



# 'THIS IS A SPECIAL PLACE'

President Colson opens up about what he's learned and what he will take with him into retirement.



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## Lon Lawler '83

HISTORY, PHYSICAL EDUCATION

*High school physical education teacher  
Former high school football coach*

### Why did you choose Wartburg?

I have had some people in my life who guided me to where I'm at. **Greg Hovden '75** was a high school teacher/coach at Eldora who took a bunch of us guys on college visits and encouraged us to consider our options. Meeting Coach Don Canfield and some players on my recruiting visit is what sold me.

### What do you consider some of your biggest professional accomplishments?

I believe my legacy at Osage is my contribution toward getting an impressive weight room built at our high school that will enable athletes to enhance their successes. I am also proud of my vision to build a community recreation center that has become a family friendly center dedicated to serving the health and wellness of children to retirees. Whenever I walk through the Cedar River Complex, I always take a moment to see all the different people using it and how it has enhanced their lives.

### How did your Wartburg experience prepare you for life after college?

I believe it taught me to persevere through challenges and to have the confidence to accept the risks of leadership and responsibilities.

### Why was your Wartburg experience worth it?

Wartburg was a great fit for me. It didn't take long to take pride in being a Wartburg Knight. During my years at Wartburg, I believe we had some iconic leaders that I was able to get to know and learn from. The Wartburg campus was home — we played basketball in President Vogel's driveway, developed a bond of brotherhood, and were welcomed to Coach Canfield's for ice cream sundaes. If I had to do it all over again, my choice is Wartburg!



All Wartburg alumni are invited to share their successes and #WartburgWorthIt stories with us.

Please visit [www.wartburg.edu/worth-it-stories-alumni](http://www.wartburg.edu/worth-it-stories-alumni) to learn more about Lon Lawler and share your story.

# features



13-17

*'This Is a Special Place'*



18-19

*Heavy Lifting*



20-21

*Creating a Community*

## more

- 2-7 Wartburg in the News
- 8-9 Athletic Recap
- 10-11 Christmas with Wartburg Celebrates 75th Anniversary
- 12 75 Years of Serving Others
- 22-23 Small Fish in a Big Pond
- 24-25 Hall of Fame Inductees
- 26-28 Knights in the News
- 29-31 In Memoriam
- 32 A Style All Their Own

# Wartburg

WINTER 2022

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### Contributors

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### ON THE COVER:

President Darrel Colson's office holds much of the memorabilia that has helped make Wartburg his home for the last 13 years.

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If you have suggestions for *Wartburg Magazine* stories or comments about the content, contact Emily Christensen, magazine editor, at [emily.christensen@wartburg.edu](mailto:emily.christensen@wartburg.edu). Address corrections should be sent to the Alumni Office or submitted online at [www.wartburg.edu/alumni](http://www.wartburg.edu/alumni).

### TRANSCRIPTS:

To obtain an official college transcript, contact the Registrar's Office or complete an online request form at [www.wartburg.edu/registrar](http://www.wartburg.edu/registrar). There is a \$5 fee per transcript.

Requests must include maiden and all married names used, as well as birth date and/or Social Security number. Enclose return address and payment with the request.



# WARTBURG

— IN THE NEWS —

VISIT [WWW.WARTBURG.EDU/NEWS](http://WWW.WARTBURG.EDU/NEWS) FOR MORE NEWS



## Three alumni, two bishops join Board of Regents

The Wartburg College Board of Regents has added five new members to its ranks.

**Kerri Blobaum '94**, **Ben Shanno '04**, and Bishops Amy Current and Kevin Jones each were elected to a three-year term. **Alicia Faust '12** will serve a two-year term as an ex-officio member as the president-elect of the Wartburg Alumni Board and another two-year term as president.

Blobaum, of Livermore, California, went on to earn a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a doctorate from Johns Hopkins University. She is a materials scientist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, where she manages the U.S. Department of Energy's nuclear stockpile stewardship program and facilitates interaction between her lab and other DOE sites among other duties.

Shanno, of Virginia Beach, Virginia, is the vice president and general merchandise manager of Family Dollar. He served on the college's Transforming Tomorrow national committee and was co-chair of the Class of 2004's 10-year reunion.

Current, of Iowa City, was elected the bishop of the South-eastern Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in 2020. Prior to her role as bishop, she served as vice president for admissions and student services at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque. She also held various leadership roles at the seminary, including director

for financial aid and stewardship formation, director for public communications, and interim director of the Center for Youth Ministries. She earned her bachelor's degree from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, and her Master of Divinity from Wartburg Theological Seminary.

Jones, who was elected in June to a six-year term as bishop of the Northeastern Iowa Synod of the ELCA, had served as a pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Mason City since 2014. Prior to that, he was an associate pastor at Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Marion and associate pastor of Blair (Wisconsin) Lutheran Parish. Jones, of Mason City, earned his bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University and his Master of Divinity from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Faust, who earned her degree in social work, is the executive director of Willis Dady Homeless Services in Cedar Rapids. She began with Willis Dady in 2016 as a veteran housing case manager and had served as a support services manager and housing program director before being named the executive director. She had previously worked at Friends of the Family in Waverly.

The Wartburg Board of Regents works with the college president to provide fiduciary leadership for the college and is guided by the mission of the institution.



Blobaum



Shanno



Current



Jones



Faust

## Alumna receives Gremmels Journalism Graduate Fellowship

**Anshika Singh '21** is the recipient of the college's Robert C. Gremmels Journalism Graduate Fellowship.

The \$10,000 fellowship will be applied toward her graduate studies at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, where she is working toward a master's degree in emerging media design and development. The program is designed to teach graduate students why successful messaging works while immersing them in hands-on learning experiences. At Ball State, Singh also serves as a graduate assistant social media content creator and graphic designer for Sponsored Projects Administration. After earning her master's degree, she hopes to work in advertising.

The scholarship was made possible by the Robert C. Gremmels Endowment Fund, created by a \$200,000 gift from **Harold '58** and **Grace Jahn '61 Kurtz**. The fund honors **Gremmels '52**, a professor emeritus who served the college from 1960 to 1993. He also was the first Wartburg graduate to earn a master's degree in journalism.



## Thompson receives national scholarship to pursue medical career

**Austin Thompson '20** was awarded a Dr. George and Emma J. Torrison Scholarship for students pursuing medical careers.

Thompson is attending Case Western Reserve Medical School in Cleveland, Ohio. The scholarship endowment is managed by the Foundation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and recipients must be part of an ELCA congregation and admitted to an accredited medical college to be eligible for the award.

In nominating Thompson, Wartburg President Darrel Colson praised his academic excellence and significant educational service and leadership.



## Donation establishes endowed scholarship for northeast Iowa students

The college recently established the Robert Holtz Memorial Scholarship to celebrate the life and generosity of Robert "Bob" Holtz.

Holtz was a longtime supporter of Wartburg, providing the annually funded Robert Holtz Scholarship to students from Delaware County for nearly two decades. Upon his passing in 2020, Holtz gifted \$500,000 to establish an endowed scholarship, which will benefit students from northeast Iowa, with preference to students from Delaware or Clayton counties, who have a rural background and demonstrate an aptitude for learning.

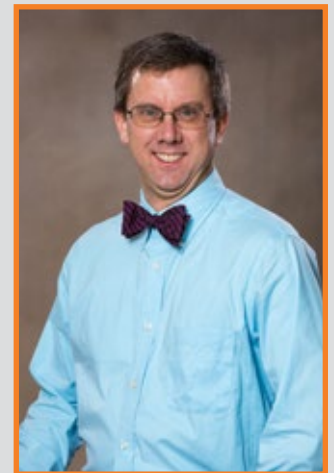
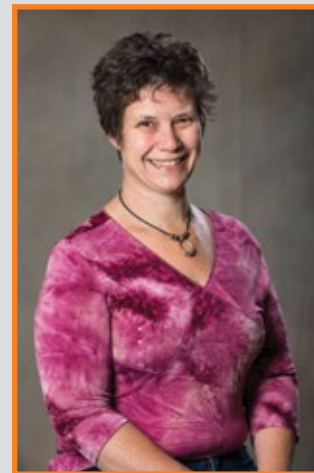
He was born on his home farm in Greeley and worked as a farm hand until he entered the U.S. Army in 1952. Upon his honorable discharge, Holtz returned to the farm until his death. He also founded Holtz Construction, which built farm buildings and grain bins.

## Birgens honored by Mathematical Association of America

Drs. Brian and Mariah Birgen received the 2021 Certificate of Meritorious Service Award from the Mathematical Association of America.

Mariah Birgen, who received the association's Iowa Section award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics in 2020, has been at Wartburg since 1997. Brian Birgen has taught at the college since 2001. The husband and wife team has been an integral part of the Iowa Section of the MAA for two decades, participating in section activities and assuming various leadership roles. They regularly speak at the annual meeting and bring student teams from the college to the Iowa Collegiate Mathematics Competition.

The award is presented for service at the national level or for service to a section of the association. Both Birgens have been members of the section's executive committee, with each serving a term as section chair. They also have played integral roles in the development of new programs within the section.



## Faux secures grant to bring open educational resources to Wartburg

Dr. Tammy Faux, Tomson Family Distinguished Chair in Social Work, received a \$3,000 grant to develop open resource instructional materials for an undergraduate social work research course.

The grant was funded through the Iowa Private Academic Libraries (IPAL) Open Educational Resources Project, which received money from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund. Open educational resources (OER) are materials in any medium that reside in the public domain or have been released under an open license for use in teaching, learning, and research. These resources can be used with no or limited restrictions.

The open resource materials Faux has developed will allow students to bookmark, save, and reuse them during future classes, in their portfolios, and in their professional work.





## Wartburg accepts COVID-19 College Vaccine Challenge

Wartburg is one of several hundred American colleges and universities to accept President Joe Biden's invitation to join him in the White House's efforts to end the COVID-19 pandemic by encouraging vaccination for all eligible individuals.

### BY ACCEPTING THIS CHALLENGE, COLLEGE ADMINISTRATORS AGREE TO:

- Engage every student, faculty, and staff member by ensuring that every member of the campus community knows they are eligible for the vaccine and has the resources to find one.
- Organize the campus community by identifying champions for vaccine efforts across campus and implementing a plan to get as many members of the college community vaccinated as possible.
- Deliver vaccine access to all by bringing vaccines to campus, making it easier for students, staff, and faculty to get vaccinated.

More than 75 percent of the college's students, faculty, and staff have verified their vaccination status with the college.

In addition to the college's efforts, several Wartburg students spent their summer educating others about the benefits of the COVID-19 vaccine as a way to increase vaccination rates in their home communities. The ambassador program was funded by the Interfaith Youth Core to address vaccine hesitancy concerns across the country. The Wartburg students are among about 2,000 students from 117 colleges nationwide participating in the program. Dr. Caryn Riswold, McCoy Family Distinguished Chair in Lutheran Heritage and Mission, led the group.

## Henninger, Walker receive Wartburg Medal during December Commencement

Two longtime Wartburg College supporters, Ann Henninger and Shirley Walker, received the Wartburg Medal during December Commencement.

The Wartburg Medal is awarded by the college to recognize individuals who have provided significant service to the college over a sustained period of time, and recipients have a personal commitment to the college's mission, quality, and character.

Henninger, a professor emerita of biology, served the college for 33 years before retiring in 2016. Over the years, she held several roles, including chair of the biology department, coordinator for the Cedar Valley Science Symposium and the Wartburg College Quiz Bowl, and member of numerous faculty committees. She also wrote the proposal for Wartburg West, the College's urban studies program in Denver, Colorado.

She plays an active role in the local and state American Association of University Women (AAUW) organization and was recognized by the Iowa chapter with the Faculty Excellence Award. A cancer survivor, Henninger co-founded the Bremer County Breast Cancer Education and Support Group. She also is an executive member of the Wartburg Scholarship Club.

## New Wartburg professor publishes relationship research in academic journal



Dr. Tyler Graff, assistant psychology professor, had a research article he co-authored published in PLOS ONE, a peer-reviewed, open access, scientific journal published by the Public Library of Science.

His research, *Spousal emotional support and relationship quality buffers pupillary response to horror movies*, shows that couples who support one another during stressful times — like while watching horror movies — have improved mental and physical health when compared to others in less supportive relationships.

"One of the main broad implications of our findings is that scary, emotional, or difficult situations are best approached with someone supportive, particularly a spouse," Graff said. "Scary movies do not necessarily reflect real life, but our bodies and our brains respond to stressful or frightening situations in the same way they respond to scary movies. Our nervous system does not have a differentiator between movie adrenaline and real-life adrenaline. We would believe that dealing with real-world stressful situations would be better mitigated if approached with a supportive partner."

The research is part of a larger body of relationship research that demonstrates how supportive relationships are a protective factor for one's health and well-being. Future research could examine the stress-buffering effects of people other than spouses in similar situations.



Henninger, Colson, Walker

Walker, whose late husband, Richard "Dick" Walker, served as the Knights' wrestling coach and chair of the Department of Physical Education until his death in the early 1990s, has embodied the values of Wartburg and served the institution in countless ways.

She served on the Campaign Steering Committee for Transforming Tomorrow and participated in the Commission on Mission strategic planning process. She has made generous contributions to numerous capital projects on campus, and her scholarship fund honoring her late husband has helped to make a Wartburg education affordable for dozens of students. Walker is a member of the President's Round Table, Heritage Society, and Booster Club. An active member of Trinity United Methodist Church, she served for many years on the Waverly Health Center Foundation board.

## Wartburg College Concert Bands, TriBeta chapter receive Governor's Volunteer Award

The Wartburg College Concert Bands and the college's Beta Beta Beta Honor Society chapter each received a Governor's Volunteer Award from Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds and Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg during a special recognition ceremony in July.

Both organizations were honored with a group award by the Iowa Department of Transportation for participation in the 2020 Adopt-A-Highway program. Since the mid-1990s, Dr. Craig A. Hancock, director of bands, has organized college band students in cleanup efforts first along Iowa Highway 3 east of Waverly and more recently along a stretch of U.S. Highway 218 west of Waverly.

Dr. Stephanie Toering Peters, Dr. Richard L. and Sandra K. Wahl Professor in Biology and the TriBeta adviser, accepted the award on behalf of the group, which is an honor society for undergraduate students dedicated to improving the understanding and appreciation of biological study and extending boundaries of human knowledge through scientific research.

## Tomsons receive Graven Award

Longtime supporters of private, liberal arts education, O. Jay and Pat Tomson were the recipients of the college's 2021 Graven Award. Through their history of supporting private, liberal arts education in the Midwest, the Tomsons have invested significantly in the lives of thousands of students.

"No two people are finer examples of lay leadership than Pat and O. Jay Tomson. Inspired Christians, they look constantly for opportunities to help others, particularly young people seeking an education," said Wartburg President Darrel Colson.

