

# Wartburg

M A G A Z I N E





# TRANSFORMING TOMORROW

Great news! The generosity of Wartburg's alumni, parents, and friends has already exceeded our Transforming Tomorrow campaign goal. We have surpassed the \$75 million overall goal more than a year ahead of schedule and have raised \$76 million.

However, there is still work to do as the campaign continues. Forty-five percent of donations thus far are in the form of deferred gifts, and several projects need immediate funding support, including the renovation of Clinton Hall.

We are grateful for everyone who has made contributions to the campaign. With your continued philanthropy, we will keep working to challenge and nurture students for lives of leadership and service as a spirited expression of their faith and learning. Thank you for your support!

**Mike and Marge McCoy, Campaign Co-Chairs**



## Clinton Hall gets \$500,000 boost from McElroy Trust

The **R.J. McElroy Trust** has pledged a **\$500,000 challenge grant** toward the transformation of Clinton Hall. Each dollar donated to the project will now count toward the McElroy gift and the McCaskey Challenge, a \$1 million grant from Ray '65 and Judy Slade '65 McCaskey.

"We're excited to support the Clinton Hall renovation," said Stacy Van Gorp, the trust's executive director. "We are impressed with the way Wartburg is re-imagining when, where, and how transformative learning takes place."

David Hutson '65 is one of the many alumni serving as a Clinton Hall Champion, leading former residents and the Wartburg community in a fundraising competition to meet the McCaskey and McElroy challenges. Hutson remembers playing touch football in the snow—in his underwear—to impress the women watching from the windows of the residence hall across the lawn.

After he left campus, his mother, Florence, served as a hall housemother from 1966 to 1973. She shared her recollections on page 14.

To see updates on the Clinton Hall Floor Wars and the overall progress toward the Clinton Hall Countdown, visit [www.wartburg.edu/clinton](http://www.wartburg.edu/clinton).



*"My wife, Mary, and I are supporting the Clinton Hall Countdown with a gift honoring mom's service to Wartburg. If you were a Clinton Crusader during the 1960s and '70s and also have fond memories of those times, please help with a contribution to the appeal."*

— **David Hutson '65**  
Clinton Hall Champion, Ground North

## CAMPAIGN GOALS



**Investing in People:** \$28 million of \$37 million raised



- \$37 million (in current and deferred gifts)
  - Scholarships (\$35 million)
  - "Worth It" Marketing Initiative (\$2 million)

**Investing in Places:** \$13 million of \$14 million raised



- \$14 million (in current gifts)
  - Living and Learning Community – Clinton Hall (\$8 million)
  - Instructional Resources and Technology (\$3 million)
  - Outdoor Athletic Facilities (\$3 million)

**Investing in Programs:** \$12 million of \$16 million raised



- \$16 million (in current and deferred gifts)
  - Academic Programs and Faculty Development (\$9 million)
  - Experiential Learning, Student Support Services, and Co-Curricular Programs (\$7 million)

**Annual Fund:** \$6 million of \$8 million raised



\$8 million (in current gifts)

**Undesignated Gifts** – \$17 million

**Total – \$76 million towards \$75 million goal**

Wartburg is a college of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Wartburg College is dedicated to challenging and nurturing students for lives of leadership and service as a spirited expression of their faith and learning.

Learn more at [www.wartburg.edu/transform](http://www.wartburg.edu/transform).

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# Wartburg

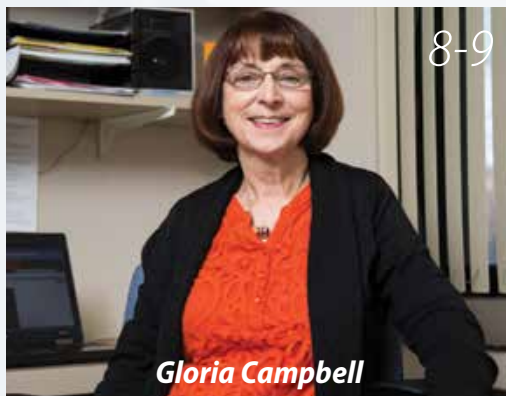
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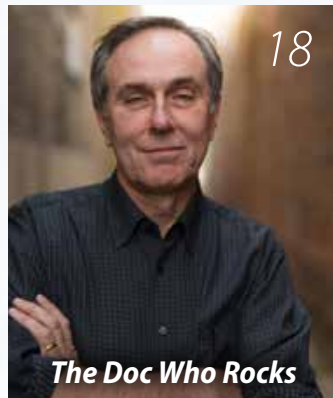
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### ON THE COVER:

#### A Caring Heart

Jason Bell '03 helps young children living alone in an Ethiopian refugee camp find permanent homes, often in the United States.

Wartburg Magazine is published twice a year by Wartburg College, 100 Wartburg Blvd., P.O. Box 1003, Waverly, IA 50677-0903.

Address corrections should be sent to the Alumni Office or submitted online at [www.Wartburg.edu/Alumni](http://www.Wartburg.edu/Alumni).

### TRANSCRIPTS:

To obtain an official college transcript, contact the Registrar's Office or complete an online request form at <http://info.wartburg.edu/Offices/Registrar-Office/Transcript-Request.aspx>. 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.

If you have suggestions for stories in the *Wartburg Magazine* or comments about the content, contact Emily Christensen, editor and news director, at [emily.christensen@wartburg.edu](mailto:emily.christensen@wartburg.edu).



# WARTBURG

## — IN THE NEWS —

### Wartburg Choir schedules Tour Week stops

The Wartburg Choir will hit the road in April on a five-state tour that includes a performance in Denver, Colo., celebrating the 30th anniversary of Wartburg West. The full tour includes these stops:

- San Antonio – First Baptist Church, Sunday, April 17, 3 p.m.
- Midland, Texas – First Methodist Church, Monday, April 18, 7:30 p.m.
- Albuquerque, N.M. – Glorious Saint Therese, The Shrine of the Little Flower Catholic Church, Tuesday, April 19, 7:30 p.m.
- Colorado Springs, Colo. – First Lutheran Church, Thursday, April 21, 7 p.m.
- Denver, Colo. – Saint John's Cathedral, Friday, April 22, 7:30 p.m.
- Lincoln, Neb. – First Plymouth Church, Saturday, April 23, 7:30 p.m.
- Des Moines – First Christian Church, Sunday, April 24, 7 p.m.

Visit [www.wartburg.edu/tours](http://www.wartburg.edu/tours) for more information.


### Wartburg named a top performer in 2015 Sustainable Campus Index

The college was recognized as a sustainability leader in the 2015 Sustainable Campus Index, receiving high rankings in the areas of campus engagement and water.

The 2015 Sustainable Campus Index highlights top-performing colleges and universities in 17 areas, as measured by the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System.

The college earned all possible points in the Campus Engagement subcategory, which recognizes schools that provide students with sustainability learning experiences outside the formal curriculum and support employee engagement, training, and development in sustainability.

Recognition in the Water category is based on advancements in water use and rainwater management. Wartburg was the only undergraduate institution recognized in the top five in this subcategory, which honors efforts to conserve water and protect water quality.



## Former President Clinton closes caucus season on Wartburg campus

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN

**FORMER PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON** visited Wartburg Jan. 28 to stump for his wife, Democratic presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton.

The visit marked the first time a former or sitting president visited the campus, though others, including Presidents George H. W. Bush and Barack Obama, visited before they were elected.

Though his intentions for the visit were clear—his stop came just days before the Feb. 1 caucus—it also was clear he did his homework before making his late-morning appearance.

“The first person I met who worked here, I said, ‘Is this college named for the castle where Martin Luther fled after he tacked those 95 theses on the wall at Wittenberg?’” Clinton said. “Luther was a change-maker. Not just because he tacked the theses up and risked his life, but because he figured out what happens next.”

The event also offered a reunion opportunity of sorts for **Ella Newell '16**. The Waverly native first met the former president during his wife's 2008 presidential campaign.

“We had a close family friend who worked for the Clinton



campaign in 2008, and she got us into a meet and greet with (Bill and Hillary Clinton),” Newell said. “It was a really incredible experience. I remember thinking about how important it was when it happened.”

Before Clinton's February stop, Newell dug out a photo from that first visit. During a brief backstage meeting with the former president, she had enough time to snap a new photo and get the 2008 photo signed.

“It was surreal getting to meet him again,” she said.

In addition to the former president, the caucus season brought seven presidential candidates to campus—though Donald Trump had yet to announce his candidacy when he visited last spring. A crew from CNN's *Anderson Cooper 360* also visited the campus and community to produce a piece showcasing the accuracy of Bremer County voters in predicting the next president, which featured Dr. Edith Waldstein '73, vice president for enrollment management.



## Wartburg among top colleges for short-term study abroad participation

Wartburg College ranked 17<sup>th</sup> among four-year U.S. colleges in students participating in a short-term study abroad experience in 2013-14, according to the 2015 Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange.

The survey, released by the Institute of International Education, is conducted in partnership with the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Wartburg's ranking is for undergraduate colleges offering baccalaureate degrees only.

Wartburg had 216 students take advantage of short-term study abroad opportunities, primarily with a four-week May Term course.



## Editor's note

We are excited to present you with the spring edition of the *Wartburg Magazine*. It is full of great stories about alumni, students, and faculty who have helped make the college what it is today. Please note that the magazine distribution schedule is set to change following the publication of this magazine.

Starting this fall, the magazine will publish on a semiannual schedule that will put a new issue in your mailbox every November and May. Though we may be cutting back on our print editions, the Marketing & Communication team is committed to providing you with regular updates on alumni, students, faculty, staff, and life on campus on our newly redesigned website (see page 5 for more). This change will allow us to get some stories to you in a timelier manner, while still honoring the tradition of the print edition. We will be sure to let everyone know when we've published new stories through our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts, so if you haven't already, please head over to one or all of our accounts and "like" us now. We promise it's worth it!



## Alumni invest in financial literacy of students

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN

**IN 2015, THE AVERAGE U.S. COLLEGE GRADUATE** left school more than \$35,000 in debt.

The number, while shocking to some, was not surprising to the Department of Business Administration, Accounting & Economics professors who recently researched ways to help Wartburg students beat those statistics. What professors **Justin Crouse '08** and Gloria Campbell found was Financial Literacy 101, an online program designed to help students better understand their money.

A grant from the President's Strategic Initiative Fund helped them pilot the program. A gift from **Peter '93** and **Leah Hansen '92 Hill** will help the college continue the program through the end of this calendar year.

"One thing that should come with a well-rounded bachelor's degree is financial literacy," said Peter Hill, who owns Vision Financial Group in Des Moines.

The program primarily targets first-year students, but the online modules are available to the entire campus community, with modules varying from financial aid to avoiding identity theft to what taxes come out of a paycheck. IS 101 professors were encouraged to have their students complete a specific set of lessons, which included everything from how to build a budget to how to buy a new car. The software tracked their progress and allowed faculty to do the same.

Dr. Beth Gehring, assistant professor of English education, was one of several instructors who integrated the 90-minute module into her course for first-year Wartburg Scholars. While some instructors used the assignment as homework, Gehring's students worked through the lessons during class.

"It was enlightening to many of the students who had not been exposed to the information previously," she said. "The students were glad to have been able to work together, discuss their new knowledge, and share their financial experiences among themselves. Several students commented later that their parents could benefit from the module."

The Rev. Dr. Kathryn Kleinhans and Dr. Kimberly Eversman, IS 101 program co-directors, are considering making the module required in all IS 101 courses next year. Kim Folkers, associate professor of marketing, hopes they do.

She's working with others across campus, including faculty who teach capstones and a variety of other courses, about incorporating modules into their curriculum. She's talked with Jen Sassman, director of financial aid, about opportunities for seniors to access the modules as part of their graduation agreement and **Derek Solheim '93**, Pathways director, about incorporating material into workshops they offer. All students, faculty, and staff can access the website from the Pathways and Human Resources webpages.

"We talk about lifetime wellness. Why wouldn't we want to talk about financial fitness?" Folkers said. "At this point in time, this is the best way to get this issue out in front of students sooner." ♾





## CINDERELLA TEAM'S

# BIG DANCE

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN PHOTOS JULIE DREWES '90, KATIEJO KUHENS '07, AND ERIC KELLEY, D3PHOTOGRAPHY.COM

**THE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM** showed signs of a fairy-tale season early on, with big wins over ranked opponents. It came to a close with a run that ended in the Final Four, just two wins and one game shy of a storybook finale. In between, players suffered through injuries and big losses but learned lessons in teamwork and perseverance that Coach Bob Amsberry knows will serve them well at Wartburg and beyond.

"What defined us at the end of the season was our kids were 100 percent about each other, more than any other team I've had. I've coached really talented teams but never one as selfless

as this one," Amsberry said. "I think that is why we made our run. After that last game, I told the team it was about more than winning for me, it was seeing them give up everything about themselves for the good of each other. That's really powerful. If they can take that into life after basketball—the power to commit fully to something bigger than yourself—special things can happen. That's what it did for us."

Read more about the team's historic post-season run at [www.wartburg.edu/final-four/](http://www.wartburg.edu/final-four/). 📺



# Connect with Wartburg ON THE GO

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN PHOTO JULIE DREWES '90

**TWO NEW STUDENT-DEVELOPED MOBILE APPS** are making it easier for Knights everywhere to stay up to date with campus headlines, sports, and entertainment.

