

SPRING 2023

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Down to earth

**Elle Gadiant '18 named
to Forbes' 30 Under 30**

SHARE YOUR WORTH IT STORY



Lt. Dr. Sophia Williams-Perez '17

SECOND-YEAR RESIDENT PHYSICIAN
IN GENERAL SURGERY

Baylor College of Medicine

What have you been doing since Wartburg?

I earned my M.D. from the University of Iowa and was directly commissioned into the U.S. Navy as an officer. During medical school, I matched into general surgery.

Why do you have an interest in surgical oncology?

I'm interested in surgical oncology because of the multifaceted and multidisciplinary care in a unique patient population. Cancer care is ever-changing, and what I enjoy about cancer surgery is being at the very front line of eradicating a horrible disease.

You also have an interest in medical education. Why?

One of the reasons I'm interested in a career in academic surgery (associated with a university) is so that I can potentially play a pivotal role in the development of future surgeons. I want to not only mentor future generations of students and surgeons but also sponsor them, meaning I intend to provide the pieces toward a career in medicine while also helping construct those pieces into a true foundation. For any student who feels they look like they don't belong in medicine or surgery, I hope to show them that is not the case through my own path.

What has been the most exciting thing you have done since graduating from Wartburg?

My most exciting professional feat, hands down, has been becoming adept in my surgical procedural skills and this year finally doing my first full case.

How did Wartburg prepare you for your current path?

Wartburg equipped me with the tools I needed to be successful as well as helped refine the skills I didn't even realize I had. Through challenging yet rewarding classes, through co-curriculars, through personal and professional relationships, I was able to become not only a strong student but also a better human to those around me, fully preparing me for a career in health care.



All Wartburg alumni are invited to share their successes and #WartburgWorthIt stories with us. Please visit www.wartburg.edu/worth-it-stories-alumni to share your story.

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Celebrating No. 18



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70-Year Tradition

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Wartburg

SPRING 2023

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ON THE COVER:

Elle Gadiant '18 loves on a pig on her family's farm outside Cascade, Iowa.

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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. Address corrections should be sent to the Alumni Office or submitted online at 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. 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 FOR MORE NEWS



Madlock named Wartburg's first associate dean for inclusive community



A familiar face was named the college's first associate dean for inclusive community in October.

Krystal Madlock, who has been with the college since 1998, was promoted from director of multicultural student services, where she served as the secondary adviser for all American multicultural students and advised several student organizations. In her new role, she oversees the strategy and implementation of the college's diversity, equity, and inclusion work; mentors students; assists with bias response; advises faculty and staff; and creates accountability for and gives feedback to the senior leadership team.

"I am thrilled at the opportunity for Krystal to lead our campus in this capacity, but this is the shared work of the entire college. Her vision, leadership, dedication, and demonstration of what it means to create an inclusive community will serve as a guide and an anchor for all of us," said Dr. Rebecca Neiduski, Wartburg president.

Though Madlock informally served in many of these capacities already, she is excited for the structure and support that come with this opportunity.

"We have talked about creating a position like this for several years, but it was never the right time. At this moment, as our new strategic plan is rolled out and our new leadership team takes shape, I am ready to embrace this challenge for our current students, our alumni, and our future students," Madlock said. "We have some momentum building with our strategic plan and our new Ubuntu Center, and I'm looking forward to finding new ways to further the conversation and ensuring that this is a campuswide effort."

She also is continuing her work as an advocate for and mentor of American multicultural students on campus.

"It is important for me to stay connected with the students more now than ever," she said. "The students have always been my favorite part of my work, and that shouldn't change. I want to continue to be a person who they can talk to about the issues they are facing, but now I will have the time, space, and buy-in from leadership and the campus community to find ways to better their experience by improving the culture on the campus."

Madlock earned a bachelor's degree in communication arts and a master's in postsecondary education: student affairs from the University of Northern Iowa. She started her Wartburg career in the Admissions Office and moved to the Student Life Office after two years.

Kneser settling in as vice president for student life at Wartburg

Greg Kneser, a student life professional with more than 35 years of experience in the field, was named Wartburg's new vice president for student life and dean of students in August.

Kneser came to Wartburg from Lourdes University, where he served as vice president for student affairs.



"I've known about Wartburg for a really long time, being in the whole constellation of ELCA colleges and universities," Kneser said at the time. "I'm excited to get to work with the president, her leadership team, my student life team, and all of the students at Wartburg."

Wartburg President Dr. Rebecca Neiduski said Kneser's significant experience in Lutheran higher education and his commitment to leadership and service made him an exceptional choice for Wartburg College and the Waverly community.

As a young professional, Kneser worked his way up through residential life, starting as a resident assistant and then as a residence director at University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. He eventually moved on to St. Olaf, where he stayed for nearly 29 years, including 19 years as a dean and vice president.

"You talk about vocation, I found that at some point this was no longer just my job, it was who I am. I found what I was called to do," he said. "My wife, Sandy, has been a wonderful support in this crazy life. At St. Olaf we lived right across the street from the college and the whole world was in and out of the house and on the street with us. It worked for us, and my kids, Amelia and Wylie, had the most amazing role models."

Kneser earned a Bachelor of Arts in social welfare from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and a Master of Arts in higher education administration from Truman State University. He has completed crisis intervention training, Title IX training, Harvard University's Institute for Education Management and Management Development Program, and FEMA and incident command courses.

"Since coming to Wartburg, I have taken every opportunity to meet and spend time with students," he said. "I have learned that someone in my position has to earn their student body, and you do that one little thing at a time, one conversation at a time."

He's also making a home for himself in the community as a member of the Waverly Lions Club, the Rotary Club of Waverly, and the city's Economic Development Board. In his free time, Kneser enjoys woodworking, figure carving, boat building, and making useful things. He is an avid canoe and kayak paddler and enjoys guiding groups in the Boundary Waters of Minnesota.



Wartburg alumna receives Gremmels journalism fellowship

Riley Cole '17 received the college's Robert C. Gremmels Journalism Graduate Fellowship.

The \$10,000 award will support Cole as she finishes her master's degree in mass communications with a specialization in digital strategy from the University of Florida.

She has served as a communication and marketing assistant with the Waverly Chamber of Commerce and as the first female sports editor for the Waverly Newspapers. She is currently a senior

marketing specialist at UnityPoint Health – Finley Hospital in Dubuque.

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, 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.

Wartburg awards Alumni Citations to three grads

The Wartburg College Alumni Board presented **Adnan Al-Shatti '76**, **Dawn Jaeger '83**, and **Gordon Soenksen '72** with Alumni Citation Awards during Homecoming & Family Weekend.

Al-Shatti was a foreign exchange student in Des Moines before coming to Wartburg and working toward a degree in math and chemistry. He earned bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he helped found the Islamic Center of Madison. He later taught at Kuwait University, where he was instrumental in creating the psychology department. His humanitarian efforts stretch across decades, from hiding wounded Kuwaiti soldiers during the 1990 invasion by Iraq to his work with Syrian refugees. The Kuwaiti Refugee Center now serves 18,000 child refugees in more than 21 schools.

Jaeger has worked at Central Rivers Area Education Agency, formerly AEA 267, for the last 22 years. She is the agency's go-to for bullying prevention and is certified to train others. Jaeger has made presentations on bullying prevention and social-emotional learning at local, state, regional, and national conferences. She serves as the treasurer and president-elect of the International Bullying Prevention

Association. In 2012, she was given the Iowa School Social Worker of the Year award by the Iowa School Social Workers' Association.

Soenksen returned to Wartburg as a development assistant. He led alumni relations and annual giving efforts before taking on the role of director of the Wartburg Design for Tomorrow. He then served as an associate director of development at the University of Chicago, where he earned his Master of Business Administration. Soenksen went on to lead development or advancement offices at Duke University, Guilford College, St. Olaf College, and Wake Forest University, and he has served as a consultant for many others. Soenksen has served on many volunteer boards, including Hospice for the Carolinas, Leadership Greensboro, United Way of Northfield, Hospice at Greensboro, National Hospice Foundation, Hospice of Minnesota, Family Life Council, and Eastern Music Festival.

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 and a nomination form are available at www.wartburg.edu/alumni-citation.



Adnan Al-Shatti, Dawn Jaeger, and Gordon Soenksen

Two Wartburg faculty promoted to seek innovative opportunities

Two Wartburg College faculty were promoted to newly created roles that will help the college reach the goals outlined in its strategic plan, *Our Brightest Days: Realizing Purpose, Leading Change*.



Dr. Michaelleen Golay, associate professor of biology, has been named the assistant dean for academic innovation, and Dr. Michael Gleason, director of the Institute for Leadership Education and Irving R. Burling Distinguished Professor in Leadership, is the new associate dean for graduate studies. Both continue to teach in their respective areas.

"With the innovation, leadership, and accountability these two will provide, I know that Wartburg is headed in the right direction. Drs. Golay and Gleason are ready to serve and help us as we begin to implement the ideas and projects needed to accomplish our strategic plan goals," said Dr. Debora Johnson-Ross, vice president of academic affairs and dean of the faculty.



As the assistant dean for academic innovation, Golay will review and clarify policies, processes, and procedures for new undergraduate program development in collaboration with academic departments; identify new undergraduate academic opportunities; and support existing program reviews to support student success and create competitive advantage, among other things.

Gleason will develop policies and procedures for graduate program development in collaboration with academic departments; develop processes and procedures for graduate recruitment and admission; facilitate graduate student success; and develop infrastructure to administer graduate programs, among other duties.

Together, they have convened the newly created Academic Innovation Think Tank.



Elon University dean joins Wartburg Board of Regents

Dr. Ann Adams Bullock, dean of the Dr. Jo Watts Williams School of Education at Elon University, is the newest member of the Wartburg College Board of Regents.

Bullock, a former colleague of Wartburg College President Dr. Rebecca Neiduski, will serve through May 31, 2023, when she will be eligible for re-election to a three-year term.

In addition to her work as the dean, Bullock also is the director of teacher education and a professor of education. Prior to coming to Elon in 2016, Bullock was chairperson of the Department of Elementary and Middle Grades Education at East Carolina University College of Education.

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.



Bussie receives Wartburg's Graven Award

Jacqueline Bussie, an award-winning author, professor, theologian, and advocate for justice, was the recipient of the 2022 Graven Award. As the executive director of the Collegeville (Minnesota) Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research, Bussie helps bring together people of diverse backgrounds and perspectives to foster healing through the power of religious ideas, insight, and practices.

"In her current position, she is serving as a leader who empowers writers to tell their stories and to write authentically at the intersection of faith and public life. Having witnessed the way that her writing empowers our students to live at their own intersections of faith and learning, I expect even more amazing things to come," wrote the Rev. Dr. Caryn Riswold, Wartburg's Mike and Marge McCoy Family Distinguished Chair in Lutheran Heritage and Mission.

Bussie also taught religion, theology, and interfaith studies courses at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minn., where she served as the founding director of the Forum on Faith and Life. Her leadership roles within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America include time on the Theological Education Advisory Council and the Faculty Working Group on Lutheran Higher Education.

The Graven Award, now in its 33rd year, honors one "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.



Mehlhaus, Ribich receive Wartburg Medal

June Rickhoff Mehlhaus '61 and Fred Ribich received the Wartburg Medal during December Commencement.

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

Mehlhaus was a special education professional during her working career and continued that commitment to creating educational opportunities for young people into her retirement. June and her late husband, **John '62**, established the John and June Mehlhaus Endowed Scholarship. When John died in 2010, June made a leadership gift to establish the Knights Legacy Circle, a program to encourage endowment gifts to strengthen and sustain Wartburg athletics.

She offered her expertise to the college as a participant in the Commission on Mission Summit process and later served on the Transforming Tomorrow Campaign National Committee. Now, as a resident of Eisenach Village, Mehlhaus continues to engage in the life of the college, with a special fondness for the Keep on Learning community education series.

Ribich, a professor emeritus of psychology and former director of institutional research and assessment, joined the college in 1977. During his tenure, he served as the social sciences department chair for 16 years, an assistant dean, interim vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty, and college marshal.