At Wartburg, their gifts helped create the James A. Leach Chair in Banking and Monetary Economics and the Tomson Family Distinguished Chair in Social Work. They also have supported scholarships for students enrolled in the Accelerated Ministry Program, a joint initiative of the college and Wartburg Theological Seminary that streamlines preparation for pastoral ministry.

Most recently, their generosity advanced the work of the Patricia A. Tomson Center for Violence Prevention at the University of Northern Iowa.

The Graven Award, now in its 32nd year, honors those "whose life is nurtured and guided by a strong sense of Christian calling and who is making a significant contribution to community, church, and society." It is named for the late Judge Henry N. and Helen T. Graven of Greene, whose lives reflected those same commitments.



## Willis settling into new role as vice president for student recruitment

With a little over six months under his belt, Rick Willis is feeling good about his transition from executive director of athletics and wellness and head football coach to vice president for student recruitment.



Willis stepped into the new role on Aug. 1, following the retirement of **Edith Phillips Waldstein '73**, who served as the college's vice president for enrollment management since 2001. As vice president, Willis oversees

the Admissions and Financial Aid offices, the Athletic Department, and the Wartburg-Waverly Sports & Wellness Center.

"I am excited to embrace this important challenge, utilizing my previous leadership and recruiting experiences to help Wartburg continue to attract outstanding students," Willis said. "Our tremendous professional staff combined with all the distinguishing characteristics of this special place will enable us to be successful in the intense competition for students."

Willis had served as the college's executive director of athletics and wellness since January 2005, overseeing the management of 23 varsity sports, 35 full-time coaches, 25 part-time coaches, and more than 600 student-athletes. His duties also included oversight of the Wartburg-Waverly Sports & Wellness Center. He held the college's Lowell J. Walker Athletics Directorship Endowed Chair.

"Rick has been leading an Athletic Department that demonstrates thoroughgoing excellence. Not only has Wartburg won 127 conference championships in 17 different sports and 19 national championships in four different sports since 2005, but the college has increased its number of student-athletes by nearly 30 percent during that same time, and these student-athletes graduate at a high rate and often set the curve in their classes," Wartburg President Darrel Colson said. "Rick is quick to say that the success in athletics is built upon a foundation of strong collaboration and trust. He has worked closely with Admissions and Financial Aid for many years, building that foundation while helping to shape the college's overall recruiting strategies."

As the executive director of admissions, **Tara Price Winter '01** has admired Willis' recruitment perspective and talents for years.

"His experience working with prospective students and families and the challenges they face in the college search process will be extremely beneficial," Winter said. "Rick believes in the importance of creating relationships with prospective students, which is the foundation of our recruitment process. I look forward to our continued work together as we strategize for the future."





## Beckstrom accepts new call to Valparaiso University

The Rev. Dr. Brian Beckstrom accepted a new call to serve as the assistant vice president for mission, church, and ministry at Valparaiso University in Indiana beginning Jan. 1, 2022.

Beckstrom, who served as the Herbert and Cora Moehlmann Chaplaincy Chair and dean of spiritual life, had been with the college since 2009.

Named the first dean of spiritual life at Wartburg when the position was created in May 2018, Beckstrom was responsible for the college's ministry program and promotion of faith exploration and development in and out of the classroom. He also taught courses in leadership and religion. At Valparaiso, Beckstrom will promote, support, and advance the university's Lutheran mission, including fostering ongoing relationships with various Lutheran denominations and other entities.

"I am filled with gratitude for the way God has nurtured my sense of vocation during my years here. I'm excited for this new phase of my calling, and I'm sad to leave behind this community I love so dearly. May God continue to guide this college of our brightest days into the future," Beckstrom said.

The Rev. Halcyon Bjornstad is serving as the interim dean of spiritual life.

For 12 years it has been my great privilege to make good on Wartburg's promise to help students discover and claim their callings. Watching God at work in the lives of students, faculty, and staff is the most fulfilling thing I have ever done in my professional life.

— REV. DR. BRIAN BECKSTROM

## Nederhiser selected to lead Wartburg Community Symphony

Dr. Rebecca Nederhiser, a conductor and oboist, was selected to lead the Wartburg Community Symphony for the 2021-22 season.

She came to Wartburg from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Symphony Orchestra, where she was an associate conductor for three years. Nederhiser earned a bachelor's degree from Warner Pacific University in music teacher education and then served as the director of music at Hood River Middle School in Oregon for six years before returning to school herself.

She earned two master's degrees: one in oboe performance from Washington State University and one in orchestral conducting from Central Washington University. Her doctorate in orchestral conducting comes from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

In addition to leading the symphony, Nederhiser also conducts the Kammerstreicher chamber orchestra and teaches theory and conducting courses.

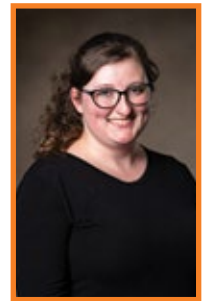


## Grigsby named Wartburg's first Grant Price Endowed Archivist

Northwest Iowa native Kay Grigsby is the inaugural Grant Price Endowed Archivist at Wartburg College.

Grigsby earned her Bachelor of Arts in history and anthropology, as well as a certificate in museum studies, from the University of Iowa. She later earned a master's degree in library and information science from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. Most recently, Grigsby served as the resource management librarian at Graceland University, and prior to that she was the archives and special collections librarian at Des Moines University.

The Grant Price Endowed Archivist position was established through a \$1.2 million gift from David McCartney and James Petersen of Iowa City. The position is named for the pioneering Iowa broadcast journalist and former chair of the college's communication arts department. It is the college's 21st endowed position and the eighth in the past decade.







Grinstead '72, Randle '79, and Hanson '77



Mason '75, Waldstein '73, and Duroe '67

## Wartburg honors Alumni Citation recipients from 2020, 2021 during Homecoming weekend

The Wartburg College Alumni Board presented six Knights who have demonstrated a commitment to the college's mission with Alumni Citation Awards during Homecoming & Family Weekend.

**Capt. Dan Grinstead '72, Daniel Hanson '77, and Lawrence "DC" Randle '79** were selected for the honor in 2020 but were not recognized until this year because of COVID-19. Selected for the honor in 2021 were **Albert "Sparky" Duroe '67, Douglas Mason '75, and Edith Phillips Waldstein '73.**

Grinstead earned a Master of Social Work from the University of Minnesota in Duluth in 1975. He rose from being a staff social worker at the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics to serving as a social work specialist. Grinstead later became the oldest lowan deployed by the National Guard in modern times. In 2010 he served in Afghanistan in the rank of captain as part of Operation Enduring Freedom, running a combat stress clinic at Bagram Airfield. After his deployment, he returned to the UI Hospitals & Clinics to work on an adult inpatient psychiatry unit and serve as an instructor.

Hanson earned a master's degree in education and computer science at Mankato State University and a doctorate in instructional technology from Iowa State University. At Waldorf College, he led development of a management information systems degree program and was elected chair of the faculty before serving as the college's vice president for academic affairs and dean of the college. In 2009, Hanson became president of Peru State College in Nebraska, exuding leadership and service in his role. He retired from Peru State in June 2021.

After earning his degree in science education, Randle wanted his students to have more exposure to nature than what he had growing up in Washington, D.C. He learned about the Jason Project and was one of six educators to take part in the Amazon Exploration Project in 1994. Since 1996, he has been an assistant canopy researcher and has brought students to experience tropical ecology, indigenous culture, sustainable development, and rainforest research in South America. He earned a Master of Education in curriculum and instruction with an ecological emphasis in 2005 from Saint Mary's University in Minnesota, and in 2015, he became a naturalist for education outreach with the University of Minnesota's Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve.

Duroe transferred to Iowa State University and earned his bachelor's degree in agricultural economics. He started his career at Farmers State Bank in Waterloo, became CEO and purchased a controlling interest, growing the bank to over \$850 million in assets and 10 branches. He has served on the Iowa 4-H Foundation, the Jesup Economic Development Foundation, and the Boy Scouts of America Winnebago Council board. Duroe attended the Graduate School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the 1970s, then completed Harvard's Small Company Management Program in 1980. He has supported Wartburg College for decades, serving on the board and supporting scholarships and many other projects.

Mason returned to his alma mater in 1982 as director of admissions. After a year as Wartburg's vice president for student affairs, Mason was named vice president for advancement, leading the areas of admissions, alumni, development, college relations, and financial aid. A consulting firm, Gonser Gerber Tinker Suhr LLP in Illinois, took notice in 1992, and Mason became a sought-after consultant, presenter, facilitator, and trainer, giving guidance to numerous organizations in cultural, educational, religious, and health care fields. He later became a partner at the firm.

Waldstein earned her master's degree in 1975 then her doctorate in German languages and literatures in 1982, both from Washington University in St. Louis. She was a member of the German faculty at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston. When she came to Wartburg a second time in 1989, she began as the registrar and a part-time faculty member, and later served as associate vice president for academic affairs and associate dean of the faculty. In 2001, she assumed the new role of vice president for enrollment management, where for 20 years she led the college's efforts to identify, recruit, and retain students. She retired from Wartburg in 2021.



Nominees for the annual award are reviewed and selected each year by the college's Alumni Board based on their personal and professional application of the college's mission statement pillars: leadership, service, faith, and learning. Details about the award and a nomination form are available at [www.wartburg.edu/alumni-citation](http://www.wartburg.edu/alumni-citation).

# 2021 WARTBURG



## VOLLEYBALL

The volleyball team made history in 2021, completing its first unbeaten regular season in school history. Unranked coming into the season, the Knights rose as high as No. 4 in national polls. After winning the regular season conference title for the seventh-straight year and a ninth A-R-C tournament title, they ended the season 29-1 with a loss to Claremont-Mudd-Scripps in the Sweet 16. This was the 12th NCAA tournament appearance for the Knights, who finished the season ranked sixth in the nation. **Katie Foster '22** and **Kylie Bildstein '22** were named First-team Academic All-District. Foster also earned First-team American Volleyball Coaches Association All-America, AVCA Region 9 Player of the Year, and A-R-C Defensive Player of the Year honors and was named to the All-Region Tournament team. Bildstein was named the A-R-C Most Valuable Player of the Year, Second-team AVCA All-America, and AVCA All-Region. **Claire Marsh '22** earned an AVCA Honorable Mention and was an All-Conference honoree, as well as named AVCA All-Region. Co-head coaches Jennifer Walker and Doug Frazell were named the conference Coaching Staff of the Year and Region 9 Coaches of the Year by the AVCA. Since the two began sharing head coaching duties in 2013, Wartburg has averaged 26 wins per season (excluding the 2020 season).

## WOMEN'S SOCCER

The women's soccer team made its fourth consecutive NCAA Tournament appearance after a runner-up finish in the A-R-C Tournament. The Knights finished the 2021 season 15-4-1 and 7-1 in American Rivers Conference play. The Knights were defeated in the first round of the NCAA Tournament by UW-La Crosse. **Kate Luers '22** was named A-R-C Offensive MVP and earned All-Conference honors. Joining Luers on the All-Conference list was **Sarah Campbell '22**, **Marissa Lopez '22**, **Hailey Osburn '22**, **Joy Smith '22**, **Katie Berglund '23**, and **Gabby Corday '23**. Campbell also earned First-team Academic All-District honors. Luers and Smith were named Third-team All-American by United Soccer Coaches. For the first time in program history, five Knights earned United Soccer Coaches All-Region accolades — Luers, Smith, Campbell, and Lopez were First-team All-Region, and Osburn was named Third-team.



## WOMEN'S TENNIS

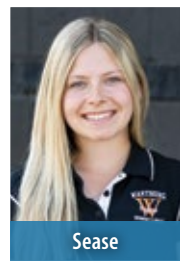
The women's tennis team finished the fall season with a strong showing in the American Rivers Conference Individual Tournament, including a silver medalist in **Sydney Stout '25**. **Meadow LaDuke '25** earned both singles and doubles All-Conference honors, while **Natalie Kaiser '25** earned a doubles honor. The Knights finished with a 4-4 record in conference play.



# ATHLETICS RECAP

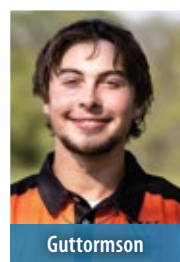
## WOMEN'S GOLF

The women's golf team closed the season with two All-Conference finishers at the conference championships in Ames. The Knights finished third overall, with **Lauren Sease '24** finishing in third and **Ashley DeLong '23** just one stroke behind for a fifth-place finish.



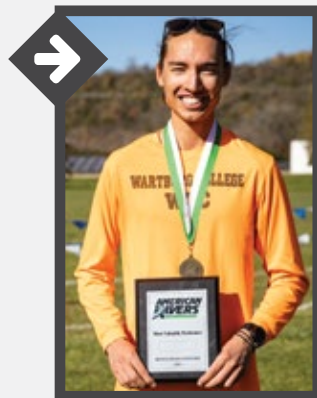
## CLAY TARGET SPORTS

The clay target sports team placed second overall at the Iowa Four-Year Collegiate Championships. **Evan Guttormson '24** and **Parker Miklaszewski '25** were selected for the Elite Five Squad, with Guttormson named captain. Guttormson took first in individual competition, while Miklaszewski took fourth. The team of Guttormson, Miklaszewski, **Brody Smith '25**, **Ty Ready '25**, **Chris Gardner '25**, **Andrew Rush '22**, **Case Harmston '25**, and **Andrew Thyer '25** placed second overall in the team competition. At the Upper Midwest Super Shoot, Miklaszewski, Guttormson, **Yvonne Croninger '25**, and **Savana Rasmussen '25** advanced to nationals in international bunker, while Miklaszewski advanced to nationals in international skeet.



## MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

The men's cross country team, which was ranked No. 1 in the nation for much of the regular season, took home its fourth consecutive American Rivers Conference Championship and finished ninth at the National Championships in November, led by an All-American finish from **Joe Freiburger '22**, who finished in eighth place. Freiburger, the American Rivers Conference MVP, was named the Midwest Male Athlete of the Year by the USTFCCCA and earned National Runner of the Week honors this season. Head Coach Ryan Chapman was named the Midwest Region Coach of the Year, while Chapman and Assistant Coach Philip Spitzer were named the American Rivers Conference Men's Coaching Staff of the Year.



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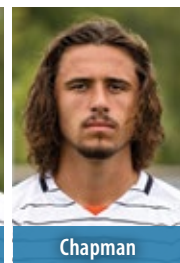
## WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

The women's cross country team, which rose as high as No. 2 in the national poll during the season, won its third consecutive American Rivers Conference title in October, setting the stage for another win at the Midwest Regional behind top-five finishes for **Aubrie Fisher '23** and **Carina Collett '21**. The team went on to finish fourth at the National Championships in November, where Fisher and **Riley Mayer '23** earned All-American status, finishing sixth and 27th, respectively. Head Coach Ryan Chapman and Assistant Coach Philip Spitzer were voted A-R-C Women's Coaching Staff of the Year.