Last fall, the Wartburg College Department of Journalism & Communication launched the apps to provide easier access to content created by the college's student-run news station and live-streaming network.

Cedar Valley Today, a mobile-first news app, and Knight Vision, a live-streaming app, are available for iOS and Android devices. Both apps were created by **Adeboye Olaniyan '18**, a journalism and communication major from Nigeria.

On the Knight Vision app, users can watch everything from a wrestling meet to a music concert or a Sunday chapel service. All programs are offered live and archived for later viewings.

Olaniyan's Cedar Valley Today app is the home for all content created by the department's student-produced news program. The interactive application allows users to watch a live broadcast, catch up on the latest headlines, and even share their own "news" through the You Report function.

This was Olaniyan's first foray into the world of mobile applications, but he knew his top priority had to be the user experience.

"One of our major mantras was 'three clicks to a live game.' You click the app. That's the first click. You click football. That's the second click. Your third click is play," he said.

Though the final product requires one additional click in most categories—in part because Knight Vision live-streams so many events—the basic interface remained streamlined and simple.

Just as important as the user benefits are the opportunities for current students, said **Travis Bockenstedt '09**, the R.J. McElroy Chair in Communication Arts.

"Our department is committed to teaching students how to work with mobile content, measure analytics, and learn how storytelling works on mobile devices and social media," he said. "I am excited to see our department and our students explore mobile media and mobile publishing."





Adeboye Olaniyan '18

## Get it now

The Cedar Valley Today and Knight Vision apps can be found at <http://www.wartburg.edu/?p=8806>.

As for Olaniyan, he's already researching new ways to make the next version even better, and he knows he has the support of the department even if mobile application development isn't part of his official curriculum.

"We have people in the department who want to see us improve. They want to help us realize we can do anything," he said. "They want to give us the tools and moral and financial support to basically achieve anything. That is what made it possible to develop the first apps. It's what will make it possible for me to take version two beyond the imaginations of people." 

**60,840**  
  
Unique Views

**554**  
  
Record  
Concurrent  
Viewers

**1,128 Views**  
  
Homecoming 2015  
Football Game  
(most for one broadcast)

**2,233,680**  
  
Minutes  
Watched



# Wartburg Debuts NEW WEBSITE

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN

**MORE THAN NINE MONTHS IN THE MAKING**, Wartburg College's newly designed website went live Feb. 26.

"We wanted to improve our focus on our primary audience: our prospective students," said Graham Garner, vice president for marketing and communication. "This meant making a mobile-first design and better directing the messaging to the young people considering Wartburg as their college choice."

Cohesive Creative and Code of Hudson—partner **Mike Tyer** is a 2003 graduate—provided the responsive design framework. **Chris Knudson '01**, the college's director of creative strategy, was then responsible for designing the individual pages.

"This was Cohesive's first higher ed project, and they did a wonderful job," Garner said. "They took the time to get to know our needs and fused that with their experience and insight into the youth market, and Chris did a fantastic job managing the whole process and carrying out the heavy lifting of converting our existing site and content.

"Now we have a site that is modern in design, organization, and function."

The result is a dynamic website that responds to fit a



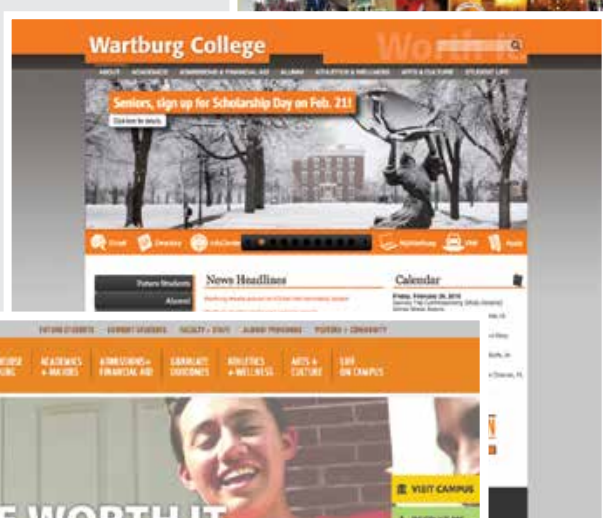
1998



2001



2004



2008



2016


desktop, tablet, or mobile device screen. The new site prominently features stories, videos, and photos of Wartburg College students, faculty, and staff, all in an easy-to-navigate new layout.

The college's "Worth It" brand also takes a seat front and center, eliminating the need for a separate page devoted to the topic.

The redesign also includes a more visible newsroom, fast facts about the college, and stories about what students and alumni are accomplishing. The site also features longer pages when compared to the old site.

"It used to be a general rule that scrolling was bad practice," Knudson said. "That is no longer the case when using mobile devices. Most people prefer to scroll rather than click through many pages."

This change also will allow for timelier Web updates—like when a student wins another Clinton Global Initiative grant or the wrestling team wins another championship. Previously, the site could only be updated from on campus, making late-breaking updates more difficult.

"We hope that with all of these updates, our Web visitors get a better feel for the Wartburg experience," Knudson said. 



# FOR THE KIDS

## Wartburg College Dance Marathon to sponsor room in new UI children's hospital

BY CARLY KINNING '19

**FOR THREE YEARS**, Avery Mason '16 watched his brother, Conner, wage a courageous battle against brain cancer. The 17-year-old's death on Dec. 1, 2013, profoundly affected the elder Mason brother, who was in his second year at Wartburg.

He found some solace working with Wartburg College Dance Marathon, a student organization that provides support for young cancer patients and their families.

"Cancer runs in my family, but to see a kid with cancer, that is what gives me the passion to keep going," Mason said.

Now, as the organization's director, he's excited to continue a partnership with the University of Iowa Children's Hospital and University of Iowa Foundation.

Following last year's Dance Marathon, which raised more than \$51,000 for the Children's Miracle Network, **Ben Brannaman '09**, associate director of development at the University of Iowa Foundation, presented Wartburg College Dance Marathon's executive team with an opportunity to sponsor a room in the new Stead Family University of Iowa Children's Hospital, slated to open late this year.



Brannaman '09

"We believe this is a meaningful and impactful way to represent the past, present, and future dancers of WCDM," Mason said. "This room will be a concrete symbol for the countless hours spent planning, dancing, and raising money as a team."

The organization will donate \$12,500 from last year's total and \$12,500 from this year's total to fund the room. In return, WCDM will be




Stead Family University of Iowa Children's Hospital rendering, courtesy Foster + Partners

prominently displayed on a plaque outside the fifth-floor preparation and recovery room it sponsors.

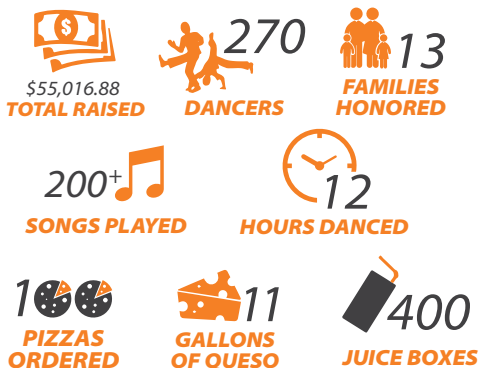
The room will allow patients to do surgery preparation and recovery in the same room, providing families more time with their child in a more comfortable and private setting.

"Before, the child would have to go to one room to be evaluated for vitals and another room to prep for surgery, and while the child was in surgery, the parents would have to wait in a general waiting room," said **Anne Buscher '17**, an executive team member. "After surgery, the child would have to go to a separate room for recovery."

For Buscher and the other dancers, they wish to help in any way that serves the children and families battling an illness.

"We dance for so many different reasons, but we all have the same vision," she said. "For these kids to have a better future is one of them." 

## Dance Marathon 2016



Anna Latcham '17

Avery Mason '16

Anne Buscher '17

# Gloria Campbell:

# TREND

## setter

BY STEPHANIE ROBBINS BOEDING '99 PHOTO JULIE DREWES '90

*Gloria Campbell always has been known as a forward-thinking leader in her department and across campus.*

*During her tenure, the Department of Business Administration, Accounting & Economics became a model for professors taking a proactive approach to student recruitment, an early-adopter of student internships, and a leader in cultivating alumni engagement.*

*After a storied 36.5 years, her final lecture as an associate professor of business administration and economics pressed her students to adopt a forward-looking approach in their own lives.*

*"If you always look forward, you're going to have a much better vantage point of being prepared for it rather than lamenting what isn't."*

### GROWING THE NEXT GENERATION OF STUDENTS

Kim Folkers, associate professor of marketing, believes Campbell's work in recruiting future students deserves a special mention.

"She has led the way for our department over the years—making calls, contacting students, following up—always championing the importance of building relationships with prospective students and their families," Folkers said.

Those relationships continued once prospective students enrolled. **Peter Yang '04** worked with Campbell on a research project focusing on the impact of cellphones on potential wealth.

"Working with Professor Campbell helped me gain business acumen and develop communication skills," said Yang, a senior manager at Ernst & Young in Houston. "She was always supportive and helped me gain confidence to present our research to a group of business leaders at the Association for Business Communication's annual conference and helped me make my decision to go to a business school for my graduate study."

**Casey Cason '88** echoes that sentiment.

"She took a holistic approach to the lives of her students," said Cason, a senior vice president with Wells Fargo in Des Moines. "It was clear she believed in the liberal arts outside of academics; she encouraged us to pursue our passions. I played basketball, and she'd always ask about that and knew it was important to me."

And Campbell always had an eye on the future for her students.

"She was my adviser, and we had conversations about how to prepare for the career I was contemplating," Cason said. "I can recall her specifically talking about internships back in those days, before they were common like they are today."

### CONNECTING STUDENTS TO REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCES

Campbell is known for building connections between the college and business communities. She built on the work of former business professor Mel Kramer, developing internships in the Cedar Valley as an important bridge to employment.

**Sarah Bailey Foster '01** credits Campbell with helping her find an internship that defined her career.

"She cares for her students, and that's reflected in her teaching methods," said Foster, a community manager for the American Cancer Society. "She searched out ways to better their Wartburg experience through innovative teaching ideas, integrating real-world connections into the classroom, and placing students in unique internship experiences."

Campbell won't take all the credit for the top-notch internship opportunities her students experienced through the years. Their work ethic and ability to do the job asked of them made it easy to persuade internship coordinators to accept a Wartburg student.

"They'll say that our students are more dependable and eager to do the work. They might be quieter at first but have the potential to really blossom," Campbell said.

Campbell's connections continued to help Foster as an alumna. When Foster and her husband, Charles, returned to Iowa to start Fosters Mattress in Waterloo, Campbell stepped in with critical contacts to help the couple with their start-up.

"Gloria was an excellent sounding board to let us bounce ideas off, and she is always willing to share her insights on the local







Read more online at [www.wartburg.edu/gloria-campbell-trend-setter/](http://www.wartburg.edu/gloria-campbell-trend-setter/).

market and business trends,” Foster said. “We were starting from scratch, and having a wealth of knowledge in our friendship circle was a huge bonus.

“Gloria is a class act,” Foster said. “I’m blessed to have Professor Campbell in my life, as a professor, leader, mentor, and lifelong friend.”

## GIVING BACK AFTER GRADUATION

When business students become alumni, they often stay in touch and become personally involved through the department’s Career Directions and Connections panel.

Campbell started the event in the mid-1990s with about 15 alumni. The annual event, held during Homecoming weekend, now draws about 20 graduates who return to help students network and identify current trends in their chosen fields.

“We try to bring back the intellectual capital they’ve developed on their jobs, to help students visualize what they do and see the variety of positions,” Campbell said.

## LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Some of Campbell’s favorite classes were the ones that took students off campus to explore industries in their element.

Among the front-runners: 2008’s Motorcycles and Management class, which she taught with former board of regents member **Ozzie Scofield ’63**. The class traveled to a motorcycle factory in Milwaukee and the Motorcycle Hall of Fame in Columbus, Ohio.

“Gloria showed me during our May Term class that all of the ingredients that have made Wartburg important to me for more than 50 years have survived and are alive and well in our faculty,” Scofield said. “She continues the practice of professor involvement in student lives. Her enthusiasm is contagious and hard to replicate. She is the very best of what makes Wartburg a unique experience.”


Another favorite was Music Industry, which led students to the Minneapolis headquarters of Target and Best Buy. The trip gave students a unique look at an industry as it started to slip.

“When you teach a trends class, there are no ‘trends’ in management books. You have to develop your own content,” Campbell said. “What are the issues? What are the topics and technology coming forward?”

Campbell’s next chapter includes more time with her family. However, she’s still making time for a part-time position on campus as the sponsored programs administrator, which will allow her to continue to work with the faculty and community writing grants to benefit all areas of the college.

“I have no doubt that Gloria will bring the same commitment and diligence to her new position that she has focused on her teaching and advising,” Folkers said.

In fact, Campbell was networking immediately in her new post, reaching out to faculty on sabbatical for part of next year, said Folkers, “encouraging us to think creatively about ways that we could use part of our sabbatical time to partner with her on grant-writing projects.”

Always thinking forward. 



