

# Wartburg

MAGAZINE



## ROOTED AND OPEN

*Lutheran roots feed growth on campus*

ALWAYS REFORMING  
GOD'S CONCERN  
COMMUNITY  
PRESENT  
EDUCATION  
CHRISTIAN  
FREEDOM  
THEOLOGY  
INCARNATION

# SHARE YOUR WORTH IT STORY

**Mike Franzman '00**

BIOLOGY | ALUMNI BOARD PRESIDENT

*Owner, Quad Cities Periodontics*

Mike has referred six students to Wartburg College through the new Alumni Referral Award program (read more on page 9). He's hopeful that others will follow his lead and share their stories with prospective students.

## **Why is this a good way to engage prospective students in the recruitment process at Wartburg?**

The Alumni Referral Award provides us a chance to offer a tangible benefit to a student when we talk to them about Wartburg. It is critical for students to hear from alumni who have benefited from their Wartburg education. It shows them that the time and cost associated with that training was worth it. The mention of an alumni referral scholarship they can receive makes that conversation hit even harder.

## **Why is this a good way to engage alumni in the recruitment process?**

It is not the easiest time for student recruitment at any institution of higher education, be it a community college, university, or private college. As such, an alum who is engaged in the recruitment process and is actively seeking students to visit with is very valuable. The Alumni Referral Award makes it even easier to start these conversations. When a student does decide to attend Wartburg, and you helped recruit them, you now have a vested interest in their success.

## **In addition to the referral, what did you do to encourage students to visit the college or enroll?**

I just told my Wartburg story. We all have one, right? When you have such pride in your alma mater, and you know that the experience you had attending Wartburg has helped make you into the person you are today, it's easy to relate this to students. I tell them about a place where everyone says 'hi' as you walk by, where diversity is celebrated, where faith is nurtured, where faculty and staff go far beyond expectations to help you succeed, and they can't help but want to check it out.

## **Do you have any advice for other alumni who want to participate?**

My advice is to always be ready to have that conversation. Wear your Wartburg gear, order your Wartburg license plates, show off your Wartburg tattoos. And it doesn't have to start with a conversation with a student. I have had many productive discussions with family members or acquaintances of students that led to referrals.



Like Mike said, all alumni have a Wartburg story to share. We would love to hear more about yours. Please visit [www.wartburg.edu/worth-it-stories-alumni](http://www.wartburg.edu/worth-it-stories-alumni) to share yours. While online, visit [www.wartburg.edu/refer](http://www.wartburg.edu/refer) to learn more about the Alumni Referral Program.



# features



**Reaching the Next Generation of Knights**



**Rooted and Open**



**Balancing Act**

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# Wartburg

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**ON THE COVER:**

This illustration by Joshua PeterSmith shows how the college's Lutheran roots can support growth and openness in a changing world.

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

**TRANSCRIPTS:**

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

# WARTBURG

— IN THE NEWS —

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



Robert Lee (left) and Mike McCoy

## Beloved emeritus music professor receives Wartburg Medal

**Robert Lee**, professor emeritus of music, received the Wartburg Medal at the college's December Commencement.

Lee served for 36 years as director of the Wartburg College Band, retiring in 1995. He founded the Knightlites Jazz Band in 1959, passing the baton in 1986. He also directed the Wartburg Community Symphony from 1959 to 1964. In 1990, the band alumni honored Lee by donating more than \$40,000 in his name toward construction of the Bachman Fine Arts Center. This spring, the Dr. Robert E. Lee Endowed Scholarship was created with gifts from band and music education alumni to honor his distinguished career and support students studying to become instrumental music instructors.

He co-founded the long-running Shell Rock Spring Swing variety show with his brother-in-law in 1965. A crowd favorite, Lee was part of many novelty acts, especially anything related to polka or Dixieland music, and played trumpet and saxophone in the stage band.

## Journalism and communication professors win prestigious awards

Journalism and communication professors **Cliff Brockman** and **Pam Ohrt** were each honored by the Iowa media associations for their work in the field.

Brockman, professor emeritus, was recognized by the Iowa College Media Association with its prestigious John Eighmey Service Award. Ohrt received the 2019 Jack Shelley Award from the Iowa Broadcast News Association.

The Eighmey award is presented annually to recognize an individual whose efforts have been instrumental in advancing the quality of media education in Iowa. The Shelley Award is the highest honor an Iowa broadcast journalist can receive from the IBNA.

Brockman retired from Wartburg in February 2018 but continues to contribute to the campus and community.

Ohrt had a 27-year professional career in radio news, most of it at KOEL radio in Oelwein where she served as assistant news director to the legendary Dick Petrik. She became news director when Petrik retired. She brought her professional experience to the classroom during a lengthy teaching career, including the last 13 years at Wartburg where she teaches journalism and radio broadcasting and advises KWAR.



Ohrt



Brockman

## Glimmer of Hope is 2019 Knight Reading

The 2019-20 common reading for new Knights is *Glimmer of Hope: How Tragedy Sparked a Movement* by the March for Our Lives founders. Incoming students will read the book this summer and discuss it in their IS 101 classes during Fall Term.

*Glimmer of Hope* is a series of first-person essays chronicling the Feb. 14, 2018, mass shooting at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School and the subsequent founding of the March for Our Lives movement.

Whether you read this as part of a book club, alumni group, or on your own, we recommend taking time to enjoy it along with our first-year students.







Wartburg College Dance Marathon once again smashed its fundraising goal, bringing in \$153,307, a 33 percent increase over the previous year. All money collected is donated to the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital, which is affiliated with the Children's Miracle Network.



## Wartburg hosts symposium offering perspectives on German-U.S. relations

Wartburg College and the Gustav Stresemann Institute in Bonn, Germany, hosted a daylong symposium offering Perspectives on German-U.S. Relations: Pasts, Presents & Futures on March 18.

Mark Cassell, professor of political science at Kent State University, was the featured guest. His book, *How Governments Privatize: The Politics of Divestment in the United States and Germany*, compares the Resolution Trust Corporation with Germany's Treuhandanstalt, the agency charged with taking over, managing, and privatizing the industrial assets of the former East Germany.

"The symposium delved into a number of past, present, and future perspectives on U.S.-German relations through the lenses of history, politics, journalism, and cultural studies," said Daniel

Walther, director of Wartburg's German Institute and the college's Gerald R. Kleinfeld Chair in German History.

Other featured speakers included Andreas Goetze, German deputy consul general, Chicago; Gerald R. Kleinfeld, professor emeritus of history at Arizona State University and founding director of the German Studies Association; **Steve Timm '90**, vice president and general manager of air transport at Collins Aerospace, Cedar Rapids; Peter Voorhees, president and CEO of Standard Golf, Cedar Falls; **Kirk Vogel '83**, senior relationship manager at HSBC Commercial Banking, Charlotte, N.C.; Juliana Schäuble from Berliner Tagesspiegel; Alexandra von Nahmen from Deutsche Welle; **Kristi Becker '70**, piano professor in Cologne; Dr. Darrel Colson, Wartburg College president; and Michael Munz, head of project management at the Gustav-Stresemann-Institute.

The symposium was part of the Deutschlandjahr USA 2018/19 – Year of German-American Friendship. This initiative is funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, implemented by the Goethe-Institut and supported by The Federation of German Industries (BDI).







Stephanie Klemetson (left), Zak Montgomery (center), and Matthew Zart

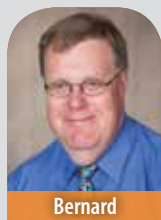
## Three professors receive tenure, others granted emeritus status

Three professors were granted tenure and promotion during the college's Board of Regents meeting in February. Those who earned tenure and promotions and will assume their new titles in September are:

- **Allan Bernard**, associate professor of business administration.
- **Michael Bechtel '94**, associate professor of science education.
- **Matthew Zart**, associate professor of chemistry.

In addition, the board also approved emeritus status for three faculty members who retired this spring: **Thomas Boerigter**, professor of Spanish; **Walter "Chip" Bouzard**, professor of religion; and **Bill Withers**, professor of journalism and communication.

**Marcia Haugen**, office coordinator in the Department of Music, also retired this spring.



Bernard



Bechtel



Zart

Thomas Boerigter (left), Marcia Haugen, and Walter "Chip" Bouzard



Jennifer Wiley '20 (left) and Hannah James '20

## Professor, students to work with NASA researcher

Associate Professor of Science Education **Michael Bechtel '94**, **Hannah James '20**, and **Jennifer Wiley '20** will work with **Luisa Rebull**, an associate research scientist at the California Institute of Technology,

## Montgomery receives Chellevold Award for teaching; two others honored

Wartburg College professor **Zak Montgomery** was the recipient of the 2019 John O. Chellevold Student Award for Excellence in Teaching and Professional Service.

Montgomery, associate professor of Spanish and the Harry and Polly Slife Professor in Humanities, was honored during the Faculty and Staff Appreciation Event hosted by the Wartburg College Student Senate. Other honorees include **Matthew Zart**, associate professor of chemistry, who was named the Advisor of the Year, and **Stephanie Klemetson**, music tour, camp, and promotion manager, who was named the Outstanding Administrative Staff.

**Cade Pederson '19**, a Spanish and neuroscience major, said Montgomery's "zeal for teaching is reflected in his dedication to students and in his handling of course material, which translates to greater classroom engagement and a broadened view of the topic in question."

"Professor Montgomery challenges his students to think beyond the superficial in order to connect concepts and ideas across disciplines, with a healthy dose of sardonic wit, I might add," Pederson

said. "Professor Montgomery has made an indelible mark on my understanding of language, culture, and an interconnected world."

The Chellevold award honors the late John O. Chellevold, a longtime Wartburg mathematics professor and administrator. It was established by one of his former students, the late **Ross Nielsen '39**, who had a distinguished teaching career at the University of Northern Iowa and credited Chellevold as his inspiration.

Student nominators said that in addition to being a professor, Zart is dedicated to seeing his students succeed and provides students with the knowledge and skills needed to pursue their future.

"As an adviser, he is purposeful in communicating with students about their life and ensuring that they are happy with their coursework and progress at Wartburg. He ensures that they are progressing toward their goals and is an open resource for discussion about any topic," his nominator wrote.

Klemetson's nominator said she "embodies and strengthens the community by her wonderful spirit. She represents the college well and is a good example of what Wartburg is."

as part of the NASA/IPAC Teacher Archive Research Program (NITARP).

NITARP has partnered small groups of educators with a research astronomer for original, yearlong, authentic research projects for more than a decade.

"This is an amazing opportunity. Wartburg College is not only the first Iowa team but also the first one to directly focus on exponentially increasing the effects of the astronomical research through the use of pre-service educators," Bechtel said. Researchers will have access to archival data from the Spitzer Space Telescope, the NASA/IPAC Extragalactic Database, the NASA Exoplanet Archive, the NASA/IPAC Infrared Science Archive, and other NASA archive holdings.

As part of the program, James and Wiley, both elementary education majors, will spend several days at Caltech this summer working with Rebull and digging into the research data. The team will continue to work via email and teleconferencing throughout the year.