Following his retirement in 2016, Ribich continued to help where needed, serving in interim roles as the accreditation support associate for Higher Learning Commission reaccreditation, Vogel Library director, and library archivist. Ribich is a volunteer with the Waverly-Shell Rock Area United Way, served as the United Way campaign co-chair in 2015-16, and is a member of the Waverly Public Library Foundation Board. He also was a longtime member of the Waverly City Council.

Dining Services receives Inclusive Employer recognition

The Larrabee Center recognized Wartburg College Dining Services as a 2022 Inclusive Employer.

Since 2015, the college has partnered with the Larrabee Center, an organization that assists people with disabilities and the elderly on their journey to becoming or remaining valued and independent members of the community. The college last received this recognition in 2019.

"Wartburg has been a great community partner for us. Not only have we sent work crews there to get on-the-job experience, but our clients have been able to participate in tours and informational interviews when they are trying to decide on their next steps," said Jessica Gulick, associate director of the Larrabee Center.

Marty Johnson, Dining Services director, said the partnership has proven just as valuable for the college as it has for the Larrabee Center and its clients.

"We have a crew working in Mensa every Monday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. They do everything from wiping down tables to behind-the-scenes work like dish washing," Johnson said. "They get to

learn new skills that can help them grow socially and professionally, and we get help during the times when we don't have as many students who can work."

In some cases, the Larrabee Center clients have left the organization's work program and taken part-time jobs in Dining Services.

"They develop a great rapport with the students and the staff, and they have a such a great work ethic that it just makes sense to hire them," Johnson said.

"Some are quiet and like to stay behind the scenes, but some are very social and have great relationships with our students. And our staff enjoys having them here too. We appreciate them and the help they provide."

Building on the success of the Larrabee Center partnership, Johnson said his department has cultivated similar relationships with the Denver Community School District and Inclusion Connection, a Cedar Valley nonprofit that connects individuals with differing abilities to organizations that encourage all to live, work, and play together.

A PLACE OF HISTORY

Central campus named to National Register of Historic Places

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN | ARCHIVE PHOTO

THE HISTORIC CORE OF THE WARTBURG COLLEGE CAMPUS has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

The 25-acre plot includes 17 buildings that contribute to the designation, along with columns that were salvaged from the original Wartburg Hall. The area begins near the roundabout on First Avenue Northwest and runs along that road to the Science Center, then extends north through campus, excluding the Wartburg-Waverly Sports & Wellness Center and Walston-Hoover Stadium, to Fifth Avenue Northwest. The Manors are included in the designation, but Knights Village is not. The district then runs from the newly named Ubuntu Center (formerly the Centennial Complex) on the corner of Fifth Avenue and Eighth Street Northwest back to First Avenue.


"Securing this designation was a team effort that was primarily driven by Rebecca Lawin McCarley, our historic tax credit consultant from Spark Consulting, and Scott Sharar, director of facilities and special projects at Wartburg," said Rich Seggerman, Wartburg's vice president for finance and administration. "Certainly, a great win for the college and the community."

Karen Lehmann, a longtime member of the Waverly Historic Preservation Commission, called it a "tremendous honor for Waverly."

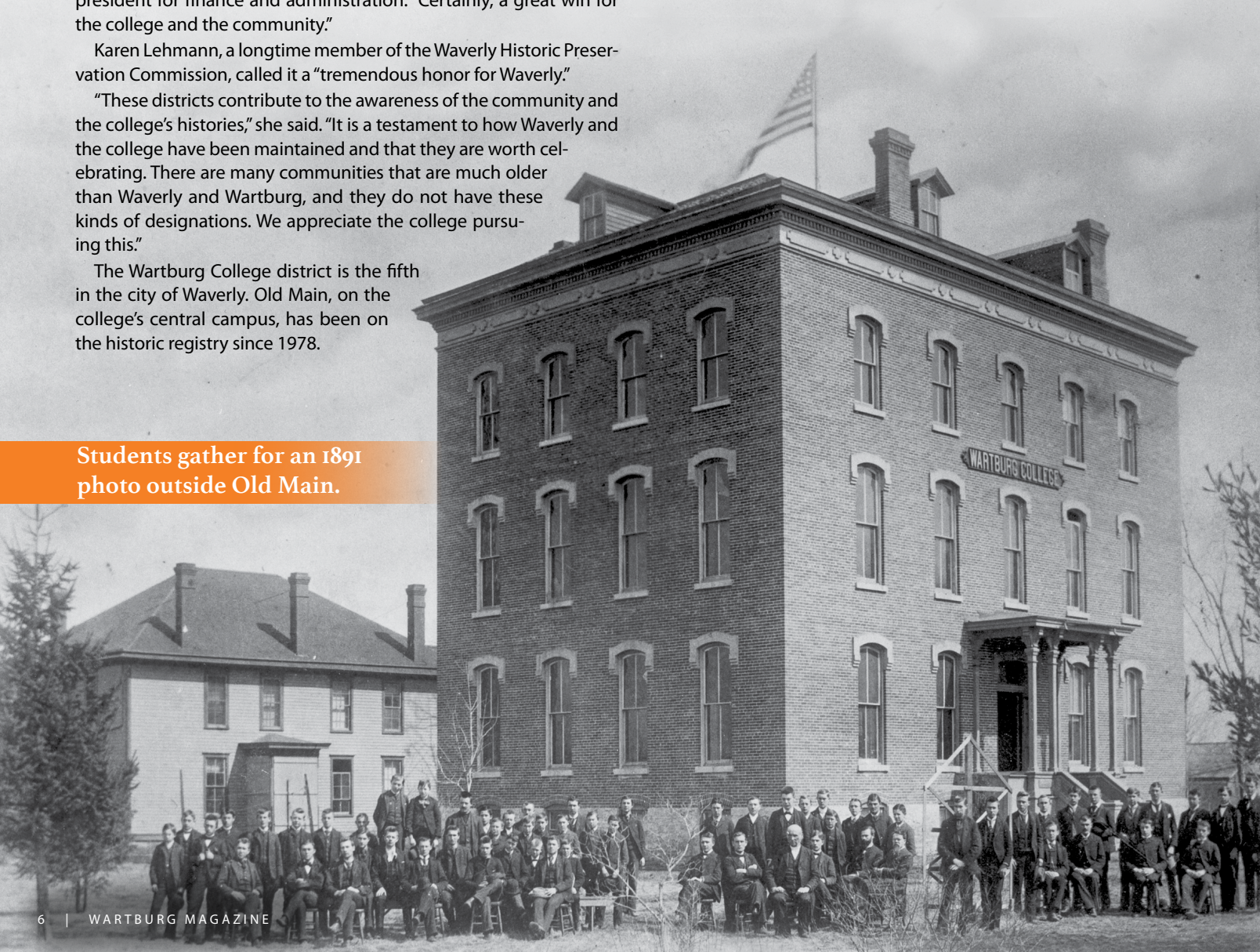
"These districts contribute to the awareness of the community and the college's histories," she said. "It is a testament to how Waverly and the college have been maintained and that they are worth celebrating. There are many communities that are much older than Waverly and Wartburg, and they do not have these kinds of designations. We appreciate the college pursuing this."

The Wartburg College district is the fifth in the city of Waverly. Old Main, on the college's central campus, has been on the historic registry since 1978.

"I'm delighted that the campus has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Old Main is the only building left from the campus that Georg Grossmann knew," said Dr. Terry Lindell, Wartburg professor of history. "That building was built in 1880 to serve the needs of the school for training teachers for parochial schools. The contractor for that building, by the way, was William Knight. The buildings built during the tenure of August Engelbrecht — including Luther Hall, the first gymnasium, Grossmann Hall (now Founders Hall), and Wartburg Hall (razed in the 1980s) — were a decisive factor in bringing Wartburg College back to Waverly in 1935."

Though the designation does not place any explicit limits on future campus changes, the college did apply for and receive notification of an approximately \$2.6 million Historic Preservation Tax Credit from the Iowa Economic Development Authority for the Centennial and Vollmer Hall Renovation Project. All work must maintain character-defining features and meet federal Secretary of Interior standards. 

Students gather for an 1891 photo outside Old Main.



A new BACTERIOPHAGE with a Wartburg tie

THREE WARTBURG COLLEGE STUDENTS had their research on bacteriophages published in the American Society for Microbiology journal *Microbiology Resource Announcements*.

Jacob Georgen '23, Halle Van Roekel '24, and Rainy Kock '24 worked under the direction of Dr. Sean Coleman, associate professor of biology, to complete *Genome Sequence and Characteristics of the Microbacterium foliorum* Cluster EE Bacteriophage Burgy.

Bacteriophages, viruses that infect bacteria, are gaining popularity as a possible treatment for antibiotic-resistant bacterial infections, which are on the rise.

"There are believed to be more bacteriophages than there are grains of sand on the earth, and we know very little of their ecology," Coleman said. "The bacteriophage highlighted in the article is a novel bacteriophage named 'Burgy' since it was the first identified at Wartburg College."

Van Roekel and Kock presented the research at the college's Research, Internship, and Creative Endeavor Day in 2021 and again at the American Society for Microbiology North Central Branch meeting at Grinnell College in fall 2022.

"The most exciting part about this work was probably finding Burgy. I remember calling my family after hearing the news. Of course, they didn't have a clue what I was talking about, but they were excited for me," Van Roekel said. "Another exciting part is just being able to share the work we've done. It's pretty cool to see my name on published work. Presenting on Burgy has also been cool because we've been able to talk about Burgy with other students who either know about bacteriophages or don't; and if they don't, we get to teach them."

Georgen and Kock helped Van Roekel purify and characterize the phage, which included getting pictures of the organism forming plaques and a transmission electron microscope image of Burgy. With the help of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's SEA-PHAGES program, the team was able to complete a genome sequence and annotation.

"So little is known about bacteriophage, so everything we learned was of some importance," Georgen said. "Overall, this was a great learning experience, and I really enjoyed the whole process. Dr. Coleman is a great mentor and was there to help us at any point and time we needed it."

Van Roekel is already planning the next steps in their Burgy research.

"We have to test its ability to disrupt a biofilm. A biofilm is just a high concentration of bacterial cells that stick together and often to a surface. They're commonly found in nature or on the human body," she said. "A common example seen in humans is plaque on the teeth. We're going to see what concentration of Burgy is needed to disrupt biofilm. Is it a strong enough virus to disrupt biofilm at a small concentration or does it take a large concentration?"

Kock said the research, which was funded by a Wartburg Undergraduate Research Grant, challenged her to step outside her comfort zone.

"This will be a beneficial tool as I continue to encounter unknowns throughout my nursing education and career," she said. 🌱

Rainy Kock (center) and Jacob Georgen (right) work in the lab with Dr. Sean Coleman.

Read about more student research projects at www.wartburg.edu/spring-2023-magazine.

National Book Award winner, poet

Martin Espada speaks at Wartburg

BY ALAN SIMMER '07
SUBMITTED PHOTO

“

My poems seek to humanize the dehumanized, providing faces for the faceless and voices for the voiceless, through the language of poetry, that is to say the language of the senses.

”

Martín Espada, the speaker at 2022's Michaelson, Briner & Kildahl Literary Symposium, knows changing the world isn't easy.

Espada, a professor of English at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, has long advocated for social justice as a tenant lawyer, essayist, and poet. Lately, he has used his platform to draw attention to the plight of immigrants at the border and Puerto Ricans in the aftermath of Hurricane María, featuring both in *Floaters*, which won a 2021 National Book Award.

"I wish all I had to do was win an award," said Espada.

Though his subjects may be unfamiliar — not many can claim to have visited Utuado, a town of 28,000 in the mountains of Puerto Rico that serves as the backdrop for *Letter to My Father* — Espada picks out details that resonate broadly.

"I am making intentional connections between the particular and the universal. I'm writing narratives often based on personal experience — or on the experiences of people close to me — that resonate outward to encompass multiple identities, communities, histories, and nationalities," Espada said. "Ultimately, I'm a humanist, and that's the resonance I want: humanism."

Take the things Espada lifts up about father and daughter Óscar Alberto Martínez Ramírez and Angie Valeria Martínez Ávalos in the titular poem of *Floaters*: his fingers, burnt from making pizza; her delight in a toy guitar.