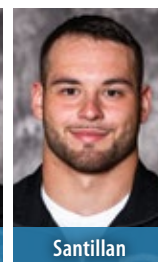
## MEN'S SOCCER

Wartburg men's soccer qualified for its 20th consecutive A-R-C Tournament but fell to Luther College in the first round. The Knights finished the season 7-7-3, including a five-game shutout win streak. Two Knights earned All-Conference honors: **Jack Palen '22** and **Payton Chapman '23**. **Caleb Halleran '23** and **Patrick McMahon '23** received honorable mentions. Palen and **Sam Thomann '22** earned First-team Academic All-District, and Palen earned CoSIDA Academic All-America honors.



## FOOTBALL

The football team ended the season 7-3 with a resounding 55-23 win over Simpson College. **Eli Barrett '22**, **Ethan Lape '22**, **Antonio Santillan '22**, and **Hunter Clasen '23** earned First-team All-Conference honors. **Jordan Downing '22**, **Freddie Hosch '22**, **JoJo McNair '22**, and **Owen Grover '23** were named Second-team All-Conference, while **Jace Moore '22** and **Ben Bryant '24** received honorable mention nods. Grover and **Sam Reyes '22** earned First-team Academic All-District.





# Christmas with Wartburg CELEBRATES 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

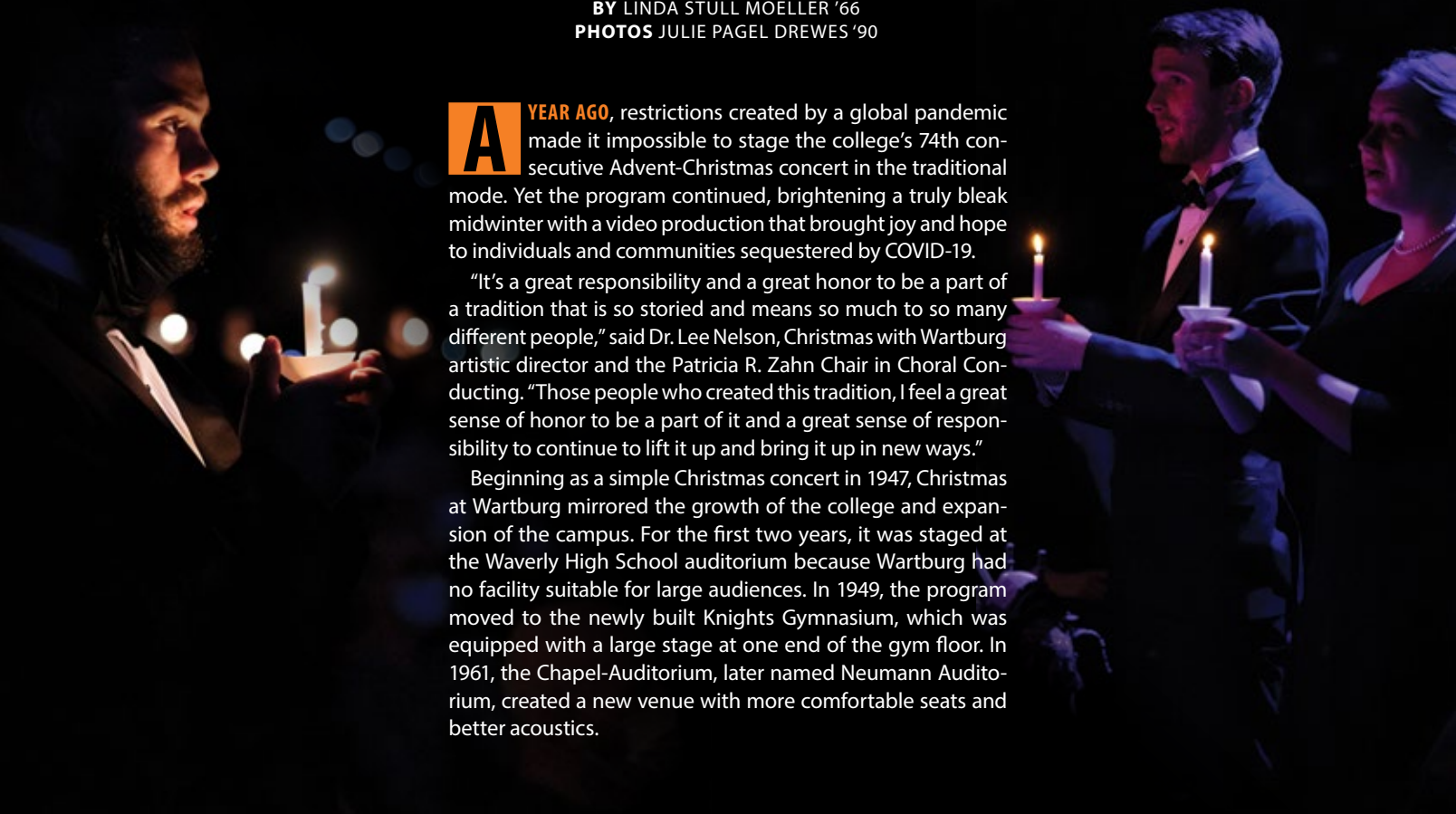
After weathering the most challenging year in its history, Christmas with Wartburg celebrated its 75th anniversary with live concerts in Waverly and West Des Moines Dec. 3-5, 2021.

BY LINDA STULL MOELLER '66  
PHOTOS JULIE PAGEL DREWES '90

**A** YEAR AGO, restrictions created by a global pandemic made it impossible to stage the college's 74th consecutive Advent-Christmas concert in the traditional mode. Yet the program continued, brightening a truly bleak midwinter with a video production that brought joy and hope to individuals and communities sequestered by COVID-19.

"It's a great responsibility and a great honor to be a part of a tradition that is so storied and means so much to so many different people," said Dr. Lee Nelson, Christmas with Wartburg artistic director and the Patricia R. Zahn Chair in Choral Conducting. "Those people who created this tradition, I feel a great sense of honor to be a part of it and a great sense of responsibility to continue to lift it up and bring it up in new ways."

Beginning as a simple Christmas concert in 1947, Christmas at Wartburg mirrored the growth of the college and expansion of the campus. For the first two years, it was staged at the Waverly High School auditorium because Wartburg had no facility suitable for large audiences. In 1949, the program moved to the newly built Knights Gymnasium, which was equipped with a large stage at one end of the gym floor. In 1961, the Chapel-Auditorium, later named Neumann Auditorium, created a new venue with more comfortable seats and better acoustics.





The first concert featured the Wartburg Choir and the Chapel Choir. The program expanded to include the Concert Band and Castle Singers, and in 1952, the newly formed Wartburg Community Symphony Orchestra made its first appearance. Today, Christmas with Wartburg features five choral groups (Wartburg Choir, Castle Singers, Ritterchor, St. Elizabeth Chorale, and Kantorei) and three instrumental groups (Wartburg Wind Ensemble, Kammerstreicher chamber orchestra, and Handbell Choir).

"To be in the middle of all of that beautiful sound is just something that very few people can grasp unless you are a part of that," said **Ro Foege '60**, who was a member of the Wartburg Choir. "In the more recent years, the presentations are just amazing. The multimedia and how they use technology is quite different from the 1950s. We didn't know any different, and we thought it was absolutely wonderful. And the spirit was just the same because we had a great audience and a receptive audience."

The name, Christmas with Wartburg, first appeared on the 1951 program and by 1953, attendance had reached 1,500. Over the next 40 years, attendance grew to 6,400 and the schedule included a total of four shows, two in Waverly and two at off-campus venues as the college sought to gain broader name recognition throughout the state.

"If you look at the Lutheran choral tradition around the country, it is something unique and something to be proud of. It doesn't happen in all places, but because of the very nature of the community, it still exists, and it is something that I am quite proud to be a part of," said **Dr. Paul Torkelson '76**, director of choral activities from 1984 to 2009. "I still have a bit of the Christmas with Wartburg spirit that is still with me at the beginning of every Christmas season. If we leave that with the students and the community, then we really have done something special."

Throughout its history, Christmas with Wartburg has combined music, narration, and scenic effects to create a cohesive theme. Set design was always a piece of the Christmas with Wartburg performance, but banners and large-scale pieces weren't added until 1976. Then, to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Christmas with Wartburg in 2007, the college commissioned artist Janiece Bergland of Floyd, Iowa, to create a hand-painted backdrop that was used for three years. She created a second backdrop for the 2010 program, which celebrated Wartburg's 75th consecutive year in Waverly.

In 2011, mural designer and illustrator **Chris Knudson '01** began creating a yearly mural that reflects the program theme, accommodates a variety of special lighting effects, and provides graphic elements for programs, posters, and other ancillary materials.

"Christmas with Wartburg has morphed and changed into something different, and yet it's not different at all. It's still Christmas with Wartburg, and the ones who did it when they were here are right back in that same spot," said Dr. Craig Hancock, Wind Ensemble director. "They can remember where they stood to sing. They can remember where they were sitting as they played their instrument. They are transported back to another time, another place." 🎵



WATCH ALL 11 EPISODES IN OUR "CHRISTMAS WITH WARTBURG: 75 YEARS OF MUSICAL TRADITION" VIDEO SERIES AT [WWW.WARTBURG.EDU/CWW-HISTORY](http://WWW.WARTBURG.EDU/CWW-HISTORY) AND VIEW RECORDINGS FROM MOST OF THE PROGRAM'S 75-YEAR HISTORY.



Wartburg's social work alumni celebrate the milestone by creating endowment for current and future students

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN PHOTOS WARTBURG COLLEGE ARCHIVES

**W**ARTBURG'S SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM has long held the distinction of being the oldest accredited undergraduate program in Iowa, and this year the college and its alumni celebrated another huge milestone — 75 years of offering students a degree in the major.

In honor of this diamond anniversary, the Tomson Family Foundation made a \$25,000 gift to establish the Tomson Family Foundation-Social Work Faculty Endowment Fund, which will provide financial support to students in the major who wish to accept an experiential learning opportunity that requires additional expenses, like an unpaid practicum in a different state. Over the course of just six weeks, dozens of social work alumni stepped up to match that gift, and to show their appreciation, the Tomson Family Foundation added another \$25,000 to the fund, bringing the total to \$75,000.

"My initial interest was to make a gift in honor of D.D. Starr, an extraordinary faculty member who had a significant impact on my experience at Wartburg and my career in social work," said **Sara Tomson-Hooper '89**. "I hope the fund will help support hands-on learning, as well as the faculty in providing quality education and learning experiences to future social work students."

The new endowment will complement an existing fund that provides modest support to every social work major during their first-year field experience and fourth-year practicum.


Though there will be an application and approval process for the stipends, **Victoria Rose Dietz '23** is hopeful she will be one of the first to be able to access these dollars should she be accepted into an internship program focused on social justice and human rights in Washington, D.C., this summer.

"After graduation, I want to pursue my master's in social work and combine that with a master's in political science so I can go into a social policy program," Dietz said. "I eventually want to work in women's health and reproductive rights and the policy surrounding that."

Dr. Tammy Faux, Tomson Family Distinguished Chair in Social Work, said students have had the opportunity to participate in a range of service-learning and practicums on campus, in the community, and in their hometowns, but having access to this additional funding will give some students the opportunity to work with populations they don't have as much access to in Waverly, the Cedar Valley, or Iowa.

"I'm so excited for our students to be able to expand their classroom learning into bigger communities so that they can see the kind of impact their work can have in places like a comprehensive homeless shelter in New York City or Washington, D.C., through policy advocacy or even at the United Nations," Faux said. "This fund is taking away barriers these students have to these experiences, getting them outside their comfort zone, and working hands-on with diverse populations, which will only prepare them even better for their next step."

While studying at Wartburg, Tomson-Hooper completed an internship in the Twin Cities that proved very meaningful to her future career, which has included 25 years in human service administration, consulting, and academia. She has been with Habitat for Humanity since 2013 and serves as the associate director of strategy planning and support.

"I am pleased our family foundation is able to assist with establishing this fund. The quality of education provided at Wartburg, coupled with the various experiential learning opportunities, had a profound impact on my life," she said. "The Wartburg experience was the foundation for an amazing career in humanitarian work. It prepared me to serve in leadership roles during which time I was blessed to walk alongside others across the globe working toward solutions to a variety of social problems. As we continue the battle against these injustices in today's world, I believe strongly that it is imperative to have well-equipped social work professionals." 



# 'THIS IS A SPECIAL PLACE'

With only a couple of months remaining as the Wartburg College president, Colson opens up about what he's learned in his 13-year tenure and what he will take with him into retirement.

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN  
PHOTOS JULIE PAGEL DREWES '90

**D**ARREL D. COLSON CAME TO WARTBURG amidst the uncertainties of the Great Recession; but a construction boom on campus, resulting in a new Science Center, which opened to students in 2004, and the Wartburg-Waverly Sports & Wellness Center, built in cooperation with the city in 2008, had positioned the college for a promising future.

A new strategic plan, *Living Our Learning; Claiming Our Calling; Transforming Tomorrow*, was nearing completion, and though Colson hadn't been part of the early planning process, the overall values and vision behind the plan were ones he strongly believed in. In the coming years, the College would establish the first Research, Internship, and Creative Endeavor (RICE) Day and create new majors in growing areas of interest.

But even as the College was set to publicly launch its \$75 million Transforming Tomorrow comprehensive campaign, it was becoming clearer that the enrollment bubble in Iowa had burst and private, liberal arts colleges would take the brunt of the fallout. Colson often turned to Wartburg's history of resilience when addressing the concern.

"Our history shows us that there are many, many reasons why Wartburg should not exist . . .," Colson said during a State of the College address in 2014. "But through it all, we demonstrated two vital qualities: A persistent, unyielding commitment to the mission of preparing young people for meaningful lives of leadership and service and a bold willingness to adapt, to innovate, to experiment."

In the years that followed, Colson would continue to push the College to do the same. Throughout the successful Transforming Tomorrow campaign, the College would rebrand itself from "Be Orange" to "Worth It," launch more academic programs and athletic teams, create several additional endowed chairs and professorships, and reimagine the first-year living and learning experience through the transformation of Clinton Hall into the McCoy Living & Learning Center.

The Higher Learning Commission affirmed the College's accreditation and even approved Wartburg to proceed with plans to offer an online bachelor's degree and a master's degree in music therapy. Even through a global pandemic, enrollment held strong and work progressed on a new strategic plan, *Our Brightest Days: Realizing Purpose and Leading Change*, that would guide the College's decisions through much of the 2020s.