James, who is seeking a science endorsement, hopes to use this experience to create new curriculum for the state of Iowa, and maybe even NASA, which would expose even more students to the wonders of space.

"This program is typically for high school teachers and their students, but NASA knew we were applying as a college professor and two pre-service teachers," James said. "The sciences are currently lacking in the space base, and we have the opportunity to help rectify that."

The team of educators, along with their students, will present the results of their work at the 2020 AAS winter meeting in Honolulu. James and Wiley also hope to present their research at the National Science Teacher Conference in 2020.



Haley Harms '19

## Students pitch business plan in national competition

A group of Wartburg students was one of 56 groups to present their business plan at the Richards Barrentine Values and Ventures® Competition at Texas Christian University.

Led by **Haley Harms '19** of Albert Lea, Minn., the group, including **Jackie Falconer '20**, **Liam Conroy '21**, **Alison Rusch '19**, and **Ashlee Henderson '19**, presented their idea for a zero-waste coffee shop called Force of Nature.

"I first created the concept in my Advanced Design class. The goal of this class is to create a company of our choice and brand it — creating the logo, posters, brand guidelines, and design aspects of the company," said Harms. "Fall Term of this year I then took Entrepreneurship with **Dr. (Allan) Bernard**, where I wrote the business plan for the company. I've always had a passion for protecting the environment, and through my designs and this company, I was able to pair this passion and concern for the future of the environment with a creative twist to the normal coffee shop."

Bernard, associate professor of business administration, is the team's adviser, and **Michael Murphy '89**, sponsored their trip.



## Student projects receive financial, networking boost on RICE Day

Two Wartburg College student projects got a boost thanks to the college's incubator and Cedar Valley leaders trained to see the potential in new businesses.

**Saffa Bockarie '20** and **Madison Bloker '19** were among the four students who presented to a panel of judges during the college's second annual Wicked Problems Challenge, held in conjunction with RICE Day, an annual event celebrating research, internships, and creative endeavors. Both will receive \$1,500 and the mentors needed to help them take the next steps in supporting their work.

"The individuals in this challenge are trying to tackle some of the biggest problems facing society, and it's an exciting opportunity to help them make a meaningful contribution toward addressing those larger-than-life problems," said Danny Laudick, a judge and co-founder of the entrepreneurial community Red Cedar.

Bockarie's money will go toward the creation of a cassava harvester prototype he hopes could alleviate hunger in his home country of Sierra Leone and around the world. Cassava, a starchy tuberous root found in tropical and subtropical

regions, is a staple in African cuisine. However, the harvesting process is quite hard on the farmer and current machinery is too costly for the average family.

Laudick hopes to connect Bockarie with staff at Cedar Valley TechWorks to assist with the build.

Bloker founded Bound Blessings in 2017. Since then she has published a devotional, penned two biographies, coached other young entrepreneurs, and launched a Bound Blessings apparel line. With the help of Laudick and Bart Schmitz, program associate for the University of Northern Iowa's John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center, she will focus her business plan, which she hopes will include a book geared for college students and an online boot camp that will bring together a community to study the book of Romans.

"I'm really excited to sit down and get their perspective on my business," Bloker said. "I'd love to do this full-time. I have no idea if that is in the cards or not, but I'm hopeful that it could be."

Laudick said those connections are oftentimes more valuable to start-up companies than financial backing.



Saffa Bockarie '20

Madison Bloker '19

Rachel Ndjuluwa '21

Tyler Bitting '20

## Students awarded Davis grants for projects in Namibia, Sierra Leone

Two Wartburg College student-led projects have each received \$10,000 Davis Projects for Peace grants.

This summer, **Rachel Ndjuluwa '21** returned to her home village to construct a classroom at Ndjukuma Primary School, the only primary school in a village of 20,000, while **Saffa Bockarie '20** and **Tyler Bitting '20** worked to improve access to clean water for drinking and irrigation in the Mobai village in Sierra Leone.

Though primary education is free in Namibia, a lack of resources prohibits some children from attending school. Ndjukuma employs 11 staff members who are

responsible for the school's 269 students, but there are only four permanent classrooms. Students who aren't enrolled in school must stay home to look after livestock and work in the fields.

"This project will set a standard to the Namibian government that letting our less-privileged groups remain in poverty will continue to hinder world peace," Ndjuluwa wrote.

Through a partnership with Whole Farms Enterprise, Bockarie and Bitting will construct a simple irrigation system on land used by small farmers. The system will allow the farmers to produce crops year-round while

also improving crop handling and storage, thereby increasing food security and income generation. The project also will assist in providing clean drinking water for a village school that serves 300.

Philanthropist Kathryn Wasserman Davis founded Davis Projects for Peace in 2007 to celebrate her 100th birthday. Davis, who died in 2013, committed \$1 million annually to fund 100 grassroots efforts by college students. Wartburg students have received a grant every year since the program's inception. This is the fourth time Wartburg has received funding for two projects.





Students who enrolled in the college's Integrated B.A./M.Div. Degrees program in 2018 and 2019 were eligible for a scholarship supported by the Tomson family.

## Tomsons' challenge gift will provide funds for new ministry scholarship

A \$150,000 challenge grant, provided by **O. Jay and Pat Tomson**, will support scholarships for students enrolled in Wartburg College and Wartburg Theological Seminary's new Integrated B.A./M.Div. Degrees program for ordained ministry.

The program, a partnership between the college and seminary, streamlines the preparation for pastoral ministry for first-career ministerial students. Funded by a nearly \$500,000 grant from the Kern Family Foundation, the program includes three years of undergraduate education at Wartburg College with at least one semester using the Wartburg Seminary digital learning platform. Students spend the final three years serving in a congregation while completing their master's studies through Wartburg Seminary.

"This challenge grant was an important way for us to support the mission of the college as well as the mission of the seminary," said O. Jay Tomson. "It's wonderful to see a college of the church and the seminary working together to bring leadership into the church at a younger age, and as a donor it was an opportunity to support this academic innovation and allow students to enter into the work environment debt-free. We hope through the challenge grant other donors will see and act upon this same opportunity."

The collaborative program was one of about 60 recommendations that stemmed from Wartburg College's Focus on the Future constituent-based planning initiative. Among the list were recommendations to brand Wartburg in new and emerging markets and to pursue new partnerships.

"I'm gratified that the Tomsons see the promise in this rejuvenated relationship between Wartburg, a college of the church, and our sister institution, Wartburg Theological Seminary," said Wartburg President **Darrel Colson**. "Together with the Tomsons, we will address the needs of congregations while empowering young people to claim their callings in ordained ministry. I can't think of a more exciting project."

The scholarship is available to students who enrolled in the program in 2018 or plan to enroll in the program in 2019. Students who receive this scholarship also will receive a scholarship from the Kern Foundation.



## Award-winning author receives Wartburg's Graven Award

Adrian Miller, award-winning author and executive director of the Colorado Council of Churches, was the 2019 recipient of Wartburg College's annual Graven Award.

A culinary historian, Miller wrote *Soul Food: The Surprising Story of an American Cuisine, One Plate at a Time* and *The President's Kitchen Cabinet: The Story of the African-Americans Who Fed Our First Families from the Washingtons to the Obamas*.

"As I learned more about him, and spent a bit of time with him, Adrian modeled for me the many ways that a Christian can serve his neighbors—whether by working on public policy for a president or a governor, or by facilitating ecumenism among churches, or by celebrating the often underappreciated role that food plays in the human community," said **Darrel Colson**, Wartburg College president.

From 1999 to 2001, Miller served as special assistant to President Bill Clinton and was deputy director of the President's Initiative for One America, the first free-standing White House office to examine opportunity gaps for minorities. He returned to Colorado and has held several statewide public policy-related positions.

In June 2013, Miller joined the Colorado Council of Churches, a statewide ecumenical social justice organization representing 13 denominations and 850 churches. He is the first African-American and first layperson to hold the position.

The Graven Award, now in its 30th year, honors one "whose life is nurtured and guided by a strong sense of Christian calling and who is making a significant contribution to community, church, and society." It is named for Judge Henry N. and Helen T. Graven of Greene, whose lives reflected those same commitments.



# ONE IN A Million

*Boone uses personal experiences to help advocate for equity*

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN

## **GROWING UP, FELECIA BOONE '93 REGULARLY FOUND HERSELF IN SITUATIONS WHERE SHE WAS "ONE OF ONLY A FEW."**

As a child, she attended a Missouri Synod Lutheran school in Minneapolis where she was in the minority. In her years at Wartburg there were always fewer than 50 American multicultural students on campus. As a junior, the Spanish major spent a year studying in Madrid, Spain, an experience Boone classified as fantastic overall but began with her first time facing blatant racism head-on as she and her roommate sought housing accommodations.

In response to a racially charged event on campus, Boone said the college brought in a speaker who could talk with authority about culture, race, and being black in a small Iowa community.

"These are more popular now, but we also did a privilege walk, and that was powerful," she said. "It was probably the first time I heard someone talk about white privilege and what that is."

These early experiences, though Boone didn't realize it at the time, would play a significant role in her later work as an advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion in Hennepin County, Minnesota, and the ELCA church body.

Today, Boone works in the county's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Division.

"We believe diversity, equity, and inclusion is not an online training; you need to be in the room with folks and see each other and talk to each other and experience each other's stories for that to be effective," Boone said, adding that topics vary from the county's nondiscrimination and respectful workplace policy to how to have conversations about race and racism.

Boone also is trying to effect change in her church community. She was elected to the Minneapolis Area Synod Council about five years ago and currently serves as vice president.

Her focus for the coming four years will be to improve equity and inclusivity within the church. According to a 2015 report from Pew Research Center, 96 percent of all ELCA church members

are white, the highest of any U.S. religious group. And this study comes 27 years after the ELCA set a goal of increasing minority membership to at least 10 percent by 1998. In 1993, the church released *Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture*, a social statement expressing the ELCA's calling to celebrate culture and ethnicity.

"Knowing that one of Bishop (Ann) Svennungsen's commitments is to racial equity, I knew this would be a good time to make some movements on those fronts," she said. "We have

to take a hard look at our system and what it is that keeps this denomination in the U.S. so white when Protestantism is increasingly becoming more brown outside of the U.S."

In Boone's synod, a Unite Table was formed in 2012 in an attempt to bring together people who can foster conversations about diversity, equity, and inclusion in

the church as well as work toward producing and implementing action plans that could improve each of those areas over time. The executive committee also has requested each of the synod's 145 congregations identify a racial justice coordinator; 50 already have done so. The synod has a congregational organizer for racial justice who is working with the remaining churches.

"People are learning how to have this conversation with a biblical basis, and I'm feeling hopeful. Our churches are engaging in using the Intercultural Development Inventory to figure out where they are at culturally, what are the things that are getting in the way of being culturally diverse — and that goes beyond race — and what is the work we need to do to become more culturally competent as the church. I am hoping that out of our synod we can do something that can be a model for the rest of the church.

