

FRIENDSHIP FAMILY NEWSLETTER SPRING 2025



IN THIS NEWSLETTER

- Friendship Family Spotlight
- Cabaret Recap
- Upcoming EOY Dinner
- A recipe for the family
- Things to do!

Oh, how this year has flown by! We'd like to start this newsletter by thanking our amazing Friendship Families for being a part of the program, this wouldn't be possible without you.

We also want to extend our sincere thanks to the students who participated. We know how busy your schedules can be, and we truly appreciate your time and presence. As a token of our appreciation, we're hosting an End-of-Year Dinner for everyone involved! There will be delicious food and a fun activity for all to enjoy. We hope to see you there on May 16th from 5:00 to 7:00 PM in the Pusey Room at the Warch Campus Center.



FRIENDSHIP FAMILY SPOTLIGHT: THE MICKELSON FAMILY



A Home Away From Home

For years, this incredible Friendship Family has opened their hearts and home to international students, building lifelong connections that span the globe. Whether it's visiting former students' families in Cyprus, Hanoi, or China, or celebrating milestones like weddings, they've stayed in close touch with many of the students they've welcomed into their lives.

"As parents of sons, we asked to be matched with girls, and it's been a joy. We love hosting a couple of students from different countries at the same time. They learn from each other, and we learn, too!"

They've immersed their students in the most quintessential Wisconsin traditions: ice fishing for sturgeon, spotting flocks of Tundra swans, strawberry picking, Friday fish fries, and touring the state capital. "We enjoy learning from our students just as much as they learn about American customs while adapting to life here."

The friendship doesn't stop at outings. Their home becomes a hub of warmth and activity, from decorating for Christmas and planting flowers (often with song!) to playing cards and cheering on the Packers. They've shared quiet moments at museums, spiritual ones at church, and proud ones at student concerts and commencements.

"They don't need anything more than knowing someone is looking out for them. It's a pleasure to have these young people in our home." Their message to others? "I'd love to see more families, couples, or singles get involved. It's easy, fun, and rewarding for everyone."

International Recipe: Paratha from South Asia



Ingredients

- 3 cups all-purpose flour, plus more for dusting
- 1 3/4 teaspoons kosher salt
- 1 tablespoon neutral oil, such as canola, plus more as needed
- 1 cup warm water
- 3/4 cup ghee

How to Serve Paratha

- Eat it right from the pan while it's still extra hot.
- Dunk it into a mug of chai or coffee.
- One of my grandfather's favorite ways is with sooji (also spelled suji) for a sweet, buttery treat.
- Serve it alongside a spicy Bangladeshi beef curry (my mom's favorite!).
- Or serve it next to vegetable bhaji.

Instructions

In a large bowl, combine 3 cups all-purpose flour and 1 3/4 teaspoons kosher salt. Drizzle with 1 tablespoon neutral oil and rub it into the flour until only tiny lumps remain. Make a well in the center, pour in 1 cup warm water, and mix with your hands until a dough forms. Knead until all flour is incorporated (the dough will be lumpy). Rub a light coat of oil over the dough, cover with plastic wrap, and let rest for 30 minutes. Soften 3/4 cup ghee if needed.

For the paratha, divide dough into 8 pieces. Roll out one piece at a time into a thin 14-inch round. Spread 1 tablespoon ghee on the dough and sprinkle with a pinch of flour. Roll into a log and coil into a round, then cover with plastic wrap. Let rest for 15 minutes. Roll each portion into a 6–7 inch, 1/8-inch thick circle.

Heat a nonstick pan over medium heat. Cook each paratha for 2–3 minutes per side until opaque. Flip and cook until the second side is also opaque, then flip again and cook for another minute. Add 1 1/2 teaspoons ghee to the pan and cook until golden brown, about 2 minutes per side. Repeat with the remaining paratha.

Spring 2025 Lawrence Art Exhibitions

Gustavo Fares, Abstract–Organic Hoffmaster Gallery



The Spring 2025 Exhibitions are open April 4 through May 17.