He practically dares the reader to look away as he describes Óscar's and Angie's bodies on a bank of the Río Grande, as captured in a famous news photo. His words make a mockery of those who would suggest this loss was staged, that these were merely "crisis actors."

"My poems seek to humanize the dehumanized, providing faces for the faceless and voices for the voiceless, through the language of poetry, that is to say the language of the senses," said Espada. "That means details and more details. In


those details — that which we can see and hear, taste, smell, and touch — we will find common ground as human beings."

When Espada isn't using his work for advocacy, he writes love poems for his wife, Lauren.

"She gets poems for birthdays and holidays and anniversaries. In fact, I write love poems in the voices of mythical, extinct, or rare animals, including a kraken, a moa, and a Galápagos tortoise," Espada said. "That's the other guy."

His reading at Wartburg included some of those love poems as well as works from *Floaters* and the most recent issue of the *North American Review*, based at the University of Northern Iowa. Espada has published more than 20 books as a poet, editor, essayist, and translator. He has received the Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize, the Shelley Memorial Award, the Robert Creeley Award, an Academy of American Poets Fellowship, the PEN/Revson Fellowship, a Letras Boricuas Fellowship, and a Guggenheim Fellowship. His book of essays and poems *Zapata's Disciple* was banned in Tucson as part of a Mexican-American studies program outlawed by the state of Arizona.

"We were thrilled to bring an author of this caliber to campus," said Dr. Zak Montgomery, Wartburg's Harry and Polly Slife Professor in Humanities. "It was a great chance for the community to hear Martín's powerful work and for our students to learn from him as well."

The Michaelson, Briner & Kildahl Literary Symposium was created through a leadership gift commitment from **Steve '71** and **Jane Schmidhuber '72 Noah** and **Dale '72** and **Judy Johanningmeier '76 Goeke** in support of an annual event that would bring an author, poet, or other literary figure to campus to engage students, faculty, staff, and the broader community in activities to stimulate critical thought. It celebrates the legacy of former Wartburg English professors Sam Michaelson (1966-92), K.D. Briner (1966-76), and Phillip Kildahl (1961-77 and 1980-82). 



ATHLETICS FALL RECAP

The Knights' record-breaking football season ended in the semifinal game of the NCAA Division III Playoffs, a first for the college.

The team came up just short of earning its first championship game berth, falling 34-31 to No. 2 University of Mount Union. The Knights were undefeated in the regular season and won the American Rivers Conference Championship. The team ended the season ranked No. 3 by D3football.com and No. 4 by AFCA, the highest rankings in program history.

Read more about their historic season and other highlights from our student-athletes.



WARTBURG ATHLE

FOOTBALL

The student-athletes weren't the only ones making history this football season. **Chris Winter '04** was named the D3football.com National Coach of the Year, the first national coaching award presented to a Wartburg football coach in program history.

Winter, who is only in his second season as head coach of the Knights, also was named the Region V Coach of the Year and A-R-C Conference Coach of the Year.

Owen Grover '23 was named the D3football.com Region V Defensive Player of the Year and defensive Conference MVP. **Hunter Clasen '22** was named second-team All-American (AFCA) and offensive Conference MVP. Clasen was named first-team All-American, and Grover and **Parker Rochford '25** were named second-team.



Grover



Clasen



Rochford



ATHLETICS FALL RECAP

WOMEN'S SOCCER

The Knights (16-3-2 overall, 6-2-2 conference) earned an at-large bid to its fifth consecutive NCAA Tournament. Wartburg hosted the first and second rounds of the NCAA Tournament, where the women defeated Grinnell College 5-2 for their first NCAA Tournament win since 2019. The Knights fell to Washington University (Mo.) in the second round. **Sarah Campbell '23** was named first-team All-American by the United Soccer Coaches Association.



MEN'S SOCCER

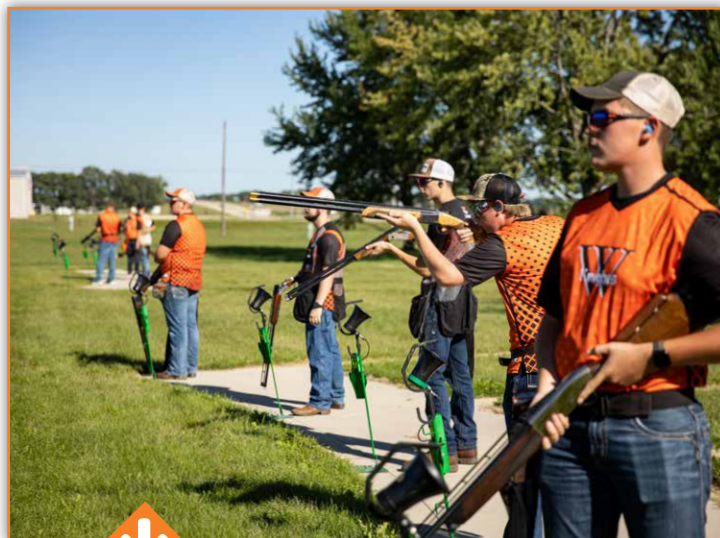
Caleb Halleran '23, **Anzurini Kimba '23**, **Edvin Rizvic '23**, and **Brennon Woody '23** earned all-Conference honors.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Natalie Kaiser '25 (singles), **Meadow LaDuke '25** (singles and doubles), and **Georgia Nissen '24** (singles and doubles) were named all-Conference.

VOLLEYBALL

Allison Feigenbaum '25, **Caroline Kluesner '23**, and **Emerson Kracht '24** were named all-Conference. Feigenbaum also earned AVCA All-Region and Honorable Mention All-America honors.



CLAY TARGET SPORTS

The team won the Iowa Four-Year Collegiate Championship in skeet and were the team runner-up in the collegiate high overall, super sports, and sporting clays.

WOMEN'S GOLF

The women's golf team closed the season with all-Conference finishes from **Lauren Sease '24** (sixth) and **Ashley DeLong '23** (10th) at the conference championships in Ames. This marked the third-straight all-Conference honors for the duo. The Knights finished third overall.

MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

The team, which ranked in the top five in the nation for much of the regular season, took home its fifth consecutive American Rivers Conference Championship. Led by All-American finishes from **Christopher Collet '23**, **Jacob Green '24**, and **Connor Lancial '24**, the team finished second at the National Championships in November. Collet, the American Rivers Conference MVP, was named the Midwest Male Athlete of the Year by the USTFCCCA.

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

The team, which rose as high as No. 1 in the national poll during the season, won its fifth consecutive American Rivers Conference title in October, setting the stage for a third-straight win at the Midwest Regional behind top-six finishes for **Aubrie Fisher '23**, **Lexi Brown '23**, and **Ellie Meyer '25**. The team went on to finish third at the National Championships in November, where Fisher, Brown, Meyer, and **Shaelyn Hostager '24** earned All-American status.



Get to know

Elle Gadiant


& sustainable farming

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN | SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Elle Gadiant '18 is making a name for herself as a farmer advocate for Niman Ranch, a network of U.S. family farmers and ranchers dedicated to raising livestock humanely and sustainably.

When Chloe Sorvino, a food and agriculture reporter at Forbes, attended the most recent Niman Ranch farmer appreciation dinner in Des Moines, she mentioned that Elle belonged on the media company's 30 Under 30 list for her work in the food and drink industry. The list features young leaders and entrepreneurs who are "redefining the way we eat, drink, and think about consumption," according to Forbes.

Elle, who graduated from Wartburg with a degree in environmental science and studies and business administration, was flattered but brushed off the comment, only to find herself on the list in the Food & Drink category when it published. She's still in shock, "especially after I read everyone else who is on the list."

"It's exciting because it shows that agriculture is a big part of the food industry, which can often be overlooked." 



Here are 13 interesting tidbits about Elle and sustainable farming:



1 Elle grew up as a fifth-generation farmer outside Cascade, Iowa. Though she doesn't like choosing, when pushed, Elle prefers cows to pigs — but just barely.

2 She is based out of Colorado but sometimes works remotely to help out on her family's farm. She is building a transition plan to move back to Iowa.

3

She has witnessed the birth of many farm animals and loves being part of that process. "It's incredible helping them and bringing life into the world."

Elle's family partnered with Niman Ranch when she was a child as a stable market to sell their naturally raised pigs.

4



5

Her favorite cow growing up was named Sugar Plum, who she raised from a calf. "When I would come home, I would call 'Sugar Plum' and she would come running across the pasture."

When Elle decided she wanted to work for Niman, they created an internship just for her in Denver, Colo.

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Following her internship, Elle worked on a sustainable fishing boat in the Gulf of Carpentaria on the north side of Australia. When she returned, she headed back to Denver to work with Niman Ranch. Her full-time job is farmer advocate.



Her work at Niman has brought her closer to two Wartburg alums: **Joel Gindo '13**, who owns Free Happy Farm in South Dakota (see page 14), and **Caleb Miller '11**, owner of Miller Premium Pork. Both are considered young farmers, which is another push for Niman. The average farmer in the U.S. is nearly 60; Niman Ranch's average farmer is 43.

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To Elle, the concept of sustainable farming is simple. Environmentally, it means being a good steward of the land. Economically, it means the farm operation can sustain the family working it and there are opportunities for the next generation of farmers. And when it comes to raising the animals, it should all be done naturally. "Animals should be on the land. Our pigs are born in the pasture and are antibiotic free. They have outdoor access, and they are never in crates."

As a farmer advocate, Elle is responsible for amplifying the voices of the family farmer; building resources, like the mentorship and regenerative grant programs she started; and building community among the more than 700 family farmers and ranchers in the Niman network.

10

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She wants others to support sustainable farming and recommends, when possible, buying from local farmers who raise their animals and care for their land in a sustainable way.

Michelin-starred and James Beard Award-winning chefs use Niman products to create award-winning meals, including for appreciation dinners that hundreds of farmers attend to be thanked by Niman and to receive scholarships and grants.

12

13

Elle decided she wanted to work for Niman at the hog farmer appreciation dinner where she received her first scholarship. She also received scholarships from the Niman Ranch Next Generation Foundation her sophomore, junior, and senior years and was the inaugural recipient of Niman Ranch's Phyllis Willis Pioneer Award in 2017 for her dedication to environmental sustainability.



Home on the Range

Joel Gindo '13 finds satisfaction producing food for his family, community

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN
SUBMITTED PHOTO

JOEL GINDO '13 BELIEVES IN THE TIMELESS ADAGE “You are what you eat.” Raised on a homestead dairy farm in Tanzania, he helped his parents — who both worked traditional full-time jobs — with the chores and learned the value of homegrown food. Today, Gindo is forging a similar path in South Dakota, where he works as a controller by day and operates Free Happy Farm during his “off hours.”

“I try to stay away from telling people how to do things, but for me and my family, I don’t believe in antibiotics in our animals. If you have to give them antibiotics, there is something else that isn’t right, and I like to fix those other things so I don’t have to do the medication,” he said. “My pigs have access to open, clean air. They can move from the woods to the farm to the pasture where they can follow their own natural behaviors.”

In addition to pigs, Gindo and his wife, **Kristina Goematt Gindo '12**, also raise chickens and grow corn and soybeans. But there are no cows on the Gindo homestead.

“After you milked cows twice a day, every day growing up, you never want to do it again,” he said.

In less than 10 years, Gindo has gone from producing food for his family to selling extras at a local farmers market to providing fresh food to nearby restaurants. In 2018, he began expanding beyond his community through a partnership with Niman Ranch, a farmer network committed to animal welfare and sustainable farming practices.

Though he currently provides fewer than 40 pigs a year to Niman, he’s hopeful that a new building and other improvements around the farm will allow him to raise at least 100 pigs for the organization.

“Right now, my barn is too small to fit a tractor inside, so I am cleaning up after the pigs all by hand,” he said, adding that he is also looking for more land but is usually outbid by larger farming operations and others with deeper pockets. His plight, along with that of other small farmers, was the subject of a 2022 New York Times story about record-high farmland prices. He’s also been featured on an episode of *Connected: A Search for Unity* on PBS, which detailed his journey from Tanzania to Iowa to South Dakota and the people who helped him along the way.