But for all of the changes Colson had a hand in moving forward through the last 13 years, he is quick to admit that the College, and its students, faculty, and staff, have changed him, as well. To end his final State of the College address, Colson said:

"I feel the pull, the call of neighbors, the call of God to do all in my power to make of this place a place of communion — of cooperation and coordination among all of us who work here, of belonging and empowerment for all of our students, creating for them not only a home in which they can take refuge during a pandemic, but a place of formation for the meaningful and positive change they will bring to the world — as a spirited expression of their faith and learning. I'll end there, with deep thanks that I have a place in this community."



### What drew you to Wartburg?

At the time I was called to Wartburg, I was open to an opportunity within a Lutheran college or university. I knew the ins and outs of the Reformation, but what I didn't fully understand was the way Lutheran theology influences Lutheran higher education. I learned some about that from a colleague at Pepperdine, who is a very well-known church historian. He got me connected to the Lilly Network (of Church-Related Colleges and Universities), so I would go on these trips with him and without him, and I spent a lot of time on Lutheran campuses. He taught me about the concept of vocation and grace and how it plays out in the college setting. I was drawn toward Lutheran higher education because I believe so strongly in its foundational principles — the value of vocation, the freedom of intellectual inquiry, the power of conscience, radical hospitality. I became really enamored of Lutheran higher education.

### Were your 13 years as president of Wartburg what you expected they would be?

The answer is both yes and no. I expected the role to be challenging, and it was. Perhaps more challenging than I'd thought it would be, of course. A couple of things certainly surprised me. Like most academics, I'm introverted, so I worried about how well I would perform the essential duties of representing the college in group or individual settings, but I learned how enjoyable it is to spend time with the members of this extended community. While the relationships with alums and donors belong to the college and were only mine to steward, I found myself — as did Christy — genuinely coming to love the people who love this college.

While I appreciated that the duties of a president are varied and wide-ranging, I also underestimated how many topics and issues cross the desk and how quickly the president has to shift attention from one thing to another — to another — to another.



### What is your favorite Wartburg memory?

I'd cite a bundle of memories. Our daughter always remarks that Wartburg has "soul." Part of what makes up that soul is the composite of so many traditions that mark the rhythm of our academic year. Some are serious, such as St. Elizabeth Week, Christmas with Wartburg, MLK Week, the Graven Award, RICE Day. Some are a bit frivolous, such as the wacky Knighting Ceremony, Outfly, the late-night breakfasts. We could count many others — service trips during long breaks, the wrestling team's duals in the desert, the ensembles' trips abroad. Each of these forms my memory, and students' memory, of Wartburg College, and each contributes to the sense that this is a special place.

### What did you learn about yourself while serving as president?

When I felt the call to Wartburg and indeed accepted that call, I was intellectually committed to the principle of vocation, that is the firm position that each of our students is called to a meaningful life of leadership and service in some form or fashion. As I say, it does not matter whether a student will become a teacher or a banker, a coach or a doctor, for those are among the many roles in any community in which our students will lead and serve.

But being here these many years, both Christy and I have begun to feel that commitment quite deeply; what was an intellectual commitment, a principled professional opinion, has become part of our very souls. We feel the power of vocation in our hearts, our spirits. And we credit our students with having that impact on us; we now feel the same call to serve in the community that they feel; we've learned from this student body how important it is to lead and serve, and we now plan to turn our attention to that very thing. We hope to be as devoted to our community in retirement as our students and our alums are in theirs.

Annual photo with first-year students during orientation





### What has been your proudest moment?

This is hard to answer because there are so many. There are some obvious things to share. I was so proud of our Wartburg Choir one evening when they sang in the Great Hall at the Wartburg Castle, and brought our special guest, the prime minister of Thuringia, to tears. Indeed, we even saw that a couple of her bodyguards were weeping, too. Or the times when I've been able to stand alongside the wrestling team on the platform where they've received the trophy for winning the NCAA National Championship.

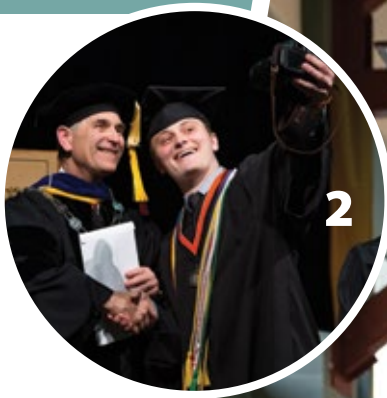
But there are other moments, too, that are less obvious. When I stand in front of students at RICE Day and they explain to me, very patiently with words I don't understand, the nature of their research and the discoveries they've made. Or when I spent one Saturday morning with our Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and the Special Olympians they were helping.

The common denominator in hundreds, maybe thousands, of these moments is students — spending time with our students as they do things that are important to them.

### What has been your most challenging moment?

Definitely the various times we've reduced the budget and in doing so, reduced the number of positions within the faculty and staff. It's been difficult to look across the table at hard-working, dedicated colleagues and tell them that the college can no longer sustain their valuable work.

- 1. Knighting Ceremony
- 2. Commencement
- 3. Inauguration Dinner
- 4. Community Service
- 5. RAGBRAI
- 6. Cheering on the Knights





### How has your faith changed since coming to Wartburg?

As an academic philosopher and amateur theologian, I understood the Lutheran doctrine of grace intellectually when I arrived, but living in this place, worshipping in this community, hearing the messages shared three times a week in Chapel and listening to our students sing sacred music have all helped me feel the doctrine of grace more deeply than I ever thought possible. I now comprehend, in a visceral way, what Martin Luther meant when he said that God's grace has the paradoxical effect of liberating us so that we might become the servants of all.

### You've visited Germany several times during your tenure. What will you take with you from those trips?

Neuendettelsau is such a special place, so authentically service oriented. I enjoyed going there so that I could reconnect with our founders, to understand the passion Wilhelm Löhe felt for serving the least advantaged. He had this knack of identifying people who were down, and then figuring out very entrepreneurially how to help them. That for me is the appeal. It's interesting how the model has changed in pursuit of the eternal mission. What was a church-based ministry pursuing a vibrant mission has produced a vast nonprofit agency pursuing the same mission while employing hundreds of people and serving thousands. It's fascinating to me how deeply these people feel the mission.

In Eisenach, I love Luther, and I love Lutheran theology, and I love Reformation history. But also it's the relationship between the United States and Eisenach after World War II. I'm sure many know this, but because the college was connected in some way to the castle, the college persisted in remaining related to the castle. Former President **Bob Vogel '56**, famously, kept making trips there with groups even when it was behind the Iron Curtain. Then once the Iron Curtain came down, we had this ready-made relationship born of the tenacity of Wartburg College that blended nicely with some serendipitous connections that people in Waverly, people who had been stationed there in World War II, had with Eisenach.

### How did your background in philosophy help you through your presidency?

I devoted most of my scholarly energy to the philosophy of Socrates, most of which we know from Plato's presentation of it. Essential to Socrates is his commitment to the revisability of knowledge. That is, in everyday terms, we must understand that all of our claims to know are revisable. Rational creatures that we are, we can draw sound conclusions on the basis of the evidence we have; but, being finite, we can never gather enough evidence to be certain about our conclusions.

So, my approach is always to ask questions, to prod, to poke, to challenge — myself most of all. We must make decisions, to be sure, but we must never be afraid to say that we erred and to reverse course when new information comes to light.

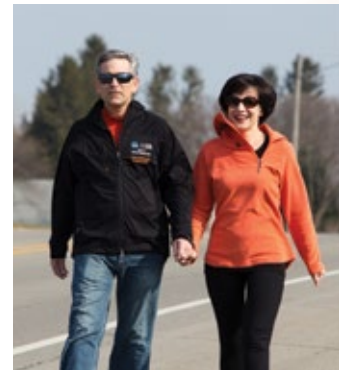
For me, it was important to understand, in all humility, how limited our grasp is — how limited my grasp is — so that I could see every one of my colleagues on this campus as genuine colleagues whose access to truth is no worse, and no better, than mine.



↑  
Outside the Wartburg Castle in Eisenach, Germany



Move-in Day



Enjoying the Community



Move-in Day



Outfly



**You were nicknamed PCol by a student.  
How did that happen and why do you think it stuck?**

Many years ago, in 2012, I think, I traveled to the Global Media Forum in Bonn, Germany, with **Travis Bockenstedt '09**, who was serving on the faculty, and **Shelby Granath '13**, a student in communications. Shelby was posting a blog about her travels, and she gave me the nickname “PCol,” which I liked. I’m always a bit self-conscious when people refer to me as “President Colson,” so I have encouraged folks, especially students, to use “PCol.” It sounds more like me, I think.

**You are a reader. What was the best thing you’ve read in the last 13 years?**

The best thing I’ve read in recent years, hands down, is W. E. B. Dubois’ *The Souls of Black Folk*, which is one of those classics I thought I “knew,” but that I’d not read cover-to-cover. It is a powerful book, beautifully written and hauntingly relevant more than a century later. Dubois, you know, spent time in “brave old Eisenach, beneath the shadow of Luther’s Wartburg,” where, he says, he “emerged from the extremes of [his] racial provincialism.”

**CHRISTY COLSON, FIRST LADY**

Looking at Christy Colson today, it’s hard to imagine that Wartburg College was her first experience serving as a presidential spouse.

“Neither Darrel nor I knew what to expect,” Christy said. “I had just retired from a career in early childhood education as a teacher and administrator, but it was a very happy transition for me because, in true Wartburg style, people were very kind and thoughtful. I remember especially the warm and supportive welcome I received from board members’ spouses and Darrel’s administrative assistant.”

Christy learned her new role by listening and being open to new opportunities. She spent time with former First Ladies, who shared stories about the historic house and the ways they lived out their callings at Wartburg. She met faculty and staff, looking for positive and appropriate ways she could contribute. She met community members, developing friendships that would lead to service opportunities in Waverly, including working on the Waverly Childcare and Preschool board.


When COVID-19 hit the campus, Christy was very involved in the response effort, helping set up off-campus isolation homes where students could comfortably recover from the virus. She spent weeks driving around town with different pieces of furniture and household essentials in her vehicle, waiting for a call that something was needed.

In early September 2020, she wrote a letter to Wartburg parents, assuring them that the accommodations the college was providing would be a safe and welcoming place for their student.

“Each time I set up a kitchen in an isolation home, I think of all of you and what Darrel and I would want for our own children. I honestly believe I’d be comfortable

**What’s next for you?**

As I say, Christy and I will prioritize our family and our community. We’ll spend more time with grandchildren, hopefully attending more of their recitals and games and lessons and such; and we’ll try to follow the example of our students, emulating their model of service and leadership in the effort to help people in our hometown find more successes.

I’ll likely return to my writing. I’ve dipped my toe in the water a few times recently, publishing a piece here and there, and I’d like to do that a bit more. I feel as if I’ve learned some things about Lutheran higher education, as well as about the theological concept of vocation, and I’ll see if I can put some thoughts on paper for anyone who might be interested. 



as a Wartburg parent today. More than that, I believe you can be comfortable. That’s exactly what we want for all of you. In this most uncertain time, we want you to know that everyone who works at Wartburg cares about your children — and you. Parent-to-parent, I’d like to thank you for trusting us — for giving us the opportunity to begin a new academic year with extraordinary students who are, most definitely, worth it,” Christy wrote in the letter, which was extremely well received by loved ones who were still unsure about sending their child off to college during a pandemic.

Among Christy’s favorite memories are her experiences in Italy with Dr. Barbara Fedeler, who teaches Art and Culture during May Term.

“In assisting Barbara with logistics while living and learning with our students, I appreciated fully the power of experiential learning, and I loved every conversation, class, cultural site, and gelato scoop I shared with them. I’ll forever admire the expertise of our faculty members who, like Barbara, offer such opportunities to our students,” Christy said.

“By far, the most rewarding part of being a presidential spouse is the opportunity to build interesting and meaningful relationships. We’ve learned so much about stewardship, generosity, kindness, service, and leadership from people we’ve met here and all over the world. But I’m sure that the relationships with students have been the most transforming for me. Darrel and I frequently visit with folks who, understandably, worry terribly about the state of affairs in our world today. We always look at each other and then say, ‘Well, we wish you could meet our students. They would fill you with hope.’”





# HEAVY LIFTING

IN THE OFFICE, MARK SWINTON '83 FIGHTS FOR IMPROVED DIABETIC CARE FOR MORE THAN 30 MILLION AMERICANS, BUT IN THE GYM, HE BATTLES FOR CONTINUED PERSONAL BESTS AND WORLD RECORDS.

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN  
PHOTOS ROLAND FERRIE '08



**T**HE FIRST TIME MARK SWINTON '83 entered a weightlifting competition he was a college senior who had just finished up his final season of football at Wartburg. Despite being a novice lifter, Swinton brought home a trophy and a passion for the sport that led him to organize a competition for high school students on campus.

"We must have had well over 100 high school kids on campus for our bench press tournament. We hired an announcer, had two benching platforms and six judges," he said. "I remember even (former head wrestling coach) Dick Walker was impressed. It was a great day."

The competition at Wartburg continued for a couple of years, and after graduating Swinton even returned to help during the medal ceremony. As he grew busier with graduate school — he earned an MBA from the University of Chicago — then work and raising a family, competitive lifting fell by the wayside. About eight years ago, Swinton, who now lives in California, started lifting at the gym again. Without much forethought or training, he entered the NASPOWER Cup just down the road from him in Bakersfield. Though he nearly fell over on his squat, he set the bench press record for his age group and deadlifted 397 pounds.

"You get to a point in your life when you want to do new things. I have spent years going to swim meets and cross country meets and baseball games for my kids. Now I only have two of the six left at home, and I realized it was my time to do things that connected me to another community of people," he said.

Though more than 1,800 miles away, that community still includes his Wartburg teammate **Lon Lawler '83** (read more about him on the inside cover), the friend who drove Swinton to Cedar Rapids for that first competition as a college senior. A former high school football coach and current P.E. teacher in Osage, Lawler is a pro at providing motivation when Swinton's tank is running on empty. Lawler is unable to attend all of Swinton's competitions, but when lifting brings Swinton back to the Midwest, Lawler is the first to step up and help. In fact, he was spotting Swinton in July 2021 when he knocked out a 326-pound squat, just seven months after his first outing.

"I'm not surprised Mark has had this success powerlifting. He's always brought a fierce intensity into the weight room and a drive to reach certain goals," Lawler said. "I just try to provide positive encouragement and guidance along the way. We didn't have strength coaches in high school or college, so we are used to coaching each other. Trust and belief can go a long way in supporting an athlete as they prepare and compete."

Training three times a week, Swinton has been able to improve his lifts enough to set a world record and two U.S. records in squat and bench. He later broke the full power (total of squat, bench, and deadlift) world record for the 60-year-old 82.5 kg weight class, lifting 1,086 pounds and beating the previous record, held by a Russian, by 6 pounds.