"The church is supposed to be a soft place to land, not fluffy, but soft when you are dealing with adverse conditions. Yes, we need to be challenged, but in my day-to-day, if I am facing this, I want the church to be the one place I am not fighting this fight. That is what drives me." ☪

**"We have to take a hard look at our system and what it is that keeps this denomination in the U.S. so white when Protestantism is increasingly becoming more brown outside of the U.S."**

— Felecia Boone '93



# REACHING THE NEXT GENERATION OF KNIGHTS

BY KATIE KREIS '19

PHOTOS JULIE PAGEL DREWES '90

*New referral program engages alumni in the recruitment process*

**DURING THE 2017 HOMECOMING & FAMILY WEEKEND**, the Alumni & Parent Relations Office launched the Alumni Referral Award, an initiative to engage alumni in the recruitment process at Wartburg. The program was designed to nurture and encourage alumni relationships with high school students and provide financial aid to future students. In its inaugural three months, the number of referrals skyrocketed to more than 500 in comparison with 2016's year-end total of 23 referrals.

The program was born out of a request by Wartburg alumni to help in the recruitment of students.

"We heard about alumni referring but that it was difficult for them to keep engaging with those students," said **Renee Clark Voves '04**, associate director of Institutional Advancement - Alumni & Parent Relations and Annual Giving. "The Alumni Referral Award gives them a tangible reason to reach out to a prospective student or students and then follow-up about Wartburg."

Recipients of the award benefit in two ways. Along with the financial aid component, they gain another supporter during their college decision-making process.

"We are also seeing the lasting impact that this award has on alumni," said Voves. "They are engaging with the college in ways they haven't before, sometimes for the first time, because they are excited about sharing Wartburg. There's also the mentality of giving Wartburg the gift of another student from their own circle of influence with which they can share their Wartburg experiences. That student can then share Wartburg with their circle, and the word about the college keeps spreading."

The Alumni Referral Award has been utilized by alumni spanning 65 years from all disciplines. The class of 2022 was the first class of Alumni Referral Award recipients on campus and saw a 100 percent retention rate from their first to second semester.

"We need every alumnus to refer every high school student they know," said Voves. "You can be the reason they consider Wartburg. You never know what might spark a student's interest, whether it's a conversation, campus visit, or financial aid."

The deadline to refer high school seniors graduating in 2020 is Nov. 1.



Voves '04

**“We need every alumnus to refer every high school student they know. You can be the reason they consider Wartburg.”**

– Renee Voves '04



alumni  
**REFERRAL  
AWARD**

**SINCE THE START  
OF THE PROGRAM**

**1,048** STUDENTS  
REFERRED

**605** ALUMNI  
PARTICIPATED

**IN 2018**

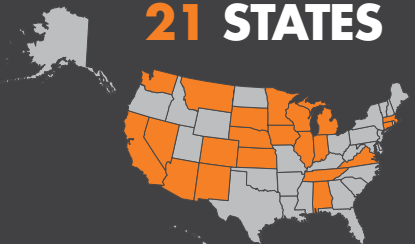
**42%** OF REFERRALS CAME  
FROM EDUCATORS, COACHES,  
AND MUSIC DIRECTORS

**GRADUATES SPANNING**

**1953-2018**

**PARTICIPATED, FROM**

**21 STATES**



Learn more about the **Alumni Referral Award** and refer a student at

**WWW.WARTBURG.EDU/REFER**

# THE POWER OF A CONVERSATION



**WITH ITS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND FOCUS ON ALUMNI RELATIONSHIPS**, the Alumni Referral Award made the decision to attend Wartburg a little sweeter for **Grace Roseen '22**.

"I had already decided this was where I wanted to go, but it made it even a little better because every little thing helps with the expenses," said the neuroscience and psychology double major from Chippewa Falls, Wis. "I'm thankful for the program because it's been a good way for me to get even closer to those alumni."

Roseen was referred by **Deb Harms Olson '78** as soon as the referral program was initiated in 2017. Olson and her husband met Roseen at church and began talking to her about Wartburg. After the couple became her mentors, Olson continued suggesting that Roseen visit campus.


"I knew that she was looking at Wartburg, so right away I thought about her as someone I could refer," said Olson, a retired first-grade teacher. "Grace's family goes to our church, and she's in a fellowship group that we started playing cards with. It's intergenerational. She was 13, and we had people who were 85 who liked to come and play. She would come with her grandparents and parents, so we really got to know her. She's a great kid. I'm glad that Wartburg has been a good fit for her. I kind of thought it would be."

Already in her time at Wartburg, Roseen has ventured into organizations, experiences, and opportunities she never dreamed of.

"My favorite part has been meeting so many new people and being able to talk to professors," said Roseen. "That is something I really wanted when I picked a school, because I like to ask one-on-one questions and have explanations. With soccer, I haven't been homesick, because I've been super busy and am having a good time. I had never even heard of Dance Marathon before I came here, so that was a really cool thing to be part of. The children's hospitals have helped a lot of people I know, so it's cool to be able to hear other stories and help out with that. I am also in the Scholars Program, so I'm looking forward to working closely with professors doing the research I want."

Olson remembers the expense of college tuition and understands that her contribution helped set Roseen up for success.

"I figure every little bit helps. One way to show students that I support them going to this college is helping them in some way," said Olson. "It's great for the students who might go there to know that I recommend them and am supporting their education, and Wartburg is also invested in them. It's important for Wartburg to bring in students and help support them however they can, so through the Alumni Referral Award, we can work together as a team to get kids in a great place where they can get their education."

Roseen and Olson still make a point to connect whenever possible to talk about Wartburg, and Olson is excited to refer more high school students through the Alumni Referral Award program. 



Olson '78 and Roseen '22

Roseen '22

## 3 EASY STEPS

The referral process requires three simple steps:

- 1) A Wartburg alumnus must submit the online referral form to refer a high school student before Nov. 1 of their graduating academic year.
- 2) That student must apply and be accepted to Wartburg.
- 3) The student receives \$1,000 annually in the form of a scholarship named in honor of the alumnus.



# SUPPORTING STUDENTS' PASSIONS

**FINANCIAL AID CAME AS A SURPRISE** to **Max Aalbers '22** when a family friend referred him to Wartburg.

The first-year student from Hampton set his sights on physical therapy but quickly switched his major to exercise science when the program was unveiled in his first term at Wartburg. Now, he is seizing all opportunities to apply what he learns in the classroom to his work in The W and through his participation in intramural sports.

Aalbers' dedication to his passions was a quality that inspired **Jodi Schall White '95** to refer him to Wartburg via the Alumni Referral Award.

"Max is one of those students who has the world going for him," said the K-4 Title I math educator at Hampton-Dumont. "He's intelligent, has a heart for God and people, is outgoing and kind, and is one of those great kids. I knew he would be such an asset to Wartburg because of the service-mindedness."

White is a lifelong friend of Aalbers' parents. She held him when he was three days old, has watched him grow up, and believes Aalbers is the kind of person Wartburg looks for. Such sentiments aren't lost on him.

"It's kind of come full circle because she was there at the beginning when I was first growing up," said Aalbers. "Now that I'm becoming more of an adult and moving on, she's there to help send me off to do what I want to do. I didn't know about this award until she saw it and referred me. The process was really simple, and I didn't have to hardly do anything other than attend."

When White was looking at colleges, a family friend referred her to Wartburg. Now, she is able to pay it back and then some.

"Wartburg was one of the best decisions I ever made," said White. "I have friends from there who are the best things that have ever happened to me. I don't know if I could do this life without those people I met at Wartburg. I referred someone a couple years ago before the Alumni Referral Award. When Max was going to go, I teased his mom that I gave him a \$4,000 graduation present."

Aalbers is excited for his next three years at Wartburg as he begins applying what he learns in the classroom.

"I like how exercise science focuses and relates to physical therapy and how it's going to be learning hands-on things that I actually will do if I do become a physical therapist," he said. "I'm looking forward to being more involved in athletic training and exercise science. I want to eventually help in the athletic training room, go to team practices, and act as an athletic trainer. I can also volunteer at the hospital, which I think I'm going to do next year."

Professionally and personally, Aalbers feels that Wartburg was the right choice.

"Wartburg has really helped me grow as a person because it's helped me meet new people who I wouldn't have met in high school," said Aalbers. "Coming from a small town, pretty much everyone is the same. Wartburg has broadened my thinking and challenged me in a good way to become a better person." 🍷



Aalbers '22 and White '95



Aalbers '22

# A WAY TO GIVE BACK

**FOR LUKE OBERBROECKLING '22**, the decision to attend Wartburg was rooted in one teacher's passion for the college.

"The band teacher at my high school who gave me the Alumni Referral Award, **Staci Speer '11**, is a really great person," said the history education major from Dyersville. "We were talking about colleges and where to go, and she had this big Wartburg flag up in her office. We asked her what her experience was at Wartburg, and I remember her telling me that she's got a little bit of debt from student loans that she's paying off. She said that if she would go to Wartburg just to have the same amount of debt again, she would do it 10 times out of 10."

For Oberbroeckling, the testimonies he received from educators, friends, and peers solidified his decision to strongly consider, and then attend, Wartburg.

"I was kind of on the fence between Wartburg and a couple of other colleges, but because of the Alumni Referral Award and the effort Staci put in to filling that out, I knew it was going to be a good place," he said. "I knew I was going to enjoy myself no matter where I went, so I figured I would come to Wartburg, especially because Staci put in the effort to make sure that I came here."

Speer continues to refer students to the college.

"Right now, I'm not in a place to give to the college, so this is such a small way that I can enjoy giving back," said Speer, the band director at Beckman Catholic High School. "I saw the email, looked through the nomination process, and thought that it's such an easy way for students to get money. Anything I can do to help students out financially I do, because some students are scared to even apply to Wartburg because of the sticker price. This is one easy way to help them with that or put a bug in their ear about Wartburg."

To begin the referral process, Speer sends all of her students an email explaining what the award is and that she wants to nominate them.

"Almost all band seniors even just thinking about visiting Wartburg come to me, and I nominate them," said Speer. "I get the pleasure of having students for four to eight years, so I know them well and feel good about referring those students."

Oberbroeckling was only in Speer's band for a short time, but she made a large impact on his future. Since coming to Wartburg, he has been able to enjoy exploring his passions through the History Club, Game Knights, and Catholic Knights, and he hopes to start an Ultimate Frisbee or disc golf intramural team on campus.

Speer advises current students to take advantage of the alumni network and has begun that connection with Oberbroeckling already with her referral.

"Wartburg is very unique in that the alumni watch out for each other," said Speer. "Students shouldn't be afraid to reach out and get their advice, ask to shadow, and get opinions on the profession itself."

Looking toward the future, the opportunity to excel in every area of his life is something Oberbroeckling is excited about.

"I don't think I would've gotten the same education at a bigger school," he said. "The faculty-to-student ratio is pretty small. If I'm not doing well in a class, I can reach out to the professor or they'll even reach out to me. It's nice to know that somebody's always there to help you along the way." 📖



Oberbroeckling '22



Speer '11





# AN EDUCATOR'S PERSPECTIVE



Bast '22

**AS AN EDUCATOR AND FORMER COACH, Paul Mugan '91** is no stranger to connecting students with Wartburg. Six of his many referrals are current Knights, and he actively seeks out students he can envision thriving at Wartburg.