If he can continue to grow his contract with Niman, Gindo believes that someday he will be able to focus more of his efforts on farming and only work his traditional 9-5 during the less busy seasons.

That also might allow him the opportunity to return home to Dar es Salaam and share some of the farming practices he’s learned stateside with his family and friends in Tanzania.

“My original plan was always to get a degree, farm here for a little bit, and then take what I learned back to Tanzania to help make a change in my town,” he said. “That’s still my goal, but my life is here now. I have Kristina, and we have a son (Nathan). But I’ve learned a lot about how to grow a family farm, and when I am in a position to be able to, I still want to go home and train them to do the same.” 🌱



Jason Welstead '07 explores new frontiers at NASA

BY ALAN SIMMER '07
SUBMITTED PHOTO



I **IMAGINE IT: YOU'RE ON AN AIRPLANE**, buckled in, waiting to take off — and instead of accelerating down a runway, the plane simply lifts into the air and flies away.

That future may be closer than you think thanks to **Jason Welstead '07** and his work at NASA.

"I had always been interested in flight, in particular any and all airplanes flying overhead, talking to pilots in the cockpit when I flew as a kid, and playing games that had some sort of flying in it," Welstead said.

While working on a project his junior year at Wartburg, he discovered aerospace engineering and decided to make that his career path. After graduating with a degree in engineering science and mathematics, that path first took him to Auburn University in Alabama, where he earned his master's degree and doctorate in aerospace engineering.


The next stop: NASA. Welstead has worked there since 2013 in the Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate. He's currently a technical adviser in the Advanced Air Vehicle Program (AAVP), providing guidance and spotting opportunities to collaborate with other departments.

"Any aeronautic-vehicle-related research falls within the AAVP portfolio," he said. "So think vertical-lift vehicles all the way to five to 10 times the speed of sound," a pace beyond supersonic called hypersonic.

Welstead's previous work has focused on electric vertical takeoff and landing, including a specific effort to reduce noise and improve safety. Several companies have developed personal aircraft or small jets that use this technology. When scaled up over the years ahead, it could eliminate the need for runways at airports.

Welstead also oversaw development of STARC-ABL, or the Single-aisle Turboelectric AiRCraft with Aft Boundary Layer ingestion. It's a commercial-grade passenger aircraft that bridges some of the gap between gas-powered planes and all-electric flight (see sidebar). While you can't hop on a flight that uses this technology yet, the project was designed to be achievable by 2035, and the concept inspired a flurry of additional research.

"Wartburg really prepared me for the next step in my journey," Welstead said. "I was given a toolset that enabled me to succeed out of the gate."

He credits an internship with John Deere, working as a quality engineer on 9000-series tractors, with giving him practical knowledge about manufacturing. His liberal arts education also sharpened his thinking skills. "It taught me how to find alternative ways to look at the problem." 



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Even STARC-ABL's acronym may be a mouthful, but the full project title tells you exactly what NASA is working on.

SINGLE-AISLE

The plane seats 150 and has a "tube and wing" shape familiar to frequent flyers.

TURBOELECTRIC AIRCRAFT

The regular gas turbine jet engines also produce electricity used to power a set of motors.

AFT BOUNDARY LAYER INGESTION

Those motors are mounted on the tail of the aircraft. They suck in slow-moving air that collects around the plane and blast it out the back, reducing drag and improving fuel efficiency.

WAVERLY,
IOWA
1879-1933
1935-



Celebrating

NO. 18

*Dr. Rebecca Neiduski looks to
'extend the reach' of Wartburg College*

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN **PHOTOS** JULIE PAGEL DREWES '90 & ROLAND FERRIE '08





DR. REBECCA NEIDUSKI HAS BUILT HER CAREER as an educator, hand therapist, and humanitarian on five principles: mobility on stability, adaption to change, reaching in new directions, maximizing function, and creating access. On Friday, Oct. 14, Neiduski was inaugurated as Wartburg College's 18th president and promised to use those same guiding principles to lead the college into the future.

"Fortifying the foundation of Wartburg College will require a willingness to consider new opportunities, reach in new directions, and maximize our function in higher education," she said. "Our strong relationships within Waverly and the Cedar Valley will allow us to create forward-thinking programs that will benefit our students and our communities."

Neiduski was the dean of the School of Health Sciences at Elon University before becoming Wartburg's president on July 1. Since then, her accomplishments include helping launch the college's new strategic plan, opening a newly renovated

residence hall, hiring a new vice president of student life, establishing three new dean roles to advance academic programs and inclusive community, creating an Extended Leadership Team to engage and empower leaders from across campus in strategic decision-making, and meeting with alumni and friends of the college from across the country.

"To successfully reach in new directions and maximize function will require shared vision and extensive input from both within and outside of Wartburg College," she said. "Following the lead of our scholars, musicians, and athletes on campus, we will pursue excellence through performance and leadership, extending our reach to faculty, staff, board members, alumni, and advisers to help us solve problems, think through processes, and approach success."

To successfully reach in new directions and maximize function will require shared vision and extensive input from both within and outside of Wartburg College.

— President Neiduski

LENDING A HAND

As part of Dr. Rebecca Neiduski's inauguration celebration, the college asked for donations of gloves — an homage to her career as a hand therapist — that were distributed locally through a partnership with the United Way and on service trips across the country through the student-run Knights Who Serve program.

A week of activity

Neiduski's inauguration celebration kicked off with a student meal on Tuesday night followed by the homecoming pep rally.

Those returning for Homecoming & Family Weekend were invited to an open house at Greenwood, the president's home, on Friday morning.

The celebration continued with a lunch, where two of Neiduski's longtime friends and mentors were able to congratulate her publicly and share stories of her passion and tenacity from before her Wartburg days.

"One of the things that stands out about Becky is her strategic vision. ... Becky received some very challenging directives when she was at Elon University. She handled them with poise and vision and engaged her faculty and staff to be part of the strategic solution," said Dr. Ann Bullock, dean of the Dr. Jo Watts Williams School of Education at Elon and a new member of the Wartburg Board of Regents.

"That is something I see her already doing at Wartburg and something she will continue to do in the future."


During the inauguration ceremony, Neiduski's sister and father read verses that spoke to her heart both personally and professionally. Her father, Larry Ehretsman, also used his time at the podium to offer his support to his daughter and Wartburg College.

"We are all in, is our commitment to her and to all of you," he said, turning back to the audience.

"I speak for all of our family when I paraphrase the words of John F. Kennedy: 'Ich bin ein Wartburger (I am a Wartburger).'"

In a nod to the history of the college, the Presidential Medallion and Chain of Office was passed down by former presidents the **Rev. Dr. Robert Vogel '56** (1980-1998), Dr. Jack Ohle (1998-2008), and Dr. Darrel Colson (2009-2022) to Bishops Kevin Jones and Amy Current, who placed the medallion around Neiduski's neck.

"As your 18th president, I am thrilled to become part of the Wartburg family and invest in the traditions, values, and culture of this great institution," Neiduski said.

"I pledge to honor the work you have accomplished and to use my gifts to help the people around me recognize their potential. We will work together to fortify our foundation and extend our reach, building a bright and prosperous future for Wartburg College." 



In all, the service project collected:

- 154 pairs of winter gloves
- 107 pairs of work gloves
- 185 pairs of latex gloves
- \$135 to purchase additional gloves



AND NOBODY ASKED FOR MONEY

Words spoken at a family reunion 45 years ago led to unexpected millions for Wartburg College

BY ROBERT C. GREMMELS '52
SUBMITTED PHOTOS

AND NOBODY ASKED FOR MONEY." The story behind these words lives on, perhaps more significantly now than ever. Who said it? Where? And what followed?

It began in the middle of Wartburg's 125th anniversary year, 1977-78.

Cousin **Bill Lynes '50** and I — two great-great grandsons of Georg Grossmann, Wartburg's founder — were lamenting that this early giant had faded from the spotlight. Anniversary attention focused more on Wartburg's amazing growth since the centennial. About the only Grossmann mementos on campus were a hanging portrait and a modest men's residence hall bearing his name. If the name Grossmann appeared in print, it was likely misspelled.

Bill and I wondered: Would a family reunion revive Grossmann's name? How might we arrange it? And would any descendants even come? Aided by several other relatives in the area, we formed a possible guest list, but it was sketchy and dominated by descendants from distant areas.

At the time, I was directing Wartburg's public relations office and teaching journalism, and I used my letterhead to prepare invitations. Bill, who died in 1999, was then a U.S. Postal Service employee in nearby Plainfield and started work on a Grossmann memory booklet. We asked Alumni Director **Jan Striepe '59** to include the reunion

as part of Alumni Day activities, assuming at least a few returnees would be alumni. But we hesitated to publicize anything, still fearful of a fizzle.

Was one man worth all this effort? Ask Wartburg historian **Dr. Ron Matthias '54**, who has studied Grossmann's life as educator and church leader:

"Grossmann was always the man in charge," he says. "Every major problem seemed to end up in his lap. Every major decision bore the stamp of Georg Grossmann. He was always the go-to guy. It's not because he hoarded power or sought always to control but because his contemporaries recognized in Grossmann leadership of the first order."

Amazingly, reservations began arriving — from Florida, California, New York, Nebraska, Illinois, and beyond. We were elated.

Reservations continued to arrive, many accompanied by letters of joy that such a thing was happening. And a surprising number of descendants came — close to 100 over the weekend. Among them were 91-year-old grandson Herbert List and his brother, Erwin; granddaughters Emma and Hilda Grossmann; granddaughter Irene List Saemann and her husband, Franklin; and granddaughter Adele List Boatman. Eight grandchildren — including Linda Hahn, Gottfried's daughter, and Frieda Hoerig, Marie Grossmann Hoerig's daughter — also were present.





WELL BEYOND EXPECTATIONS

For the Grossmann clan, the weekend included an arrival reception in the original (Germanic) Castle Room, tours of the campus, recognition at the Alumni Day Luncheon, special seating and recognition at Commencement, and a gathering at Harlington Cemetery to place a wreath at the Grossmann grave. At a separate ceremony, granddaughter Adele List Boatman mounted a new bronze plaque on Grossmann Hall.

As the weekend concluded, family members shared comments about what a wonderful time they had, how welcomed they had felt, how many relationships they had developed or rekindled. They and Wartburg College had indeed honored Georg Grossmann.

Then came the quote of the weekend. Franklin I. Saemann, husband of Irene List Saemann, said in amazement, "And nobody asked for money: Nobody passed the hat."

After everyone had returned home, they each received an 8-by-10-inch photo of the entire group — with everyone identified and their addresses noted — plus other memorabilia. I received numerous thank-you letters, some with contributions that initiated a Grossmann Family Scholarship. I saved all the correspondence — everything except, of course, the money.

Now, 45 years later, we honor the descendants of Georg Grossmann much as they honored him on that memorable weekend. As the website of the Franklin I. and Irene List Saemann Foundation website enthusiastically states:

"During a visit to Wartburg College in 1978, Frank and Irene were impressed with the warm hospitality and the beautiful campus and began making personal donations to the college. Upon Frank's death in 1987, the Franklin I. and Irene List Saemann Foundation was established to benefit Wartburg and charitable institutions in the Warsaw, Indiana, community."

Undoubtedly, as a philanthropist Frank Saemann had been asked for money before. It must have been refreshing to find that the Wartburg invitation had no hidden agenda.

Looking back now, great-granddaughter Joann Kilgus, who has served on the boards of both the Saemann Foundation and Wartburg College, still cherishes the family memories. "It was a wonderful opportunity to gather with members of our family and to meet other descendants of Georg Grossmann," she said. "Uncle Frank was so pleased that the college honored his beloved Irene and her family that he began supporting the college. This was the beginning of the Franklin I. and Irene List Saemann Foundation."

COUNTING THE BLESSINGS

For 45 years, Wartburg has enjoyed support from Grossmann descendants, much of it in the funding of programs and scholarships. I should have sensed it coming when grandson Erwin List casually handed me a check for a thousand dollars and said, "Maybe Grossmann Hall could use a little fixing up." (Adjusted for inflation, that gift would be roughly \$4,500 today.)