"This is definitely an adrenaline-seeking experience. The intensity at those competitions is indescribable because we all know there is so much riding on all the work you've done

to that point," he said. "Especially at a place like nationals, but even at the smaller meets, it all comes down to those three lifts. They are more intense than any big meeting I've ever been part of at work or anything I've ever had to do for my family." And, as senior director of professional relations, health policy, and advocacy for Abbott Diabetes Care, Swinton has led some pretty important meetings.

"My goal is to improve the lives of people with diabetes through policy changes," he said. "I coordinate with professionals, physicians, and patients to make sure that Congress and state governments are aware of the issues facing individuals with diabetes."

That also includes changing the standard of care, which for individuals with diabetes has meant progressing from a urine test to pricking a finger to a glucose monitor that can send a constant stream of readings to an app on someone's phone.

"I love my job because who else has the opportunity to impact the lives of 30 million people in a positive way? This is a group effort, and I get to make sure that everyone is moving in the same direction," said Swinton, whose father died of complications from diabetes. "My goal, before I retire in five years, is to change the standard of care in the United States so that everyone knows that they shouldn't be poking their fingers anymore, and they have access to the tools that make that possible."


Though little of Swinton's current work requires the skills he acquired while earning accounting and computer science degrees at Wartburg, he still believes it was his college experiences that set him up for success in his field.

In addition to the lessons he learned on the athletic field under Dr. Don Canfield, Swinton's work in the classroom and on special projects with Dr. Marvin Ott taught him the value of hard work and networking at a young age.

"Starting my freshman year and through most of my senior year, I worked with Dr. Ott assisting him with running Wartburg's administrative computer system. I spent many nights with Dr. Ott in the computer center, as it was only available after the science building closed at 10 p.m.," he said.


Ott also arranged a consulting project for Swinton in Haiti during his senior year. While there, he met with Haitian government officials to design a computerized health care database for them.

"I toured Cité Soleil, Port au Prince's poorest neighborhood, to understand challenges in creating such a system, and spent two weeks working with officials to develop specs and begin coding," explained Swinton, adding that those experiences, coupled with the internship Ott helped him secure with Hewlett-Packard in Oregon the summer between his junior and senior years, were key to Ernst & Young bringing him on board in its Chicago office and his quick promotion through the ranks.

"I was ahead of my time by about 10 years with having both computer science and accounting. One reason I've been so successful is because all of this stuff costs money, and I understand how the finance system works and can speak the language of the people who control the money because of my background. That gives them confidence in me. For me, it's always been about being ready for the next opportunity that presents itself." 



**I LOVE MY JOB BECAUSE WHO ELSE HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO IMPACT THE LIVES OF 30 MILLION PEOPLE IN A POSITIVE WAY?**



# CREATING A Community

*Centennial and Vollmer get much-needed upgrades thanks to generous donors*

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN

**F**OR MORE THAN 50 YEARS, Centennial and Vollmer halls have served as the first home for thousands of Wartburg College students transitioning from life with their family to a more independent experience as a college student. And while the students, their needs, and their packing lists have changed through the years, very little has about the residence halls, which are two of the oldest on the campus.

Following the successful renovation of Clinton Hall into the McCoy Living & Learning Center in 2016, college administrators and the Board of Regents became even more keenly aware of the need for updates in Centennial, Vollmer, and Hebron halls, also known as The Complex. The halls house about half of the first-year class, and while providing an economical housing solution was a benefit, it was clear that first-year students needed the other amenities that a newly renovated space would provide and that the college needed rooms that could accommodate all students.

In June 2019, the Board of Regents authorized a \$9 million fundraising campaign that would allow for the renovation and remodel of Centennial and Vollmer halls. Hebron Hall, which is connected to its own heating and electrical systems and is slightly newer, will be renovated later, and for the time being will be used as “super singles” for returning students who desire a single bedroom. The \$11 million plan — the college also has applied for \$2 million in State of Iowa Historical Tax Credits — features a new HVAC system, which integrates fresh air in individual rooms. The project also includes all new restroom and shower facilities, a new fire sprinkler system, and an electrical and plumbing overhaul. Several rooms that combine individual sleeping spaces and bathrooms will allow the college to better serve students needing special accommodations.

RENDERINGS ALIGN ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING

“Our first priority in these two buildings is accessible housing space. Yes, our students want and need updated living facilities, updated bathrooms, air conditioning, and the other niceties that come with a newer space, but accessibility was top of mind as we developed the new plans,” said Cassie Hales, director of residential life. “We need more single rooms with bathrooms, for both our students with special accessibility needs and our students in transition who desire their own bathrooms. We are losing some prospective students simply because we don’t have the accommodations to house them.”

“

**OUR FIRST  
PRIORITY IN THESE  
TWO BUILDINGS  
IS ACCESSIBLE  
HOUSING SPACE.**

*Cassie Hales  
Director of Residential Life*

”







The addition to the northeast side of Vollmer, which is already under construction, will create space for an elevator, which Hales said was important to students with accessibility needs who want to be able to live anywhere in the building, not just siloed to an area on the first floor.

A new lounge surrounded by a kitchen and individual or group study rooms also will be added. The addition and updated living spaces in Vollmer are expected to be complete before classes start in the fall of 2022. The renovations to Centennial Hall will begin in April 2023 and be complete for Fall Term 2023.

“The vision of our strategic plan lifts up the education of the whole person and having a rich and purposeful residential experience is a critical piece of achieving that vision,” said Dr. Dan Kittle, vice president of student life and dean of students. “In addition to the meaningful learning experiences, our alumni continually tell stories of the lifelong friendships that come from living on campus.”

In June 2019, **Jack '82** and **Sarah Slife '82 Salzwedel** made a \$2 million gift commitment to the project that came with one stipulation — the college must explore how the newly renovated residence halls can build and sustain a collaborative, inclusive community that recognizes, values, and includes all members.

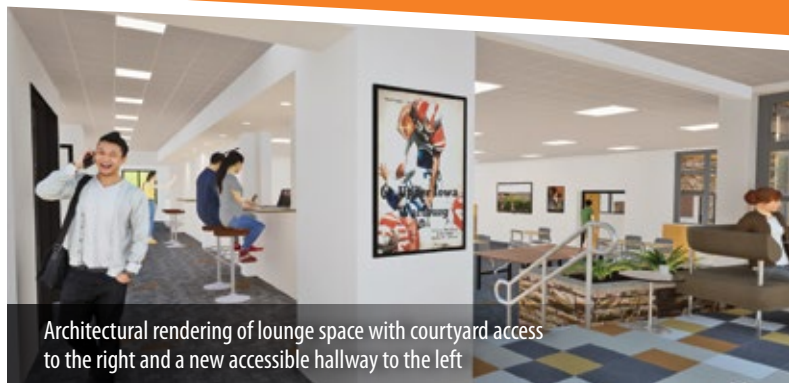
“We are grateful to Sarah and Jack for their extraordinary generosity, but also for encouraging us to look beyond just a new building, for pushing us to envision how these new spaces can demonstrate our commitment to creating a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment for our students,” President Darrel Colson said. “They’ve inspired us to think in creative and innovative ways, and for that I couldn’t be more grateful.”

In addition to delving into new naming opportunities that would reflect the inclusive nature of the space, Residential Life and Student Life staff are considering ways to integrate new programming into the space to ensure the values reflected in the name are lived out in the halls.

“The kitchen on the second floor was intentionally designed as a programmatic space so that cooking demonstrations and community meals can happen there,” Hales said. “We will stock the kitchen with utensils and small appliances needed to make traditional foods from other cultures. I envision this as a space where a diverse group of students can gather and share their food and culture with others, gathering around the food and the community.”

Hales also is hopeful that the initiatives that are being undertaken across campus will manifest in ways that help all students learn and grow in their understanding of others.

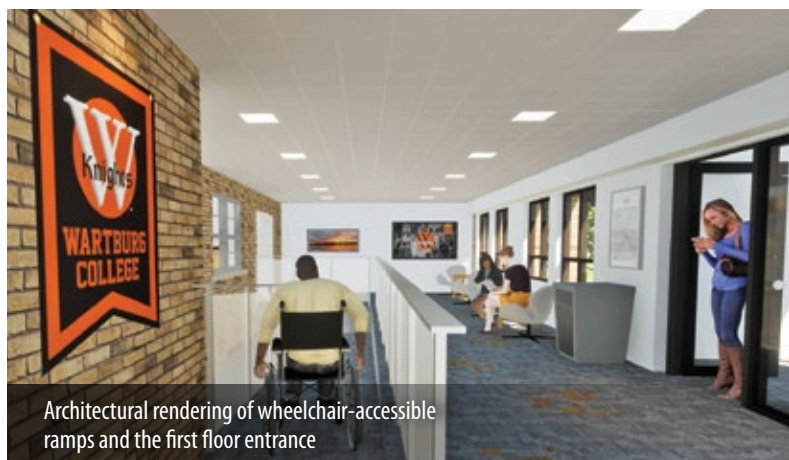
“No matter where you live on campus, the idea of living within the Wartburg community is becoming more important. Our RAs are being trained on more student development pieces and what it means to live in a community so that they also can help students better understand how to interact with the people around them, especially in difficult situations,” Hales said. 🍷



Architectural rendering of lounge space with courtyard access to the right and a new accessible hallway to the left



Architectural rendering of a new second floor lounge and kitchen



Architectural rendering of wheelchair-accessible ramps and the first floor entrance

## YOU CAN STILL HELP

With only a few months remaining in the college’s fundraising campaign in support of the renovation of Centennial and Vollmer halls, a \$1.5 million challenge gift from the Franklin & Irene List Saemann Foundation has put the final goal within striking distance. The completion of this challenge grant will bring the total raised to \$9 million and close out the fundraising campaign. **If you have questions or are interested in supporting the Centennial and Vollmer Halls Renovation Project, please contact the Development Office at [development@wartburg.edu](mailto:development@wartburg.edu) or at 319-352-8495. To learn more about the project, visit [www.wartburg.edu/cent-voll](http://www.wartburg.edu/cent-voll).**





# small fish in a **BIG POND**

Wartburg professor's micro-ecosystem competes with Lego, Project Lead the Way as part of statewide STEM Scale-up Program

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN  
PHOTOS JULIE PAGEL DREWES '90

**P**AUL MUGAN '90 COULDN'T WAIT TO TEACH HIS FRESHMAN ECOLOGY CLASS at Waverly-Shell Rock High School this winter. After using online simulators and textbook lessons, Mugan now has a hands-on teaching tool that mimics a micro-ecosystem thanks to the genius of fellow Knight **Dr. Michael Bechtel '94** and the generosity of the 2021-22 Iowa STEM Scale-up Program.

In 2021, Bechtel's loponics (Iowa + aquaponics) system was selected by the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council to be shared with educators of all types throughout the state. The educational system combines aquaculture (raising fish) and hydroponics (growing plants without soil) in an integrated system using aerobic bacteria that transforms fish waste into nutrients for plants. Mugan's classroom setup is now one of about 130 of the 40-gallon systems placed around Iowa through the grant program. Another 50 three-gallon microsystems also were distributed. Because of the initial success, loponics was once again chosen as a Scale-up Program option for the 2022-23 year.

Bechtel, associate professor of science education at Wartburg, used his sabbatical during the 2021 Winter Term to plan for the project. During the summer, he worked with Eric Berns, the college's biology laboratory coordinator; Ruth Hein, Science Center office coordinator; and several students to prepare the pieces needed for each system. The old Players Theatre served as a holding area for the painted wood, plastic growing bins, and 40-gallon fish tanks. Then, during early August, Bechtel and his students headed out across the state with truckloads of equipment and a professional development program that gave educators of all types a crash course in aquaponics.

"The Iowa STEM Scale-up Program provided the springboard to get loponics underway. We were selected alongside businesses like Lego, Project Lead the Way, and Dreambox," said Bechtel. "The 2021-22 year was a steep learning curve, and COVID added a lot of turbulence that I was not expecting with increased wood prices, exponential shipping costs and delays, business closings, longer manufacturing timelines, and searching for materials. Having said that, I am ready for what comes next."

For high school teachers like Mugan, the loponics system, which comes with standards-aligned lesson plans for all ages and additional academic and system supports, offers a convenient, hands-on project his students can monitor over time. And when they aren't using it, the system nearly takes care of itself. Mugan also collected one-gallon containers that his students can use to set up their own habitats and then simulate different disasters to see how the plants and fish react.

A large loponics system is set up in the Science Center on campus.





Lexi Brown '23 was one of several students who helped build the loponics bases.



Dr. Michael Bechtel (right) shows teachers and students how the systems work during one of the many professional development opportunities.



Dr. Michael Bechtel worked with several Wartburg students throughout the summer to assemble the structures.

“We can do a manure spill, an oil spill, basically put anything in there that shouldn’t be there and see what happens,” he said. “In the past I’ve been able to use a website that mimics these reactions, but to see it in real time will be so much more engaging for the students.”

Bechtel has been using aquaponics systems in his own classrooms for years, but it wasn’t until his students began asking about them that he began to think about ways of sharing the learning opportunity with others. **Ryan Henkel '17**, a religion major who went on to earn his Master of Divinity at Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge, Pennsylvania, was Bechtel’s “original loponics student.” Henkel knew a little about aquaponics and talked to Bechtel about how they could work together to create a setup that would provide a sustainable food source to people in food deserts, areas with limited access to affordable fresh foods.

“This isn’t just about being in education or biology or science. Anyone can be a part of this work and giving back to the community,” said Henkel, who recently set up a 75-gallon system in the church where he serves in Emmons, Minnesota. His hope is that within a couple of months he can begin growing leafy green vegetables and then tomatoes, strawberries, and other fruits and vegetables. Once the system begins producing, the fresh food will be turned over to the local food pantry. His goal is to get other churches involved so more food can be produced and donated. “This is something that people can see tangible results from, and it connects with the college’s four pillars. It’s something that everyone can do within their community, whether it’s in a library or a civic-related building, a public service office, a church, or their own backyard.”


After Henkel graduated, Bechtel continued with the project and began looking at ways to get it into more hands. As a science education professor, the obvious route was through schools and other organizations that engaged with young people.

“The whole idea of educational aquaponics — where it started and where it’s growing — is amazing. I am super excited about the interest it has drawn statewide and nationally,” Bechtel said. “I am very surprised about who has contacted me and what groups have shown interest in both purchasing and assisting. Dr. (Allan) Bernard (associate professor of business administration) had stated this endeavor had the possibility to get large. I guess I should have believed him.”

In addition to the systems in Iowa, Bechtel has loponics setups in 11 states, including Alaska, Arizona, Florida, and North Carolina. Throughout the process, Bechtel has engaged students in the business and engineering departments, but he relies most heavily on his science education students for support. During the summer of 2021, **Sidney Baumgartner '22** and **Becca Montgomery '22** led professional development sessions for teachers around the state, and his next crew of pre-service teachers is ready to take the reins when those two graduate in May.