"I learned about the Alumni Referral Award before most because I was on the Alumni Board at the time," said the Waverly-Shell Rock High School biology teacher. "We learned details that made me realize what the college can very easily do to have dramatic positive effects. Just looking around that room, there were many people who were going to have the opportunity to refer so many kids."

One of those effects is encouraging students like **Jayme Willemssen '22** to commit to a college that is close to home.

"I was looking at a lot of other colleges, but when Mugan referred me, I was starting to get pretty serious about coming to Wartburg," said Willemssen, an exercise science major from Waverly. "It was probably the start of my turning point. I had more of those conversations with Mugan about Wartburg. The science program really interested me. I knew it was challenging and would prepare me well."

Willemssen was referred by two alumni — Mugan and **Mark Hubbard '01** — a special feature of the Alumni Referral Award. Though she cannot receive extra financial compensation for multiple referrals, Willemssen gained an alumni connection that drives many students to take their education even more seriously.

"There are all sorts of positives for Wartburg in terms of attracting candidates and retaining those I refer," said Mugan. "Because now, it's not just me and my family connected to Wartburg. It's a student who knows I've spoken up for them. Students see that their award has my name on it, and they don't want to let me down."

This is especially true for Willemssen, who keeps in contact with Mugan and Hubbard.

"It makes me feel really good that they think so highly of me, because I think really highly of them," said Willemssen. "I keep in touch, but it's hard to see them all the time. Paul came to a couple volleyball games, so I saw him there, and I see Mark around town from time to time."

Mugan participates actively in the referral process, seeking out seniors who are interested in Wartburg.

Willemssen '22



Mugan '91



Hubbard '01

"As a high school teacher, the kids know that I've been referring them," said Mugan. "About the time when kids have made their applications, I go to the counselor to tell me who's actually sent their transcripts to Wartburg. I get those, look at that list, and then go talk to those kids. This year someone had come to me before I even contacted the counselor."

One of those students is **Sam Bast '22**, who initiated the Wartburg conversation with Mugan.


"I was in engineering class and was goofing off on Twitter," said Bast, an engineering science major from Waverly. "Mr. Mugan was doing a competition with other people about getting the most referrals, so I casually sent him an email saying I would love it if he could do that for me. I didn't do it just for the money — I thought it might help him win the competition, too." Bast wasn't considering Wartburg until he stepped foot on campus and realized the financial aid he would receive.

He then discovered the engineering science major, met professors, and realized he was a small-school person.

"I was pretty sure I was coming to Wartburg," said Bast. "The final thoughts were about cost overall, and the Alumni Referral Award definitely helped."

In Winter Term, he was involved with Homecoming Committee, Students UKnight, Ritterchor, Cedar Valley Today, student mentoring, and worked in Neumann Auditorium and Mensa.

As a member of Wartburg's Alumni Board and a former tutor and tight end coach for the Knights, Mugan said his decision to refer students revolves largely around service and building relationships.

"Some of my greatest relationships and my greatest memories of Wartburg were when I was helping someone else," said Mugan. "As a student, you have to find a way in your world to be of service, to be helpful. You extend yourself a little bit beyond what's expected of you, and you may not think it pays off. Imagine, though, what I would do for you knowing you made an extra effort for me." 

# ROOTED AND OPEN

*Lutheran roots support growth and renewed purpose in a changing world*

**BY** STEPHANIE ROBBINS BOEDING '99

**PHOTOS** JULIE PAGEL DREWES '90  
AND SUBMITTED



Colson



Wilhelm



Riswold

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A LUTHERAN COLLEGE IN THE 21ST CENTURY?

That question has been a driving force for the Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities (NECU), which includes Wartburg College, and has led to a document called *Rooted and Open: The Common Calling of the Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities*. The document unites and guides the 27 member colleges and universities as they grow in the 21st century while also holding true to their Lutheran roots stretching back to the 16th century.

The presidents of the NECU institutions banded together in 2015 to navigate practical matters and to help articulate the distinction of being a Lutheran institution in a changing world. As part of NECU from its start, Wartburg President Darrel Colson relished the task of digging into the theological underpinnings. “We really got deep into the core of, what is it to be a Lutheran institution? How are we different from other institutions, and why is that important?” he said. Those discussions led to NECU drafting and eventually adopting *Rooted and Open* in 2018. “I see it as a wonderfully concise description of what Lutheran higher education is. I think that is fairly well captured by this document.”

For Mark Wilhelm, executive director of NECU, the need for a common statement has been prompted by big changes to the culture and church in recent decades.

“Part of the change over the last 70 years, since WWII, is that our colleges moved slowly from being in their founding phase, organized to serve a specific ethnic group of Lutherans, to being a more diverse and globally engaged group of students,” he said.

Since fall 2016, Wilhelm has been helping the member presidents create language to articulate what it means to be a Lutheran college that is no longer just understood to serve a Lutheran ethnic identity. “We have a theological, intellectual, and educational tradition that’s all shaped out of Lutheran heritage. What does that mean? *Rooted and Open* is the outcome of pulling all that together and is the culmination of that long discussion and the shifts that occurred in our community after WWII.”

That flow, from the roots of Lutheran tradition to the future of the culture and the church, excites Dr. Caryn Riswold, who has just finished her first year at Wartburg as a professor of religion and newly installed Mike and Marge McCoy Family Distinguished Chair of Lutheran Heritage and Mission. “When I interviewed here, I noticed this is a place where religion matters,” she said. “There’s a narrative out there of religious colleges giving up identity, becoming too secular. I don’t see it working that way at Wartburg.”



For Riswold, the prospect of moving a tree in her yard this spring led to her thinking about the concepts surrounding *Rooted and Open* and the future of Lutheran colleges. “If you don’t let the tree grow, its roots will die. If you cut it back too far, keep it contained too much, it will die,” she said. “The goal is that the tree grows and puts out leaves and flowers. Those buds and leaves bring the energy in to the roots, and the roots continue to be fed. You actually have to have growth to continue to have roots.”

A group of faculty members from several institutions, including former Wartburg professor of religion the Rev. Dr. Kathryn Kleinhans, now dean of Trinity Lutheran Theological Seminary at Capital University, worked with NECU presidents to identify several underlying theological values for *Rooted and Open*, showing that the connection to Lutheran tradition is the key for how NECU institutions distinctively educate students in a pluralistic society today.

“Although their mission statements vary, NECU institutions share a common calling,” states the document. “Together, these educational communities equip graduates who are:

*Called and empowered  
To serve the neighbor  
So that all may flourish.”*

*“If you don’t let the tree grow, its roots will die. If you cut it back too far, keep it contained too much, it will die.”*

– Dr. Caryn Riswold

Each of the NECU institutions adopts these priorities differently, depending on their own history, administration, student body, and mission. The educational priorities are presented so they could be affirmed by students, faculty, staff, and administrators who may or may not be Lutheran, may or may not be Christian, may or may not even be religious at all.

Wartburg College invited Darrell Jodock, professor emeritus at Gustavus Adolphus College, to share more about the background and themes of the statement during a Wartburg faculty workshop in January. He described the educational pillars of Lutheran institutions of higher education as supports holding up the deck of a bridge, which represents all that happens at a college, such as classes, music, athletics, maintenance, administration, and more. The footings of those pillars, the very foundations, are the theological principles drawn from the Lutheran religious tradition, and that’s where Lutheran colleges and universities differ from others.

The challenge today for Lutheran colleges like Wartburg is to help students, faculty, and staff see the difference the theological roots make in how the institution carries out its mission. “What’s at the foundation is our belief that when we are liberated from sin, by the grace of God, we are liberated for the purpose of serving our neighbors,” said Colson. “For us, there’s this deep, deep root that explains why service is important. At other secular schools, they say service is important, but I don’t think they can say why.”

“Service and leadership show up in a lot of colleges’ missions, but the fact that it’s fed by the roots of a robust theology influences our student and faculty culture and ought to influence how decisions are made,” said Riswold, who feels the importance of *Rooted and Open* as a faculty member. She spent her first May Term taking students to Germany for a course called Reformation Then and Now, which studies Lutheran theology in the country where Martin Luther lived 500 years ago. “I had no opportunity to bring that into the classroom previously, and I do now. We work through Luther’s difficult texts about the Jews, and it’s important we confront the underside of Luther,” she said.





The following are several of the educational principles and theological footings highlighted in *Rooted and Open* that distinguish Lutheran colleges and universities:

**Fostering wisdom:** Understanding of people and what they need to live a full life. Values healthy communities and multiple perspectives. Behind this is the belief that knowledge should help others.

**Fostering civil discourse:** We live in a society that is growing more polarized, but Lutheran roots remind us that other people have something to teach us.

**Radical hospitality:** Welcoming students and others in a safe place where they can learn and where their positions can be challenged; there is freedom to grow.

**Incarnational principle:** The presence of the divine in ordinary life.

**Theology of the cross:** God is particularly present in and with those who suffer; we should be attentive to those who are marginalized.

**Limits of human knowing:** God is both hidden and revealed. We can never have a full understanding of God; there will always be much beyond our understanding. Institutions should practice a spirit of intellectual humility and genuine curiosity.

**Freedom of a Christian:** Freedom from having to save oneself and freedom to serve neighbors.

**Vocation:** The idea from Martin Luther that all people are called to meaningful work that is needed in the world among multiple aspects of life.

**Concern for all creation:** God's generosity reaches all humans, and divine generosity motivates us to work for the common good.

**Costly grace:** We're saved by grace through faith in Christ. Following Bonhoeffer's idea of costly grace, we have a resource and power to DO something with this grace. Grace leads us to commitment to other people, advocating for others, works of love, and that costs you something.

**Nested in communities:** Individuals are always embedded in larger communities. There is a proper balance between individual and community that keeps us from the danger of extreme individualism, or as Luther put it, a "heart turned in on itself."

For students, no matter their religious background or beliefs, coming to a Lutheran-affiliated college like Wartburg makes a difference in what is studied and how knowledge is applied, and that includes exploring matters of faith.

"If you're a student here, you don't have to be a Lutheran or even religious, but you should not escape our mission goals," said Wilhelm. "You shouldn't leave here without asking why 90 percent of the world's population thinks religion is important. You can't call yourself an educated person without exploring that."

The Rev. Dr. Brian Beckstrom, in his role as Wartburg's dean of spiritual life, echoed that support of faith exploration. He is working to clarify Wartburg's faith identity in a concise statement that is guided by the principles of *Rooted and Open*, then to articulate how Wartburg, as a college of the church, understands interfaith relationships. "There are some really exciting possibilities here in terms of us continuing to understand who we are and the Spirit continuing to lead us in that discernment," he said. "God's doing something new, and the question is, how do we participate in that, and what does it look like to be followers of Christ in the midst of this time when we have so many more and different religious traditions that are all around us?"