Grossmann Hall got more than that when it was later replaced with a new Grossmann Hall, which could easily have been named Saemann Hall. But the benefactors wanted even more recognition for the first president. Not until 2007 did the Saemann name go on a building, the Saemann Student Center. And old Grossmann Hall? It's now renamed Founders Hall.

Throughout the years, Wartburg has been blessed with widespread financial support, but the Saemann Foundation has stood out in so many ways — supporting buildings, programs, projects, scholarships. Most recently, the foundation gave \$1.5 million as a challenge grant to renovate Centennial (now Slife) and Vollmer halls and another \$1.5 million to complete what is now known as the Ubuntu Center in 2022.

"It's fitting that the Ubuntu Center, named to highlight Wartburg's commitment to strengthening community, was made possible in part through the generosity of a family who grew to cherish being such a special part of our community," said Scott Leisinger, vice president for institutional advancement. "From our founding in 1852 to the present, members of the Grossmann family have been shaping the future of Wartburg through their leadership and service. What an incredible legacy."

According to Leisinger, since 1978, the "money nobody asked for" has benefited Wartburg to the tune of more than \$10 million, nearly all from Saemann grants but including other donations to Grossmann scholarships.

To be sure, Wartburg has received large amounts raised through traditional fundraising, but the Grossmann reunion of 1978 reminds us that sometimes just hosting a joyous event can have surprising rewards. 🍷

"Now, 45 years later, we honor the descendants of Georg Grossmann much as they honored him on that memorable weekend."



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE GROSSMANN FAMILY
AT WWW.WARTBURG.EDU/
SPRING-2023-MAGAZINE.

Building an orchestra with no strings: A lesson in persistence

BY LINDA STULL MOELLER '66
COLLEGE ARCHIVES PHOTOS

THIS YEAR, THE WARTBURG COMMUNITY SYMPHONY celebrates its 70th anniversary and the persistence of a young conductor who found a way to create an orchestra at a college with practically no string players.

Ernest Hagen joined the Wartburg College music faculty in September 1952 as instructor of public school education and director of instrumental organizations. Along with directing the concert band and teaching music classes, he also began organizing an orchestra to complement the college's strong choral and band traditions.

"He was a busy guy, but he was pretty determined to make it work," recalled **Everett Blobaum '54**, a music major who played clarinet with the orchestra.

Hagen's solution to the string shortage was to create a college/community symphony, recruiting adults from a 50-mile radius to join the group. He sometimes took his small daughter along on recruiting trips.

"Dad would hear of a farmer who played the violin and off we would go," recalled Caryl Hagen Stalick. "This farmer, J. R. Compton, was missing a finger on his bow hand, but he was happy to be playing again and became a prominent member of the orchestra."

A small chamber group performed at the December 1952 college Christmas program. Hagen ended his first year at Wartburg conducting 54 musicians, including 16 students, in the first Wartburg Community Symphony concert on May 23, 1953, in Knights Gymnasium. It attracted an audience of 500.

"I don't remember any student string players," Blobaum said of that first concert.

Under Hagen, the orchestra presented concerts in November and May, and the enthusiastic area musicians in the group played a summer pops concert.

By November 1953, concert attendance reached 1,000, firmly establishing Hagen's college/community orchestra.

"His enthusiasm was infectious," said Stalick. "His players played their best for him. And that's what made his concerts so exciting."

The first of 11 conductors so far, Hagen conducted his last WCS concert in November 1958. His replacement was Robert E. Lee, a high school band director in Wisconsin who joined the faculty mid-year as instructor of instrumental music. He taught music, directed the concert band, and conducted the Wartburg Community Symphony. Unlike Hagen, who had spent a year in Berlin, Germany, studying orchestral conducting under Vienna Philharmonic conductor Clemens Krauss, Lee had no previous orchestral experience.

"He was more of a jazz musician than anything," recalled his wife, Dr. Joyce Lee.

Lee, who died in July 2022, once reflected that his first WCS program might have been "too ambitious." He had to call out rehearsal letters during the second movement of a Bizet symphony, "but we made it through that first concert and continued to build the orchestra and play some nice things."

Lee invited Ernest Hagen to come back and direct a 10th anniversary concert in February 1964, which was Lee's last season with the orchestra though he continued teaching music and directing the band, retiring in 1995 after 36 years at Wartburg.

Dr. Franklin Williams replaced Lee as WCS conductor in fall 1965, serving until 1979 and then again from 1982 to 1984.

"The opportunity to conduct an orchestra was a large factor in my decision to join the Wartburg faculty," Williams said, but when he arrived for the first Tuesday evening rehearsal, he was "astonished to find what appeared to be a small band with a string quartet awaiting my first downbeat." Wartburg students and a few faithful community musicians came to the weekly rehearsal, but the entire orchestra never got together until the afternoon dress rehearsal preceding the group's Sunday evening concerts.

"I began to think of this as Coronary Sunday," said Williams, who now lives in Florida. "How do you prepare a program with one full rehearsal?"

Williams approached the Wartburg Community Symphony Association board with the possibility of funding a string scholarship program. He credits the support of **Robert Gremmels '52**, a board member and fellow Wartburg professor, for getting the program off the ground with fundraising efforts that included WCSA season memberships, a cookbook, and an annual antique fair in Knights Gymnasium.

"The string scholarships quickly began to build a good core of enough orchestra string players to form a Wartburg chamber orchestra," Williams said. Weekly rehearsals with more players also improved the Wartburg Community Symphony and allowed the group to present additional concerts.

Harold Motter, concert master and string teacher during Williams' first years with the orchestra, left at

ERNEST HAGEN





FRANK WILLIAMS AND SYMPHONY '82-83

the end of the 1967-68 academic year and was replaced by Harold Sundet, to whom Williams attributes much of the success in the orchestra's continued development.

"He was a most effective leader of the violin section, and his advice was invaluable in the selection of music that would bring out the best of the orchestra's capabilities," Williams said. Shortly before Williams' retirement in 1984, Sundet moved to an administrative position at Wartburg after a medical condition limited his ability to play the violin. The family is still represented in the orchestra by **John Sundet '80**, a retired high school band director who played with his father as a student and has now returned to the violin section.

When Janice Wade joined the Wartburg faculty in 1987, she became the first female conductor of the Wartburg Community Symphony and one of only 27 female conductors in the country. A graduate of Drake University, she had previously founded and conducted the Des Moines Community Symphony and spent 10 years teaching in Des Moines public schools. She programmed several silent films for WCS concerts and arranged two cruises where WCS musicians entertained passengers on the SS Norway.

"This orchestra was definitely her joy," said her spouse, Lura Works Wade, who served as concertmaster during Janice Wade's 24 years as conductor. "It's why she came to Wartburg. She had a definite vision for the job."

As professor of violin and viola, Janice Wade taught college string students and for a time offered free lessons during May Term. She introduced a Saturday afternoon Christmas concert geared to children, often featuring narrated stories or puppets in a program that

started with Leroy Anderson's *Sleigh Ride* and ended with *White Christmas*.

To give the orchestra more visibility, Wade scheduled a WCS concert during Homecoming Weekend. She brought in a variety of guest artists to inspire students and audiences and added six professional positions to the orchestra.

Wade commissioned a work by Des Moines composer Linda Robins Coleman for the 50th anniversary of the symphony in 1992. In all, she commissioned and premiered 14 works during her tenure and secured rights from the Ford Made in America project for WCS to become the only Iowa orchestra performing the state premiere of *America the Beautiful*, a work by composer Joan Tower. She retired in 2011 and died in 2018.

In addition to Hagen, Lee, Williams, and Wade, other WCS conductors with shorter tenures included John Bentley (1964-65), Lathon Jernigan (1979-82, 1985-87), Walter Temme (1984-85), Dr. Daniel Kaplunas (2011-15), Dr. Jacob Tews (2015-19), and Samuel Stapleton (2019-21).

Dr. Rebecca Nederhiser has led the symphony since 2021 and is passionate about continuing to grow and nurture this unique community partnership.

"As we celebrate our 70th anniversary, we look toward the future with hope and excitement," she said. "The growth and innovation of the symphony in just two years is a foreshadowing of a new dawn for the organization, one in which anything is possible." 🍷

Read about the symphony
under Dr. Nederhiser at
[www.wartburg.edu/
spring-2023-magazine](http://www.wartburg.edu/spring-2023-magazine).



JANICE WADE AND SYMPHONY '94-95



WARTBURG ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME

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



PHOTO JULIE PAGEL DREWES '90 | From left, Stephanie Rasmussen Anderson, Steve Johnson, Hannah Baker Bombei, Jeff Voreis, Nevada Morrison Curtis, Byron Tate, Skye Morrison Harvey, John Helgerson, Samantha Harrington McCarville, and Patrick Smith pose with their Hall of Fame trophies. Bombei is a 2020 inductee who was unable to attend previous award banquets.

BY KATIEJO KUHENS SVENSON '07

Stephanie Rasmussen Anderson '03

Softball | Iowa 🏆

Stephanie Rasmussen Anderson was named Second-team All-Region her senior year and All-Conference her junior year. Anderson was a two-time Academic All-Conference honoree, an NFCA All-America Scholar Athlete, and a CoSIDA Academic All-District selection. She holds the career records for innings pitched (538.0), shutouts (18), and appearances (118), and the single game record for strikeouts (15).

Nevada Morrison Curtis '12

Track & Field | Menifee, Calif. 🏆

Nevada Morrison Curtis swept indoor and outdoor national championship honors in the 4x400m relay all four years of her career. She also was a three-time national champion in the 400m dash and a 22-time All-American. She swept the 2012 USTFCCA Regional Athlete of the Year and National Athlete of the Year honors for the indoor and outdoor seasons. Curtis is a child abuse investigator at Riverside County Department of Public Social Services and lives in California with her husband, Eli.

FAME

CLASS OF 2022

Skye Morrison Harvey '12

Track & Field | Richardson, Texas 



Skye Morrison Harvey was a three-time national champion in the long jump, a three-time national champion in the 4x400m relay, and a 15-time All-American. She swept the 2012 USTFCCA Regional Athlete of the Year and National Athlete of the Year honors for the indoor season for field events. She is a sales executive for Black Girl Sunscreen.

John Helgerson '11

Wrestling | Newton, Iowa 


John Helgerson was a three-time All-American and won the national title in 2011 at 285 lbs. A two-time conference champion, he finished his career with 111 wins and 25 falls. His 42 wins in 2010-11 ranks third on the single season leader list. He placed fifth at the prestigious Midlands Championships in 2010 and competed at the 2012 U.S. Olympic Trials. Helgerson is a home mortgage consultant for Wells Fargo and lives in Newton with his wife, Caitlyn.

Steve Johnson

Cross Country, Track & Field | Cedar Falls, Iowa  

Steve Johnson was the Knights' head cross country coach and assistant track and field coach from 1989 to 2016. He is a nine-time Central Region Coach of the Year by the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association and was named the National Assistant Coach of the Year in 2012. For cross country, Johnson earned nine Conference Coach of the Year honors for the men's team and 16 for the women. In his tenure, Wartburg cross country won 25 conference and 12 NCAA Central Region cross country team titles. Johnson coached 140 All-Americans, which included eight different individual national champions. He resides in Cedar Falls with his wife, Linda.

Samantha Harrington McCarville '11

Basketball | Cresco, Iowa 

Samantha Harrington McCarville was named First-team All-Region her senior year in addition to being tabbed the conference MVP that same season. McCarville was a three-time All-Conference honoree and ranks in the top 10 of seven career categories, which includes No. 2 in three-point field goals (217). McCarville is a production control manager for Donaldson.

Patrick Smith '03

Baseball | Dike, Iowa 

Patrick Smith was a two-time American Baseball Coaches Association All-Region and a three-time All-Conference honoree as a pitcher. He ranks in the top 10 of six career categories and is the career leader in wins (29) and appearances (66). The Knights made four consecutive trips to the NCAA tournament and the 2000 team advanced to the College World Series during his career. Smith is a senior vice president with First National Bank. He and his wife, **Jamie Garbes Smith '03**, have four daughters.