“I get very excited about watching Wartburg students become engaged. To think that the whole thing started with an after-class discussion with a religion major,” Bechtel said.

For Bechtel, an eternal optimist, the possibilities for loponics are limitless.

“I have no real expectations, but I do have some ideas. I would like to get a system in all 50 states. This idea is getting closer because we are trying to build and place loponics systems through a Wartburg College service project in four southwestern states this spring,” he said. “I would love to get involved with Curriculum for Agriculture Science Education and other state education agencies. I am hoping to create partnerships with businesses that focus on urban agriculture, microfarming, and/or self-sufficiency. I hope we keep expanding into residences, businesses, and storefronts ... beyond the school buildings. There seems to be no end.” 





# WARTBURG ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2021

The following individuals were inducted into the Wartburg College Hall of Fame.


BY TRENT JACKSON

## Akeya Aimable '09

Women's Track & Field | Greenwood, Indiana 

Akeya Aimable was a two-time triple jump national champion and five-time All-American, helping guide the Knights to indoor and outdoor track and field national team titles. Aimable was also a member of three All-American relay squads. She was a 13-time All-Conference performer and was a part of four consecutive indoor conference championship teams and three straight conference outdoor team titles. She is a Linux IT specialist with Technology Services Organization in Indianapolis.

## Justin Beatty '03

Football | Independence, Iowa 

Justin Beatty was a two-time All-Conference and one-time All-Region running back. He owns the third-most rushing yards in Wartburg football history with 3,700 and ranks among the top 10 in several categories. In 2001, he tallied 12 touchdowns and 1,377 rushing yards en route to earning First-team All-Conference and Third-team All-Region accolades. He helped guide Wartburg to a record of 37-6 with conference titles and NCAA playoff appearances in 1999 and 2002. Beatty is an activities specialist with the State of Iowa.

## Blake Gillis '08

Wrestling | Clinton, Missouri 

Blake Gillis was a four-time All-American and NCAA finalist, winning the heavyweight national title in 2007. He led Wartburg to four consecutive conference championships, two national runner-up finishes, and national championships in 2004 and 2006. He was a conference heavyweight champion all four seasons. He compiled a career record of 139-11 to rank fifth on Wartburg's all-time wins list. He and his wife, Krystal, have three children: Grayson, Avery, and Elle. Gillis is the general manager for Gillis Family Dentistry.

## Wil Kelly '04

Wrestling | Dubuque, Iowa 

Wil Kelly, a two-time All-American wrestler, won a national title at 141 lbs. his senior season, tallying a 21-4 record. He also won the conference crown his final season and placed third nationally in 2002. With a career record of 47-10, Kelly was part of four conference championship teams and the 2003 national title squad. From 2006 to 2009, he was an assistant coach at Wartburg, helping lead the Knights to three national championships. He was head wrestling coach at Cedar Falls High School from 2009 to 2016. Kelly is an insurance and liability claims representative for Cottingham and Butler. He and his wife, Ashley, have one child, Parker.



## Molly Eslick Kremer '11

Women's Tennis | Newton, Iowa



The most decorated player in Wartburg women's tennis history, Molly Eslick Kremer is the Knights' all-time wins leader in singles (86), No. 1 singles (63), doubles (60), and No. 1 doubles (50). She appeared on the All-Conference singles team all four years, including the singles and doubles All-Conference teams in 2010. A 2011 CoSIDA Academic All-District award winner, Kremer was a three-time Academic All-Conference and ITA Scholar Athlete. She and her husband, Mike, have two children, Easton and Ivory. She is a second-grade teacher in the Newton Community School District.

## Ryan Moorman '06

Baseball | Boone, Iowa



Ryan Moorman was a four-year starting pitcher for the Wartburg baseball team. While collecting a career record of 23-8 with 10 complete games, 203 strikeouts, and a 3.27 earned run average in over 250 innings pitched, he earned four consecutive All-Conference selections, including three First-team All-Conference honors, and a pair of All-Region laurels. A member of four consecutive conference championship teams, he ranks among the top 10 in many pitching categories. Moorman is the vice president at Rolfes @ Boone, a manufacturer of grain temperature and hazard detection equipment. He has two children, Stella and Hendrix, with his wife, Melissa.

## Jacob Naig '09

Wrestling | Ankeny, Iowa



Jacob Naig played a key role in four consecutive wrestling conference championships and national championships in 2006, 2008, and 2009. Competing at the 149-pound weight class, he was a four-time All-American, headlined by a national championship in 2008. Naig was a three-time conference champion, including a conference MVP in 2006. He registered a career record of 80-11, including a school record 43-win season in 2008. He and his wife, **Danielle (Fullerton) '10**, have three children: Natalie, Luke, and Rylie. Naig is a real estate agent with Realty ONE Group.

## Monica Severson

Women's Basketball, Women's Golf | Waverly, Iowa



Monica Severson was the Wartburg women's basketball head coach from 1988 to 2006, compiling the most wins in Wartburg history with a career record of 335-131. Her teams won five conference titles and made nine trips to the national tournament, including three Elite Eight appearances. She was named the IIAC Coach of the Year in 1992 and 2001. She ranks in the top 50 all-time in Division III in career wins (335) and winning percentage (.719). In 2007, Severson became Wartburg's head women's golf coach and won nine straight conference titles, making nine straight appearances in the NCAA Championships. She was awarded the 2016 Midwest Region Coach of the Year and IIAC Coach of the Year six times. From 1998 to 2016, she was Wartburg's associate athletic director and senior woman administrator. Severson now works as a financial adviser for Thrivent. She and her husband, Scott, have one son, **Ryan '15**.

## Nick Weber '08

Football | Solon, Iowa



A dual-threat football player and outstanding return specialist, Nick Weber was a four-time All-Conference honoree and a three-time All-American, helping the team win a conference championship and make an NCAA playoff appearance in 2004. He was named an AFCA First-team All-American. He ranks second in Wartburg's record books with 775 career punt return yards and sixth with 14 interceptions. Weber and his wife, Andrea, have two kids, Hadley and Reagan. He works as a sales representative for Medtronic.

## Former IIAC commissioner named new Wartburg College athletic director



John Cochrane, a seasoned professional with experience at the national, conference and collegiate levels, was named athletic director at Wartburg College effective Jan. 1, 2022.

Cochrane brings with him the expertise gained from a long career in college athletics that dates back to his work as a compliance assistant in the University of Iowa Athletic Department in 1989. After a short time at Iowa, he moved to the University of Detroit Mercy, where he served in several roles before joining the NCAA National Office as an enforcement representative. Cochrane left the NCAA National Office in 2001, where he had served his final two years as the assistant director of championships, to become the commissioner of the Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, now known as the American Rivers Conference. Most recently, he was director of athletics at Cornell College for eight years.

"John brings a wealth of experience in multiple roles within college athletics. His demonstrated commitment to the overall student-athlete experience and relationship-building with students and staff alike is impressive," said Rick Willis, vice president of student recruitment. "His familiarity and belief in Wartburg uniquely equip him to help our student-athletes, coaches and entire department continue to grow, develop and confidently move forward."

In addition to his professional experiences with the college, Cochrane also is a Wartburg parent. His daughter Karly '14 was a member of the track and field team.

"Karly had a transformational experience at Wartburg, and I recognize that the success of any DIII athletic program is driven by the quality of experience you provide to the young people in the program," Cochrane said. "The end goal should always be that in four years, they can look back and say that one of the best decisions they made in their lives was to be a student-athlete at Wartburg College."

With this hire, Willis promoted Ryan Callahan, who served as interim athletic director, to associate athletic director while retaining his previous role as head athletic trainer.

"Ryan has demonstrated tremendous leadership and commitment to the college throughout his eight years here, most recently through the pandemic and specifically these past five months leading the athletic department," Willis said. "In this expanded role, he will help us enhance and oversee all of the support areas within our department while continuing his outstanding service as head athletic trainer."

# KNIGHTS IN THE NEWS

**1949**

**THE REV. EDGAR ZELLE**, Waverly, published *My Faith Journey: Thoughts Along the Way* in 2021. The book outlines his personal faith journey as an ordained Lutheran pastor in a small Northeast Iowa town and later in Waterloo. Many of the essays, dating as far back as 1978, were published in the local newspaper. The book is available in The Wartburg Store.

**1952**

**HERB HILDEBRANDT**, Ann Arbor, Mich., now has versions of his English and Chinese communication books published in India and Asia. He retired from chairing the emeriti faculty of the Ross School of Business, University of Michigan.

**ALFRED SCHULZ**, Spokane, Wash., retired after 24 years as an intermittent chaplain at the Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center.

**1958**

**HAROLD KURTZ**, New Brighton, Minn., co-authored *-30-: Remembering Duane Schroeder*. The book shares the life of the late **Duane Schroeder '58**, a longtime news director and sports information director at Wartburg.

**1964**

**RONALD BURRICHTER**, Gainesville, Fla., retired and was named an emeritus professor of music after 37 years at the University of Florida. He co-authored the book *Class Voice: Fundamentals for Lifelong Singing*.

**1968**

**MARY CARTER**, Williamsburg, Va., retired as a colonel from the U.S. Army.

**1969**

**DR. DEAN KRUCKEBERG**, Charlotte, N.C., was awarded the 2021 Gold Anvil, the Public Relations Society of America's (PRSA) highest individual award, in recognition of his lifetime achievement in the field.

**1971**

**BRUCE GARBERDING**, Kenmore, Wash., is a volunteer with the Northshore Senior Center, Bothell, where he serves on the board of directors.

**1972**

**KENT RADDATZ**, Stevens Point, Wis., authored the book *Undercover Superhero*, a true story of a young boy with a rare disease who gives hope and inspires others to show compassion.

**1975**

**GREG HOVDEN**, Waverly, retired after 46 years of teaching.

**1980**

**GLENDA BAUGH JOHNSON**, Chicago, Ill., is a marriage and family therapist.

**1982**

**RANDALL SCHROEDER**, Coralville, co-authored *-30-: Remembering Duane Schroeder*. The book shares the life of **Duane Schroeder '58**, Randall's dad and a longtime news director and sports information director at Wartburg.

**1983**

**THE REV. DR. KRISTIAN KINCAID**, Dubuque, authored the book *Living with Grief: Bound by Sorrow, Wrapped in Comfort*.

**1988**

**NANCY MCFADDEN HERBER**, Tacoma, Wash., earned a post-professional master's degree in occupational therapy from Mount Mary University, Milwaukee, Wis.

**CHERE SCHAEFFER MCFARLAND**, Billings, Mont., has served as a nurse at Billings Clinic for 20 years.

**1990**

**DR. ERIC GRUBE**, Minneapolis, earned a doctoral degree in business administration from Metropolitan State University, St. Paul. He serves as chair of the accounting program at Concordia University, St. Paul, where he is an associate professor.

**ANGIE HEUCK**, Stevens Point, Wis., is founder and executive director of Uplift, an all-female-led nonprofit committed to transforming the lives of women and children with special attention to those in crisis.

**1991**

**STEPHEN BORLESKE**, Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., is a research and development food science technologist at Mariani Packaging Co.

**1992**

**ANNE KUTSCHAT WEBBER**, Grand Rapids, Minn., is a special education teacher in the Nashwauk-Keewatin School District, Nashwauk.

**1994**

**ALEXIS OBERDORFER**, West St. Paul, Minn., is Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota's first vice president and chief officer of community engagement and partnerships.

**1995**

**CYNTHIA BILLHORN CROSS**, Wichita, Kan., is director of sales at Cox Business.

**DANA SCHARNHORST SUNTKEN**, Omaha, Neb., is the associate registrar for academic records at Creighton University.

**1998**

**HEATHER SIMPSON GREEN**, Dubuque, is historic site and camp coordinator at the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium.

**2001**

**EMILY O'BRIEN DALEN**, Underwood, is pursuing an Accelerated Master of Divinity at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn., and is a vicar at St. Timothy's Church, Omaha, Neb.

**2002**

**LUKE KOTZ**, Grinnell, is chief information officer at Manatts Inc., Brooklyn.

**JOSEPH HILGENDORF**, Cedar Rapids, is an implementation analyst at Fiserv.

**2003**

**ITONDE KAKOMA**, Atlanta, Ga., is head of delegation and permanent representative of international federations of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to the African Union and international organizations.

**2004**

**KEVIN BERG**, Knoxville, Tenn., is associate director of recruitment for high ability at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

**JAMES** and **KATIE KIRKLE CORY**, Wheeling, Ill., announce the birth of Josephine Elliot, Aug. 5. She joins Elizabeth Jane, 3. Katie is a senior enterprise business analyst at W.W. Grainger, Lake Forest.

**LEROY GARDNER III**, Clarksville, Ark., is assistant athletic director at the University of the Ozarks. He also serves as head women's and men's wrestling coach.

**RACHEL HUSBY**, Lander, Wyo., is a 2021 Wyoming state finalist for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

**NICK SCHAUF**, Monticello, is a high school principal in the Monticello Community Schools.

**DR. SARAH GIBBONS** and Chris Varughese, Leawood, Kan., announce the birth of Cecilia, Feb. 12. She joins Olivia, 2.



**JEFF** and **ERICA POWLESS VOREIS**, Fairfield, announce the birth of Iris, May 7. She joins Adler, 5, and Everly, 2. Jeff is assistant vice president of advocacy and supervision at Cambridge Investment Research Inc.

## 2005

**ANDREW** and **MEGAN WRIGHT DRYSDALE**, Lakewood, Colo., announce the birth of Elliot Lucille, March 29, 2021.

**JONATHAN HINES** and Justine Jackovich, North Liberty, were married Jan. 2, 2021.

## 2006

Anthony and **JESSICA GRASBY DAWSON**, Wyoming, announce the birth of Noah James Paul, June 3.

**RACHEL ZACCARO**, Seattle, is vice president of product marketing and management at Area9 Lyceum.

## 2007

**KATELYN HEMINGSON ENGH**, Ames, is gift, graduation, and general book buyer at the Iowa State University Book Store.

**CAYLA BARESEL SCHNEIDER**, Asbury, is director of development at Loras College, Dubuque.

**DR. MATTHEW VOIGTS**, Clarion, earned a doctoral degree in anthropology/digital economy research at the University of Nottingham, Nottingham, England.

## 2008

**KACI HANSON DESOUSA**, Jesup, is program manager, technology project manager bootcamp at 2U.

**ELLEN ENGH**, Waverly, is director of alumni and parent engagement at Wartburg College.

**JONATHAN GREGG**, Louisville, Ky., won three Ohio Valley Emmy awards for his work at Spectrum News KY.

## 2009

Michael and **ABBY MOENK MESSERICH**, DeWitt, announce the birth of Lucas James, May 5. He joins Brady Michael, 3, and Carter Lee, 2. Abby is a preschool teacher in the Central DeWitt Community School District.