Professor Gustavo Fares has taught in the Spanish Department at Lawrence University since 2000 and is also an accomplished visual artist. He holds an MA in Visual Arts, has taught at the Escuela Nacional de Bellas Artes in Buenos Aires, and has exhibited widely. His Abstract–Organic series draws from nature both in process and imagery. Using “indexical images” made by pressing real tree branches onto the canvas, Fares connects his work to ancient cave paintings and modern art traditions. Rather than depicting natural landscapes, the pieces feature abstract compositions that suggest nature without replicating it. The use of tree branches also reflects Wisconsin’s landscape and paper industry, linking the art to the region where it was created.

Jiayi Young, Beyond Tomorrow: An Artist’s Quest in the Last Decade Kohler Gallery

This exhibition showcases process pieces from two of Jiayi Young ’94’s projects, *What does the bot say to the human?* and *Murmur*—which explore how technology, including AI and space exploration, shapes human experience and cultural identity. Young, now an Associate Professor of Design at UC Davis, uses interdisciplinary methods to examine themes like consumerism, gender, assimilation, and identity. Her interactive work invites public participation and encourages reflection on the complexities of modern life. *What does the bot say to the human?* interrogates digital communication and its effects on empathy and authenticity, while *Murmur* looks to the moon landing as a cultural moment that continues to influence our collective imagination. Together, these projects highlight the evolving relationship between humanity and technology, and how that relationship informs who we are.

More info here: <https://www.lawrence.edu/academics/galleries-art/wriston-art-galleries/exhibitions/academic-year-exhibitions>

Upcoming Events for your Friendship Family!

ZOO Days: May 17th, 11am

Hosted by our student events organization (SOUP) during Spring Term as the weather warms, Lawrentians from across campus gather on Main Hall Green to play games and enjoy a fun-filled afternoon in the sun. The highlight of Zoo Days is that all funds raised by student clubs and organizations go toward nonprofit causes.



Unity Fest: May 21st, 5–7pm

Unity Fest is held to celebrate the vibrant backgrounds, talents, and traditions that make up the diverse Lawrence University community. It serves as a space to recognize and honor the many cultures represented on campus, fostering connection, understanding, and appreciation among students, faculty, and staff.

LUaroo: May 24–25

Organized by the Band Booking Committee, LUaroo is Lawrence University's annual spring music festival held at the end of Spring Term. The weekend features performances from student musicians and guest artists, showcasing a wide range of musical styles. Students and community members are invited to enjoy the live music, outdoor games, and activities throughout the festive weekend. Music will start at 12:45 p.m. on Saturday and at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday.



June 13 — 15, 2025

International Student Services

COMMENCEMENT



Schedule of Events

- Friday, June 13, 2025
 - Senior Art Exhibition: 10 a.m. — 4 p.m. | Wriston Art Center Galleries
 - Please contact wriston-gallery@lawrence.edu for appointments outside of these hours.
 - Commencement Rehearsal for Seniors 2 — 3 p.m. | Main Hall Green (Rain Site: Memorial Chapel)
 - Cultural Senior Dinner hosted by D&IC and ISS from 5 — 6:30 p.m. | Diversity & Intercultural Center
 - Commencement Concert featuring Class of 2025 7:30 p.m. | Memorial Chapel (Reception follows in Shattuck Hall, Room 163)
- Saturday, June 14, 2025
 - Senior Art Exhibition from 10 a.m. — 4 p.m. | Wriston Art Center Galleries
 - Contact wriston-gallery@lawrence.edu for appointments outside of these hours.
 - First-Gen Student & Family Celebration from 10:30 — 11:15 a.m. | Warch Campus Center (Cinema — Second Level)
 - Cookout for Seniors, Families, Faculty & Staff from Noon — 1:30 p.m. | Main Hall Green
 - Baccalaureate Service from 2:30 — 3:45 p.m. | Memorial Chapel
- Sunday, June 15, 2025
 - Processional Assembly @9:30 a.m. | Memorial Chapel (sidewalk on the east side; Rain Site: report directly to seats at 9:30 a.m.)
 - Commencement from 10 a.m. — noon | Main Hall Green
 - Post-Commencement Ceremony from Noon — 1 p.m. | Main Hall Green (next to Wriston/Mudd Library)
 - Senior Art Exhibition from Noon — 4 p.m. | Wriston Art Center Galleries