Byron Tate '12

Wrestling | Iowa City, Iowa 

Byron Tate was a three-time national champion at 197 lbs. and a three-time conference champion. Tate was named the D3wrestle.com Wrestler of the Year in 2012 and was conference MVP in 2011. He ranks second on the career wins list (141). He was the runner-up at the prestigious Midlands Championships in 2010 and was invited to the Division I All-Star Dual in 2011. Tate works at McComas Lacina Construction and is a wrestling coach at Iowa City West High School. He and his wife, Whitney, have three sons.

Jeff Voreis '04

Football | Fairfield, Iowa 

Offensive lineman Jeff Voreis was an All-American in the 2003 season, a two-time All-Region selection, and a three-time All-Conference honoree. Wartburg won the conference championship in 2002 and 2003, to make consecutive appearances in the NCAA playoffs. Voreis is an assistant vice president at Cambridge Investment Research, Inc. and lives in Fairfield with his wife, **Erica Powless Voreis '04**.

KNIGHTS IN THE NEWS

1961

EUNICE KELLER CHRISTENSEN, Clive, is retired and enjoying life in a retirement community.

1964

DAVID VAN AHN, Panora, is back in the classroom teaching business and coaching golf and football at Coon Rapids-Bayard Community School District.

1965

DAVID FREDRICK, Basye, Va., is retired from the U.S. Agency for International Development.

1971

HARRIET JOHNSON, Des Moines, formerly in life insurance marketing and administration, is a special education associate with Des Moines Public Schools.

1977

RUTH WITTE SCHOLZE, Holmen, Wis., was inducted into the Marquis Who's Who biographical registry. She is an outreach library clerk with the La Crosse County Library, Holmen, Wis., and has been in library science for over 40 years.

1979

DEBRA JACOBS WEISS, Coralville, has retired from physical therapy. She treated the first heart transplant patients in Iowa as well as other patients for over 40 years.

1980

GLENDA BAUGH-JOHNSON, Chicago, is a housing case manager for New Hope Apartments, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

CHRISTINE FRITSCHER DJALLETA, Ambler, Pa., retired after 26 years as a staff attorney with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. She serves as a board member for the National Association of Appellate Court Attorneys.

1981

DR. DENISE DETTMER SCHAVEY, Blue Earth, Minn., retired from medical practice in 2018.

1983

DR. GAIL GOETTLER, Greenwood, Ind., retired in 2021 after 30 years as a primary care pediatrician.

1987

THE REV. DR. DAVID BIGLEY, Phoenix, is an ordained minister in the Church of the Nazarene and a spiritual counselor and volunteer coordinator at Bliss Hospice LLC.

DR. JANDELYN HAZLEWOOD PLANE,

Brandon, Wis., is an emeritus faculty in computer science at the University of Maryland, College Park after over 30 years. She also has received the Board of Visitors Award (2018), Provost's Excellence Award (2022), and the Board of Regents Award (2019). She is an associate professor of computer science at Ripon College, Ripon, Wis., and will continue as a research scientist supporting some grants at UMD.

1988

KIM OLESON HOHENSEE, Broomfield, Colo., retired December 2021 from teaching. She is a receptionist at Cornerstone Pediatrics.

DARREN MILLER, Tipton, is a communications specialist at the University of Iowa in the John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center. In June, he received a 25-Year Award from the College Sports Information Directors of America.

1989

SHERI SIMPSON-SCHULTZ, Bettendorf, retired after 33 years in education. She was a math teacher and principal with Davenport Community Schools.

1992

MATTHEW DUFFEE, Bay City, Wis., is in his 29th year as a chemistry teacher and cross county/track coach in the Twin Cities.

DENISE LENNING HILL, Bondurant, is an associate professor at Drake University and attorney/mediator with Whitfield & Eddy Law Firm, Des Moines. She authored *Vaccine Mandates in the Health Care Workplace: A Legal Analysis for Employers* and was vice chair of and presented at the National Vaccine Law Conference.

1993

CARRIE WALSH DUFFEE, Bay City, Wis., is a teacher at the Minnesota Correctional Facility, Red Wing, Minn. She taught in the North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale public schools for 26 years.

1995

KATHRYN HEUTON WINSLOW, Sitka, Alaska, is program manager for Brave Heart Volunteers.

1997

HEATHER FINK and Scot Stambaugh, Powell, Wyo., were married May 28. She is director of public health services integration at RiverStone Health, Billings, Mont.

DR. RICHARD STAPLETON, Iowa City, is a student development coordinator for the School of Counseling at Walden University, Minneapolis. In July, he was elected vice chair of the National Board of Certified Counselors.

1998

MATTHEW LONG, Lakewood, Wash., is a fourth-grade excel teacher in the Franklin Pierce School District, Tacoma.

KIMBERLY CALDWELL WILDEBUER, St. Paul, Minn., is a trainer in the Fraud, Waste, Abuse, and Error Division at Optum. She was inducted into the school board of HOPE Community Academy.

1999

Erik and the **REV. LISA SMITH FIEGEL**, Anchorage, Alaska, announce the birth of Nelson in March 2021. He joins Logan, 7, and Elias, 4.

DR. JAMIE KLING, Portage, Wis., was appointed to a three-year term on the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health Medical School Admissions Committee.

2000

KATHRYN KLATT, Davenport, is a client service representative at Animal Family Veterinary Care Center.

2001

KERI DEPPE CARSTENS, Boone, is chief operating officer for Jord BioScience, St. Paul, Minn.

THE REV. EMILY O'BRIEN DALEN, Underwood, earned a Master of Divinity from Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn., and was ordained Oct. 2. She is pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Underwood.

ERIN HETRICK-HOHENNER and Andrew Hohenner, Petaluma, Calif., announce the birth of Jacob, Sept. 16, 2021. He joins Eire, 8, and Johann, 3.

JENNI TALBOTT, Ames, is chief operating officer for McFarland Clinic, Ames. She recently completed a term as board president of the Iowa Medical Group Management Association.

MICHELLE WAGNER, Waterloo, is a district associate judge for the State of Iowa Judicial District 1B. She was appointed to the bench September 2021.

2004

JAMES CORY, Wheeling, Ill., is vice president, customer success at BitPay Inc., Alpharetta, Ga.

ANDREA SHAFER LINDBERG, Ottumwa, was named an InvestmentNews 40 Under 40 winner. She is first vice president, legal at Cambridge Investment Research, Fairfield.

Godfrey and **JOHN MOSBACH**, Tucson, Ariz., announce the birth of Mason on March 10, 2022. He joins Johnna, 3.

CHRIS WINTER, Waverly, was named the D3football.com National Coach of the Year. He is the first coach for the Wartburg football program to receive the national coach of the year honor.

2005

CLINT and **HEIDI GAULKE '08 RIESE**, River Falls, Wis., announce the birth of Jordy on Nov. 10, 2021. Heidi is a recruiter for Land O'Lakes, Arden Hills, Minn.

2006

JESSICA GRASBY DAWSON, Wyoming, is a K-4 music teacher in the Anamosa Community School District.

IVAN DVOJAKOVSKI and **ELSA MAY DVOJAKOVSKA '07**, Carlton, Australia, announce the birth of Michael on May 11. He joins Mary, 11, and Samson, 8.

2007

Trevor and **BRIAN BUNCE**, Tripoli, announce the adoption of Billy and Braydon on Aug. 26.

SUZANNE DRILLING and Troy Buzynski, Cedar Falls, were married March 14.

THE REV. DR. JEANETTE BIDNE and the Rev. Daniel Foster, Kiester, Minn., announce the birth of Benjamin on Dec. 30, 2021.

LYDIA POSSELT and Joshua Keiter, Reston, Va., announce the birth of Geneva.

HOLLY HANSEN MCCOMB, Heartland, Texas, is a senior internal auditor at Toyota Financial, Plano, Texas.

2008

RAY COLE, Garner, is a professional school counselor in the Charles City School District.

RANDAL and **CARLY NASS '09 FOWLER**, New York, announce the birth of Ezra on Aug. 23.

Mark and **DR. ASHLEY MCMULLEN KOBYLINSKI**, Anchorage, Alaska, announce the birth of Emma on May 14. She joins Amelia, 5, and Clara, 3.

THE REV. JULIE SCHEIBEL MONNARD, East Moline, Ill., is assistant to the bishop at the Northern Illinois Synod.

DR. JESSICA SAUNDERS and Loren Corkery, Jesup, announce the birth of Claire Corkery on June 6. She joins Celeste, 2. Jessica is owner of Dynamic Music Studios, Coralville.

2010

REESE GRAFFT, Minnetrista, Minn., is vice president, commercial insurance manager at Chubb Insurance, Minneapolis.

ERIK LUTZ and Emily Dodd, Clinton, were married Aug. 21, 2021, and announce the birth of Violet on May 10. Erik is an implementation specialist at ABC Fitness Solutions.

Nick and **ASHLEY BOWDEN MANEMAN**, Asbury, announce the birth of Annie on June 24. She joins Alex, 1.

2011

KATIE ZITTERGRUEN and Ryan Henricksen, Waverly, were married March 19, 2022.

MEGHANN BAUMANN KROGMANN, Marion, is an innovation marketing specialist at Frontier Co-op, Norway.

2012

PAIGE KLOSTERMANN, Katy, Texas, is an academic and talent recruitment manager at Aspen Dental.

MARGRETTA STARK and Zachary Leuma, North St. Paul, Minn., were married May 29, 2021.

LUKE '13 and **JESSICA MACAULEY SALZWEDEL**, Madison, Wis., announce the birth of Cameron on Sept. 5.

TYLER and **KELSEY SCHERVEN '13 WINKEY**, Cedar Falls, announce the birth of twins Slater and Corbin on May 2.

2013

THOMAS HOWELL '14 and **HANNAH BOREN**, Clive, were married May 29.

REED and **MEGAN NUEHRING PEDERSEN**, Moline, Ill., announce the birth of Margo on June 21. She joins Ezekiel, 1.

GORDON ROEDEL, Morgantown, W.V., earned a degree from the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, Neb., and received the Frank P. Stone, M.D. Award for Academic Excellence. He is the adult reconstruction fellow at West Virginia University, Morgantown, W.V.

2014

DR. ERICA OLSON GANSEMER, Apple Valley, Minn., earned a doctorate in biomedical science – cell and developmental biology at the University of Iowa, Iowa City. She is a postdoctoral scientist at the University of Minnesota.

CROSBY KING, St. Paul, Minn., is a senior campus recruiter in engineering at Medtronic.

EMILY HOGAN NEWELL, Sioux Falls, S.D., is an internal auditor with the city of Sioux Falls.

AMANDA SCHUSTER SCHENDEL, Eagan, Minn., is a training and education coordinator at Itasca Consulting Group, Minneapolis.

2015

DR. CAITLIN ANDERSON CASH is a medical writer for Arbor Scientia.

2016

BAILEY CAMENISCH, Waukee, is a client success adviser at Advisory Board.

ANDREW HECKROTH, South Bend, Ind., is an adult services librarian at Mishawaka-Penn-Harris Public Library, Mishawaka, Ind.

KAITLYN BEHNKEN and Michael Trent, Cedar Rapids, were married May 21.

2018

CODY BIRELY, East Peoria, Ill., is a physical therapist at OSF HealthCare.

THE REV. BLAKE SHIPMAN, Dubuque, earned a Master of Divinity from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and was ordained and installed at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Galena, Ill., in June.

DR. CASSANDRA SMITH, Skokie, Ill., earned a doctoral degree in osteopathic medicine at Midwestern University Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine. She is a resident physician at Northwestern McGaw Family Medicine Residency at Lake Forest.

ALLISON STRECK, Madison, Wis., is a third-grade teacher at Madison Metro School District.

2019

IAN COON, Seattle, is a communications manager at Alliance for Education.

2021

JARED SCHERRMAN, North Liberty, is a law student at the University of Iowa College of Law, Iowa City.

JESSICA SYDNES, Seattle, earned a master's degree in social work from the University of Washington.

2022

ELI BARRETT, Rochester, Minn., is a high school physical education and health teacher at Kassen-Mantorville High School, Kassen, Minn.

EMMA BERMOND, Smithville, Mo., is an English language arts teacher at North Kansas City Schools, Kansas City, Mo.