## 2010

**VICTORIA BRESHEARS**, Austin, Texas, is manager of financial crime technology consulting at EY.

**DR. ADELA COPE**, Rochester, Minn., is an OB-GYN in the Division of Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery, Mayo Clinic.

**DEIDRE FREYENBERGER HOLTkamp**, North Liberty, announces the birth of Hayden Van, April 25.

**AMY TUCKER**, Fayette, is senior director of academic success at Upper Iowa University.

## 2011

Nathaniel and **MEGAN GOEDKEN DARBY**, Lebanon, Mo., announce the birth of Charlotte Maxine, May 9. She joins Alannah Lillian, 5, and James Andrew, 2.

**JESS BULLIS MESSERLI**, Cedar Falls, announces the birth of Parker Jo, April 22. Parker joins Blayke Lynne, 2. Jess is a teacher in the Cedar Falls Community School District.

**ALYSSA KOVAR MONTGOMERY**, Los Angeles, is a program manager at The Empowerment Program, Denver, Colo.

**DAVID** and **SUZY BERNDT '12 NUETZMAN**, Roseville, Minn., announce the birth of Drew Ezekiel, May 24.

Ana and **ASHLEY STOUT**, Mason City, were married on Oct. 24, 2020.

## 2012

**THE REV. ALISON NICOLL** and **ALEX FITZGERALD**, Des Moines, were married Oct. 23.

**JOY GIBSON**, Chicago, earned a master's degree in nursing – adult geriatric and acute nurse practitioner from Loyola University, Chicago. She is a cardiothoracic surgery nurse practitioner at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Health.

## 2013

**SHELBY GRANATH**, Halethorpe, Md., is a producer/editor for the Baltimore Ravens.

## 2014

**PAUL** and **CARMEN STEVENS ALLEN**, Norwalk, announce the birth of Aubrey, June 9.

**JENNY LYNES**, Waterloo, is a community work incentives coordinator for Disability Rights Iowa.

**AMANDA SCHUSTER SCHENDEL**, Eagan, Minn., earned a master's degree in education with an emphasis in differentiated instruction from Concordia University, St. Paul.

**HILLARY SMITH**, Waverly, earned a master's degree in early childhood education from Upper Iowa University and is a teacher in the Waverly-Shell Rock Community Schools.

## 2015

**DR. CAITLIN ANDERSON**, Lombard, Ill., earned a doctoral degree in cell and molecular biology from the University of Chicago.

**KAITLYN KETELSEN**, Rockledge, Fla., is a teacher at Odyssey Charter School.

## 2016

**ADAM ANDERSON**, Hayfield, Minn., is a K-5 special education teacher in the Triton Public Schools.

**JESSLYN HALL**, Hazen, N.D., is a music teacher in the Hazen Public Schools.

**ALEX HARMER**, Iowa City, is a strength and conditioning coach for the University of Iowa wrestling team.

**AMALIA EMERSON** and Nathan Jones, Beaufort, S.C., were married April 17. Amalia earned a master's degree in educational psychology from the University of Wisconsin – Madison.

**BRANDEN** and **DERICA JAKOUBEK MADSEN**, Tripoli, announce the birth of Raylon Lee, June 28.

**ASHLEY ROSA-RUGGIERI**, Wauseon, Ohio, is pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church.

## 2017

**ELLYN FELTON**, College Station, Texas, is a communication specialist at Texas A&M University.

**DR. JAKE HABERMAN**, Clarion, earned a Doctor of Optometry from Southern College of Optometry, Memphis, Tenn. He works at Wolfe Family Vision Center, Webster City.

**JESSE KIELMAN**, Kansas City, Mo., is communications and media manager with American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas.

**BLAINE WOODSON**, Long Island City, N.Y., is a mergers and acquisitions tax associate with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.

## 2018

**JASON COSTABILE**, Freeport, Ill., completed the Teacher Certification Entitlement Program at Vandercook College of Music, Chicago. He is director of bands at Belvidere High School.

**LIBBY FALCONER** and Alex Kramer, Walker, were married May 1.

**STEPHEN KLAASSEN** and **ALLISON BOUFFARD '20**, Tulsa, Okla., were married June 12. Allison is a therapeutic recreation specialist at Montereau.

## 2019

**MORGAN GOEDKEN**, Mankato, Minn., earned a master's degree in sport management from Minnesota State University. She is an assistant softball coach and compliance coordinator at MSU.

**COLIN JACOBS**, Oelwein, is a brewer at Thesis Beer Project, Rochester, Minn.

## 2020

**BRADY ARENS**, Des Moines, is a new business analyst at Principal Financial Group.

**PAYTON BRINKMAN**, Manhattan, Kan., is a music therapist at Elara Caring, Topeka.

**NOAH DODD**, Dubuque, is a Master of Divinity student at Warburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque.

**SARAH BRIGGS DOERING**, Cedar Falls, is a third-grade teacher in the Waverly-Shell Rock Community Schools.

**LINZEE ESPENSEN**, Grand Mound, is a nursing student at Allen College of Nursing and a registered nurse at UnityPoint Health-Quad Cities.

**NATHANIEL HUFF**, Waukee, is a 5-12 band director in the West Central Valley Community School District.

**CAMBRIA JACOBS**, Perham, Minn., is a 5-12 band director at New York Mills Public Schools ISD 553.

**COLLINS KALYEBI**, Kampala, Uganda, is an associate consultant at East African Basic Foods Ltd.

**SARA MARTIN**, Charles City, is a wireline billing analyst at Network Control, Waverly.

**JACKEE MEYER**, Omaha, Neb., is a graduate student in clinical mental health counseling at Bellevue University and a first-grade teacher at Edison Elementary, Council Bluffs.

**JACKSON REYNOLDS**, Princeton, N.J., is a Master of Divinity student at Princeton Theological Seminary.

## 2021

**REBECA AMARO**, Minneapolis, Minn., is a Spanish teacher assistant at Tierra Encantada.

**ERIN ANDERSON**, St. Louis Park, Minn., is a project assistant – health information coordinator at CorBridge Solutions – PrairieCare.

**JANELLE BAESKENS**, Upland, Calif., is a graduate student in school counseling at the University of La Verne.

**MATILYN BARR**, Waverly, is a fifth-grade ELA and social studies teacher in the Dike-New Hartford Community School District.

**ALEXANDRA BECHTEL**, Denver, is an assistant general manager at East Bremer Diner, Waverly.

**MACKENZIE BEHNEY**, Richfield, Minn., is a clinical technologist at LabCorp, St. Paul.

**ANDREW BLACK**, Ames, is a first-grade teacher in the Hampton Dumont School District.

**JENNIFER STEEN BOELEN**, Ankeny, is a building substitute at Anderson Elementary School, Bondurant.

**LEVI CAPESIUS**, Algona, is a music specialist in the Walker-Hackensack-Akeley Schools, Walker, Minn.

**ERIN CAPPER**, Solon, is a medical student at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine, Iowa City.

**MADISON CARROLL**, Davenport, is director of children's ministry at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Davenport.

**GRETA CHRISTIANSON**, Shawnee, Kan., is a music therapy intern at Lakemary Center, Paola, Kan.

**JEDEDIAH CROW**, Davenport, is an actuarial student at Modern Woodmen of America, Rock Island, Ill.

**LONDON DODD**, Janesville, is a music therapy intern at Resonate Music Therapy, Colorado Springs, Colo.

**CAITLIN DREISMEIER**, Cedar Rapids, is a teacher in the Cedar Rapids Community School District.

**ANNA GALIOTO**, West Des Moines, is a music therapy intern at Higher Octave Healing, Tempe, Ariz.

**GABRIEL GIWA**, Calumet City, Ill., is a civil engineer at Spaan Tech Inc., Chicago.

**GRACE GREVING**, Elk Horn, is an actuarial associate at Athene USA, West Des Moines.

**BROOKE GONZALEZ**, Peoria, Ariz., is a graduate student in physical therapy at Midwestern University, Glendale.

**MYCHAEL HOLLIDAY**, Oxnard, Calif., is an area manager at Amazon, Altoona.

**RACHEL HOLST**, Eagan, Minn., is a Spanish teacher at Dunkerton High School.

**GRANT JOHNSON**, Montezuma, is an implementation and support specialist at FullCount, Ankeny.

**REID KALLENBACH**, Madison, Wis., is a technical solutions engineer at Epic, Verona.

**OLIVIA KOLTERMAN**, Hudson, is a real estate agent/realty assistant at Lockard Realty, Waterloo.

**ALLISON KUEHN**, Champlin, Minn., is a music therapy intern at Toneworks LLC, Edina.

**JUANA PEREZ MANDUJANO**, Immokalee, Fla., is a design engineer at Waldrop Engineering, Bonita Springs.

**ELAINA MARTZ**, North Liberty, is a medical laboratory scientist at VA Iowa City Healthcare System.

**CURREN MATTHIAS**, Ames, is a supply management planner at John Deere, Ankeny.

**KENNEDY MEISTER**, Janesville, is a sales agent at Nuckolls Agency, Des Moines.

**CHIARI MIKI**, Waverly, is a sales representative with Weekly LALALA Inc., Torrance, Calif.

**KARLY MINER**, Eagan, Minn., is a care team coordinator at Noran Neurological Clinic.

**RILEY MURPHY**, Alleman, is a wellness advocate at Cultivate Chiropractic, Altoona.

**NOAH PADILLA**, Apple Valley, Calif., is a 9-12 grade teacher at Victor Valley High School, Victorville.

**BEN PETERS**, Muscatine, is a digital marketing web developer at The HON Company.

**CALEB POISSANT**, Farmington., Minn., is a design engineer at Superior Decks and Railings, Hopkins.

**AURION REDDING**, Waverly, is an admissions counselor at Wartburg College.

**KYLE RUCKMAN**, Cedar Falls, is an information technology systems business analyst at Wartburg College.

**ELLEN SNELLER**, Ames, is a dental assistant and operating room surgical assistant at Mary Greeley Medical Center.

**MADISON STOAKS**, Clive, is a graduate student in physical therapy at the University of Iowa, Iowa City.

**MADISON TEKIPPE**, New Hampton, is a quality control associate chemist at Cambrex, Charles City.

**ZAIAH QUIRK**, Urbandale, is a data technician at Athene, West Des Moines.

**EMMA WILLIAMS**, Des Moines, is a marketing and design strategist at HOMELINK/The VGM Group.

**GAVIN WOODS**, Cedar Rapids, is a financial adviser at Accel Wealth Management.



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Wedding photos 1 MB or larger are welcome, too, at [markcomm@wartburg.edu](mailto:markcomm@wartburg.edu)





# IN MEMORIAM

## 1930

**Hilda Fedeler**, Waverly, died June 16. She earned a master's degree from the University of Iowa and was a teacher in Iowa, Missouri, Ohio, and Illinois before retiring in 1976. She was Wartburg's oldest living alumna at the time of her death.

## 1937

**Erwin Grosshans**, Plano, Texas, died June 27. A U.S. Army Air Force veteran, he was a food chemist and quality assurance technician before retiring in 1984.

## 1941

**Ruth Fratzke Hofstetter**, Rhinelander, Wis., died July 8. She earned a registered nursing degree from Augustana Hospital School of Nursing and was a visiting nurse in Chicago. She and her husband owned and operated a gift store until retiring in 1985.

**Leota Fink Landgrebe**, St. Peter, Minn., died Nov. 15, 2020.

## 1945

The Rev. **Robert Drewes**, Tacoma, Wash., died Sept. 2. He attended Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and served parishes in Washington, Oregon, and Alaska.

**Elsie Schick Heilman**, Eureka, S.D., died May 6. She attended Northern State College, Aberdeen, and was a teacher and newspaper columnist. She and her husband owned and operated Heilman Drug for 40 years before retiring in 1989.

The Rev. **Reuben Lang**, Seguin, Texas, died July 3. He attended Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, earning a Master of Theology. He was ordained in 1949. He served congregations for 12 years in the U.S. and Canada, and went on to earn a doctorate from Kiel University in Germany. Later he was a university professor in Minnesota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Texas.

The Rev. **Armin Reitz**, Louisville, Ky., died Oct. 19. He earned a degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and served congregations in Oregon, Washington, Kentucky, and Indiana. He is survived by his wife, **Miriam Foege Reitz '55**.

## 1947

The Rev. **Wayne Bohling**, Detroit Lakes, Minn., died Aug. 1. He attended Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and served congregations in Iowa, Nebraska, Washington, California, Oregon, and New Mexico.

## 1948

**Pauline Lease Hughes**, Davenport, died Sept. 20. She was a parish secretary for over 25 years before retiring in 1987. *Please consider a memorial gift to the William G. and Pauline L. Hughes Memorial Scholarship in her honor.*

## 1949

**Alice Bast Martin**, Dubuque, died Aug. 1. She earned a master's degree at Clarke College, Dubuque, and was a teacher in Dubuque public and parochial schools. She and her husband served as missionaries in India.

**Barbara "Bobbie" Becker Nutter**, Minot, N.D., died Dec. 25, 2020. She was a social worker and went on to become a civilian instructor in personnel for the U.S. Air Force, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois.

The Rev. **Edwin Schmidt**, Stillwater, Minn., died June 14. He earned a Master of Divinity from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and served congregations in North Dakota, Illinois, and North Carolina until his retirement in 1993. He received a Wartburg Alumni Citation in 1977.

## 1950

The Rev. **Paul Albers**, Hope Valley, South Australia, died March 19, 2020. He attended Lutheran Bible School in Chicago, and Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque. He was ordained in 1953 and served over 50 years in parishes in Illinois, Iowa, and Australia.

**Dorothy Dahlstrom Gronlund**, Orlando, Fla., died Nov. 7. She earned a Master of Fine Arts in vocal performance from the University of South Florida, Tampa. She was a teacher, choir conductor, and vocal soloist.

## 1951

**Marie Ehlen Behnke**, Portland, Ore., died June 4.

## 1952

**Mary Ann Engelbrecht Aaroen**, Beaver Dam, Wis., died Aug. 21. She earned a degree in early childhood education from the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, and was a teacher in Iowa, Germany, and Wisconsin. She went on to teach preschool for 26 years before retiring in 1997.

**Marvin Brosz**, Hendersonville, N.C., died Sept. 10. A U.S. Air Force veteran, he was an engineer with General Electric for over 34 years, including assignment to the GE Apollo program and John F. Kennedy Space Center. He received a Wartburg Alumni Award in 2006. *Please consider a memorial gift to the Marvin and Charlene Brosz Science Undergraduate Research Fund in his honor.*

**Alta Hollander Claus**, Spencer, died Nov. 2. She was a teacher and an Avon representative.

The Rev. **Donald Groskreutz**, Oakland, Calif., died Oct. 21.