# *Finding his* **RHYTHM**

*Klaassen lifts Orange Drumline to next level*

**BY** STEPHANIE ROBBINS BOEDING '99 **PHOTOS** JULIE DREWES '90

**YOU MAY NOT EXPECT A DRUMMING GROUP** to catch your eye as much as your ear. But at Kastle Kapers last fall, Wartburg's Orange Drumline did just that, wowing the crowd with its choreography as much as its sound.

The performance featured bass drums pushed on wheeled carts, and at the climax, snare-drummer **Stephen Klaassen '18** was standing atop the drums of two other snare players. The audience roared with shouts and applause in approval of the 4-year-old music group, which is finding its niche. You can see the performance at [www.wartburg.edu/finding-his-rhythm/](http://www.wartburg.edu/finding-his-rhythm/).

When Klaassen started at Wartburg, the Orange Drumline still was in its infancy.

"I heard there was a drumline just getting started, and I looked forward to a leadership opportunity," the biology major said.

The organization wasn't ready for the competitive environment Klaassen thrived on in his large high school, where the marching band program placed as high as sixth nationally at the Music for All Bands of America Grand National Championships.

Klaassen knew that when he chose Wartburg. But the college's nationally known medical science program and his family's Wartburg legacy—he's the fourth generation to attend; his parents are **Daniel '88** and **Katherine Janssen '85 Klaassen**—brought him from Broken Arrow, Okla.

And he's making the most of his experiences. Though it doesn't directly impact his biology studies, Klaassen said drumline does enrich his college experience and provide a

leadership opportunity that can't be found in the classroom.

"Drumline is a way for me to reach out and impact others through past experiences that I have," Klaassen said. "It is a nice change of pace from the textbooks, and it enhances team-building and leadership skills."

The drumline vice president also is sharing love of drumming and his expertise to cultivate the next generation of drummers by volunteering with the Denver High School band.

"He was able to devote a lot of time and energy to the drummers' improvement and brought a level of expertise that I don't have," said **Dan Cooper '01**, Denver High School band instructor. "He really did a lot to develop the skill and confidence of our players."

Next fall, as Orange Drumline president, he hopes to host the organization's first one-day drumline camp for high school students.

Klaassen also has started a new indoor drumline group, Revolution Indoor Percussion. Participation is open to the Waverly community, and the group incorporates marching drums and a stationary front ensemble to create thematic shows during the winter months. Revolution's 21 members march on a giant tarp and rehearse weekly at The W.

"Indoor drumlines are not well-known around here, and that's one reason we wanted to start one," Klaassen said. "It can serve as an inspiration to the community."

Klaassen hopes raising the groups' visibility around the community will lead to more drumline outings; Revolution



## Book the Orange Drumline

If you'd like Wartburg Drumline to perform at your school or community event, contact Stephen Klaassen at [stephen.klaassen@wartburg.edu](mailto:stephen.klaassen@wartburg.edu).

booked performances at area high schools this spring, and Orange Drumline will be looking for more shows in the fall.

"We can't compete with this group just yet, but we can have local shows at high schools to spread the knowledge of indoor percussion ensembles and inspire others through it," Klaassen said. "Then hopefully down the road, we will be able to compete at local and regional competitions."

To do that, the drumline also must build up its equipment arsenal, a daunting task for a fledgling group that started with mostly secondhand and loaned drums. Though the student organization does receive some funds from Student Senate, it's not nearly enough to buy and maintain the pieces they need.

Some members have stepped up and purchased music, drumsticks, and drum heads on their own, but there are other more expensive items still on the wish list. Now they are raising funds for new drum harnesses, drum heads, a bass drum, snare drums, a vibraphone, and a marimba.

"Previous drumline presidents had to buy the cheapest harnesses possible, and we're honestly finding them to be inadequate to do what we need to do," Klaassen said.

He won't, however, allow that to stand in the way of his vision to build up the Orange Drumline and push his fellow musicians to bigger and better performances, a view he shares with this year's president, **Steven Zahn '16**.

In addition to Kastle Kapers, the drumline played with the Pep Band at Wartburg football games, accompanied the Outfly morning proclamation, and performed along Bremer Avenue for Waverly's popular Christmas on Main event.

To prepare for these events, drumline members commit to weekly practices and must memorize the music. The men and women—most are not music majors—play snare, tenor, and bass drums as well as cymbals.

Though most of the drumline's 10 to 12 members took the summer off, Klaassen knew the group couldn't simply wait until fall if the performing percussionists wanted to reach the next level.

"A friend and I back home started writing music and the drill, the choreography," Klaassen said. "Then we sent that music out so people could start looking at it over the summer, and when we got back to campus, we started rehearsals."

The extra effort paid off on the big stage during Kastle Kapers.

"We've played at Kastle Kapers for four years, and this year was our best," said Zahn, who graduates in May. "I can't wait to see their performance next year—I'm coming back to see it." 🍷

"[Drumline] is a nice change of pace from the textbooks, and it enhances team-building and leadership skills."

— Stephen Klaassen '18







# The SOMEWHAT MESSY

## Path to Landing My Dream Job

BY KRISTIN CANNING '14

### THE NIGHT BEFORE MY FIRST DAY OF WORK AT *SELF* MAGAZINE,

I slept on an air mattress in a closet. I set four alarms on my phone, worried that I wouldn't wake up in time to navigate the subways from my friend's tiny Brooklyn apartment to my office at One World Trade Center in Manhattan. I stayed up late scouring Craigslist for apartments; I had two weeks to find a place to live—I'd couch surf until then.

I had packed my suitcase full of sensible (yet what I thought were fashionable) clothes that wouldn't wrinkle too much. I stocked up on Lunchables since I had nowhere to keep or prepare food, which made me feel like I was 12.

I've come a long way since my first two weeks of "real-world" work as an editorial assistant. I can offer sound subway directions to tourists. I've made it through a year of paying rent in New York City and discovered my favorite parks, a go-to Indian restaurant, and the fastest Starbucks baristas on my commute. I survived a round of layoffs and added job responsibilities. I just got into a new apartment without any help or guidance from my parents, which felt like a truly adult move. I feel a bit smarter and stronger for all of it.

I spend my days pitching, researching, reporting, writing, and editing for *SELF*, a health and fitness magazine for women in their 20s and 30s. I also assist our top editors, which often involves attending events, testing new exercise gear, and trying out boutique fitness classes before and after work and reporting back to them. I work long hours, but it's fulfilling work with a team I love. I also travel to cover events and explore the fitness and foodie scene in new areas. Biking and kayaking in Vancouver before watching the U.S. Women's National Team play in the World Cup



definitely tops the list. To date, I've completed an Ironman 70.3 and run two half marathons as part of the *SELF* team. The racing culture feels like home for a Wartburg track and field graduate.

I couldn't ask for a better gig. It's something I've dreamed about since

I saw *13 Going on 30* in middle school and wanted more than anything to be Jenna Rink, the main character who works at a glamorous women's magazine. The obsession grew when I fell in love with reporting while working on my high school newspaper staff. Writing for the *Wartburg Trumpet* and *Wartburg Magazine* set me up for the internship that arguably got me my job.

I spent the summer of 2013 in New York City as an intern at *SELF* through the American Society of Magazine Editors internship program, making invaluable connections (including friends who would later let me crash on their couch). I also gained experience and met mentors through internships at *The Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier*, Rada Manufacturing Co., and VGM Forbin, as well as during my student employment in Wartburg's Marketing & Communication Office and through my communication arts curriculum.

After graduation, I applied for several positions in New York City, wanting to get back and see if I could make it there for real. I got a phone interview at *SELF* for the position I currently hold, but I didn't get it. I was discouraged, but not enough to give up. I knew it would be extremely difficult for me to get a job in the magazine industry straight out of college, especially if I was so far away



that I couldn't meet my future bosses in person. So when the opportunity came along, I took a post-grad internship in Pennsylvania at *Men's Health* magazine.

I packed up my car and drove with my dad across the country, moving in

with a friend I'd met as an intern in New York. I interviewed scientists, taste-tested protein powders, and went on weekly runs with the neighboring editors at *Runner's World*. And I didn't give up on the *SELF* job and New York City. When new positions opened up, I applied. I reached out to my contacts. I took the 5 a.m. bus two hours into the city for interviews. And when the time was right, it happened. I got the job.

I had to start a week later.

Since it was too expensive to commute from Pennsylvania until I found an apartment in the city, I'd arranged for three nights in my friend's closet, two nights on my other friend's couch, and a week in the bedroom of a fellow Wartburg track and field alum and friend who lived in New Jersey, while he and his roommates

were home for the holidays. When it came time to spend the week in New Jersey, none of the tenants were home, and I didn't have a key, so (per my friend's directions) I took off a window screen and crawled in. I was terrified someone was going to call the cops because they thought I was robbing the place. Those first few weeks weren't easy. But they were worth it. I always thought of it as an adventure—and a good story.

I'll never get tired of the city lights, but I miss the wide open spaces in Iowa, the fresh air, and having a car. My wallet misses the lower cost of living. Most of all, I wish I could see family and friends more often. But I'm proud of where I am and what I'm doing. The city is exhausting, and it tests you every day. But I love a good challenge. There's nothing



quite like New York City. And now that I'm (somewhat) settled a year later, the hustle and bustle feels like home.

I celebrate daily victories, both big (President Barack Obama tweeting the link to my article about the Affordable Care Act's effect on women's careers) and small (a pat on the back from our editor in chief). I get to see my name in print and learn something new every day, and

I'm certainly never bored. Plus, I get to practice healthy habits on the clock; I even lead our daily staff meditation session.

As I folded my clothes in the laundromat recently (how New York!), my mom texted me: "*13 Going on 30* is on TV, love this

movie. You're Jenna Rink." I don't have the private office and enviable wardrobe yet, but I'll take it. That's one of the best compliments I could get. 🙌





## THE LAST OF THE CLINTON HALL

# HOUSEMOTHERS

BY ALAN SIMMER '07

**FLORENCE HUTSON SENT HER SON, David '65**, to Wartburg in 1961. Little did she know she'd be following in his footsteps five years later.

**Earnest Oppermann '38**, dean of students, approached Florence about an on-campus opportunity as a residence hall housemother in 1966 after her husband was killed in a farming accident.

"I said I had no related experience, to which he replied that 'anyone who survived raising your son is qualified to be a housemother,'" Florence said. "So I took the job."

Her official title from 1966 to 1973 was head resident of Clinton Hall, but the only things the students ever called her were "Housemother" or "Mom." While her duties weren't officially listed, Florence said it was understood her job was to promote a pleasant and safe environment in which students could live and learn.

In the earlier years, that involved regular room checks "to prevent anything too dangerous or too messy from developing."

"I would leave notes for the worst offenders. The notes would become more threatening when things did not improve," she said. "It sometimes became a kind of competition among those students to see who was in the most trouble."

However, it was Florence's unofficial duty—simply being there for students—that was far more important to the Rev. **Warren Freiheit '70**.

"For me, as a freshman, having been raised on a farm, being away from home, she was a warm, smiling, caring person who was very important and very helpful to me," he said.

In addition to a kind smile, Florence also was willing to lend a hand.

"Occasionally there was a button to be sewed on or shirt to be pressed," she said, recalling she also baked cookies for the hall's annual Christmas parties. At one of those events, the residents presented her with a radio in a cherry wood cabinet.

That radio went in her apartment on One North, which was complete with a living room, dining room, kitchen, bedroom, bath, and office. When the college closed for the summer, Florence would return to Sibley, Ill., and spend time with relatives—a sometimes refreshing break from the antics of the students.

"There was the time the third-floor residents dammed up the bathroom door, creating a significant swimming pool, and the night students from off-campus houses engaged in a water fight with my boys to the point of water cascading down the stairwells," she recalled. "I responded in my most authoritarian voice by yelling, 'You outside guys get out immediately, and the rest of you get out the mops and clean it up, then get to your rooms.'"

"I also remember the night large pieces of flaming debris went flying by my apartment window. Upon determining who



Florence Hutson, pictured here on her 99th birthday, still has fond memories of her years at Wartburg.





## Housemothers through history

The history of housemothers runs deep at Wartburg—all the way back to 1861 and the St. Sebald campus.

That year, Auguste von Schwartz came to the college from St. Petersburg, Russia, to serve as *hausmutter*. Though the position was discontinued after the college shifted to Galena, Ill., in 1868, it was reinstated in 1910 on the Waverly campus when the college began accepting both men and women.



Anna Vollmer was the first housemother in Wartburg Hall, the first women's residence hall built on campus, and she served from 1910 to 1923. She was "like a mother to all," according to *Still on the Move: Wartburg College 1852-2002*, Ron Matthias' history of the first 150 years of the college.

Vollmer Hall, which houses many first-year students, still bears her name. It was the first building named for a woman on campus—and the only one for a half-century.

The end of the role of housemothers—or head residents, as they came to be known—came in 1973. With increasingly liberal attitudes came less desire to police students' free time and fewer rules governing it, as evidenced by the abolition of the last vestiges of women's hours by the board of regents in 1971.

Many of the support roles filled by head residents are now taken up by student resident assistants on each floor.



"It often felt like I had a few hundred sons instead of one. I have so many memories of my years in Clinton Hall. They were important and wonderful years in my life."

— Florence Hutson

had done it, I told him to go outside and put it out. What I didn't expect was that he would try to stomp it out with his bare feet."