Beckstrom

An extension of the radical hospitality laid out in *Rooted and Open* is serving students, faculty, and staff of non-Christian backgrounds. Beckstrom noted that the Lilly Reflection Room in Saemann Student Center has been a space for interfaith prayer, but more can be done as the student body grows more diverse. "We are in the process of remodeling an old conference room in the basement of the Chapel into another interfaith prayer chapel, and that will be available to students of any background," he said. Another effort is to help students organize a Muslim student association on campus. "Obviously, Spiritual Life & Campus Ministry has a clear Christian identity, and yet as *Rooted and Open* calls us to do, there's a sense of hospitality as well to people of all different religious traditions and non-religious traditions. So that openness and being able to learn from one another is critical."

Earlier this year, Beckstrom led a small group of Wartburg religion faculty and students to Augustana College in Rock Island, Ill., to study what the sister institution has implemented for interfaith programs. The group sat in on a Muslim prayer service, and what Beckstrom observed struck him: One of the Wartburg students, a Muslim, joined in the worship. "To see her being able to live out her faith and practice her faith was just such a moving moment for me, because I realized she doesn't have an opportunity to do that very often with other Muslims," he said. "If I was in a majority Muslim country, and I was a Christian trying to practice my faith, what that must feel like to be among people who come from that same tradition. And to feel supported by people who are not part of your tradition. That was a really moving moment for me."

Beckstrom knows the discussion about interfaith practices at a Christian-affiliated school can be a difficult topic. "I'll admit, when the interfaith conversation first started, I was like, 'How do we do this?'" he said. "I think one of the best ways to understanding it is to think about it in terms of

"We  
community  
than we  
build a  
people"



exactly what the statement says, *Rooted and Open*. And so is it possible to be part of a specific religious tradition and yet be open to the other, to be willing to see Christ in our neighbor? To see all those who come as Christ among us?

“Contrary to the fear that some people have that we need to protect our faith as fragile, the truth is when we have experiences with people from other faith traditions, you tend to grow more deeply in your own faith, because it makes you think about what’s really important to you and what your beliefs are,” said Beckstrom.

“When you look at our mission statement, we’re committed to inculcating and encouraging in our students these predispositions toward leadership and service because of our understanding of grace. But if our students graduate into lives of leadership and service and they’re spiritually animated by the Hindu faith or the Muslim faith, we’re perfectly comfortable with that,” said Colson. “We’re happy to welcome into the community those who believe differently than we do, because we believe we can build a strong community as diverse people with diverse points of view.”

The principle of vocation, which lies at the heart of *Rooted and Open*, has long been at the heart of Wartburg’s mission to prepare students to “lead lives of leadership and service as a spirited expression of their faith and learning,” and students graduate having reflected on their own sense of vocation through coursework.

“It’s so embedded in the students’ culture here, to talk about vocation and calling,” said Riswold. “There’s space and support for those conversations in a way that the institution is creating that is distinctive.”

*“We’re happy to welcome into the community those who believe differently than we do, because we believe we can build a strong community as diverse people with diverse points of view.”*

– Dr. Darrel D. Colson

For Riswold, the concept of *Rooted and Open* explains how Lutheran higher education has remained vibrant through the decades, evolving from its beginnings of educating only young white men for church leadership. “It’s only alive today because institutions, the leaders, and the church expanded their notions of what a church leader looked like, and expanded their notions of what the purpose of Lutheran higher education was for. It’s not just for church leaders, but for teachers and nurses and doctors. So we would be dead had we not allowed it to grow,” she said. “I think that’s what we’re continuing to do, and that’s what *Rooted and Open* captures, is the necessity of growth to have healthy root systems.”

The full text of *Rooted and Open: The Common Calling of the Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities* is available at [www.wartburg.edu/rooted-magazine](http://www.wartburg.edu/rooted-magazine).

The same website also has a link to the Presidential Podcast with Drs. Darrel Colson and Caryn Riswold featuring a discussion about the *Rooted and Open* statement.

## Chapel marks 25 years on campus

BY STEPHANIE ROBBINS BOEDING '99



Picturing Wartburg College without the Wartburg Chapel as an anchor on the south side of campus is nearly impossible for those who have known the college since 1994, when the structure was completed and dedicated, forever changing the college’s landscape both literally and figuratively.

The Rev. Larry Trachte '66, campus pastor from 1974 to 2009, vividly remembers campus religious activities held in Neumann Auditorium and other campus locations before the Chapel was built. “When the architect started interviewing students about what they wanted in the chapel, they would say light and intimacy.”

As the architect, Ben Weese of Chicago, drew up plans for a more traditional, linear chapel design, Trachte was skeptical it could bring a feeling of closeness. But Weese had spent time studying historic churches in Germany and in his plans included a balcony similar to one in the city church of Wittenberg, where Martin Luther had preached.

“The balcony circles, or encloses, the worshipping community,” said Trachte. “The balcony architecturally creates the community and does the thing that I most wanted, which was create intimacy downstairs but capacity upstairs.

“I underestimated what a chapel would mean to Wartburg College,” said Trachte. “It’s been one of the most significant buildings and gifts that I believe the college has ever received. It stands as a testimony to our calling and commitment as a college.”

To learn more about the history of the Wartburg Chapel and read some of your fellow Knights’ favorite memories, visit [www.wartburg.edu/magazine-chapel-25](http://www.wartburg.edu/magazine-chapel-25).

The college will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Wartburg Chapel during Homecoming & Family Weekend. Watch your mail and email for details!

# Balancing ACT

*Traughber splits time between cancer research, treating patients*

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN PHOTO SUBMITTED

**IN THE 18 YEARS** since **Bryan Traughber '01** has left Wartburg he has completed medical school, spent two years conducting research at the National Cancer Institute, landed his dream job at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, founded two medical device companies, claimed several patents, performed a first-of-its-kind procedure to treat advanced cervical cancer, and still found time to start a family.

That's not a bad list of accomplishments for someone who originally wasn't even considering a career in medicine.

"I majored in chemistry and biochemistry but was always unsure about being a physician. I wanted to earn my Ph.D. and be a chemistry professor," Traughber said. "My dream actually was to be a chemical engineer and work for NASA on polymers for space shuttles."

His professors had other ideas about his future. "Dr. (David) Hampton was the organic chemistry professor, and he did a bait and switch on me. I was a guinea pig in the biochemistry program with him, but what he was really doing was lining me up for a career in medicine.

"He set me up on internships. I followed some general surgeons and primary care physicians and hated every minute of it," Traughber continued. "What tipped it for me was a summer research internship with **Richard Wahl**. He was a nuclear medicine physician at the University of Michigan and was able to do cancer research and treat patients."

For Traughber, being able to treat patients using the information he discovered in his own research was the best of both worlds and made a career in medicine not only palatable but desirable. During his senior year, Traughber applied and was accepted to Des Moines University and the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine. However, never one to take the well-trodden path, Traughber deferred his acceptance to Iowa in favor of another year with Wahl, a 1973 Wartburg graduate who had moved his lab to the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore.





Wahl continued to push Traughber to reach for more, including a place at a more research-driven medical school. With his acceptance to Iowa in his back pocket, Traughber took a leap and applied to additional medical schools, and in fall 2002 he entered the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine, which offered one of the top cancer molecular imaging programs in the world.

"I definitely would not have gotten into UCLA without him," Traughber said.

Wahl, who was featured in the Winter 2019 *Wartburg Magazine*, said he has been "delighted at the contributions Bryan has made in the field."

"That's one of the most exciting things about academics, to see someone you had even a brief interaction with do well," Wahl said.

It was during his medical school years that Traughber helped found his first company, Vidatak. While doing rotations in the intensive care unit, he took an interest in the research being done about "sedation holidays," a protocol that showed promise in decreasing the duration of mechanical ventilation. Unfortunately, there were often complications during these "holidays" as patients struggled to communicate with those around them while intubated. Traughber and his business partner devised a marker board with 20 to 30 of the most basic communications needed for a person in the ICU. The boards were later refined and began attracting interest from other hospitals.

"We started selling them out of our garage. We would go to med school during the day, and then come home, check the fax machine, and fill orders for a couple of hours every night," he said.

Traughber again put his formal schooling on hold in 2005 for a two-year training grant at the National Cancer Institute - National Institutes of Health in Washington, D.C., doing cancer imaging and therapy. He finished medical school at UCLA in 2008 and headed east to Ohio, where he would eventually land at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland specializing in cancer imaging and cancer therapy.

"After my internship with Dr. Wahl, I really thought I wanted to be a radiologist, but I did one year of diagnostic radiology and didn't like it," Traughber

**"I was a guinea pig in the biochemistry program with him [Dr. Hampton], but what he was really doing was lining me up for a career in medicine."**

**– Bryan Traughber '01**

said. "Day-to-day they are looking at images on the screen, and I missed taking care of patients. So, I switched to a radiation oncology residency program where we still do a lot of imaging and engineering-type work, but we work directly with patients on a daily basis, which was a better fit for me."

It was during this time that Traughber secured two grants from the National Institutes of Health. The first allowed him to study the traditional nurse call button and how the delays associated with the model can lead to injuries and a decrease in patient satisfaction. From the research, Traughber helped launch Eloquence Communications and designed a new software-based nurse call system that underwent a large preclinical and clinical trial at the University of Michigan. The system is now available for purchase for any health care facility. The second grant from the National Institutes of Health focused on the development of quantitative imaging techniques that could be used in clinical trials for cancer patients.

Today, Traughber is the director of the Quantitative Imaging Laboratory at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and a practicing radiation oncologist at the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center. His expertise includes cancers "below the belly button," such as cervical, prostate, and bladder cancers. He also specializes in brachytherapy, a treatment option that places radiation inside the body, and in 2017 was the first in North America to use a new gynecologic brachytherapy applicator designed to treat advanced cervical cancer. His research is focused on better cancer imaging, which can lead to more targeted therapy, improving his ability to cure patients and reduce side effects in the process. More recently, he's identified a new biomarker in prostate cancer and developed a drug that targets it, which can be used for imaging or therapy.

Even with all of his success after his time at Wartburg, Traughber remembers where his passion for medicine and research took root.

When Wartburg launched its first Fund the Fortress crowdfunding campaign for a new thermal cyler that would be used by all biology and biochemistry majors, Traughber remembered the plaque above the nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy unit in his old chemistry labs.

"It recognized the alumni donors who helped fund the project, and I thought it would be good to give back in that same way," he said. Traughber also is following in the footsteps of his mentor, having offered a position in his lab last summer to **Ethan Lemke '19**, a biochemistry major from Clinton who is headed to the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine in the fall. Lemke worked with Traughber's post-doctoral fellows on a new drug they had invented.

"He was fantastic. I gave him a hard time just like Dr. Wahl gave me a hard time, and he fit right in with the lab," Traughber said. "We did some mock interviews with him to get him ready for his medical school interviews. It made me feel nostalgic; I remember Dr. Wahl doing that stuff for me about 20 years ago now." 🍷



# KNIGHTS SPRING RECAP



Boettger '19

Gerdes '20

The women's basketball team made its fourth-straight appearance in the NCAA Tournament and made it all the way to the Elite Eight before falling to the St. Thomas Tommies. **Adrienne Boettger '19** was named a WBCA All-American (one of only 10 selected), and her jersey will be hung in the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame "Ring of Honor" in recognition of her outstanding season. Boettger also was nominated for the NCAA Woman of the Year Award. The winner of that award will be announced in October. **Emma Gerdes '20** was named American Rivers Conference MVP, and Coach Bob Amsberry was a finalist for the WCBA National Coach of the Year for the second straight year.