**Frieda Bast Kraemer**, Crown Point, Ind., died June 30.

**Ruby Torno Krause**, Dunseith, N.D., died July 29, 2020. She earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Minot State College, Minot, and a master's degree in elementary administration from North Dakota State University, Fargo. She was a teacher, librarian, and elementary principal.

**JoAnn Keister Lynne**, Bismarck, N.D., died July 27. She assisted her husband in his pastoral work. She is survived by her husband, **Robert Lynne '53**.

The Rev. **Howard Rand**, Minnetonka, Minn., died April 14. He served congregations in Iowa, Florida, Maryland, Tennessee, Ohio, and Minnesota. He is survived by his wife, **Lillian Planz Rand '52**.

## 1953

The Rev. **Allan Dieter**, Houston, died Aug. 15. He earned a degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and served as a campus pastor in California and Texas. Later he worked as director of communications for Harris County and manager of communications for the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.

**Marylinn McBride Heikkila**, Pinehurst, Idaho, died Oct. 16. She was a homemaker, organist, choir director, and piano teacher.

**Carmen Carlin Keister**, Winona, Minn., died July 8. She earned a degree in elementary education from Winona State University and was a teacher. She is survived by her husband, **Robert Keister '54**.

The Rev. **Henry Schmidt**, North St. Paul, Minn., died June 10. He earned a degree from Luther Seminary, St. Paul. He served congregations in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Colorado. Later he was a clerk at Silver Lake Market in North St. Paul.

## 1954

**Doris Feichtner Kallas**, Huber Heights, Ohio, died Sept. 11, 2020. She was a telephone operator at Ohio Bell and homemaker and later worked in retail.

Dr. **Ralph Schwake**, Sumner, died Sept. 26. He earned a doctorate in veterinary medicine from Iowa State University, Ames. He farmed, worked at a veterinary practice, and went on to work for the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service in Dubuque and Waterloo until retiring in 1985. He is survived by his wife, **Judith Rieniets Schwake '58**.

**Robert Uhrich**, Manitowoc, Wis., died July 21. He was a U.S. Army veteran.

**Ruth Mixdorf White**, Des Moines, died Aug. 25. She earned a teaching degree from Iowa State Teachers College (University of Northern Iowa), Cedar Falls, and taught second grade before becoming a homemaker.

## 1955

**Irene Werner Nielsen**, Clinton, died March 8, 2021. She was a teacher and later worked in retail and was a billing clerk at Nielsen Coupon Clearing and Clinton City Assessor's Office until retiring in 1998.

## 1956

**Alma Drefs Lau**, Armour, S.D., died July 17. She farmed with her husband and was a teacher.

The Rev. **Wilbur McCasky**, Crescent City, Ill., died Oct. 3. He earned a Master of Divinity from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and served congregations in Illinois.

**Paul "Jim" Schroeder**, Waterloo, died Sept. 17. He earned a Master's + 30 degree in social science from the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls. He was a teacher.

## 1957

**Stanley Dorsch**, Benkelman, Neb., died Feb. 4, 2021. A U.S. Army veteran, he earned a degree in horticulture from the University of Nebraska and was a farmer. He is survived by his wife, **Delores Lillich Dorsch '57**.

**Helen Mueller Martinson**, Mount Horeb, Wis., died June 25. She was an elementary school teacher.

## 1958

The Rev. **William Jurgens**, Beatrice, Neb., died July 18. A U.S. Army veteran, he earned a degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and served congregations in Nebraska.

## 1959

Dr. **William Anderson**, Rice Lake, Wis., died Sept. 12. A U.S. Air Force veteran, he earned a Doctor of Medicine from the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine, Madison. He entered private practice as an obstetrician-gynecologist, retiring after nearly 30 years.

**Arno Frerichs**, Bella Vista, Ark., died May 20. He was a Lutheran pastor for more than 40 years. *Please consider a memorial gift to the Arno and Marian Frerichs Scholarship in his honor.*

## 1960

**Duane Boehmke**, Denver, died Nov. 9. He earned a degree from the State College of Iowa (University of Northern Iowa), Cedar Falls, and was an elementary principal until his retirement in 2001.

The Rev. **James Graham**, Walla Walla, Wash., died April 27. He worked in transportation for 21 years. He went on to earn a Master of Divinity from United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio, and served parishes for 30 years before retiring in 2013.

**Majorie Loomis Grimm**, Waverly, died July 10. She was a homemaker.

**Martin Matthias**, Readlyn, died Nov. 7. A U.S. Army veteran, he was also a teacher, auctioneer, and farmer.

**Marlene Burger Wilharm**, Ankeny, died Aug. 27. A homemaker, she also directed several choirs and community theater productions.

## 1961

**Richard Dellabella**, Cuba City, Wis., died Aug. 15. A U.S. Army veteran, he was a banker.

The Rev. **Fred "Delmar" Klover**, Geneva, Neb., died Feb. 14, 2021. He earned a Master of Divinity from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and was ordained in 1965. He served congregations in Nebraska until his retirement in 2004. He is survived by his wife, **Deanna Childers Klover '60**.

The Rev. **Duane Nelson**, Vadnais Heights, Minn., died July 23. He earned a Master of Divinity from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and was ordained in 1965. He served congregations in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. He went on to serve as chaplain at Anoka Metro Regional Treatment Center, Anoka, for 25 years before retiring in 2005. *Please consider a memorial gift to the Elmer A. and Mabel M. Nelson Endowed Scholarship in his honor.*

## 1962

**Susanne Socha Noyce**, Cheboygan, Mich., died May 11.

## 1963

**James Arjes**, Lawler, died June 4. A U.S. Army veteran, he was a teacher and wrestling coach. He is survived by his wife, **Judith Jorgenson Arjes '66**.

**Carol Ehler Egdahl**, Cheboygan, Mich., died June 6. She worked at AAL/Thrivent in Appleton, Wis., for 30 years.

**Roy Goodrich**, Eldridge, died June 28. A U.S. Navy veteran, he worked as a contract specialist at Rock Island Arsenal for 25 years.

**Elaine Melchert Jepsen**, Phoenix, died May 21. She was a journalist and later worked in public relations for a doctor. She is survived by her husband, **Harry Jepsen '65**.

## 1964

**John Hyland**, River Falls, Wis., died July 6. A U.S. Army veteran, he earned a master's degree in English from the University of Nebraska and doctorate from the University of Wisconsin. He was a teacher and wrote grants and training documentation. He is survived by his wife, **Joan Schnor Hyland '65**.

**Sharon Sande Thimmesch**, Cedar Rapids, died Aug. 28, 2019. She was a teacher, retiring after 40 years.

## 1966

**Glenn Palmer**, Rockford, Ill., died Sept. 5. He earned a master's degree from Bradley University and was a teacher.

## 1967

**William Raasch**, Greenfield, died July 17.



**Rose Bogard Shine**, Conrad, died Jan. 19, 2020. She was a nurse at Des Moines General Hospital and instructor at Marshalltown Community School of Nursing, and served in the Peace Corps. Later she worked for the Department of Inspections and Appeals.

## 1968

**Sheryl Holtz Mace**, Independence, died Aug. 26. She earned a bachelor's degree in early childhood education from the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls. She went on to earn a master's degree in reading and language and was an elementary teacher for over 35 years.

**John Wiese**, Urbandale, died Oct. 29. A Vietnam War veteran, he earned a master's degree from the University of Iowa, Iowa City. He worked for the Internal Revenue Service prior to retiring in 2007.

## 1969

**Marie Enslin Arends**, Ackley, died Nov. 21, 2019. She earned a teaching degree from Ellsworth Community College and was a teacher for 30 years.

**Diane Odland Duncan**, Hendersonville, Tenn., died Oct. 6. She was a social worker for the Iowa Department of Urban Development.

**Aivars Zosulis**, St. Ansgar, died Sept. 19. He was a teacher and went on to manage an appliance center. Later he was office manager of Cedar Valley Electric Company. He is survived by his wife, **Francene Haibeck Zosulis '67**.

## 1970

**Susan Henricksen Fowler**, Amery, Wis., died July 27. She was an elementary school teacher for 34 years.

**Terry Hull**, Cedar Rapids, died Sept. 13. He worked at the U.S. Postal Service for 31 years.

**Gene Zager**, Bettendorf, died May 18. He worked for the Department of Human Services for 37 years, retiring in 2007. He is survived by his wife, **Gail Rockrohr Zager '70**.

## 1972

**Annette Dwyer Krauth**, Urbandale, died Oct. 14. She was a teacher.

**Diane Sharp Peterson**, Battle Lake, Minn., died July 8. She was a secretary for various organizations. She is survived by her husband, **John Peterson '71**.

**Edward White**, Waverly, died Sept. 1. A U.S. Air Force veteran, he is survived by his wife, **Sandra Koepsell White '67**.

## 1973

**Mildred Loeffler Herman**, Osage, died Sept. 30. She earned a master's degree from the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, and was a teacher.

## 1975

The Rev. **Theodore Gall**, Effingham, Ill., died Aug. 19. He attended Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and was a pastor for 40 years serving congregations in South Dakota, North Dakota, and Illinois. He is survived by his wife, **Ruth March Gall '77**.

**Marilyn Rykken Michaelson**, Coralville, died June 10. She and her husband worked for Lutheran World Relief in Europe. She went on to be a teacher and later worked at Wartburg as a switchboard operator and in the bookstore before retiring in 2002. *Please consider a memorial gift to the Michaelson, Briner, Kildahl Endowment Fund in her honor.*

## 1976

**Kathleen Browne Weyers**, Appleton, Wis., died May 20, 2019. She was a teacher and band member.

## 1977

**Craig Smith**, Port Orange, Fla., died Aug. 29. He worked in sales and in the hospitality industry.

## 1978

*Correction:* The Rev. **Mark Fry**, Billings, Mont., died Jan. 20, 2021. He earned a Master of Divinity from Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn. He played professional basketball in Germany and Australia and then served congregations in Nebraska and Montana. He is survived by his wife, **Wenda Stedtfeld Fry '79**.

**Susan Schmidt**, Norwalk, Conn., died April 4, 2020. She worked for RTA International for 35 years.

## 1987

**Lorie Wicks Patrick**, Alexander, died Sept. 21.

## 1991

**Eric Rust**, Ames, died July 30. He was a coordinator in dietary services at Mary Greeley Hospital.

## 1997

**Angela Busche Hansen**, Mason City, died Aug. 24. She was a teacher in Iowa and Germany. She founded KinderHaus Children's Montessori School in Mason City. She is survived by her husband, **Dr. Matthew Hansen '96**.

## 2000

**Joel Reichert**, Mesa, Ariz., died June 9. He was a teacher and football coach at Mesa Desert Ridge School.

## 2011

**Nathaniel Maldonado**, St. Paul, Minn., died Oct. 10. He worked and volunteered at Central City Lutheran Mission and later was a cement finisher.

## 2013

**Joshua Lemert**, Denver, died Oct. 9. A U.S. Navy veteran, he was attending Des Moines University of Osteopathic Medicine.

## Noteworthy friends

**Laurel Kurtt**, Waverly, died July 5. She worked in the Registrar's office until retiring in 1997. She is survived by her husband, **John Kurtt '53**, who also was a coach and athletic director at Wartburg.

**Lewis "Buzz" Levick**, Waverly, died April 26. He was the men's basketball coach from 1965 until his retirement in 1993 and is a member of the Wartburg Athletics Hall of Fame. After his retirement, the College honored him by naming the basketball court Levick Arena.

**Jim Willis**, Waverly, died April 24. He was a partner with Group Benefit Partners and the head Wartburg men's and women's tennis coach from 2002 to 2007.

**Cheryl Wren**, Englewood, Fla., died March 21. *Please consider a memorial gift to the Cheryl Wren Annually Funded Scholarship in her honor.*

**Elizabeth Wuertz**, Waverly, died June 16. She worked at Wartburg College as a physical education teacher, admissions counselor, and financial aid adviser. She coached volleyball, softball, and track and field. In 1979 she was the first female track and field head coach at Wartburg. She is survived by her husband, **John Wuertz '73**, who served as head coach for the men's track and field program and director of the Wartburg Physical Plant. In 2020, the College named the Wuertz Health & Human Performance Center in their honor.

# A STYLE **ALL THEIR OWN**

Twin sisters team up to launch clothing brand with traditional twist

BY KATIE HIRV '22 PHOTO JULIE PAGEL DREWES '90

**T**WINS MARY '25 AND MARTHA '25 TONDONEH NATURALLY HAVE A LOT IN COMMON. In addition to their DNA, the women spent their high school years studying in separate schools far from their home in Freetown, Sierra Leone. At Wartburg, they are together again majoring in biochemistry. And they both share a love of fashion.

Like many others, they found a way to focus their passion while spending an inordinate amount of time inside during the pandemic – Martha in England and Mary in Israel. Martha started with a logo, even though she wasn't entirely sure what the design would represent, but the tie-dyed look inspired her.

"I was like, 'Maybe I should do something with this.' The tie-dye look is trending. The colors are beautiful and people like colors," Martha said.

"In Africa, we wear lots of vibrant and bright colors. That's a part of African culture. In Israel I noticed that I was the only person wearing more colorful clothing. It made me embrace that part of our culture," Mary added.

With that, Mundaz Clothing was born.

"It's actually our mother's name in her tribal language, and it means 'our own,'" Mary explained.

Though some designs look similar to the dyeing method popularly known as tie-dye, the dye and technique used for Mundaz apparel is native to Sierra Leone, where it is called gara. Dominique Cardon, a French researcher on natural dyes and author of *Dyes and Tannins*, wrote that "'Gara' is the Mandinka word for the traditional indigo dye found in many types of textiles in Sierra Leone."

"When we started, it was a mess. We tried again a second time, and then we had to hire a professional who taught us to do it together," Martha said.

Over the course of one month, they soaked up all they could about the process, learning through trial and error how to make the designs their own. Mundaz officially launched in October 2020 through word of mouth and the brand's Instagram (@mundazofficial\_sl) presence.

"After we learned, they started to turn out really nice," Martha continued. "We might make one item for one order five times. We are perfectionists and that's a blessing and a curse at the same time. We think about it from the consumer's standpoint."

While the women are studying in the States, their mom is in charge of production in Sierra Leone, in part because they don't have the room or access to the products in Waverly, and the women handle the back end of the business.

As young entrepreneurs, Mary and Martha pride themselves on creating high-quality items for every customer.

"We take our time with what we do, and we'll make sure our products are top notch and you get what you want. We're very diverse and colorful, and very trustworthy, if I do say so myself," Martha said.

As the twins look toward the future, they see continued success for Mundaz, as well as opportunities for additional experiences that allow them to use their education while following their passions.

Martha, who has paired her biochemistry degree with a business minor, hopes to someday launch her own skin care line. Mary is still deciding where her degree might take her and which of her many passions she will pursue. Until then, they will continue to set their sights on graduation and growing Mundaz. 🌍



Martha →

← Mary



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