Though she brought an end to those shenanigans, Florence wasn't known as a strict housemother.

"There was a panty raid one time, and I was the bugler out the window," Freiheit said. "The incident was recognized at that time by the dean, but he didn't know who the bugler was."

And his housemother didn't give him away.

"She always just kind of shook her head and smiled," Freiheit said.

"Panty raids were pretty much an annual event. One year Dean Oppermann suggested I should attempt to intervene. When I asked what approach I should use to stop a group of young men, many of whom had had a few beers, from carrying out these raids, he had no answer," she said. "The boys were sometimes just feeling their oats."

Ron Shinn, a custodian known on campus as Sheriff Shinn, tried to deputize Florence one evening when she was out for a walk. He asked for her help in breaking up a noisy keg party in the Clinton Hall game room.

"I pointed out that he was the 'lawman' on campus," she said, adding that the party had disbanded by the time she returned to the hall.

The changes at Wartburg over her seven-year stint were largely reflective of broader society.

"Men's hair got longer, and they sported more facial hair. The curfew hours for women got later and, I think, actually ended completely by the time I left. Room checks were dropped and convocation attendance requirements were eased," she said.

Campus living had its perks, from concerts and plays to Homecoming celebrations and Outfly, but working with students was the most important benefit for Florence, who recently celebrated her 99th birthday.

"I fondly remember many individual relationships with students," she said. "It often felt like I had a few hundred sons instead of one. I have so many memories of my years in Clinton Hall. They were important and wonderful years in my life."

Her students, like Freiheit, still remember her warmly as well.

"I very much appreciated her," he said. "She was a kind face who was always there with a smile." 🍷



# A Caring Heart

*Bell helps refugee children in Africa find new homes*

**BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN PHOTOS NATHALIE PERROUD/ICMC**

**EVERY MONTH BETWEEN 200 AND 300** unaccompanied children arrive at one of four refugee camps operated by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) near Shire, Ethiopia. They come seeking shelter and safety from a myriad of hardships and atrocities facing them in the neighboring country of Eritrea.

**Jason Bell '03** is often there to greet them. For four years, Bell, a best-interest determination specialist, has worked through the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC)-United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Resettlement Deployment Scheme to help these children find a life offering the stability and security that is hard to come by in their own heavily militarized country.

“Each population has its own needs and issues depending on the country they are coming from and the problems they faced in those countries,” Bell said. “In Shire, we have about 2,000 children we are trying to help. It’s rare that you see this many unaccompanied children in one camp.”



Jason Bell '03

## **Under scrutiny**

In recent months, stories of refugees seeking asylum have flooded international media outlets, with the faces of those fleeing Syria dominating much of the coverage.

In the U.S. and abroad, those stories have been intermingled with media reports on the terrorist attacks in Paris in November and San Bernardino, Calif., in December. Though the Islamic State (formerly ISIS/ISIL) claimed responsibility for the Paris attacks, no connections have been made between either of the attacks and Syrian refugees.

Numerous lawmakers and U.S. governors have raised questions about the country’s vetting process for refugees, with several governors going so far as to say they would close down their states to refugees seeking asylum.

Bell finds the anti-refugee rhetoric distressing. “There’s been a real fear, and a legitimate fear, that people have for their security when incidents like what happened in Paris and San Bernardino make the news,” he said. “They want to make sure people aren’t taking advantage of the program, but the reality is something very different.”

According to the U.S. government, refugees undergo a more rigorous vetting process than any other group entering the country. Since 2001, 750,000 refugees have been resettled in the United States. None have been convicted of carrying out a terrorist attack.

“Pointing toward refugees as a potential threat is not a good outlet for that fear. It also makes my work more difficult because we are trying to help the people who are fleeing the actual





violence people here are so afraid of,” Bell said.

“Refugees are being punished twice for that. They are suffering from having to leave their country and then the xenophobia that’s been prevalent in the media and around the U.S.”

These challenges make Bell’s work harder for the people he serves in Ethiopia—men, women, and children who have lived through difficulties he believes most Americans are unable to comprehend.

“I consider myself fortunate to be in a position to help others and give back to others who really need help,” he said. “I’m in a position where I am able to see the benefits of the work I am doing. I have seen several children resettled in new countries and placed in better surroundings and situations. That motivates me to continue with my work.”

### *In the field*

Many of the unaccompanied children Bell works with in Ethiopia are actually young men seeking refuge from mandatory and sometimes indefinite military service. Service begins no later than the young man’s 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and can begin much earlier. Refugees fleeing military service are unable to return to Eritrea, where a shoot-to-kill policy is maintained along the border.

With no chance of returning to their homeland, the unaccompanied minors are left with only two options: pay smugglers to help them reach Europe or work with Bell to find a permanent home.

“We try to look for distant relatives or for people from the child’s home community who will take responsibility for them, but that is usually quite difficult,” Bell said. “With the high number of people leaving on a secondary migration (seeking potentially illegal ways out of the country), it’s hard to convince them to take responsibility for another person.”

The process itself usually takes four to six weeks. Bell interviews the child and anyone who knows the child. Follow-ups might be needed. He assesses the child’s living situation at the camp and then writes a report

summarizing his findings. The report is reviewed by experts from several agencies who are charged with determining the best way forward for the child.

Some children are united with family members in other refugee camps or around the world. If the child is recommended for resettlement in another country, the wait for a placement can be much longer, usually six to 10 months. Resettlement placements for adults and families can take up to two years.

“The process is expedited some because of the urgency required with unaccompanied children,” Bell said. “There is no one to take care of them here, and they want the older children especially to be resettled so there is more support for them before they age out of the system.”

Most Eritrean youth recommended for resettlement find permanent placements in the U.S., where families obtain legal guardianship of them or they become part of a special government-run foster care program.

Those who operate the refugee camps rely on community-based care to help keep tabs on the unaccompanied minors while they wait. Children of a similar age and gender are housed together in groups of six to eight. The children in the home are responsible for providing basic needs and take turns preparing meals and cleaning the home. Families who live near the unaccompanied children can respond if there is a problem in the house.

Trained refugee social workers—other refugees living in the same camp—also



check in on the children to ensure their safety, distribute necessities, and make sure they are attending school.

### *Savoring the successes*

Bell specifically remembers a December 2013 flight from Addis Ababa to the U.S.

Unbeknownst to him, five children from his camp were taking the same flight, the last leg in their journey to a new beginning.

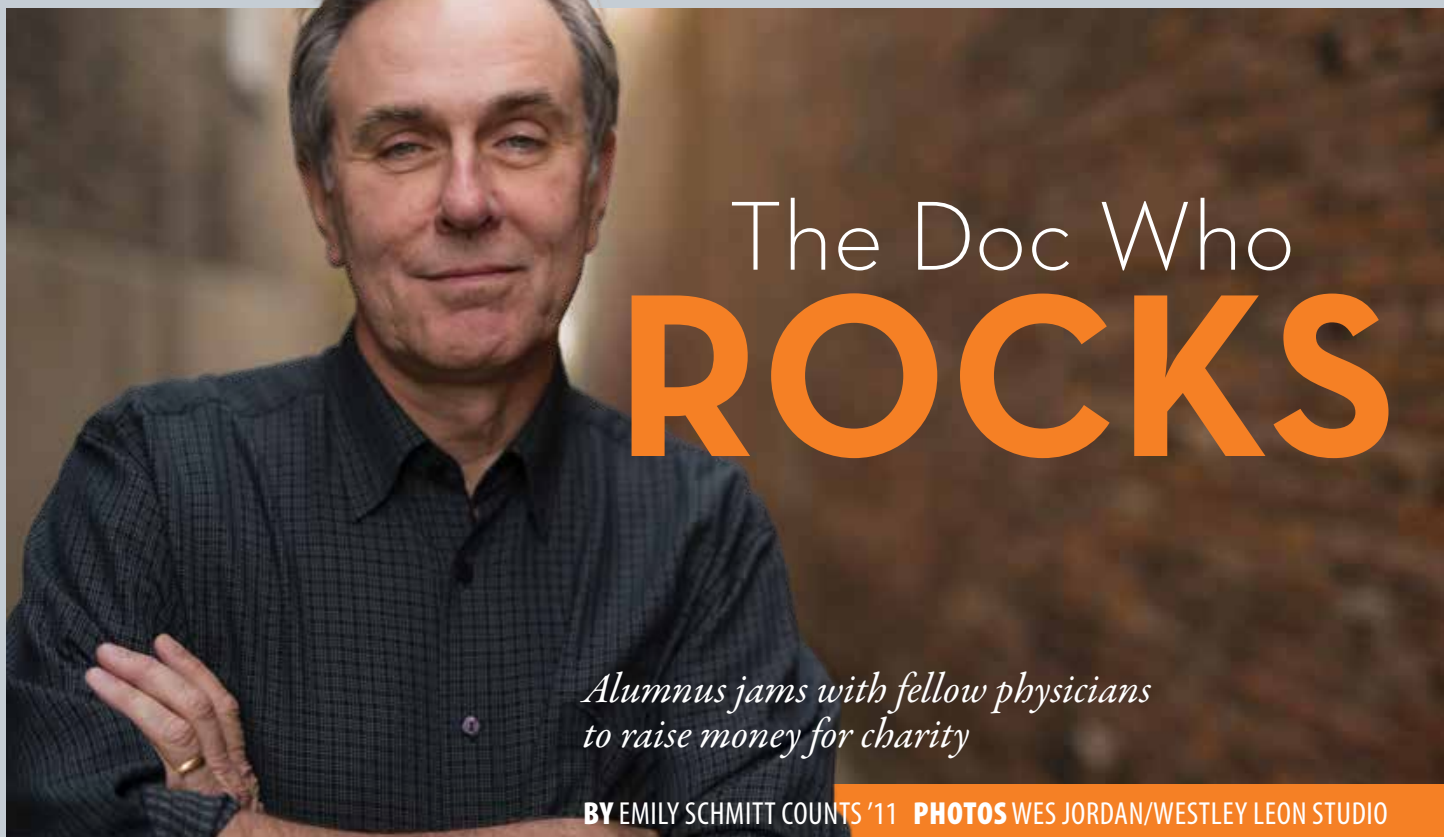
“I had the chance to spend several hours discussing the new life awaiting them overseas,” he said. “The children had many questions about what life would be like. They also spoke of their desire to complete school. Being able to see these children get a chance for a better future gave me a renewed sense of motivation and fulfillment.”

He also treasures the videos, which have words of hope and encouragement from those who have already made the trek to the States, that are shared with children still in the refugee camp. Once in a while, he even sees a familiar face.

Though Bell had no idea that this was where his future would lead—he once considered a music major before switching gears to pursue political science and international relations—he’s thankful for an education that prepared him for whatever he decided to pursue.

“I’ve always been interested in government and political systems and cultures different from our own and how we relate,” Bell said. “I utilized the whole idea of a liberal arts education to try and learn about my interests and many different fields. That led me to a place where I am very happy and love what I am doing.”





# The Doc Who **ROCKS**

*Alumnus jams with fellow physicians  
to raise money for charity*

BY EMILY SCHMITT COUNTS '11 PHOTOS WES JORDAN/WESTLEY LEON STUDIO

**HIS CLIENTS KNOW HIM AS DR. HARRIS.** His fans know him as a doctor of rock. **Jim Harris '75** will happily answer to either.

Ten years ago, Harris was one of several Michigan and Indiana doctors who banded together to compete in a battle of the bands fundraiser for St. Joseph Medical Center in South Bend, Ind. They jokingly named themselves Vyagra Falls.

Despite only seven weeks of rehearsal, the quintet pulled out a big win.

"We literally learned six or seven songs as a band," said Harris, an allergist who sings and plays keyboard. "People liked the band, so we kept playing, and the name stuck."

Though the fundraiser was intended to be the band's only performance, the public support pushed the busy docs to continue to pursue their second talent. Ten years later they still take the stage, usually at community fundraisers, playing rock 'n' roll hits from the '60s through present day.

Harris and his band mates—who currently include a neurosurgeon, cardiologist, family physician, and pharmaceutical rep—have used their love of music to raise money at more than 60 charity events benefiting everything from research for children's cancer and heart disease to homeless and women's shelters and families in need.

"The chemistry was just right for us to become a band and do great things together," Harris said. "We have helped raise well over \$1 million for charity, and we are not done yet."

Harris also has his own solo act, performing at restaurants, local entertainment venues, senior centers, and retirement homes. Money collected from those gigs also is donated.

His love for music and performing was nurtured through his childhood. His grandmother was a church organist; his father was a barbershop quartet judge. He started playing piano at 8 and learned to play organ when he was 12. He played the organ at a local church through high school.

"The music and science buildings were right next to each other, so I didn't have to go far to do them both. It enabled me to take part in things that I probably wouldn't have been able to at a larger school."

— Jim Harris '75

Despite his longstanding love of music, he also had a strong desire to practice medicine and plenty of role models to show him the way. His father and grandfather were dentists, and his mother was a nurse.


"I just wanted to take care of people and have a career that was both challenging and rewarding," he said.

He found a way to pursue both passions at Wartburg.

"Wartburg's size was ideal because it gave me a chance to keep up with and improve my keyboard skills while also preparing for medical school," he said. "The music and science buildings were right next to each other, so I didn't have to go far to do them both. It enabled me to take part in things that I probably wouldn't have been able to at a larger school."