## Here are other highlights from the winter and spring seasons:

- The 2018-19 men's basketball team earned a Team Academic Excellence Award from the National Association of Basketball Coaches for having a team GPA of 3.0 or better. **Jaran Sabus '19** and **Cam Kickbush '19** were named First-team All-Conference in men's basketball. Sabus ends his Wartburg career as the program's third-leading scorer, while Kickbush is the career leader in three-point field goals. Kickbush, **Josh Gehling '19**, **Evan Sprung '19**, **Connor Schult '20**, and **Ryan Stulken '20** were named to the National Association of Basketball Coaches Honors Court
- The wrestling team won its 27th straight conference championship and seventh consecutive NCAA regional championship. Four wrestlers earned All-American status: **Brady Fritz '22**, **Cross Cannone '19**, **Kyle Briggs '21**, and **Bowen Wileman '19**. Cannone also graduates as the career leader in tech falls. The team finished sixth at Nationals.
- A school-record-tying five members of the women's golf team were named Women's Golf Coaches Association Scholar All-Americans: **Katie Choate '21**, **Alisha Ford '22**, **Brooke Klostermann '19**, **Mackenzie Roberts '21**, and **Victoria Speltz '19**. Klostermann also was named to the Google Cloud Academic All-District team for the second year. She also became the first person in program history to earn four career All-Region honors. The team also earned the WGCA's All-Scholar team GPA award, with the 22nd best GPA among all Division III teams.
- The men's golf team finished fifth out of the nine-team field at the American Rivers Conference Championship. **Brandon Russell '21** earned All-Conference honors for the second time in his career after finishing third among all golfers.



Sabus '19

Kickbush '19



Klostermann '19

Russell '21

**FOR MORE UPDATES ON WARTBURG ATHLETICS, VISIT [WWW.GO-KNIGHTS.NET](http://WWW.GO-KNIGHTS.NET).**





- The Knights made their first NCAA Softball Tournament appearance in 10 years during the 2019 season. **Maddie Rog '21** was named the conference Pitcher of the Year while she, **Sydney Illg '22**, **Liz Roby-Miklus '19**, and **Kailee O'Brien '19** ended the season with All-Region honors from the National Fastpitch Coaches Association. Roby-Miklus earned her place in the record books as the leader for both career and season stolen bases, and **Lauren Reicks '21** became the career leader in saves.
- The Wartburg College men's outdoor track and field program tied for 11th at the NCAA DIII Outdoor Track and Field Championships. This marks the highest finish for the Knights since 2008. **Dallas Wright '21** won a national championship in the 400-meter hurdles, becoming the program's first individual national champion since 2011.
- The men's and women's bowling team completed its inaugural season. At the Kegel/ISBPA Collegiate Classic, **Erin Wood '22** placed 45th out of 376 bowlers, while **Patrick Connolly '22** placed 188 out of 476 competitors.
- The women's lacrosse team finished the season 6-10, and **Ashlyn Jelinek '19** was named Second-team All-Conference for the second time in her career. The team has had at least one All-Conference selection in each of the five years of the program.
- The baseball team finished the season 13-16. **Tyler Hovick '20**, **Dylan Gotto '21**, and **JoJo McNair '21** earned their first All-Conference honors following successful individual seasons.
- The men's tennis team won 16 matches this season, breaking the record for wins in a season last set in 2011-12. **Lucas Huffman '22** and **Sam Nettleton '19** were named All-Conference for singles and doubles. The women earned 17 total wins, tying the school record from 2009-10 for most wins in an individual year.
- For the 17th straight year, Wartburg claimed the American Rivers Conference All-Sports Championship Trophy, recognizing the conference's top overall athletic program. The Knights also won the Marjorie Giles Women's All-Sports Championship Trophy for the 16th time and the Elmer Hertel Men's All-Sports Trophy for the 22nd time. Wartburg ranked 24th in the final standings of the Learfield Director's Cup for NCAA Division III. The Knights have finished in the Top 25 in 17 of the last 19 years.



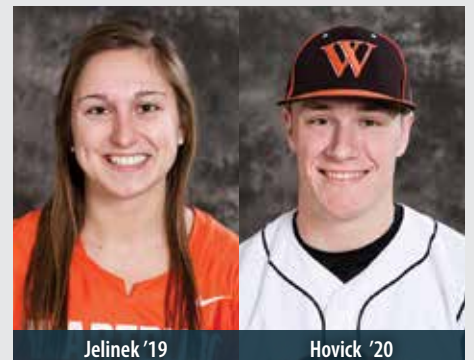
Rog '21

Roby-Miklus '19



O'Brien '19

Connolly '22



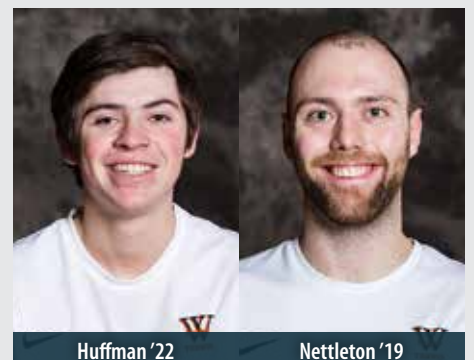
Jelinek '19

Hovick '20



Gotto '21

McNair '21



Huffman '22

Nettleton '19



Wright '21



# OUTDOOR ATHLETIC FACILITY ENHANCEMENTS

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN

## *Salzwedel Challenge Gift sets pace for planned enhancements to Wartburg's athletic venues*


**A \$750,000 CHALLENGE GIFT**, made by **Jack '82** and **Sarah Slife '82 Salzwedel** of Middleton, Wis., has set the pace for a proposed \$1.5 million outdoor athletic facilities project that will enhance the playing and viewing experience for seven Wartburg College sports.

The Salzwedels' gift, when matched with gifts from other alumni and friends, will provide the funding needed to:

- Enhance seating at the baseball and softball fields, where temporary bleachers will be replaced with permanent aluminum structures that will provide seating for 300 at Lynes Field and 500 at Hertel Field. A press box, with technology enhancements and improved sight lines, also will be constructed at each field.
- Remove the temporary bleachers at the men's and women's soccer venue and replace them with permanent aluminum bleachers that seat up to 400 spectators. The façade of the bleacher structure will allow for signage to celebrate the tradition of success within the men's and women's programs.
- Move the start/finish area on the Max Cross Country Course just north of the railroad tracks to improve spectator viewing and safety.
- Install lighting on the college's lacrosse/multipurpose field, which also is used by both soccer teams.
- Install a fence around the soccer field.
- Create a hard-surface parking area adjacent to the Knief Outdoor Athletics Pavilion, located near the baseball and soccer fields.

"Sarah and I are pleased to offer this challenge gift, and we encourage others to lend their support to enable Wartburg to realize these much-needed facility enhancements," said Jack Salzwedel. "We've seen firsthand the positive impact intercollegiate athletics has in enriching the educational experience."

Jack and Sarah are the parents of **Luke '13** and **Tyler '15**, who both played soccer.

For more information about this project, visit [www.wartburg.edu/seating-enhancements](http://www.wartburg.edu/seating-enhancements). 

## HERTEL FIELD BASEBALL VENUE



## MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SOCCER VENUE



## LYNES FIELD SOFTBALL VENUE



The Salzwedels



# BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN



## *Updates, additions at The W will house new exercise science lab*

**FUNDRAISING HAS BEGUN IN SUPPORT OF A \$3.7 MILLION RENOVATION AND CONSTRUCTION PROJECT** that will include a new Health and Human Performance Center inside the Wartburg-Waverly Sports & Wellness Center (The W) where the strength and conditioning room currently sits.

To date, the college has secured about \$1 million in gifts and pledges, including a \$750,000 gift from Mike and Marge McCoy of Ellison Bay, Wis. The McCoy's are parents of Wartburg graduates **Matthew '93** and **Michele '97**. Mike McCoy, who retired as CFO of Hormel Foods Corporation, is the chair of the Board of Regents. The McCoy's also chaired the college's successful Transforming Tomorrow comprehensive campaign.

In addition, the college is allocating \$500,000 from a recent unrestricted gift from **Darwyn (Dar) Meyer '61** to support the project. A former wrestler, Meyer took pride in his alma mater's intercollegiate athletic program and made plans to help the Knights sustain that success into the future. The Charles City native, who later lived in California, died in February. The Board of Regents approved the naming of the Meyer Strength & Conditioning Annex in celebration of his legacy.

"Dar would be so pleased and humbled to have this annex named after him. He was always so grateful to be a Wartburg alum and blessed to have the ability to give this generous gift to Wartburg," said Dora Burke, Darwin's wife. "He truly believed in paying it forward. With Dar, I was able to visit your beautiful campus twice and am so pleased and proud his legacy will live on."

The Meyer Strength & Conditioning Annex, which will be constructed on the south side of Levick Arena, will offer a larger footprint to a growing intercollegiate athletics program, and its close proximity also will allow for integration with student-faculty research opportunities in exercise science. The two-story addition, which will be roughly 25 percent larger than the current strength and conditioning area, will feature 17 weight platforms allowing two teams to utilize the space at one time. The facility also will offer expanded areas for cardio and conditioning activities.


