better audience views and improved photography;
• Improved podium positioning for the speaker; and
• Two additional jumbo video screens positioned in front of graduates and families (in addition to the two at the crosswalk already available) to make it easier to see speakers and connect to the activities on the stage.
Hearn Plaza was bustling on May 18 with a crowd of more than 12,000 gathered to celebrate the achievements of 1,044 undergraduates and 817 graduate and professional students who received degrees. There were more than 73,000 views of the livestream and archived video, which totaled nearly 500,000 minutes viewed and 34 percent of those views were on a mobile device or tablet.

Commencement 2015

The class of 2015

From the first Demon Deacon picked in the WNBA Draft to working for global good in the Office of Pandemics and Emerging Threats to paying it forward in the Federal Reserve, members of the class of 2015 left a lasting impression on the University and are leading lives that matter all over the world.

Social Stats

#WFUGRAD trended nationally for the second consecutive year.

More than 4,400 tweets tagged #WFU from 1,891 contributors.

5.6 million reached across 8,775,734 timeline deliveries.

Take a photo with the Deacon

Graduates, families and guests took photos with the Wake Forest Fund Deacon.
**Reuters**

**Your secrets are killing your productivity**

According to new research co-authored by Assistant Professor of Psychology E.J. Masicampo, keeping a secret is similar to carrying physical weight and that weight may be holding you back at work. One of the best ways to gain back your productivity is to simply get the burden off of your chest.

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**March 17, 2015**

**U.S. News**

**Smarter ways to shop online**

Although online shopping is basically 20 years old, Roger Beahm, RockTenn Executive Director of the Center for Retail Innovation at the School of Business, explains why it isn’t always ideal. “It’s easier to trust yourself in making a smart shopping decision when you can use all of your senses — instead of just sight and sound — to evaluate and make the purchase decision.”

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**March 26, 2015**

**Marketplace**

**Health insurance industry looks healthy**

A new report out from the Commonwealth Fund finds the health insurance industry is doing just fine ... contrary to the deep-seated fears of some as the Affordable Care Act launched back in 2010. But with three years’ worth of data on the books now, and insurers’ stock prices soaring, those fears have faded. “Insurance companies had to figure out how to sail through those shifting currents, and what we’ve seen after these several years is that they’ve sailed through those choppy seas quite well,” said Mark Hall, Wake Forest’s Fred D. & Elizabeth L. Turnage Professor of Law.

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**April 2, 2015**

**U.S. News**

**Married vs. Single: What science says is better for your health**

Various studies have attempted to measure whether marriage truly makes people healthier and happier, and how it compares to the lives of singles. According to Robin Simon, a professor of sociology. “Hundreds of studies document a robust relationship between marriage and improved mental health: married people report significantly fewer symptoms of depression and are significantly less likely to abuse substances than their non-married counterparts.”

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**April 2, 2015**

**BizTech**

**WF deploys wearable tech to keep players fit and injury free**

Wake Forest coaches and support staff have embraced analytics to prevent injuries and keep players healthy and in top shape. During practices, players wear a sports-tracking device from GP Sports that measures heart rate, distance, speed, accelerations and decelerations and their intensity levels.

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**March 26, 2015**

**Wilmington-Salem Journal**

**Senate rolls out tax cuts**

Senate Bill 526 would further lower the corporate and personal income tax rates, phase in the single sales tax factor formula and decrease the business franchise tax. John Dinan, political science professor, said the bill is in keeping with the preference of Senate leaders to reduce tax rates as quickly and significantly as possible, even as House leaders and the governor have urged a different approach. “One might see this as one of various bills setting out the bounds of negotiations in coming months.”

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**May 1, 2015**

**National Geographic**

**Food Fight**

Warships use sonar to detect targets and jamming technology to thwart enemy sonar. Mexican free-tailed bats can do both those things with their vocal cords. Bats use echolocation, bouncing sound waves off an object, to navigate and draw a bead on prey. Wake Forest biologists Aaron Corcoran and William Conner recently discovered that these bats also use these signals to interfere with one another’s hunts.

