Fall Meeting • September 13 – 14th, 2013 • Speakers

Dr. Rogan Kersh (‘86), Provost and Professor of Political Science

Kersh serves as Wake Forest’s chief academic officer with responsibility for supervising and administering the academic programs and plans of the university’s Reynolda Campus this summer.

After graduating with a B.A. in political science from Wake Forest in 1986, Kersh earned two masters’ degrees and a Ph.D. in political science from Yale University, where he also began his teaching career. He taught political science and public administration at the Maxwell School of Syracuse University for ten years and has served in his current role at NYU since 2006. He also studies the U.S. health care policy system and is a nationally recognized expert on obesity. He is currently part of NYU faculty teams holding two separate National Institutes of Health (NIH) research grants on obesity politics.

Dr. Jacque Fetrow, Dean of the College

Jacque Fetrow is Dean of the College and Reynolds Professor of Computational Biophysics at Wake Forest University, with joint appointments in both the Departments of Physics and Computer science. Her research program focuses on understanding the relationship between protein structure, function and dynamics, with a goal of improving the structure-based drug discovery process.

In the classroom, Dr. Fetrow, together with colleagues in computer science, developed an innovative course that won the Wake Forest Teaching and Learning Center Innovative Teaching Award in 2006. In the course, students with mathematical backgrounds teamed with biophysics and biochemistry students to develop a software solution to a bioinformatics problem that could not be solved by either group alone.

Dr. Penny Rue, Vice President of Campus Life

Penny Rue joined Wake Forest University as Vice President for Campus Life and Professor of Counseling in July 2013, with broad responsibility for the safety and well-being of students and their education outside the classroom. She comes to Wake Forest from the University of California-San Diego where she served as Vice Chancellor-Student Affairs. She previously held positions, all associated with student life and well-being at University of Virginia, Georgetown, and UNC-Chapel Hill.

Her doctorate is in Counseling and Personnel Services from the University of Maryland, where her dissertation research focused on a conceptual study of community on the college campus. Rue has taught the Capstone class in the San Diego State University Master’s Program in Student Affairs and College Student Development in the Higher Education doctoral program at the University of Virginia.
Mark Petersen, Vice President for University Advancement

Mark Petersen became vice president for university advancement on November 1, 2008. As the leader of this division, Mark is responsible for coordinating Wake Forest’s efforts in the areas of development, alumni and donor services, and communications and external relations.

In his previous role as associate vice president for development and alumni affairs at Southern Methodist University, he led all areas of development and alumni relations for “SMU Unbridled: the Second Century Campaign.” Mark has also held leadership positions in the $1.6 Billion “We’re Texas” campaign at the University of Texas at Austin. Mark is a graduate of Brandeis University and received a Master of Arts degree from the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Southern California.

Juan Garcia, Associate Vice President and Campaign Director

Juan is the Associate Vice President and Campaign Director. His responsibilities include staffing the volunteer campaign cabinet; managing the campaign priority setting process; staffing the regional campaign committees; oversee the campaign branding and messaging; support the principal gift planning and execution; and providing campaign progress reporting and analysis.

Prior to joining Wake Forest University, Juan was the Vice President of Operations and CIO for the Arizona State University Foundation and Assistant Vice President for Development at the University of Texas at Austin before that. In addition, Juan spent eleven years as a consultant employed by PriceWaterhouseCooper, Arthur Andersen and BearingPoint. His project experience is in the areas of strategic planning, business planning, operational transformation, and organizational learning engagements. Juan’s formal education includes a B.S. in Industrial Engineering from Purdue University and an MBA from the University of Texas at Austin.

Jay Davenport, Assistant Vice President of Development

Jay Davenport is the Assistant Vice President of Development for Wake Forest University. In this capacity, Jay oversees the Major Gift fundraising for the university. Previously, Jay served as the Resource Development Team Leader and Director of Development for the Glasscock School of Continuing Studies and the Dean of Undergraduates at Rice University in Houston, TX. He has also served as the President of Catholic Memorial High School in Waukesha, WI, Director of Development at Wright State University in Dayton, OH, and the Associate Dean of Admission at Wittenberg University in Springfield, OH. Jay has a BA from Xavier University in Cincinnati, OH and an MA from Ball State University, in Indiana. Jay and his wife, Lara, have three sons – Hayden, Colson and Nolan.