When the new space opens, Wartburg is expected to become the first Division III school to utilize the EliteForm motion-capture system throughout its entire weight room, allowing for unique student-faculty research opportunities and better leveraging of the connections between intercollegiate athletics and the academic program. The technology, which is more commonly used by professional sports

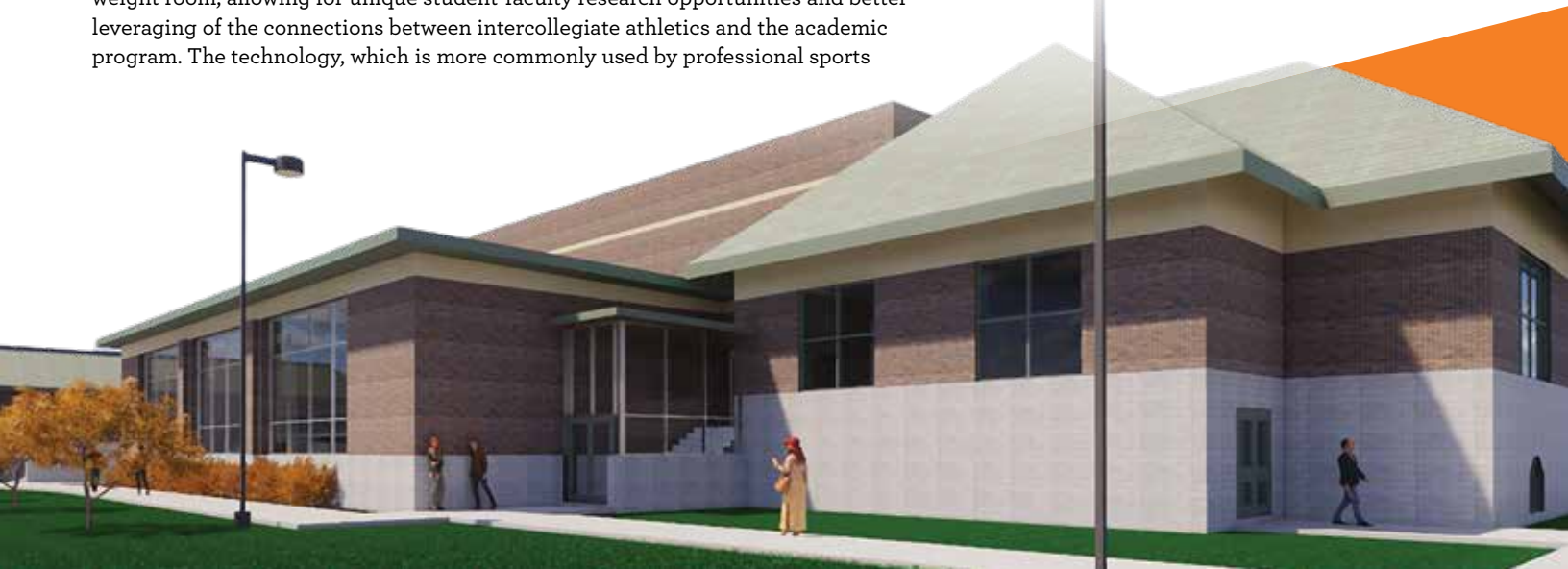
teams and Division I athletic programs, can help manage the college's strength and conditioning program by tracking each athlete's individual workout in the system and making it available at each machine.

"This is going to help us in recruiting. Prospective student-athletes are going to walk into our weight room and their jaws are going to drop," said Ed Westen, chair of the Department of Health and Human Performance. "Every current student-athlete I talk to is like, 'You have got to be kidding me!'"

The new Health and Human Performance Center, which will be used by students majoring in exercise science, will include a 1,000-square-foot Human Performance Lab featuring a built-in force plate for testing with movement analysis software and several metabolic carts for cardiac, pulmonary, and stress-testing activities. The Anatomy & Physiology Lab will occupy 1,000 square feet and accommodate up to 32 students. Furniture will be easily movable, allowing for maximum flexibility. The new lab will not integrate use of the Cadaver Room; rather, exercise science students will work with new 3D-printed models.

Fundraising and construction are expected to be completed by Dec. 31, 2020.

For more information about this project, visit [www.wartburg.edu/hhp-renovation-addition](http://www.wartburg.edu/hhp-renovation-addition). 





KEEPING THE

# peace

*Kakoma's background leads to international conflict resolution*

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN PHOTOS HELI PEKKONEN AND RIKU ISOHELLA

**DURING A 30-DAY STRETCH SPANNING MOST OF THE MONTH OF MAY, Itonde Kakoma '03** spent only a few nights in his own bed in Helsinki, Finland. Kakoma, who graduated from Wartburg with a degree in religion, is a member of the executive leadership team and the program director overseeing dialogue and mediation efforts in Africa for the Crisis Management Initiative (CMI), an independent Finnish organization founded by Martti Ahtisaari, a Nobel Peace laureate and former president of Finland.

In that four-week period, his work took him to Jordan, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Sweden, and Norway, where he worked with others to help prevent and resolve political conflicts through dialogue and mediation.

"I am a first-generation American, the son of immigrants from the Great Lakes part of Africa. My parents came to the United States as professionals, but of course, their home countries were in turmoil for much of my childhood, which brought about a deeper sense of responsibility for them in terms of serving a wider community beyond where we lived in Illinois," Kakoma said. "That also exposed me to a much wider responsibility. Our household was a place where intellectual and political conversations were a normal thing. People from all over the world, visiting scholars or friends, regularly spent time in our home, and that hospitality for open discussion really planted early seeds in me for engaging in the type of work I do now."


His time at Wartburg nurtured that sense of responsibility while also providing him with a strong ethical foundation on which to think about global affairs. He even received the Dell Award for Peace and Justice as a student. After Wartburg, Kakoma went on to the University of Pretoria in South Africa, where he focused his honor studies on theories of reconciliation in post-conflict society. It was then that people at the Carter Center, a nongovernmental organization committed to human rights and the alleviation of human suffering founded by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter in 1982, first began to take interest in his work. He later helped the Carter Center with its work supporting the Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission, a partnership that ended with Kakoma in a full-time position with the Carter Center, where he eventually served as the assistant director for conflict resolution.

"The opportunity to witness an historic event as an international observer for the referendum on the right to

self-determination for the people of South Sudan, which is the vote that led to the independence of South Sudan, that left a lasting impression on what it takes to not only declare statehood, but to declare a nation. The people of South Sudan and the leaders are still trying to do so and unfortunately there has been more crisis than peace since 2011."

Though CMI was founded by an international statesman known for his ability to broker peace, Kakoma said the organization, tasked with tackling "some of the world's more prolonged and difficult challenges," doesn't have the authority to impose agendas or officially broker peace. Instead, what CMI offers is the space for conflicted parties to work out their own solutions through a facilitated dialogue process. For Kakoma, that means supporting the efforts of the African Union based in Ethiopia, as well as other subregional organizations in Africa and the United Nations in the areas where CMI is active as an independent organization.

For every win, there is a setback, but Kakoma continues to find value in the work he's doing and holds out hope for a more prosperous and stable future.

"Many conflicts globally are in fact preventable. This idea of prevention is a difficult thing to sell because you don't know it is necessarily important until something goes wrong. To invest time in prevention is one of the most valuable things that can be done," he said. "By doing so we are able to take seriously the grievances of various communities that may be isolated or disenfranchised. We are able to think forward about issues as they may emerge or unfold into the future. I think my generation will be forced to face a number of large challenges and provide leadership and responsibility on how to address them not only for today but for generations to come." 



Itonde Kakoma (middle) moderates a discussion with former Interim President of The Central African Republic Catherine Samba-Panza (left) and representatives of the African Union at the National Dialogue Conference.





# YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD

Wartburg College honored its 2019 Young Alumni Award winners (from left) David Voves, DeEtta Lee, Nathan Peterson, and Brooke Trent during a dinner April 12.

PHOTO JULIE PAGEL DREWES '90

*Wartburg College recently recognized four outstanding young alumni for service to their communities. The Young Alumni Award honors graduates from the past 15 years who are living the four pillars of the Wartburg College mission statement: leadership, service, faith, and learning. This year's recipients are:*

**BROOKE TRENT '04**, of Cedar Falls. Trent graduated with a degree in business administration and went on to graduate with honors from the University of Iowa College of Law, where she earned the Boyd Service Award. After working for a Waterloo law firm for eight years, she opened Trent Law Firm in 2015. Two years later, she opened Triumphant Living LLC to assist seniors in making decisions without family support. She also has served as a mentor teaching financial literacy skills to at-risk children through the Job Foundation, named for the biblical figure. She has taught through the Grow Cedar Valley Leadership Institute and as an adjunct professor at the University of Iowa, Hawkeye Community College, and Upper Iowa University. Trent was named the Volunteer of the Year for the Make-A-Wish Foundation and served the organization as the Cedar Valley Committee chairperson.

**NATHAN PETERSON '09**, a clinical pharmacist from Wilton. Peterson, who oversees antimicrobial use at multiple UnityPoint Health campuses in the Quad Cities area, graduated with a bachelor's

degree in chemistry. He went on to attend the University of Iowa, where he founded the Phi Delta Chi Pharmacy Fraternity-Nu Chapter. After graduating in 2014 with a Doctor of Pharmacy, Peterson competed for and completed two post-doctorate residencies, specializing in infectious disease and practices at the top of his field. He also serves as a lecturer on infectious disease at the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy and has published his work and presented multiple times at national pharmacy conventions. In 2018, he was named among 10 Iowa participants for the Leadership Pharmacy Conference, which provides leadership training.

**DEETTA LEE '09**, of Ottawa, Kan. She graduated with a degree in communication arts and currently serves as the communications director for Kansas City's American Heart Association, promoting the organization's programs and events. An avid runner, she started a running club in her community and has volunteered with Girls on the Run, a program for girls in third through eighth grade. She also uses her talents to create marketing materials for other nonprofit agencies

and serves on committees and boards for several organizations. Lee has co-authored grants and formed a partnership with her hometown library to provide summer literacy programs, which serve about 150 students.

**DAVID VOVES '07**, of Waverly. He graduated with a degree in math education and began a career as a high school math instructor at Charles City High School, fueled by a desire to help all students learn difficult concepts. He completed his master's in education leadership at the University of Northern Iowa in 2011, then completed his instructional coach certification at UNI and the Central Rivers Area Education Agency. Now, as the instructional coach for the district, he helps teachers become better educators. He also has created courses to help teachers earn renewal credits in emerging subjects like growth mindset and trauma-informed practice. Voves also is an active faculty sponsor for National Honor Society, coordinates the annual Freshman Retreat, and is on the board of the Community Excellence in Education Foundation.

# Knights

in the News



## Stay Connected

Have you recently been married, had a baby, retired, changed jobs, been promoted, or have other life news to share with your fellow Knights? Share your news online at [www.wartburg.edu/update-our-records](http://www.wartburg.edu/update-our-records). Photos 1 MB or larger are welcome, too, at [markcomm@wartburg.edu](mailto:markcomm@wartburg.edu).

### 1955

**NORMAN MELCHERT**, Henrico, Va., co-authored a book, now in its eighth edition, *The Great Conversation: A Historical Introduction to Philosophy*.

The Rev. **RUSS RUDOLF**, Owatonna, Minn., was honored as a 50-year member of the Owatonna Exchange Club with the mayor proclaiming March 1, 2019, as Russ Rudolf Day.

### 1960

**JACQUIE MCTAGGART**, Independence, was inducted into the Lifelong Learners Hall of Fame. She taught in Minnesota and Iowa from 1958 to 2001 and has authored two books, *From the Teacher's Desk* and *If They Don't Learn the Way You Teach, Teach the Way They Learn*.

### 1964

**Class Reunion Oct. 10-13**

### 1965

**JUDITH** and **RAYMOND MCCASKEY**, Chicago, were named 2019 Legendary Landmarks, which honors civic and business leaders who have positively impacted Illinois' social and physical landscape. They champion causes ranging from empowering Chicago youth to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation, which they chair. Ray also serves as vice chair of the Wartburg College Board of Regents.

### 1969

**Class Reunion Oct. 10-13**

### 1970

**Class Reunion May 22-24**

### 1971

**JAMES MANN**, Elkhorn, Wis., authored the book *What in Heaven and on Earth Is Jesus Doing?*

### 1974

**Class Reunion Oct. 10-13**

### 1976

**DAVID FOLTZ**, Rock Rapids, was inducted into the 2019 Iowa High School Athletic Association Officials Hall of Fame. He has been a registered official in Iowa for 41 years, working football, track and field, and basketball events.

**JOE JOHNSON**, Urbandale, was named executive director/secretary-treasurer for the Iowa Farm Bureau. He has been with Farm Bureau for 34 years.