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**May 6, 2015**

**The Times-Picayune**

**City Park swings big on golf with sport’s popularity in the rough**

Sports economist Todd McFall provided comment on the success of a new golf course in New Orleans’ City Park. “There are a lot of factors that are pushing against opening a course, but the uniqueness of the urban environment, the comparative advantage of New Orleans in the travel tourism industry — I see real positives that could come out of this, if it’s a well-managed, well-designed facility.”

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Morbid curiosities

English professor Eric G. Wilson and his books “Everyone Loves a Good Train Wreck: Why We Can’t Look Away” and “Keep it Fake: Inventing an Authentic Life” received widespread interest for comments and insights about the historic macabre and society’s general obsession with disasters, which stems from both voyeuristic and empathetic impulses.

“Looking at life unblinkingly in all its horror can make our own lives seem brighter and happier,” Wilson said. “Fixating on disaster reportage can bring out the worst in us: getting a rush from the suffering of others, and the best: a feeling of empathy for those suffering as well as a deeper understanding of the meanings of suffering and death.”

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The Charlotte Observer  THE NEWS OBSERVER

Hormone-sensitive muscles aid bird’s courtship dance

New research from biologist Matthew Fuxjager, published in the journal Functional Ecology, suggests that the higher levels of testosterone in the body regulates the acrobatic courtship and competitive behavior of the male tropical golden-collared manakin.

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MARCH 28, 2015

NBC’s Today host speaks about happiness, success

Hoda Kotb, co-host of the fourth hour of NBC’s Today show, came to Wait Chapel for a “chat” with students, faculty, staff and others about her personal and professional path. In a funny and motivational speech that included selfies with the audience, entertaining anecdotes about her career and questions from attendees, Kotb talked about how she got her start and the struggles she has encountered.
Winston-Salem and Wake Forest Innovation Quarter received national attention this spring that included an article in The New York Times lauding the partnership between the city, state, Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center and Wake Forest University.

Innovation Quarter encompasses 2.5 million square feet of office, laboratory, classroom and residential space in 16 buildings surrounding an urban square, which was once the site of a cigarette manufacturing plant owned by R.J. Reynolds Tobacco.

“What we’re doing is economic development plus social engineering,” said Eric Tomlinson, president of Wake Forest Innovation Quarter. “We try to capture the basic activities of life. Work. Live. Learn. Play.”

Southern Business & Development magazine also recently named Winston-Salem to its list of the 10 most powerful major economies in the South that don’t get enough national attention.

Inspired by their own passions for art, seniors Jordyn Albritton and Ariel Hawley created Campus Canvas, an event where students, faculty and staff could enjoy making artwork outdoors and take a break during the school and work week.

Campus Canvas was sponsored by Thrive. Equal parts education and inspiration, Thrive aims to provide the Wake Forest community with the skills, knowledge and perspective to live healthier, balanced lives.

On the same day as Campus Canvas, student volunteers met on Poteat Field for the annual spring service project, called Developing Education through Student Knowledge (D.E.S.K.) to providing a personalized study space for 46 children from Old Town Elementary School in Winston-Salem.

Wake Forest University has announced five new endowed Presidential Chairs to recruit, retain and reward outstanding faculty who embody the teacher-scholar ideal. This initiative — made possible through Wake Will: The Campaign for Wake Forest — provides a University match to the first 10 donors to establish an endowed Presidential Chair of at least $1 million, effectively providing the equivalent faculty support realized from a $2 million endowed fund.

“An endowed chair is a magnificent gift to a university because it supports outstanding faculty in perpetuity, it is the highest academic award that can be bestowed on a faculty member, and it is an enduring tribute to the person who established it,” said President Nathan Hatch. “Universities with endowed chairs have a clear advantage in recruiting and retaining the most talented faculty.”

For 47 years, J. Edwin Hendricks taught Wake Forest students about everything from early American history to the history of Wake Forest. He was also involved in many historical preservation efforts and community organizations in Forsyth County. Hendricks died on March 27.

Lula “Lu” Leake used compassion, humor and intelligence in her roles as the dean of women and later as an associate vice president of academic affairs at Wake Forest, her friends and colleagues said. Leake died at Salemtowne Retirement Community on April 13.