

# Spring 2022 WAKE SPEAKS

Presented by Wake Speaks  
and the Department of  
Communication

# NARRATIVES OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



*Wake Speaks*

Speaking Center



WAKE FOREST  
UNIVERSITY

## OUR SPEAKERS

**Elsa De Jounge, Lizzie Gilfillan, & Kennedy Dean**  
Environmental Justice: A Marathon Relay  
Introduced by Elefteria Euripides

**Jessica Creviston**  
The Grim Story of Bingham Park  
Introduced by Belle Laxer

**Farah Alsakhita**  
Refugees Builders of the Harmony  
Introduced by Lauren Walston

**Gwen Straker**  
A Liberation that Lasts  
Introduced by Sharley Belleus

**Bobby Pedrero**  
Title of the Speech  
Introduced by Brooks Mauldin

**Will Harnice**  
The Death of the American Farmer  
Introduced by Brooks Maudlin

**Jimena Elmufdi**  
The Environmental Decline in Haiti & the DR.  
Introduced by Mara Busch

**Savannah Baber & Harper Shanly**  
Beyond the Land of Acknowledgement  
Introduced by Tyler Davis

# LIZZIE GILFILLAN

I am a sophomore from Madison, New Jersey. I am a Communications major with a concentration in health with a minor in Bioethics, Humanities, and Medicine. I love to spend my time cooking for my family and friends!



## KENNEDY DEAN

I am a sophomore from right here in Winston Salem, North Carolina. I am a Communications major with a minor in journalism. Fun fact about me is that I am a twin!

## ELSA DE JOUNGE

I am a sophomore from Winhall, Vermont. I am a BEM major with an environmental studies minor. I enjoy going on long walks through nature while listening to an informational podcast!



## JESSICA CREVISTON

### The Grim Story of Bingham Park



My name is Jessica Creviston and I am from Greensboro, North Carolina. I am a sophomore intending on majoring in environmental science with minors in journalism and psychology. My hobbies include doing puzzles, reading books, meditating, and watching documentaries.

My speech is about a small place in Greensboro called Bingham Park that led me to discover a darker past behind Greensboro than I ever knew. I'll be talking about the history of this area and a little bit about future plans to benefit it.

## Environmental Justice: A Marathon Relay

Our presentation will address the progression of the environmental justice movement. We will be discussing the history leading up to the movement, the establishment of environmental justice, and what the future holds for the movement. We hope that the audience will leave our presentation with a better understanding of what environmental justice is and feel motivated to take part with us.



## FARAH ALSAKHITA

### Refugees Builders of the Harmony



Farah Alsakhita is senior graduation in May, from Syria and living in Winston-Salem. Her hobbies are swimming and taking pictures. Fun fact about Farah is that she will become an aunt for the first time next week!

This project documents the rise of Muslim American Center, a center that represents 13 nationalities, races, colors, languages, and cultures in many different ways, giving a new meaning to community. Additionally, families of refugees were central to the establishment of MAC and that's why "Refugees Builders of the harmony" is the perfect title to draw the audience's most complete attention. The goal of this project is to send out an important message that is not often valued highly enough with larger communities, which is that you can accomplish a lot when you have true intentions and a strong bond.



# GWEN STRAKER

Liberation that Lasts

Gwen Straker, is a 16 year old high school sophomore who attends West Forsyth High School. Apart from her studies, Gwen likes to play the piano, write music, and read.

Her passion for writing led her to join an organization called Authoring Action. Through this program she was given the opportunity to write about any topic as it pertains to liberty. Gwen chose to write about our current climate crisis and the impending liberation we can find in it.

# WILL HARNICE

The Death of The American Farmer



As a representative from an agriculture community, I am going to provide personal examples as well as academic studies that will provide evidence as to why the average American farmer is going extinct. The trends of racial discrimination as well as abuse of federal subsidies by large corporate farmers could surmise the end of the prized family farms that help support hundreds of rural communities throughout the US.



# BOBBY PEDRERO

What's the Point?

My name is Bobby Pedrero and I am a current Sophomore pursuing a Communication major and double minor in Entrepreneurship and Theatre. I am from San Francisco, CA, where I live with my mom, dad, twin sister, younger brother, and dog. I love to spend time outdoors with my dog and friends and am also a summer camp counselor in upstate Minnesota where I teach rock climbing, basketball, and other activities. Part of the reason I became interested in the Environment and Sustainability is a result of my passion for nature and the beauty it holds.

I will be discussing Environmental Injustice occurring in my own community of San Francisco. A community (Bayview Hunter's Point) located in South San Francisco faces prejudices and stereotypes every day, but what's worse is the environmental impact the surrounding areas of the city have on the community. I will be examining what these impacts are and what the community is doing to fight them.

# JIMENA ELMUFIDI



The Environmental Decline in Haiti & the DR

Jimena is a sophomore from the Dominican Republic majoring in Communication and Art history. She has a profound interest in environmental studies and has found ways to introduce it into her major. Jimena enjoys photography, art and writing.

She will be talking about the environmental decline in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, the possible causes of this issue and how we can change people's perspective towards more sustainable actions through government policies and reconnecting people to the environment.

# SAVANNAH BABER



Savannah serves as the Assistant Director for the Intercultural Center. She is a proud graduate of Wake Forest and earned her B.A. in English and Politics & International Affairs. A citizen of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina and the Chickahominy Tribe of Virginia, Savannah was the first Wake Forest student to be named a national Udall Scholar for her work and research in tribal public policy.

# HARPER SHANLY

Harper Shanly values interpersonal connection and lending a helping hand. At the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, he served as a student ambassador who introduced new and prospective students, a virtual tutor and mentor for hispanic students, and a youth workshop facilitator for Grow Your World, where he focused on creating opportunities to connect with local community members and promote inclusivity and racial equity.

## “BEYOND THE LAND OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT”



### PROFESSOR AL LOUDAN

#### Speech Responses

Dr. Al Loudan is a professor in the communication department and long-time supporter of Wake Speaks. He brings his expertise in public speaking and rhetoric to offer response and feedback to our speakers.

Dr. Loudan will be retiring this year after many years of teaching and serving this department.

Congratulations on retirement, Al!

## SPECIAL THANKS TO

The faculty and staff of the Communication department

Comm 110 and Environmental Justice students

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## WAKE SPEAKS SPEAKING CENTER

Dr. Rowie Kirby-Straker, faculty coordinator

Mik Davis, graduate student coordinator