After graduation, Harris entered medical school at the University of Iowa. His own experience with childhood allergies and asthma led him to pursue a career as an allergist. Today, he lives in South Bend with his wife, Holly, a dermatologist. The couple practice at the South Bend Clinic, where Harris has served many years in leadership roles, currently as vice president.

While Harris doesn't intend to quit his day job, he does plan to continue to perform music as a way to raise money for charity.

"I have truly been blessed, to be able to follow my passions for both medicine and music and to have the opportunity to give back in so many ways," Harris said. "These past 10 years have been the best of my career, and I appreciate my Wartburg years now more than ever." 





THE SCIENCE OF  
**Teaching**

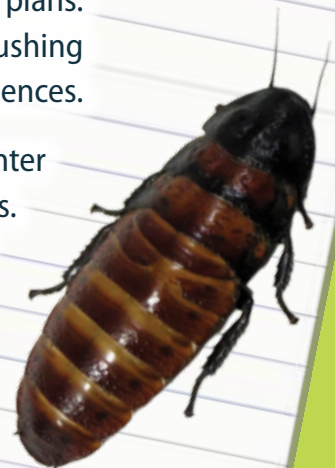
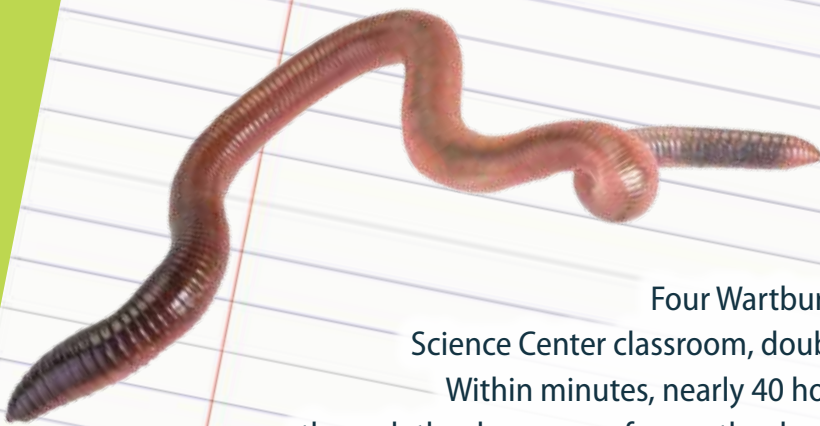
*Students get hands-on experience  
educating home-schoolers*

**BY MOLLY SCHMITT '17 PHOTOS JULIE DREWES '90**

Four Wartburg students stand at the front of the Science Center classroom, double-checking the day's lesson plans. Within minutes, nearly 40 home-schooled students are pushing through the door, eager for another hour of hands-on science experiences.

On today's agenda: an up-close-and-personal encounter with worms, cockroaches, and tarantulas.

The slithering and skittering creatures—all part of Dr. Michael Bechtel's on-campus animal collection—will teach area home-schooled students more about invertebrates.







Josie Esser '16 walks two young students through an exercise about plant cell parts.



A group of mostly third-year students in Bechtel's Elementary Science Methods class developed 11 age-appropriate K-6 lessons covering everything from plant and animal cells to the characteristics of life to taxonomy. The classroom experience is an opportunity to give the lessons a real-life test drive.



Bechtel '94

"I feel that part of my mission is to connect Wartburg with the community and connect my students with teaching practicum," said **Bechtel '94**, assistant professor of science education, who did both through a partnership with

Karen Halsor, a Waverly mother.

Halsor approached Bechtel at the beginning of Fall Term to see if the college had any pre-service teachers who could teach her children more in-depth science concepts. Bechtel went one step further, offering to coordinate a full-blown course.

"It's a great way to get our home-schooled families on campus and an amazing way to represent Wartburg College," Bechtel said.

While Halsor worked to encourage participation in her home-schooled

circles, Bechtel sought student volunteers from his Elementary Science Methods course who are required to complete five hours in a classroom. While it is easy to log the hours, seeing science education in action isn't a guarantee.

"Sadly, science is often the first subject cut from a busy day. Students would get their field experience hours in without ever seeing science being taught or teaching science," said **Jessica Brimeyer '17**. "This is one of the many great opportunities Dr. Bechtel has created so that we are able to teach science. That's where Wartburg's really special, because at a lot of schools you don't get to do that."



## REACHING ALL AGES

Wartburg students prepared and shared the curriculum with families prior to each class so the young students could come in ready to learn. Each week, the education students split the home-schoolers into smaller groups and led them through a hands-on lesson.

"Since we were working with such a wide range of ages, it was easier to differentiate the instruction in smaller groups so we could meet the needs of each student," said Brimeyer, an elementary education major.

Despite early concerns, reaching each student at their level proved easier than expected.

"I didn't think the youngest students would get much out of our lessons because the material we were covering—the characteristics of life and plant and animal cells—was much too complicated for a 5-year-old," Brimeyer said. "However, the younger kids surprised me, and it was evident they learned a lot."

Bechtel said even though the idea of grouping 6-year-olds with 12-year-olds is untraditional in an educational setting, it taught his students to look at what each child has to offer.

"You need to capitalize on your strengths in the class, work with your weaknesses, and work within the confines of the classroom," he said.



The question of how successful and beneficial the course was for all involved was clear to Bechtel, Brimeyer, and Halsor. Bechtel hopes the partnership can continue next fall.

“One thing that I hope we realize is how many resources are right here in Waverly, especially on campus. Not only do we have resources for the education part, but we also have resources for the science part,” Bechtel said. “The problem is that when you are so close to something, you don’t realize how great it is.”

## STUDENTS ON BOTH SIDES BENEFIT

Students who seek out additional opportunities will be rewarded for their efforts when they begin searching for student-teaching placements and full-time positions, Bechtel said. Instead of having only watched teachers teach—though they’ve done that, too—they will have logged hours at the front of the classroom long before their peers.

“This opportunity allows our students to practice the Next Generation Science Standards, which were just adopted by Iowa, with an excited clientele,” Bechtel said. “The unique opportunity also allows students a chance to scale pedagogical practices. I would think that few, if any, other academic institutions have the capability for pre-service students to write, practice, and reflect upon science disciplines in such a nurturing setting.”



Taylor Officer '17 leads a home-schooled student through a lesson about plant cell parts.

For many of the parents, the lessons helped fill a gap in their knowledge base while allowing their children to experience a different style of learning in a new environment.

“We wanted to better utilize the resources available within our community. Science is hard to teach at home,” Halsor said. “The level of teaching we do at home is a pretty simple machine. We are talking about levers and matter there, but here there’s a different brain helping with the science component of it.”

“One thing that I hope we realize is how many resources are right here in Waverly, especially on campus. Not only do we have resources for the education part, but we also have resources for the science part.”

— Dr. Michael Bechtel '94



Students learned more about animals by exploring Dr. Michael Bechtel’s extensive collection, which includes this tarantula being shown to the group by Alyssa Christopher '17.

# Taking Flight

*Entrepreneur finds success in communication, fashion industries*

**BY SUZANNE HESEMAN BEHNKE '97**

**ALYSSA CONNELL '02 GREW UP IN A TRAILER** off the ramp of an airport. Her grandfather is a flight instructor and multi-rated pilot. Her grandmother is a private pilot, and her father is a flight instructor, multi-rated pilot, and nationally recognized aviator. Her uncle and brother are both private pilots.

To say that aviation runs in her blood might be an understatement—she hopes to take her first solo flight this summer—so it came as no surprise when Connell, a communication arts major, combined her passion for flying with her love of marketing to open Connell Aviation Group, an aviation and aerospace communication firm based in Cedar Falls with offices in Arizona and Minnesota.

“We have a worldwide client base with a trajectory for growth that is straight up,” she said.

Connell Aviation Group isn't the only investment for this young entrepreneur. She also runs Connell Communications Inc., a general turnkey marketing and communication firm; The Point of Style, a women's clothing boutique; and runway THREE-SIX, an aviation/aerospace apparel shop that opened in early March.

Here is what the National Association of Professional Women's 2014 Woman of the Year had to say about her time at Wartburg, being an entrepreneur, and making the most of a college experience.



**QUESTION:** What experiences as a student sparked your entrepreneurship or fueled your abilities as a leader and person in business?

**CONNELL:** When I was a student at Wartburg, I developed the entrepreneur spirit. Because of the vast leadership roles offered to students, it was easy to gain a working knowledge of guiding people and organizations. And because of the college's servant-leadership focus, it has always been my focus to find ways to make a positive impact.

**Q:** What were some of the challenges you faced in starting your own business, and how did you overcome those?

**C:** I think one of the hardest challenges any new business owner faces is effectively articulating your vision to others. That, and stamina to see it through. This is some of the hardest work I've ever done but also the most rewarding.

**Q:** Going forward, how do you see yourself and your companies working in the world?

**C:** The aviation and aerospace industry is underserved. While it has been a tough year for the economy with only glimpses of slow growth, we are able to serve the market with affordable communications programs. That's how we have found our

niche. We modeled our business after serving those without large budgets or resources. Because of this model, the rise and fall of the markets hasn't hurt us. In fact, it has made us the option for those who can't execute better communications in-house. With more than 7,000 airports in America, plus the thousands of related suppliers and manufacturers, Connell Aviation Group has more opportunity than we can fulfill.

**Q:** What are the perks or benefits of being in charge of your own business?

**C:** In previous roles, I've had to stay within the confines of someone else's boundaries. We often use the expression around the office, “There is no glass ceiling when the sky is home.” I really like being in charge of running a business







“I cannot imagine receiving a better foundation to launch from than what I received at Wartburg. ... As an alumna of Wartburg, I know the resources are there to help get me to where I want to go.”

— Alyssa Connell '02

but also realize how vitally important it is to have the right team alongside you. One of the greatest perks I exercise is the ability to adjust my schedule to spend time with my young children. Putting them on the school bus every day, attending their events, carpooling friends, and helping with homework, these are the moments in life you can never get back.

**Q:** How are you able to fit in downtime?

**C:** I am on most of the time. Downtime is precious and sacred. Too much of anything is likely too much—finding a balance truly is key to it all. I haven't perfected it completely; it's more like a work in progress.

**Q:** How does your Wartburg education come into play in your day?

**C:** I call on my experiences at Wartburg College daily. I cannot imagine receiving a better foundation to launch from than what I received at Wartburg. There are still so many goals I haven't reached. As an alumna of Wartburg, I know the resources are there to help get me to where I want to go.

**Q:** What advice would you give to Wartburg students based on your professional experiences so far?

**C:** First of all, we love Wartburg students at our company and have employed several in important communications roles. I would tell Wartburg students to pay attention to how they communicate. Unfortunately, most people have the attention span of an Instagram feed. However, the written word is still valuable. Good written and oral communication skills are what will set recent graduates apart in a crowd. For the students thinking of starting their own business: Work for someone else first. Gain some experience on their dime. 📖



# IN THE HUNT

*Welsch lands job assisting CEO  
of major sports ownership group*

BY CLINT RIESE '05



# FAST BREAK

*Oswald uses Wartburg connections to get a start in the NBA*

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN PHOTO JULIE DREWES '90

**WHILE OTHER 10-YEAR-OLD BOYS** were dreaming of the day they would make it big in the NBA, **Jacob Oswald '10** was busy cultivating a lofty dream of his own. Instead of sweating it out on the court, he wanted to be the man on the sidelines calling all the shots.

A chance meeting with Mike Procopio, the player development coordinator for the Dallas Mavericks, during a basketball camp on the Wartburg campus turned out to be the connection he needed to break into the big leagues.

Last summer, Procopio took to Twitter seeking new candidates for the Mavs' player development internship program. Oswald landed a coveted interview during the NBA Summer League in Las Vegas.

Today, he splits time between Dallas and Waverly, where his wife, **Kendra Christensen Oswald '08**, still lives.

On the court, he facilitates individual and group skill development workouts, primarily working with young and newly acquired players.

"On a game day, we go in early in the morning, do some individual workouts with the younger guys, then move into the full team, and we just rebound and make sure things run smoothly," he said. "Then we come back in a few hours before the game for more individual, on-the-floor work to get used to the arena and lighting."



## LAMAR HUNT, SON OF A TEXAS OIL

**MAGNATE**, brought the Chiefs to Kansas City, helped launch Major League Soccer, and founded the American Football League. When the champions of the AFL and the rival National Football League began squaring off annually, he coined the phrase “Super Bowl.”

Today, the late icon’s billion-dollar empire is run by his son Clark, who is chairman and CEO. Just down the hall from Clark Hunt’s office, **Nathan Welsch ’11** handles correspondence, research, and much more as the communications coordinator for Hunt Sports Group, which owns the Chiefs and the MLS team FC Dallas.

In essence, the 27-year-old is an assistant to the CEO. When Hunt identifies potential improvements to fans’ gameday experience, he puts Welsch on them. When he makes public appearances, Welsch is there, too. And Welsch keeps an ear to the ground for business opportunities to put on Hunt’s radar.

“It’s a very unique job. You never know what’s going to come up,” he said.

### A LITTLE HELP FROM HIS FRIENDS

For a young professional, such high-stakes business experience is the stuff dreams are made of. What got Welsch there, though, wasn’t a picture-perfect portfolio but a strong Wartburg connection.

