

Dear Friends,

Wake Forest's liberal arts education has trained generations of graduates in critical habits of mind that ask "why," that are open to new ideas, that appreciate the perspectives of others, that grapple with complexity, that admit error, and that pursue truth.

Today this education, still delivered by dedicated teacher-scholar-mentors, must prepare students not for a single livelihood, but for a lifetime of diverse livelihoods. It must produce thoughtful citizens with the depth and the breadth of understanding that is essential for grasping the challenges and opportunities of our 21^{st-} century world.

As Dean, I am deeply grateful to you as a vital member of our dedicated community of friends and alumni. Your commitment is part of the foundation on which Wake Forest builds its unrivaled liberal arts education. Our staff and faculty strive to build a transformative college learning experience that weaves together serious academic inquiry, character formation and an appreciation for diversity and difference. Personal interaction and intellectual exchange between students and faculty make Wake Forest a place where exceptional teaching, discovery, and mentorship are paramount in the attainment of our motto, *Pro Humanitate*. Your thoughtful gift reflects the significance you place in these ideals and allows us to cultivate a vibrant, holistic education for all our students.

With the help of terrific supporters like you, we will continue to create opportunity, educate the whole person and inspire excellence. You will help us in our goal to graduate critical thinkers who will become the gifted citizens and leaders our complex world demands.

Thank you again for your support, and I hope to see you soon. In the interim, please know how much I value your relationship with Wake Forest College, and your dedication to our talented students and their bright future.

Sincerely,

Michele Gillespie, PhD

Dean of the College

Presidential Endowed Chair of Southern History