

Eboo Patel to deliver 2016 commencement address at Wake Forest University

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

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

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.

"Eboo Patel is recognized around the world for bridging divisions among people of different faiths,"

said Wake Forest University President Nathan O. Hatch. "At a time when so much global conflict is rooted in religious difference and the need for interfaith cooperation is so great, I am pleased he will be Wake Forest's commencement speaker."



Patel

Patel, who served on President Barack Obama's inaugural Faith Council, is

the author of "Acts of Faith," "Sacred Ground," and the forthcoming "Interfaith Leadership."

Patel founded IFYC, a national nonprofit working to make interfaith cooperation a social norm. In 2015, Wake Forest partnered with IFYC as part of the University's ongoing efforts to support meaningful connections between people of different faiths.

A livestream webcast of the ceremony will be available at go.wfu.edu/wfu16.

Previous commencement speakers have included comedian Stephen Colbert (2015), The New York Times' former executive editor Jill Abramson (2014), PepsiCo CEO

Indra K. Nooyi (2011), Vice President Joe Biden (2009), professional golfer Arnold Palmer ('51) (2005), Secretary of State Colin Powell (2004), and former First Lady Barbara Bush (2001).

Baccalaureate information:

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.

"Rev. Barnes' ministry, writing and academic leadership reflect his thoughtful

and widely informed approach to religious ministry and theological formation that is well suited to changing times," Hatch said. "He has superbly led large urban congregations and is a wonderful communicator, deeply human and hopeful in his approach and his words."

After graduating from The King's College and Princeton Theological Seminary, he received a Ph.D. in the History of Christianity from The University of Chicago. He has served as a pastor to three congregations including The National Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C. In the fall of 2002, he became the

Meneilly Professor of Pastoral Ministry at Pittsburgh Seminary while also serving as the senior pastor of Shadyside Presbyterian Church.

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.

A livestream webcast of the service will be available at go.wfu.edu/bacc2016.

Additional information about Wake Forest's commencement weekend is available at commencement.wfu.edu.

Representative Edward Hanes Jr. to be QEA's 2016 commencement speaker

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

House of Representative member Edward Hanes Jr. will be the keynote speaker at Quality Education Academy High School's 2016 commencement ceremony, scheduled for 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 4.

Representative Hanes, a native of Winston-Salem, has dedicated his life to public service ensuring legislation is in place to provide assistance in several key areas that directly affect our community.

Beginning his career as an educator, Representative Hanes understands firsthand the impact education has on the lives of youth. In 2013, he ran for office and was elected in District 72. He serves on several committees including education, ethics, banking, finance, and homeland security. Mr. Hanes has quickly become a thriving force in the community, challenging the status quo and refusing to give anything less than the best for the community that



Rep. Hanes

elected him to represent them.

As QEA celebrates another year of 100% college acceptance from its graduating class, the administration, students, parents, and community members are excited about this

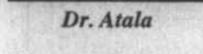
year's speaker. Representative Hanes has visited the school before and is in full support of the rigorous academic curriculum and high standards set for students.

Hanes received his BA degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, his Masters from Harvard University, and JD of Law degree from the University of North Carolina.

Dr. Anthony Atala selected as Forsyth Tech's commencement speaker

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Dr. Anthony Atala, director of Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine at Wake Forest School of Medicine, will be the speaker at Forsyth Tech's commencement exercises on Thursday, May 12. The ceremony will be held at 5 p.m. at the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum in



Dr. Atala

Winston-Salem.

"We are honored that Dr. Atala accepted our invitation to address our 2016 graduating class this spring," said Forsyth Tech President Gary Green. "Dr. Atala is a passionate and engaging speaker on issues

related to the exciting field of regenerative medicine in particular and STEM-related fields in general. We know our graduates will be inspired by his story and his encouragement as they leave us to start careers in their respective fields or continue their college education."

Approximately 1,300 Forsyth Tech students will earn associate degrees, certificates and diplomas that signify completion of their programs of study during the 2016 commencement exercises, a five percent increase in the number of graduates compared to 2015.

Forsyth Tech offers credit programs in Math, Science and Technologies; Business and Information Technologies; Engineering Technologies; Health Technologies; and Humanities and Social Sciences.

The May 12 graduation ceremony is open to the public at no charge, and there will be no charge for parking at the Coliseum.

United Way gives out \$2.8 million in 'Place Matters' investments

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

United Way of Forsyth County has awarded an incremental \$2.8 million to social service organizations in Forsyth County as part of the 2016-2017 investment cycle. This amount is in addition to the \$8,821,257 awarded in December 2015.

While the first wave of funding was invested in community-wide initiatives, the second wave is dedicated to the Place Matters pilot. Although funding decisions were handled in two waves this year, the total amount being invested in the community is consistent with last year.

Through United Way's partnership with Neighbors for Better Neighborhoods — a local grassroots community organizing agency — residents were engaged to lead the effort and ensure investments aligned with the priorities of those who

live in the CIVIC neighborhoods (a name selected by residents, which stands for Community Voices Impacting Community).

An Impact Council comprised of residents identified investment priorities, reviewed funding applications, and made investment recommendations to the United Way board of directors.

Paula McCoy, executive director of Neighbors for Better Neighborhoods, says, "This process fosters community engagement and resident ownership, ensuring buy-in and ultimately making results more sustainable on a long-term basis."

"We cannot thank the Resident Impact Council enough for their work on this effort," says Alana James, director of Community-Based Collaborations for United Way of Forsyth County. "Their dedication and commitment to strengthening their community is truly an

inspiration."

More specific details on the programs funded as part of the Place Matters investment process is available on United Way's website at <http://www.forsythunited-way.org/our-impact/positive-change-2/>. Additional information on Place Matters is available at <http://www.forsythunited-way.org/place-matters/>.

In 2013, the United Way board of directors approved a new place-based strategy. The intent was to focus energy and resources in an area of our community that, while facing challenges, also has a number of strengths upon which to build. The Place Matters pilot program was designed to target 13 neighborhoods in east and northeast Winston-Salem.

Priorities identified by residents include: unemployment and underemployment, multigenerational support, healthy living, and housing stock.

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