BRIANA BORCHERT, Waterloo, is art gallery director and exhibitions manager at the Waldemar A. Schmidt Art Gallery, Wartburg College.

BAILEY BROWN, Davenport, is an account executive at Mutual Med.

LIAM CONROY, Cedar Rapids, is a service manager at TrueNorth Insurance and Financial Strategies.

SKYLAR CUNNINGHAM, Denver, Colo., is a marketing specialist at ListenUp.

2022

LONDON DODD, Colorado Springs, Colo., is a K-2 general music and high school vocal choir teacher at West Hancock Schools, Britt.

SPENCER DODGEN, Story City, is a graduate student in osteopathic medicine at Des Moines University.

KATIE DAVIS DUNCAN, Cedar Falls, is a middle school art teacher in the Oelwein Community School District.

BRADY FRITZ, Tama, is a doctoral student in dental surgery at the University of Iowa, Iowa City, and a dental assistant at Corridor Kids, North Liberty.

CARLY GIRTZ, Otsego, Minn., is a vocal music director at Cambridge-Isanti Middle School, Cambridge, Minn.

BRI GREISKALNS, Oakdale, Minn., is a graduate student in mental health counseling and a graduate assistant lacrosse coach at Spalding University, Louisville, Ky.

JORDAN HENDERSON, Urbandale, is a marketing coordinator at LCS, Des Moines.

AUSTIN HOBBS, Omaha, Neb., is a sales trainee at 3E.

HALLEY HOLM, Rock Island, Ill., is a caseworker at Bethany for Children and Families, Moline, Ill.

NATALIE KEENAN, Ogden, is a vocal music teacher for grades 3-8 at West Hancock School District, Britt.

AMBER LAUBE, Holland, is a peace officer candidate in the Iowa State Patrol with the Iowa Department of Public Safety.

KYAW ZAW LIN, Inglewood, Calif., is an account manager at Right Corner Consulting.

BO MCMAHON, Denver, is an estimator and project manager at Schumacher Elevator.

KAYLEE MICHAEL, Northglenn, Colo., is a graduate student in public administration at the University of Phoenix and a care manager at The Don't Look Back Center, Denver, Colo.

LEAH MORRISON, Mason City, is a graduate student in plant pathology at Washington State University, Pullman, Wash.

ALANNA MUHAMMAD, Waterloo, is attending graduate school and is a mentor/counselor at Bakari.

TAYLAN OLSON, Johnston, is a behavior technician at ChildServe.

AUDREY REVIER, Owatonna, Minn., is an ecological survey technician at the Natural Resource Preservation, St. Paul, Minn.

ADAM SACIA, Eldridge, is a technical solutions engineer at Epic Systems, Verona, Wis.

JONAH THOMAS, Minneapolis, is a laboratory associate at Takeda Pharmaceutical Company, Brooklyn Park, Minn.

MYA ULRICH, Waseca, Minn., is an ICU registered nurse at Mayo Clinic, Mankato.

LACEY VAN DYKE, Waterloo, is a baker at Wartburg College.

JACK VEBER, Cleveland, Ohio, is a racquet sports coordinator at Cleveland Racquet Club, Pepper Pike.

SHAILA VERA, Chicago, is a language assistant at RVF International.

BEN WEEPIE, Fairbank, is a lab microbiologist at Tyson Foods, Waterloo.

ERIN WOOD, Vinton, is a social worker at the Department of Human Services, Cedar Rapids.

NOAH WORTHINGTON, Waterloo, is a tool design engineer at John Deere.

1942

Lois Bearse Neal, Shell Rock, died Oct. 21. She was a homemaker and farmed with her husband.

1943

Irene Jarmuth Anderson, Jackson, Minn., died Dec. 14, 2020. She was a registered nurse.

1945

Edith Bartels Meyer, Maynard, died July 29. She worked in civil service at the Navy Labor Board, Long Beach, Calif., and then was a farmer. She went on to earn a bachelor's degree in education from Upper Iowa University, Fayette, and was a teacher until retiring in 1990.

1948

Mary Jane Wiegert Fischer, Pocahontas, died Nov. 19, 2021. She attended Iowa State University, Ames, and worked at Fort Dodge Labs.

Betty Biederman Opperman, Cedar Rapids, died June 23.

1949

Joyce Pohl Larkin, Cedar Falls, died Nov. 22. She owned a craft shop and worked as a secretary for Palace Clothiers and Fuel Oil Service until retiring in 1995.

Lois Chesley Sauerbry, Little Canada, Minn., died Oct. 14, 2021.

1951

Harold Wiltshire, Oak Lawn, Ill., died Dec. 26, 2021. A U.S. Army veteran, he was superintendent of Oak Lawn High School.

1952

Lois Stoltz Becker, Arlington, Texas, died Sept. 17. She is survived by her husband, **Lester "Pete" Becker '52**.

The Rev. Eimo Hinrichs, Bartonville, Ill., died Oct. 24. He earned a Master of Divinity from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and completed a Master of Theological Studies at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. He was a chaplain.



STAY CONNECTED



Have you recently been married, had a baby, retired, changed jobs, or have other life news to share with your fellow Knights? Share your news at www.wartburg.edu/update-our-records. Send high-resolution wedding photos to markcomm@wartburg.edu and we'll add them to our Facebook album.



IN MEMORIAM

Phyllis Erks Milldrum, Badger, S.D., died Nov. 3. She was a teacher. Later, she was a financial director and office manager of a nursing and retirement complex.

1953

The Rev. Martin Haase, Mitchell, S.D., died Dec. 6. He earned a Master of Divinity from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and was ordained in 1957. He served congregations in South Dakota for 50 years.

John Kurtt, Waverly, died Aug. 23. A U.S. Army veteran, he earned a master's degree in physical education from the University of Iowa, Iowa City. He was a teacher and coach in St. Louis and New Hartford before beginning his 31-year career at Wartburg College. *Please consider a memorial gift to the Daniel K. Huston Scholars Fund in his honor.*

The Rev. Robert Lynne, Bismarck, N.D., died Dec. 4. He earned a Bachelor of Divinity from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and was ordained in 1957. He served congregations in North Dakota and was later the bishop of the Western North Dakota Synod, ELCA.

1954

Robert Keister, Minneapolis, died Nov. 7. A U.S. Army and Marine Reserve veteran, he earned a master's degree from Winona State University. He was a teacher and coach.

Arma Schroeder Newbern, Sanborn, died Jan. 23, 2022. She earned a bachelor's degree in education from Upper Iowa University, Fayette. She was a teacher until retiring in 1995.

Sigrid Becker Thill, Des Moines, died Feb. 5, 2022. She attended Drake University, Des Moines, and the University of Wisconsin. She was a teacher and a librarian.

Carol Belling Weiss, Michigan City, Ind., died Aug. 24. She was a teacher and worked at Living Word Bookstore.

1955

The Rev. Gerald Allen, Hinckley, Minn., died July 22. He earned degrees from Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn., and the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, and served congregations in Minnesota. He went on to work at the University of Minnesota, serving as registrar, director of admissions, director of student services, and a faculty member.

Elaine Lillich Kortenholz, Grafton, Wis., died Nov. 27, 2021. She earned a master's degree in education and was a teacher for 30 years.

The Rev. Dr. Wilbert Winkler, Enterprise, Ala., died Aug. 10. An Air Force Reserve veteran, he earned a Master of Divinity from Trinity Seminary, Columbus, Ohio. He went on to earn degrees from Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio; Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich.; University of Wisconsin-Madison; Winona State University, Winona, Minn.; and Covington Theological Seminary, Fort Oglethorpe, Ga. He served congregations in North Dakota, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Florida.

1956

Leone Shepard Bohlen, Allison, died June 8. She worked for several area businesses.

Gertrude Fink Lapour, Alcester, S.D., died Feb. 4, 2022. She was a secretary and farmed with her husband.

The Rev. Marvin Mutzenberger, Bismarck, N.D., died July 19, 2021. Ordained in 1960, he served congregations in South Dakota and North Dakota. He went on to teach and coach at Bismarck State College, Bismarck, N.D., for 41 years. He also was both a senator and representative in the North Dakota Legislature for 10 years.

Lavonne Boekelman Pries, Baton Rouge, La., died Aug. 15. She worked at Rath Packing Co. and Chamberlain Manufacturing, both in Waterloo.

Wilma Behrens Ransom, Sheldon, died Sept. 23. She attended California State University, Long Beach, Calif., and was a teacher for 42 years.

Dr. Stanley Wise, Waverly, died Aug. 2. A U.S. Air Force veteran, he earned a degree from the University of Iowa, Iowa City, dental school and practiced dentistry for 39 years. He is survived by his wife, **Patricia Wile Wise '56**.

Sylvester Ziebarth, Scranton, N.D., died Sept. 13. He was a farmer and sold feed. Later in life he operated a small construction company in Montana.

1957

The Rev. Vincent Fricke, Waverly, died June 25. He earned a Bachelor of Divinity/Certificate of Ordination from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, in 1961. He and his wife were missionaries in Papua New Guinea, and

he went on to serve congregations in Iowa for more than 50 years. He is survived by his wife, **Barbara Tessmer Fricke '62**.

The Rev. Wayne Weissenbuehler, West Burlington, died Sept. 2. He earned a Bachelor of Divinity and a Master of Sacred Theology from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque. He was ordained in 1963 and served congregations in Kansas and Colorado. He served as bishop before returning to Wartburg Theological Seminary to work and teach.

1958

The Rev. Melvin Frahm, Fox Valley, Wis., died July 22. A U.S. Army veteran, he earned a Master of Divinity from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, in 1966. He served as pastor for congregations in Iowa, Wisconsin, and South Dakota. He is survived by his wife, **Joan Pirner Frahm '61**.

Marilynn Bohrofen Hays, Sun City West, Ariz., died June 26. She served as a missionary in Japan with her husband. She went on to earn a master's degree in English as a second language from Columbia University, New York, N.Y., and was a professor.

Kay Overbeck Pannkuk, Fort Wayne, Ind., died March 11. She was a teacher and worked for the Boy Scouts of America.

Joanne Hempeler Venter, Monona, died Oct. 9. She earned a bachelor's degree from Upper Iowa University, Fayette, and was a teacher for more than 33 years.

1959

Ilene Oltrogge Blume, Tripoli, died June 11. She was a keypunch operator and went on to work at Bartels Lutheran Retirement Community until retiring in 2001.

Richard Cox, Sterling, Ill., died Nov. 3. A U.S. Army veteran, he served as superintendent of recreation for Sterling Park District. He went on to work in real estate.

The Rev. Dennis Dickman, Waverly, died Sept. 21. He earned a Master of Divinity from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and was ordained in 1963. He served congregations in Ohio, Colorado, and Iowa. He was director of Wartburg Seminary Denver House of Studies, Denver, Colo. He is survived by his wife, **Karen Mantin Dickman '61**.

1959

Betty Meyer Grundberg, Des Moines, died April 8, 2022. She earned a master's degree from the University of Iowa, Iowa City. She was a teacher and served for 10 years as a representative in the Iowa House.

Harold "Howard" Hof, Mason City, died Sept. 11. He earned a bachelor's degree from Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colo., and a master's degree from the University of Iowa, Iowa City. He was a teacher in Iowa, Illinois, and Nebraska.

Janet Werner Malpert, Lindsborg, Kan., died Sept. 13. She attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She taught kindergarten, band, and choir. Later, she worked with her husband at Malpert Drug Co., and when the pharmacy closed, the business became Jan's Hallmark.

Herman Michels, Chatham, Ill., died Aug. 6. A U.S. Army veteran, he earned a master's degree at the Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, Fla. He was a farmer and worked for the Department of Defense, Rock Island Arsenal, for 32 years.

1960

Wayne Huehns, Sheboygan Falls, Wis., died July 14. A U.S. Army veteran, he earned a degree from the Wisconsin Institute of Mortuary Science in Milwaukee and owned and operated funeral homes in Wisconsin. Later, he went on to own and operate a security alarm business. He is survived by his wife, **Janet Meyer Huehns '59**.

Pat Adams Michael, Janesville, Wis., died June 17. She was an accountant. Later, she and her husband managed apartment complexes in Texas and Maryland.