Welsch majored in business and prepped for a career in athletics by working on

Wartburg’s sports information staff and interning as a recreational league coordinator through Wartburg West.

In early 2012, Welsch got the assist of a lifetime from his former sports information manager, **Luke Shanno ’09**, now a corporate communications manager for the Chiefs.

“We had a good working relationship at Wartburg, and he said, ‘Hey, I know Clark and the family are looking for somebody down in Dallas,’” Welsch said.

The lead brought long months of scattered communication, Welsch’s first plane ride (for an interview with Hunt at the company’s headquarters), and, at long last, an offer.

“I just kind of got up and left Iowa because I wasn’t going to pass up the opportunity,” Welsch said.

### OUT OF THE FURNACE, INTO THE FIRE

Welsch’s first four months at Hunt Sports Group included, in order: the resignation of the FC Dallas president, a murder-suicide committed by a Chiefs player that culminated outside the team’s practice facility, and the firing of the Chiefs’ head coach and general manager following a 2-14 season.

The turmoil sped the acclimation for Welsch, whose trial by fire included supporting the search for the front-office vacancies and the process that comes along with having the

No. 1 overall pick in the NFL draft.

“There were some long nights those first few months putting together information, making sure we’re on top of what everybody else is doing, trying to beat everyone else to the punch so we can get our guy,” Welsch said. “It was really neat to see the inner workings of how that all goes down.”


### A UNIQUE BENEFITS PACKAGE

Welsch has taken a liking to Texas weather and the Dallas-Fort Worth entertainment scene, and a schedule that often extends beyond typical office hours is offset by some attractive perks: attending the 2015 College Football Playoff Championship and bumping shoulders with legendary athletes at the Doak Walker Award banquet, to name a few.

“The hours can be very random, so it’s hard to keep a social life on track, but they do a good job honoring the time I need to do my own thing,” Welsch said.

Of course, he has found that such immersive work has a way of permeating life outside the office.

“I went to all but two of the FC Dallas games this year for work,” he said. “Before, I never watched soccer, never even paid attention to it. Now I’m watching U.S. National Team games whenever possible.

“And I was always a pretty big Green Bay Packers fan, so my dad gives me a hard time about cheering for the Chiefs now.” 

Off the court, he charts workouts and progress reports on the young players that are sent straight to the big boss: Mavericks owner and well-known investor Mark Cuban.

Though he tries to stay cool about his new surroundings, sometimes it’s hard not to get caught up in the moment.

“The first real ‘wow’ moment would have been when Dirk (Nowitzki) walked in the practice gym at the start of training camp,” Oswald said. “Seeing him come down the stairs, knowing that this is a guy who is probably the best international basketball player of all time. He’s sixth in all-time scoring. He’s probably going to be a first-time Hall of Fame nominee. It was a pretty cool moment.


“Outside of that, though, I try to remember the job that I am here to do and just do it to the best of my ability.”

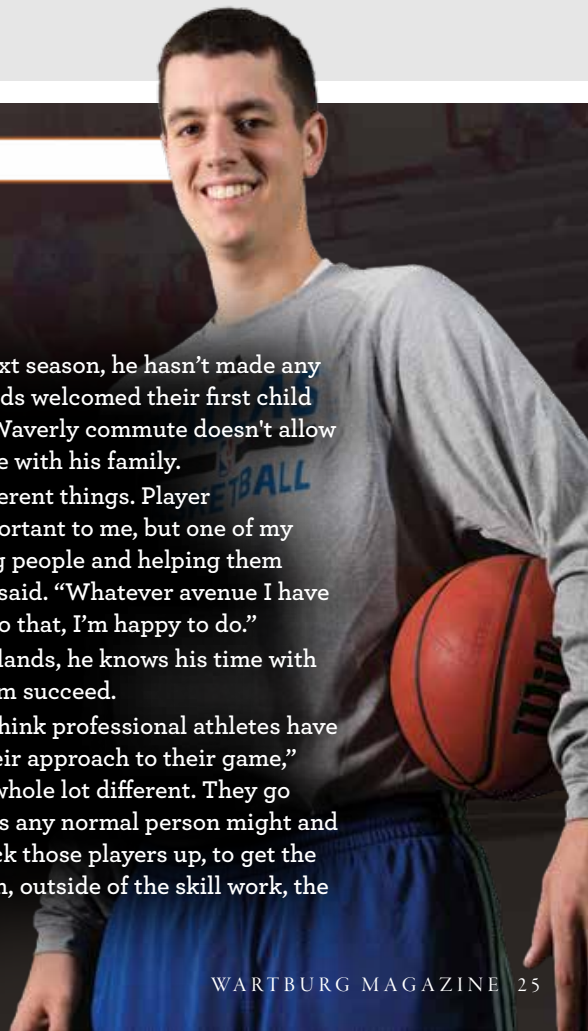
The length of the internship depends on how far the team goes in the postseason. While Oswald was given

the option of returning next season, he hasn’t made any final decisions. The Oswalds welcomed their first child in March, and the Dallas-Waverly commute doesn’t allow him to spend as much time with his family.

“I’m open to a lot of different things. Player development is really important to me, but one of my biggest goals is mentoring people and helping them achieve their dreams,” he said. “Whatever avenue I have to go down to help them do that, I’m happy to do.”

Regardless of where he lands, he knows his time with the Mavericks will help him succeed.

“I think a lot of people think professional athletes have an advantage, as far as their approach to their game,” he said. “Really, it’s not a whole lot different. They go through the same issues as any normal person might and to see how the coaches pick those players up, to get the most out of them, has been, outside of the skill work, the biggest thing for me.” 







# DOUBLE PLAY

*New pavilion improves experiences for athletes, fans*

BY ALAN SIMMER '07 PHOTO JULIE DREWES '90

**GAVIN TIMP '19 WATCHED THE PITCHER**, tracking his arm movements through the windup. As the ball screamed toward him, he swung his bat, the crack of the connection echoing around the room.

After nine more swings, Timp stepped out of the cage, letting **Tyler Willis '16** take his place. The balls continued to fly at a steady interval during the hitting practice, the eighth session of the day, without the pitcher showing any signs of fatigue.

That's the nice thing about videos: They don't get tired.

The newly constructed Knief Outdoor Athletics Pavilion (pronounced Kuh-NEEF), near Hertel Field and the soccer fields, features a state-of-the-art pitching simulator from ProBatter Sports. A screen displays life-sized video of a pitcher, and the machine fires a baseball through a hole in the screen to coincide with the action.

Like the simulator, the pavilion was funded by designated donations through the Transforming Tomorrow campaign. The building is named in honor of **Lotus Knief '52**, whose \$600,000 estate gift helped fund the project.

Knief's gift was in memory of her parents, **Elmer** and **Anita Knief**. Elmer, a 1918 Wartburg graduate, played on the baseball team. Parents of current students and alumni-athletes also mounted fundraising campaigns.

"The new pavilion will enhance the experience and opportunities for hundreds of our student-athletes and their fans," said Rick Willis, director of athletics. It also includes restrooms and a concession stand.

While the baseball team already is benefiting from the pavilion, other sports—including soccer, lacrosse, and cross country—will use the space for team meetings and practices as their seasons begin.

"The team room will be an amazing area for our team to gather before games and practice. To have an additional indoor space with turf for them is wonderful," said **Tiffany Pins '05**, head coach of women's soccer. "We have such wonderful support at all of our home games, and we are so happy to be able to provide our fans with a better game-day experience."

Wartburg's athletes will see those improvements too, thanks to the new spaces and technology at their disposal. The baseball team still is exploring the many uses of the pitching simulator.

"I didn't even know it existed," Timp said.

## Dedication

Donors to the Knief Outdoor Athletics Pavilion and other outdoor athletics facilities projects will be honored during a formal dedication of the building April 30. The ceremony will take place between the Wartburg baseball team's doubleheader, which begins at 1 p.m.

An additional open house will be scheduled to coincide with a soccer game in the fall, with tours of the pavilion available.

That's because the machine is unique in the area, though they're used by several Major League Baseball teams, according to head coach Joel Holst.

The video isn't a perfect simulation, as the pitcher's release isn't shown; that portion of the screen is where the ball comes through. But the pacing and windup are far closer to reality than a standard pitching machine.

"It takes a while to get used to," Tyler Willis said.

However, the advantages—besides being a powerful recruitment tool—already are evident. It takes only a minute or two to program a sequence of pitches, creating drills for players or simulating an actual at-bat with pitches outside the strike zone.

"You can really individualize each guy that comes in—say, if they're struggling with a breaking ball," assistant coach **Ryan Doty '13** said.

"If we want to do all fastballs, we can do that. We can do a mix of fastballs, curveballs, and changeups, or put a left-handed pitcher up there, too. There are so many unique features to it," Tyler Willis said.


The other main benefit is for Wartburg's hurlers.

"We've got pitchers throwing against our hitters, but not every night, because their arms have to be taken care of," Holst said. "Our hitters are getting live at-bats, but our pitchers have more recovery time now."

With the correct video footage, any pitcher can be uploaded to the machine, potentially allowing Wartburg's team to hit off upcoming opponents.

"It'll be interesting to see what kind of value this adds to our performances," Holst said.

Tyler Willis already is sold.

"Hitting off an actual person's gotten easier because of this," he said. 



# Knights

in the News

Anyone recognize these musically inclined Knights? Head to the college's Facebook page on Thursday, April 14, and tell us what you know about this picture.

Don't forget to also find us on Twitter and Instagram to connect with other alums, get the latest info, and discuss the most recent campus events.



## 1954

**BOB KEISTER**, Winona, Minn., was inducted into the Winona State University Athletic Hall of Fame, and a football scholarship was created in his name.

## 1959

**G. EUGENE ISAAK**, Tucson, Ariz., is a retired lawyer.

## 1961

The Rev. Dr. **LAWRENCE WICK**, Chicago, will celebrate the 50th anniversary of his ordination May 15 in Chicago. He was ordained into the ministry of the Lutheran Church in America in Rockefeller Chapel at the University of Chicago in May 1966.

## 1964

Dr. **OSCAR LENNING**, Tucson, Ariz., was named a senior associate at Paul T. Bucci Ph.D. LLC, a higher education consulting business. He also co-authored *Powerful Learning Communities*.

## 1966

**Class Reunion May 19-22**

## 1968

**KAY BIEDERMAN**, Elkader, retired from Hospice of Siouxland, Sioux City.

## 1971

**Class Reunion Oct. 13-16**

**KAY ROBINSON EVANS**, Dumfries, Va., sings with the Four Seasons' Seasonaires mixed chorus, the Manassas Chorale, and several other ensembles in northern Virginia.

## 1976

**Class Reunion Oct. 13-16**

Dr. **MARK PETERSON**, Juneau, Alaska, completed the 2015 Tour d'Afrique, a 7,300-mile, four-month bicycle ride from Cairo, Egypt, to Cape Town, South Africa.

## 1977

**ANN BOTTELSON MORRIS**, West Des Moines, published her third children's book, *Everything Is Different*. The book is available in English and Spanish.

## 1978

**GREGORY DIERCKS**, Chicago, was promoted to senior manager at Accenture.

## 1979

**BOBBY GARRISON**, Norwalk, is a wildlife artist.

## 1981

**Class Reunion Oct. 13-16**

## 1982

**BOB NIELSON**, Macomb, Ill., is the head football coach at the University of South Dakota, Vermillion, S.D.

## 1986

**Class Reunion Oct. 13-16**

## 1991

**Class Reunion Oct. 13-16**

## 1992

**BRENT MATTHIAS**, Waverly, is the head softball coach at Simpson College, Indianola.

## 1995

The Rev. **JOEL BECKER**, Waverly, was ordained Dec. 19 at Trinity Lutheran Church, New Hampton. He is the pastor at St. John Lutheran Church, Buck Creek, and St. John Lutheran Church, Oran.

**DAN DIGMANN**, Mount Pleasant, Mich., was inducted into the National Multiple Sclerosis Society Volunteer Hall of Fame for his advocacy efforts.

## 1996

**Class Reunion Oct. 13-16**

Atsushi Kato and **MICHIRU HIGUCHI**, Tokyo, Japan, announce the birth of Mi, Dec. 25. She joins Ma, 8; Mu, 6; and Mei, 2.

## 1997

**THERESA ALT**, Marion, published her first novel, *Survival Skills*.

## 1998

**SARAH ALBERTSON CORKERY**, Cedar Falls, is vice president of marketing at Veridian Credit Union.

**KYLE KNUDSON**, Forest Lake, Minn., is the operations manager for Flex Academy, a charter school in Richfield.

## 1999

**STEPHANIE ROBBINS BOEDING**, Waverly, is a communication specialist at Wartburg College.

**MELISSA VOSS BROBSTON**, Iowa City, is the southeast district chair for the Iowa Music Educators Association.

**CORRIE MAKI KNUDSON**, Forest Lake, Minn., is the director of the Sons of Norway Foundation.

**BJ SUPPLE**, West Des Moines, is a business development manager for Hawkeye Sports Properties, a Learfield Sports company.

**DIANE TESTORFF** and Patrick Balk, Lawler, were married Sept. 26.

## 2000

Jamie and **AMANDA O'NEILL JORGENSEN**, North Liberty, announce the birth of Mae Delaney, Oct. 28.