1961

Richard Dieter, Footville, Wis., died Nov. 12. He was an electrician, truck driver, farmer, and beekeeper.

The Rev. Marvin Ehnen, Cedar Rapids, died Nov. 17. He earned a Master of Divinity from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and served congregations in Nebraska and Iowa.

Beverly Jane Hunt Elsinger, Guttenberg, died Sept. 18. She was a teacher and farmed with her husband.

Dixie Brown Lynch, Waverly, died July 26. She is survived by her husband, **James Lynch '55**.

Karen Boelter Nelson, Shoreview, Minn., died Oct. 26. She earned a degree from the University of Minnesota and worked at Coca-Cola Bottling Midwest. Later, she worked for the Columbia Heights School District as a teacher-typist and then food service supervisor.

Fran Fye Waring, Waterloo, died Aug. 2. She was a private music teacher and office worker. She is survived by her husband, **Jim Waring '59**.

Darlene Aper Wiggers, Mountain Home, Ark., died Sept. 27, 2020. She earned a degree from Illinois State University, Normal, Ill., and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She was a social studies teacher for 26 years and went on to be a synodically approved ELCA minister.

1962

Karen Echternach Duffee, Maple Grove, Minn., died July 19. She was a homemaker and worked for the Hennepin County Department of Health until retiring in 2005.

Richard Hamre, Fort Atkinson, died Aug. 6, 2021.

Marilyn Rugroden Konold, Red Bud, Ill., died Jan. 7, 2022. She earned a master's degree in library science from the University of Missouri, Columbia. She was a case worker for child and family services in Denver, Colo., and went on to work as a librarian in Wisconsin and Illinois. She was director of the Brehm Library, Mt. Vernon, Ill.

Jack McClelland Jr., The Villages, Fla., died April 13, 2022. He earned a master's degree from the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls. He was a teacher and coach and later went on to work in insurance sales. He is survived by his wife, **Janice Larson McClelland '62**.

James Schwarz, Aplington, died Nov. 29. He earned a master's degree in counseling at the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls. He was a teacher and guidance counselor for 40 years until retiring in 2002. He is survived by his wife, **JoAnne Stevens Schwarz '64**.

1963

Larry Oltrogge, Waterloo, died Oct. 19. A U.S. Army veteran, he attended the University of Iowa, Iowa City, and was a certified public accountant. He went on to own and operate several cemeteries. Later, he became a real estate agent.

Gene Wolter, Marion, died Sept. 11. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in agronomy from Iowa State University, Ames, and worked for the federal Department of Agriculture as a district soil and waste conservationist for several Iowa counties.

1964

Irene Rademaker Hackett, Emden, Ill., died Nov. 17, 2021. She worked at Lehn & Fink, Lincoln, Ill.; was a high school teacher; and cooked at several area bakeries.

The Rev. Jerald Schara, Arena, Wis., died Sept. 16. He earned a degree in water resources from Iowa State University, Ames, and was a chemical engineer. He went on to earn a degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and was a pastor.

The Rev. Delmer Schnaidt, Coon Rapids, Minn., died Dec. 11, 2021. He was a teacher and business owner. He went on to attend Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn., and was a pastor in the Twin Cities.

1965

Michael Becker, Brevard, N.C., died July 2. He earned a master's degree in sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He served as director of the Wisconsin Office for Children, Youth and Families; district administrator of the Florida State Department of Children and Families; and executive director of the Devereux Florida Treatment Network.

Kenneth Lahmann, Garrison, Minn., died July 6, 2021.

David Lundt, Hampton, Va., died July 18. He was a biologist and later a health inspector and OSHA investigator until retiring in 2006.

Sharon Hampton Schneider, Clear Lake, died July 22. She was a social worker. She is survived by her husband, **Ken Schneider '64**.

Gerald Seifert, Cambridge City, Ind., died May 16. A U.S. Navy veteran, he was a teacher and went on to become a nursing home administrator for 30 years. Later, he was a life safety code surveyor for the state government of Indiana.

1966

Verlin Behm, Cold Spring, Minn., died Oct. 28, 2020.

Laurel Woods Evans, Chillicothe, Ohio, died Aug. 2. She earned a master's degree from Mount St. Joseph University, formerly the College of Mount St. Joseph, Cincinnati, Ohio, and was a middle school teacher for over 30 years. She is survived by her husband, **Gary Evans '65**.

Terry Fairchild, Winthrop, died July 26. He worked at Wilson Foods, Marion, and went on to operate Fairchild Feed and Supply, Winthrop. He is survived by his wife, **Sharon Martin Fairchild '68**.

1967

Gary Waller, Shakopee, Minn., died Jan. 23, 2021. He worked at CertainTeed Corporation, Shakopee, Minn., until retiring in 2009.

1968

Mary Simonsen Sherer, Middleton, Wis., died Nov. 16. She was a teacher in Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, and Illinois.

1969

Gary Ackerman, Oklahoma City, died Nov. 18, 2021. He was a senior salesman and general manager for ChemCentral for 36 years. He is survived by his wife, **Diane Gutzmer Ackerman '70**.

Dianne Brehmer Bailey, Albuquerque, N.M., died Feb. 4, 2020. She earned a Master of Sacred Music at Union Theological Seminary, New York; a Master of Education from Columbia University, New York; and a doctorate in communications studies at the University of Iowa, Iowa City. She owned and operated HeartMusic Studio. She was also a fundraising officer for several nonprofits.

James DeVore, Charles City, died Nov. 17. A U.S. Army veteran, he was a chemist for Cambrex, Charles City.

Richard Pike, Johnston, died Dec. 3, 2020. He earned a master's degree in deaf education from the University of Nebraska, Omaha, and was a teacher and coach.

Joyce Klingsheim Wearmouth, Eagle Grove, died July 20, 2021. She earned a master's degree in teaching and was an elementary teacher in Dakota City for 30 years.

1970

David Barrett, Mason City, died Aug. 25. He worked at Martin Luther Home, Beatrice, Neb., and later One Vision, Clear Lake.

Alice Dissmore Gratias, West Des Moines, died May 13.

Philip Johnson, Minneapolis, died March 3, 2020. He was a social worker.

Joanne McDonough, Santa Cruz, Calif., died Dec. 18, 2021.

1971

Linda Schick Liedtke, Coralville, died Oct. 1. She served as administrative services specialist and human resource unit representative for social, patient, and family service at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa City, before retiring in 2012.

Margaret Marzen, Greene, died Oct. 9. She was a teacher and later worked in housekeeping and was a cook.

1972

Dr. Bruce Campbell, Thorp, Wis., died Aug. 6. A U.S. Navy veteran, he earned a Doctor of Chiropractic from Palmer College of Chiropractic, Davenport, and maintained a successful chiropractic career at Campbell Chiropractic for 41 years. He is survived by his wife, **Cindy Downing Campbell '72**.

Keith Paroubek, Fayetteville, Ark., died July 10. He was a human resources manager in Wisconsin and Missouri.

1973

Diane Stanek Wintz, Rockwell City, died April 25, 2021. She taught elementary and K-8 music for over 28 years.

1974

Thomas Winterink, Charles City, died Oct. 17. He was district manager and regional director of Dairy Queen and Golden Skillet franchises for 30 years. He went on to own and operate Red Cedar Lodge, Charles City.

1976

The Rev. Paul Fiske, Forest Lake, Minn., died Oct. 26, 2021. A U.S. Army veteran, he attended Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary, now Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn., and was ordained in 1990. He served congregations in North Dakota and Texas.

1977

Sarah Rammelsberg, Coppell, Texas, died May 28. She was a lab tech and master production scheduler.

1978

Brian Cook, Decorah, died Nov. 10. He worked in construction. He is survived by his wife, **Susan Stuart Cook '78**.

Charles "Doug" Courtney, Richmond, Mo., died Sept. 17. He was a controller in the agriculture industry before retiring in 2016.

Patti Holtan Pederson, Albert Lea, Minn., died Oct. 7, 2020. She was a medical technologist for 40 years.

1979

Gregory Merritt, Shoreview, Minn., died Nov. 29. He worked for Tilsner Carton Co. for 34 years.

1982

Anthony Burbach, Dubuque, died Aug. 12. He was a teacher and went on to become vice president of sales at Rytec Corp., Jackson, Wis.

1983

Kurtis Kehl, Mount Carroll, Ill., died Nov. 13. He joined the Peace Corps and taught agriculture in Africa.

1986

Daniel Leeper, Gurnee, Ill., died June 11, 2020. He worked in the hospitality industry for 33 years.

Mark Parmenter, Elkhart, died June 16, 2020. He attended Iowa State University, Ames. He joined the Army National Guard and worked in information technology.

Steven Thomas, Strawberry Point, died July 31. He managed several department stores and went on to operate Thomas Interior Decorating.

1988

Carolyn Rowan Hansen, Omaha, Neb., died July 25. She was a physical therapist in the Westside Community Schools Special Education Department for 29 years. She is survived by her husband, **Mark Hansen '86**.

1989

Julie Druckrey Harms, Waverly, died Oct. 10. She was a waitress and homemaker. She is survived by her husband, **Daniel Harms '90**.

1994

Kara James Schmith, Oelwein, died May 30. She earned a master's degree and was an elementary school teacher.

1996

Michael Jensen, Waverly, died Oct. 12. He earned a master's degree from the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls. He taught choral music in Central City and later was an instructor of vocal music at Wartburg College where he also was the creator of the student ministry band Hope Overflow. He also served as a church worship director.

Joan Koth, Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., died Jan. 29, 2022. She was a fourth-grade teacher for over 20 years.

Angie Gansen Mayer, Spirit Lake, died May 30. She was co-owner of Emagine Marketing.

2007

Jason Brenny, Ankeny, died Jan. 18, 2020.

Matthew Taylor, West Branch, died July 8. He was a baseball coach and worked at ACT, Iowa City, and Herb and Lou's, West Branch.

2009

Jacob Houston, Cedar Rapids, died May 27.



A Family Affair

BY ALAN SIMMER '07
SUBMITTED PHOTOS

AS WITH OTHER PROJECTS AROUND CAMPUS, there's a list of donors hanging in the remodeled and expanded Ubuntu Center. However, among the recognition for couples, organizations, and individuals who made gifts, one line stands out a bit differently than the rest: "In honor of **Mardella DeWall Groskreutz '55.**"

Mardy, as friends and family call her, was the first recorded president of Centennial Hall (now known as Slife Hall). She earned her associate degree from Wartburg in 1952, was the first kindergarten teacher at St. Paul's Lutheran School in Waverly, and then returned to Wartburg, completing her bachelor's degree in 1955.

Mardy met her future husband, **Donald '52**, while on campus, and they were married shortly after her graduation. She now lives in California near her daughters.

When **Janet DeWall Harms '65** heard about the planned renovations to Vollmer and Centennial halls — which are now known collectively, including Hebron Hall, as the Ubuntu Center —



MARDY GROSCKREUTZ

her sister Mardy sprang to mind.

"I knew from the time I was in fifth grade that I would go to Wartburg," said Janet, and that "probably had something to do with Mardy going to college there."

Mardy's 90th birthday was approaching, so Janet and husband Alan thought a donation in Mardy's honor to the hall she once led would be a great way to celebrate the milestone.

And then they thought: Why keep it to just us?

The Harmses issued an invitation to Mardy's other relatives to make donations as well, while their \$5,000 gift was used as a matching challenge during the fundraising campaign.

Janet and Alan aren't sure how many family members have donated — "We don't really know because our family is very quiet about it," Janet said with a laugh — but they do know of gifts from their daughters, **Christine Meade '92** and Elizabeth (Ben) Hagerup, and niece **Robin McCrea '90.**

"We really believe in generosity," said Alan, noting he and Janet have endowed a scholarship in memory of Janet's parents, Henry and Minnie DeWall.

"Both of our girls got good academic scholarships when they went to college," said Janet. "That was another reason we felt like we should pay back what people did to help us get them educated."

Honoring Mardy was a way to do that.

"It just made sense," Alan said, "and we thought it would be a really nice thing." 🍷



JANET AND ALAN HARMS



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