## 2001

**Class Reunion Oct. 13-16**

**SARAH BAILEY FOSTER**, Cedar Falls, was selected for the *Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier's* Class of 2015 20 Under 40 award, which honors outstanding young people in the Cedar Valley. She is the community manager for the American Cancer Society.

**BRANT** and Dr. Karin **GILKISON**, San Antonio, announce the birth of Beckham Ford, Sept. 25.

## 2002

Travis and **KATHRYN SHANNON FUNSETH**, Ankeny, announce the birth of Gianna, May 7. She joins Felicity, 1.

**SETH ROBERSON**, Polk City, was promoted to associate head coach for men's and women's track and field at Grand View University. This is his 11th year at the college.

## 2003

**TYSON** and **MANDY FOX '04 KEITH**, Waverly, announce the birth of Madeline Elizabeth, Nov. 4, 2014. She joins Harper, 5, and Liam, 2.

**MARK** and **CHELSEY RODGERS '05 KOLPIN**, Grinnell, announce the birth of Lily Rae, Aug. 19. She joins Bryce, 4.

The Rev. **ADAM ROBERTS**, Birnamwood, Wis., is a pastor with St. John/Trinity Lutheran Parish.

# Tomsons recognized for support of Lutheran colleges

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN

**PATRICIA TOMSON REMEMBERS THE FIRST TIME** she was able to give back. The college senior gifted \$10 to her class gift collection at St. Olaf College.

“It seemed like a lot of money then,” she said.

Her husband, O. Jay, is certain his first gift came about the same time. Now, decades later, the couple has been recognized by the Council of Independent Colleges for a lifetime of philanthropy. President Darrel Colson and Richard Torgerson, Luther College’s president and Wartburg’s former vice president for development, nominated the Tomsons.

“Through their long and generous history of supporting private, liberal arts education in the Midwest, Jay and Pat have invested significantly in the lives of literally thousands of students,” Colson wrote in his nomination letter. “In addition, both have graciously shared gifts of service and leadership, beyond just financial support, to help ensure that young men and women have an opportunity to be transformed by their college experience and, in turn, are empowered to transform their families and their communities.”

The Tomsons’ gifts, totaling in the millions, have supported Wartburg (their



daughter **Sara Tomson Hooper** is a 1989 graduate), Luther College (their daughter Marti is an alumna), and St. Olaf, where the two met.

“As you go through life, you hopefully develop a passion for something. Ours is Lutheran higher education. We are strong supporters of the liberal arts. This country cries out for informed leadership, and democracy will not thrive without an informed and committed citizenry,” said Jay Tomson, a former member of the Wartburg Board of Regents. “That is what these colleges are doing for this country.”

At Wartburg, the Tomsons’ gifts helped create the James A. Leach Chair in Banking

and Monetary Economics (held by Dr. Scott Fullwiler) and the O. Jay and Patricia Tomson Professorship in Social Work. An additional gift upgraded the professorship to the Tomson Family Distinguished Chair in Social Work (held by Dr. Tammy Faux).

The 2012 Wartburg Medal recipients also supported the Vogel Library capital campaign and multiple Christmas with Wartburg productions.

“All of our gifts are in appreciation of what we received from a liberal arts college,” Pat said. “We give back so that they can continue to do all the things they are already doing so well.” 🍷



**JOSHUA** and Sara **SMOTHERS**, Grimes, announce the birth of Hope Lois, March 31, 2015. She joins Jackson, 5, and Drake, 3.

**JEREMY** and **ALEXIS JANSONIUS '05 THOMAS**, Lakeville, Minn., announce the birth of Shaelyn Audrey, Aug. 6. She joins Asher, 4. Jeremy is a lean manager with Pentair.

John Koch and **JENNIFER WELVAERT-KOCH**, Moline, Ill, announce the birth of Adeline Grace, Nov. 3. She joins Alexander, 6, and Eva, 2.

**2004**  
**SCOTT ARTHUR**, Edgewood, was promoted to project manager for the test equipment services department at Rockwell Collins, Cedar Rapids.

**JACOB** and **LAUREN KAHLER '07 BOYD**, Dubuque, announce the birth of Lillian Mae and Clara June, May 18. They join Eleanor, 2.

The Rev. **SALLY MITCHELL HANSON**, Libertyville, Ill., earned a Master of Divinity degree from the Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago. She was ordained Aug. 29 and is an associate pastor at Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

Daniel and **ALISON ONDRACEK STONE**, Loveland, Colo., were married Oct. 12, 2014.

**JEFF** and **ERICA POWLESS VOREIS**, Fairfield, announce the birth of Adler Dean, Sept. 17. Jeff is a regional director, advocacy and supervision, at Cambridge Investment Research, Inc., while Erica is the company’s senior director, public relations and creative marketing.

**2005**  
**CLINT RIESE**, White Bear Lake, Minn., is the communications consultant at HealthEast, St. Paul.

**2006**  
**Class Reunion Oct. 13-16**

**CLINT** and Katherine **BIKERT**, Dubuque, announce the birth of Jesse Maynard, May 2.

Ethan and **MEGAN KAMPMAN EPLEY**, Waverly, announce the birth of Abrahm Rae, April 14. She joins Jackson, 5; Logan, 3; and Isaac, 1.

Matthew and **MIRANDA SPURGEON HAUGAN**, Parkersburg, announce the birth of Andie Lavonne, Feb. 22. She joins Emma, 3.

**MATT** and Adrienne **LAMOS**, Waverly, announce the birth of Madelynn Kristine, Nov. 9.

**DANIEL** and **ABBY SCHALLER SEFKOW**, Faribault, Minn., announce the birth of Camden James, Sept. 19. He joins Harrison, 1.

Paul and **JACQUELYN NOVAK ZILLMAN**, Cedar Rapids, announce the birth of Evelyn Grace, Oct. 27. She joins Aiden, 3. Jacquelyn is a physician assistant with MercyCare Mount Vernon.

**2007**  
Brett and **SHEENA TREANOR MAHAN**, Waukegan, announce the birth of Keegan, Oct. 11. He joins Brayden, 2.

John and **JULIE PHILIPP SCHMITZ**, Manchester, announce the birth of Jillian, April 3. She joins Jack, 2.

**2008**  
**ELLEN ENGH**, Edmond, Okla., is the assistant director for campus activities at the University of Central Oklahoma.

**HEIDI GAULKE RIESE**, White Bear Lake, Minn., is a college relations event manager at Land O’Lakes, Arden Hills.



**TIMOTHY SCHWICKERATH**, Pleasant Hill, earned a master's degree in mathematics with a secondary teaching emphasis from the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls.

**ALLISON STRUTHERS**, Casselberry, Fla., earned a bachelor's degree in science from Full Sail University, Winter Park. She is a lab specialist at Full Sail University.

## 2009

**ZECH** and **MINDY BURSCH '10 ANDERSON**, Lauderdale, Minn., announce the birth of Zoey Rose, July 20.

Nate and **SHANNON McCABE HERMANSON**, St. Paul, Minn., announce the birth of Oliver Joseph, Sept. 18.

**NICK JANICZEK** and **WHITNEY LARISH '12**, North Liberty, were married Aug. 29.

**NATALIE TENDALL** and Dr. Doug Pugar, Dayton, Ohio, were married Aug. 1.

**ERIC ULRICHS** and Brittany Wood, Gardner, Kan., were married June 27.

## 2010

Edwin and **SARAH MACHALK DEN HARDER**, El Paso, Texas, announce the birth of Rebekah Marguerite, Sept. 7. She joins Nathaniel, 2.

Tyler and Dr. **STACI SIERN FRIESE**, Keota, announce the birth of Carson Ray, Nov. 25.

**ANNA HAUSKINS** and **CHRIS GUSTAS '11**, Windsor Heights, were married June 12.

**KATIE CAIN LANGE**, Janesville, Wis., earned a Master of Science in Education degree in higher education leadership from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

Matthew and **NIKKI RIEMER POOCK**, Waverly, announce the birth of Johnathan James, Dec. 31.

**LALAINA RABARY**, Cedar Falls, was selected for the *Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier's* Class of 2015 20 Under 40 award, which honors outstanding young people in the Cedar Valley. Lalaina is a communications and

marketing specialist in VGM Group's People for Quality Care division.

Garrett and **ABBIE KOTTKE RAUM**, Fredericksburg, announce the birth of Charlee Ann, Dec. 17.

**KYLE SCHAULS** and Jessica Dulski, Bloomington, Ill., were married July 17.

**BECCA SMITH**, Fort Worth, Texas, was promoted to community garden coordinator at the Tarrant Area Food Bank.

**DAVID URLAUB** and Ellie Savery, Davenport, were married Aug. 22. David is a lifting and rigging specialist with Clickstop, Inc.

## 2011

### Class Reunion Oct. 13-16

**JUSTIN CONNER** and **TRISHA FEDERSPIEL '12**, Dubuque, were married Oct. 3. Trisha is pursuing a Master of Social Work degree at St. Ambrose University.

**BRENNAN DREW**, Las Vegas, is the managing director at WestPac Wealth Partners.

**KAYLA PANKOW** and Edgar Gómez, Portage, Wis., were married Sept. 14.

**AUDREY STURTZ** and Henry Nannenga, Manson, were married Nov. 28.

**MISSY McMURRAY TIMMERMANS**, Waverly, is an attorney with Correll, Sheerer, Benson, Engels, Galles & Demro, P.L.C. Her areas of practice include family and adoption law, wills, real estate, and criminal defense.

## 2012

**BRANDT MARINE** and **KATIE WAGNER '13**, North Liberty, were married Oct. 24.

**EMILY EIMERS MOSER**, Cedar Rapids, earned a master's degree in educational leadership.

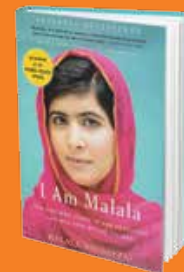
**HANNAH SCRABECK** and Dan Nichols, Cedar Rapids, were married June 20.

# Knight Reading

*Read along with the Wartburg community*

The 2016-17 common reading for new Knights is *I Am Malala*, by Malala Yousafzai. Incoming students will read the book this summer and discuss it in their IS 101 classes Fall Term.

*I Am Malala* is the memoir of Yousafzai, a human rights activist for education for women and children in Pakistan and the youngest-ever Nobel Peace Prize laureate. Despite an assassination attempt in 2012, when she was just 15, Yousafzai continues to fight for women's and children's rights.



How and why do we become who we are? It's a great question for college students to explore, and other members of the Wartburg community are invited to join the conversation.

Are you a member of a book club? Recommend *I Am Malala* to read and discuss during the coming year. Do you have an active alumni group in your area? Consider reading this book along with the new Knights. Plan a get-together to talk about the book and share your memories of your first semester at Wartburg.

**BRIAN VACHTA** and Yokutkhon Metinova, St. George, Utah, were married Dec. 12. Brian is an HVAC mathematician at CaptiveAire.

**RYAN WINDER**, Mount Vernon, earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Grand View University, Des Moines. He works at the University of Iowa Children's Hospital, Iowa City.

## 2014

**ADAM BEST** and **JENA DAUBENBERGER**, West Des Moines, were married Sept. 26.

## 2015

**HANNA ARNS**, Denver, Colo., is a health tech at InnovAge.

**HANNAH BURLINGAME**, Mounds View, Minn., is an intern at Lillie Suburban Newspapers, St. Paul.

**MICHELLE CROELL** is a junior designer and production assistant at Sign Here, Inc., Rochester, Minn.

**SAMANTHA HEINEN**, Kentwood, Mich., is a solutions specialist at Verizon Wireless, Grandville.

**AMANDA HOEG**, Cedar Rapids, is a surgical pathology laboratory assistant at Mercy Medical Center.

**MEGAN JORGENSEN**, Vinton, is a clerical specialist with ELYON International, NRCS, USDA, Iowa City.

**TIFFANY LOUK**, State College, Pa., is pursuing a master's degree in international affairs at Pennsylvania State University.

**COURTNEY MEHUS**, Eagan, Minn., is a communications specialist at Ecolab, St. Paul.

**CONNOR O'BRIEN**, Nashville, Tenn., is a computer consultant at Computer Pros.

**RACHEL THURM**, Monona, is a computer technician at Dependable Solutions, Prairie du Chien, Wis.

**ALYCIA STERENBERG**, Boone, is pursuing a master's degree and is a music therapy intern with Children's Mercy Hospital, Kansas City, Mo.

**HANNAH STRANDBERG**, Zimmerman, Minn., is a behavior therapist at Partners in Excellence, Edina.

**MEGAN WEICHERS**, New Hampton, is an office assistant/bookkeeper at Bravo Printing Co., Cedar Falls.

**PHILLIP WESSELS**, Cedar Rapids, is an actuarial intern at Transamerica.

**NATASHA WILLEY**, Albert Lea, Minn., is a concierge aficionado at The Marketing Plant.



PHOTO PAT PFISTER

The Rev. Dr. Kathryn Kleinhans (left), Mike and Marge McCoy Family Distinguished Chair in Lutheran Heritage and Mission, and the Rev. Dr. Walter "Chip" Bouzard (right), professor of religion, helped install Dr. Lake Lambert, formerly Wartburg's Board of Regents Chair in Ethics and founding director of the Center for Community Engagement, as the 16th president of Hanover College.

# I N M E M O R I A M



## 1939

**Wilmut "Bill" Fruehling**, Waverly, died Nov. 22. He taught psychology and education for 36 years at Wartburg and was named professor emeritus of psychology upon his retirement in 1982. He served as a part-time counselor in the Counseling and Assessment Center after his retirement. In 2008, he was awarded the Wartburg Medal.

## 1941

The Rev. **Roland Brandt**, Bayport, Minn., died March 1, 2015. He graduated from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and was ordained in 1945. He served as a missionary in New Guinea for more than two decades. He returned to the U.S. to serve parishes in South Dakota before returning to New Guinea. He was a visitation pastor in Minnesota at the end of his career.

**Audrey Seamon Dewey**, Waverly, died Dec. 5. She studied business at Wartburg and Iowa Teacher's College. She worked in the accounting department at Sears Catalog store and John Deere implement.

**Alfred Fratzke**, Staunton, Ill., died Oct. 31. He served as a first lieutenant with the First Infantry Division during World War II. The Purple Heart recipient fought in the D-Day Invasion, was wounded and captured by the Germans, and was a POW for 10 months. Following the war, he was a teacher and administrator in several Iowa school districts.

## 1946

**Norman Braune**, Sarasota, Fla., died Sept. 15. He was a radio corpsman in the Navy. He later became involved with animal research in laboratories across the country.

## 1948

The Rev. **Nolan Sagebiel**, San Antonio, died Dec. 23. He served Lutheran churches across south and central Texas during his 50 years in ministry.

## 1949

**Josephine Pries**, Cedar Falls, died Nov. 29. She earned a master's degree in counseling from the University of Northern Iowa in 1967. She taught in several Iowa school districts before retiring in 1988.

**Darlene Muehling Voigts**, Waverly, died Oct. 31. She taught in several Iowa school districts. She is survived by her husband, **LeRoy Voigts '48**.

## 1950

The Rev. **Merill Herder**, Onalaska, Wis., died Dec. 26. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and was ordained in 1954. During his years of ministry, he served at congregations in Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. He also served as president and secretary on the national board of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service from 1974 to 1987.

## 1952

**Dorothy Herbener Balvanz**, Cedar Rapids, died Nov. 6. She was an administrative assistant for Iowa Electric until her retirement in 1986.

**Robert Koehler**, Normal, Ill., died Sept. 28. He served with the Marines during World War II. He was the head wrestling coach at Illinois State University from 1963 to 1975, was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame (Illinois Chapter), and served on the National Olympic Committee. He is survived by his wife, **Morene Bakken Koehler '51**.

**Patricia Matteson Shatzer**, Jesup, died Jan. 28, 2014. She taught in several Iowa school districts.

## 1953

**Evelyn Buldhaupt Damrow**, San Antonio, died July 30.

**Omar Kuschel**, De Pere, Wis., died Sept. 9. He served in the Army and later worked for Peoples Marine Bank/Bank One for 40 years and was a board member for Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin.

## 1954

The Rev. **Harold Gronstal**, Kearney, Neb., died Oct. 10. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque.

The Rev. **Lowell Hemken**, Fort Collins, Colo., died Dec. 15. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, was ordained in 1958, and served churches in Missouri, Nebraska, and Colorado. He was a founding member of the Fort Collins Multiple Sclerosis Society and served on the national board of Lutheran Marriage Encounter. He is survived by his wife, **Carol Nothdurft Hemken '54**.

**Joan Haven Kirk**, Charlotte, N.C., died April 4, 2014.

**William Moeller**, Denver, Colo., died Dec. 21. He served in the Army and later earned a master's degree from the University of Colorado Boulder. He was a teacher and administrator in the Cherry Creek School District.

**Nadine Eske Mong**, Tulsa, Okla., died Feb. 13, 2015. She was a kindergarten teacher. She is survived by her husband, **Robert Mong '52**.

## 1955

The Rev. **Charles Bose**, Carson City, Nev., died Oct. 13. He is survived by his wife, **Mary Hoh Bose '56**.

**Norma Ahrens Fritz**, Carlyle, Ill., died March 2, 2015. She worked at the Clinton County Assessor's Office for 32 years.

**John Kuper**, Independence, died Nov. 15. He served with the Electronic Countermeasures Squadron One in Japan, at the Glenview Naval Base in Glenview, Ill., and aboard the USS Robert K. Huntington, USS Oriskany, USS Randolph, and USS Enterprise. He later worked at John Deere Co. in Waterloo and the Mental Health Institute in Independence.



## 1956

**Dennis Ehm**, Indianapolis, died Dec. 28, 2014. He earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Denver. He later served in the Army Signal Corp. He was employed for more than two decades in corrections before working in banking.

**Joel Maring**, Makanda, Ill., died Dec. 6. He earned a doctorate in anthropology from Indiana University-Bloomington. He was an associate professor at Southern Illinois University until his retirement in 1996.

## 1961

The Rev. **David Rossbach**, St. Francis, Kan., died April 29. He was a Lutheran minister. He is survived by his wife, **Lucille Zenker Rossbach '63**.

**Pete Timmer**, Allison, died Nov. 15. He earned a master's degree from the University of Iowa. He taught in several Iowa school districts before returning to work on his family's farm.

## 1963

**Arlen Schwerin**, Tallahassee, Fla., died Sept. 15. He served with the Army in Vietnam and later earned a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering from Iowa State University. The engineer for the U.S. Army Weapons Command in New Jersey retired in 2002.

## 1964

**Jayne Christensen McElfresh**, St. Charles, Ill., died Sept. 21. She was an organist and pianist at three ELCA congregations and accompanied numerous civic and educational groups.

**Gary Fisher**, Cedar Rapids, died Jan. 4. He worked with Wilson Meat Packing Co. and Iowa National Mutual Insurance. He owned Gary E. Fisher Co. PC for 22 years.

## 1966

**Darrell Blobaum**, Dixon, Ill., died Oct. 15.

## 1968

**Ronald Meyer**, Danville, Ky., died Oct. 25. He was an accountant at RR Donnelley Manufacturing for more than 40 years. He is survived by his wife, **Frances Alm Meyer '70**.

## 1969

**John Boudreau**, Kankakee, Ill., died May 2. Boudreau earned a master's degree from Governors State University and an MBA from Olivet Nazarene University. He was a chemist at CSL Behring.

The Rev. **Dennis Pettyjohn**, Owatonna, Minn., died Sept. 19. He graduated from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and was ordained in 1973. He served churches in Illinois and Minnesota before retiring in 2005.

**Darrel Willhite**, Cedar Rapids, died Dec. 5, 2014. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps and was an independent automotive salesman for Bowes Automotive Products until his retirement in 2004.

## 1970

**Dan Djuren**, Clear Lake, died Sept. 4. He taught music and coached wrestling at several Iowa schools until he retired in 2003.

**Peter Garlinghouse**, Waterloo, died Oct. 30. He served in the Iowa National Guard from 1970 to 1976. He earned a master's degree in school counseling from the University of Iowa and worked in several Iowa school districts as a teacher, counselor, and administrator.

## 1973

**Thomas Guy**, Kingston, Tenn., died Oct. 20. He was a participant in the graduate program in psychology at Ohio University.

## 1976

**Robert "Bob" Levick**, McKinney, Texas, died Sept. 20. He worked for several decades with Pepsi Americas and was the marketing director for the Dr Pepper Snapple Group at the time of his death.

## 1977

**Janet Brown**, Rock Valley, died Dec. 27.

## 1980

**Julie Antonson**, Prairie du Chien, Wis., died Sept. 30. She earned a master's degree in social work from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She was a social worker and later a human services instructor at Upper Iowa University and Southwest Wisconsin Technical College.

## 1982

**Ann Dieck Thiele**, Rothschild, Wis., died Sept. 18. She was a high school math teacher and worked in retail.

## 1985

**Randall Brown**, St. Paul, Minn., died March 22, 2015. He was a music therapist and group home counselor.

## 2002

**Michael Johnson**, Ankeny, died Dec. 7. After 12 years as a business executive with Target Corp., he accepted a job at Nationwide Insurance as a personal lines supervisor.

# One Step at a Time

BY EMILY SCHMITT COUNTS '11

**WHILE HIS WIFE SPENT THE FINAL WEEKS** of her first pregnancy enjoying time with her parents, Shigeru Ota '07 embarked on the longest walk of his life—a 110-mile trek into the heart of Tokyo.

From his hometown of Tomi City, Nagano, Japan, to Tokyo, the journey—on Ota's bucket list for years—provided him time to reflect on his life and the changes that would come with a newborn son.

The historic route, called the Nakasendo, connected Edo (modern-day Tokyo) to Kyoto and is one of five official routes established during the early years of the Edo period in Japan, which spanned from 1603 to 1863.

Despite little training, Ota walked the 110-mile stretch of the Nakasendo over four days, traveling up to 30 miles each day.

"I had hard muscle pains from the second day and a large blister on my foot," he said.

Although his body wanted to give up, his mental focus kept him moving forward. He wanted his experience to be a life lesson for his son, too.

"If my family will have difficulties, we will be able to overcome them by walking together," he said. "I wanted to be able to tell my son that for the future."

As the miles ticked by, Ota's mind wandered to his college memories, including the hours spent in Wartburg accounting classes, his experiences as an orientation leader, and the strides he made in speaking and writing English. He proudly recalled the day he received the St. Elizabeth Award honoring his volunteer service.


"I am very appreciative of Wartburg," he said. "Wartburg gave me international experiences and told me doing (my) best causes good results. The experience gave me confidence."

As the trek continued over the inland road, Ota reflected on how his Wartburg experience prepared him for his career. After graduation, Ota returned to his hometown. Today, he supervises a team of accountants at Mimaki Engineering.

"While walking to Tokyo, I was thinking all life events seem to be unrelated, but the events are connected and make my way of life, like all roads lead to Rome," he said.

It was then his thoughts turned to the upcoming birth of his son and the memories that were yet to be made. Ota arrived in Tokyo on May 5, 2015, with aching muscles, blistered feet, and a clear mind. He was ready to become a father and teach his child that one can reach any goal by putting one foot in front of the other.

He welcomed his son, Kento, into the world June 1.

"The birth of my son is the happiest event for my life," Ota said. "When I was attending the birth, I thought my wife was feeling more painful than my 110-mile journey. Therefore, I am thinking I have to treasure my wife and my son." 

*"Wartburg gave me international experiences and told me doing (my) best causes good results. The experience gave me confidence."*

*— Shigeru Ota '07*







# GIFTS THAT COST YOU NOTHING DURING YOUR LIFETIME

A bequest from your will or trust is the easiest gift you can make to significantly impact the students of Wartburg College. It's also the most popular. Forty percent of all planned gifts are bequests from a donor's will.

## How it works

Include Wartburg College as a beneficiary in your will or trust.

Your attorney can easily include Wartburg in your existing will by using a codicil.

Indicate a percentage of your estate, a specific amount, or a portion of the balance of your estate to the college after all gifts have been made to your family.

## Benefits to you

- Your assets remain in your control during your lifetime.
- You can modify your bequest to address changing circumstances in your life.
- You can direct your bequest to a particular purpose at Wartburg or place no restrictions on the gift.
- Your bequest to Wartburg is not subject to federal or capital gains tax.
- Your bequest qualifies you for membership in the Heritage Society.
- This is a legacy gift that costs you nothing during your lifetime!
- For more information, please contact Don Meyer, CFRE, senior gift planner, at 319-352-8487 or donald.meyer@wartburg.edu, or visit [www.plannedgiving.wartburg.edu](http://www.plannedgiving.wartburg.edu).

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# SAVE THE DATES

## APRIL

17-24 Wartburg Choir Tour  
18 Orange Connection Happy Hour: Des Moines

## MAY

14 Alumni Soccer Event  
19-22 Class of 1966 50-year Reunion  
22 Commencement  
26-28 National Track & Field Championships: Waverly

## JUNE

5 Chicago Cubs Outfly  
15 Tanzania Summer Alumni Tour

## JULY

23-30 RAGBRAI Knight Riders

## OCTOBER

13-16 Homecoming and Family Weekend

Visit [www.wartburg.edu/cal](http://www.wartburg.edu/cal) for more information about these and other Wartburg events. Call the Alumni Office at 319-352-8491 with questions.





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## Students capture the moment

These photos were selected from 60 submissions by Wartburg students who participated in a May Term or Study Abroad experience in 2014-15.



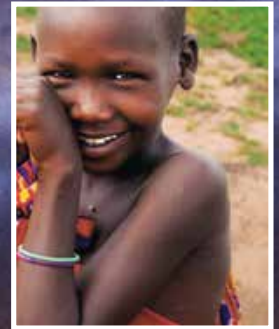
Faculty Choice Award: Megan Roedel '16  
*Life Under the Sea – Bahamas*



Student Choice Award: Greg Sloan '17  
*It Is Well – England*



Second Place: Alexia Brewster '16  
*Auschwitz (Poland) – Czech Republic*



Third Place: Kate Shindelar '16  
*Maasai Smile – Tanzania*



First Place: Jessica Grant '16  
*Heart of Africa – Tanzania*