### 1979

**Class Reunion Oct. 10-13**

### 1980

**GILLIAN GREMMELS**, Altoona, is dean of Cowles Library, Drake University, Des Moines.

### 1984

**Class Reunion Oct. 10-13**

### 1986

**PAUL WENGER**, Elkader, was elected vice president of the National Association of Elementary Principals.

**AZMIL ZABIDI**, Washington, D.C., joined the Malaysian Administrative and Diplomatic service in 1991 and is now Ambassador of Malaysia to the U.S.

### 1987

Dr. **DAVID BIGLEY**, Neenah, Wis., completed a chaplain residency at Mercy Hospital, Oshkosh, and has joined Affinity Visiting Nurses/Ascension at Home as a bereavement coordinator.

### 1989

**Class Reunion Oct. 10-13**

### 1993

**KATHERINE SCHOELL**, Lisle, Ill., is senior director of Global Supply Operations at The Marketing Store Worldwide, Chicago.

### 1994

**Class Reunion Oct. 10-13**

**DARREN HALL** and Dr. **LORI DICK SHELBY**, Midland, Mich., were married March 8.

### 1997

**HEATHER FINK**, Billings, Mont., is director of Health Provision at the Yellowstone City-County Health Department.

Dr. **DON PARKER**, Evergreen Park, Ill., is principal at Posen Intermediate School and has authored a book, *Building Bridges: Engaging Students at Risk Through the Power of Relationships*. He also trains educators on building trusting relationships with at-risk students.

The Rev. **ELIZABETH SEEGER TROY**, Louisville, Ky., is the clinical director of the Louisville Seminary Counseling Center.

### 1998

**JESSIE DOERFLER ELSON**, Cumming, Ga., is a self-employed artist and interior designer.

### 1999

**Class Reunion Oct. 10-13**

### 2000

Michael and **ANGELA NEVE MEIER**, San Diego, announce the birth of Jaxson Eberhart, Sept. 1. Angela is a music therapist and co-owner of the Music Therapy Center of California.

**ERIN RIES MOELLER**, Cedar Rapids, joined the ownership team of Benchmark Inc. as the department head of the account management team.



## 2002

**KIM SCHILLING**, Cedar Falls, is vice president of health services at Friendship Haven, Fort Dodge.

## 2003

**MELISSA CARLSON BEER**, Woodbury, Minn., launched a nationwide booking agency, Rebelle Events, serving college programming boards and corporate event buyers.

**BEN** and Erica **DIEHL**, Robins, announce the birth of Daniel, Aug. 28, 2018. He joins Nicholas, 5, Bekah, 3, and Thomas, 1.

## 2004

### Class Reunion Oct. 10-13

**JAMES** and **KATIE KIRKLE CORY**, Wheeling, Ill., announce the birth of Elizabeth Jane, June 23, 2018. James is director of customer support for Pangea Universal Holdings, and Katie is a systems analyst for W.W. Grainger.

Chris Varughese and Dr. **SARAH GIBBONS**, Prairie Village, Kan., announce the birth of Olivia, Feb. 1. Sarah completed a fellowship in headache medicine at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, Texas, in 2017 and is director of headache and concussion in the neurology department at St. Luke's Health System, Kansas City, Mo.

**JOHN** and Godfrey Anne **MOSBACH**, Tucson, Ariz., announce the birth of Johnna Marie, Jan. 7.

## 2005

**JON HINES**, North Liberty, is a communications specialist with the City of Coralville.

**JASON LAMPE**, Fort Dodge, is assistant principal at Fort Dodge Middle School.

**PEDRO SALAZAR**, Charlotte, N.C., authored a book, *Through the Eyes of Santiago: The Story of a Peruvian Boy Living in an American Maze*, about his year as a Rotary exchange student in the United States.

## 2006

Mitch and **ANNE FATTIG JUELSGAARD**, West Des Moines, announce the birth of James Lee, Dec. 27.

Jason and **KATHRYN JOHNSON REVELS**, Colona, Ill., announce the birth of Alison, Dec. 18.

Clifton and **KARA TREBIL-SMITH**, Cedar Rapids, announce the birth of Asher Trebil-Smith, Nov. 6. Kara earned her doctorate of education in higher education from the University of Denver in June 2018.

## 2007

**RYAN NICOL**, Chaska, Minn., is director of sales for Justin's LLC, Boulder, Colo.

Renzo Vaccaro and **JESSICA HARTMAN**, Stoughton, Wis., were married Sept. 15.

## 2008

Mark and Dr. **ASHLEY MCMULLEN KOBYLINSKI**, Anchorage, Alaska, announce the birth of Clara Nancy Rose, Oct. 17. She joins Amelia, 2.

## 2009

### Class Reunion Oct. 10-13

**SARAH FRAZELL**, Washington, D.C., is director of behavioral health programs at Primary Care Coalition, Montgomery County, Maryland.

**MICHAEL** and Kara **MERTZ**, Ankeny, announce the birth of Lydia Shirley and Melody Charlotte, Dec. 18. They join Jillian, 3.

## 2010

Kyle and **CASSIE BECKER BENNING**, Waverly, announce the birth of Oaklyn and Rowyn, Jan. 15. They join Blaise, 3.

**BEN** and **JESS BULLIS '11 MESSERLI**, Cedar Falls, announce the birth of Blayke Lynne, April 8.

**JEREMY MURRAY**, Waconia, Minn., is curator of collections with the Carver County Historical Society.

**DAVID URLAUB**, Colorado Springs, Colo., is a financial representative at Thrivent Financial.

**KYLE VOWELL** and Sierra Harlan, Dundee, Ill., were married June 16, 2018.

## 2011

Bobby Anderson and **KELSEY KOVACEVICH**, Waukee, were married Nov. 10.

**DAVID CARLSON** and Josh VanDeLoo, St. Paul, Minn., were married Aug. 4, 2018.

**EMILY SCHMITT COUNTS**, Ankeny, is an experience innovation marketing specialist at Kreg Tool.

Ross and **MISSY MCMURRAY TIMMERMANS**, Waverly, announce the birth of Isla Grace, Oct. 17.

## 2012

**KRISTINA GINDO**, Brookings, S.D., owns the private practice Music Therapy Empowers LLC.

**JORDAN KANE**, Aurelia, earned a master's degree in organizational leadership from Buena Vista University.

Matt Hilby and **SARAH RITCHIE**, Cedar Rapids, were married July 28, 2018.

## 2013

**MITCHELL MURPHY**, Shoreview, Minn., is a network engineer and consultant for Medtronic, traveling and upgrading data centers worldwide.

**TONY** and **KARLY BROWN '15 STENBERG**, Altoona, announce the birth of Mia Noelle, Dec. 19.

## 2014

### Class Reunion Oct. 10-13

**ERICA OLSON GANSEMER**, Coralville, is a graduate student in the Ph.D. cell and development biology program at the University of Iowa.

Dr. **AARON SACKETT**, Madison, Wis., earned a doctorate in pharmacy from University of Wisconsin-Madison and is a pharmacist at UnityPoint Health-Meriter Hospital.

Jonathan and **EMILY BEAVER TALLMAN**, Des Moines, announce the birth of Austin, April 7.

**TANNER** and **CAILEE WHITEFIELD '15 WENGER**, Washington, Iowa, announce the birth of Hayden Rose, June 29, 2018.

## 2015

**SAMANTHA HEINEN HILLIER**, Waukee, is TSC senior engagement coordinator with Amazon.

**MARCUS SCHMIDT** and **SHELBY HORMANN '18**, Norwalk, were married Aug. 11, 2018.

**OLIVIA BARNES SWYGMAN**, Ankeny, is a senior communications specialist at John Deere, Urbandale.

**RACHAEL WAUER**, Bettendorf, is a physical therapist at Genesis, LeClaire.

## 2016

**AMANDA GROFF**, Lino Lakes, Minn., is a communication and online engagement specialist in the Alumni Relations Office at Hamline University.

## 2017

**ELLYN FELTON**, Twin Falls, Idaho, is digital managing editor for Townsquare Media.

**JAKE THUMANN**, DeWitt, joined Eagle Point Solar, Dubuque, as an energy analyst.

## 2018

**TIM BAIRD** and **REBECCA BENNETT**, Waverly, were married Dec. 28. Rebecca is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree at Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and is a pastoral intern at Wartburg College. Tim is the vocal music director at Denver High School.

**FARAI GANDIYA**, Gobles, Mich., is a web development volunteer for Share Center, Battle Creek.

**PAYTON HILBY**, Asbury, is an industrial engineer at John Deere, Milan, Ill.

**TREVOR HULETT**, Springville, is a credit analyst for Farmers and Merchants Bank, Anamosa.

**MORGAN JOHNSON**, West Des Moines, is a finance associate for Hormel Foods, Austin, Minn.

**JORDAN MILLER**, Waverly, is a highway technician for the Iowa Department of Transportation.

**KALEB STAACK**, Janesville, is a finishing supervisor at Iowa Select Farms, Iowa Falls.

**SULIBETH VELEZ**, Kissimmee, Fla., is a food services sales representative for Hormel Foods, Austin, Minn.

**CARSON WALLJASPER**, Kansas City, Mo., is a ticket operations intern with the Kansas City Royals.

**JENNA WINTER**, Hawkeye, is an advertising account executive/brand guardian at the BLU Group, La Crosse, Wis.

## 2019

**AYO ADEBAYO**, Rochester, Minn., is an account manager at Trinity Insight.

**RILEY ANDERSON**, Cedar Rapids, is a vocal music instructor for grades 6-7 at Ankeny Community School District.

**NICHOLAS ARP**, Eldridge, is a graduate student in the M.D./Ph.D. medical scientist training program (MSTP) at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

**KRISTA BERGQUIST**, Ankeny, is a graduate student in medicine at the University of Iowa.

**MADISON BLOKER**, Clarksville, is an operations manager at Target, Cedar Falls.

**ELIZABETH BLOUGH**, Dike, is a graduate student in law at Drake Law School.

**VICTORIA BRANDON**, Cedar Rapids, is an eighth-grade special education teacher at Charles City Community School District.

**DANICA DUELLEMAN**, Dodge, Wis., is a 6-12 band and 9-12 choral director at Grangeville, Idaho.

**SCOTT EIKLENBORG**, Aplington, owns a percussion business including teaching, tuning and repair, and performing in the Cedar Valley and online.

**MALLARY ERBES**, Urbandale, is a kindergarten teacher at Ankeny Community School District.

**EMMA EVANS-PECK**, Geneseo, Ill., is a music therapist at Healing Rhythms Music Therapy LLC, Albert Lea, Minn.

**CONNOR FRERICHS**, New Hampton, is a graduate student in physical therapy at Creighton University.

**JOSHUA GEHLING**, Dyersville, is a bank examiner for the Iowa Division of Banking, Cedar Falls.

**MORGAN GOEDKEN**, Iowa City, is a graduate student in sport management at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

**BO GREENLEE**, Waverly, is in procurement and operations management at Schumacher Elevator Company, Denver, Iowa.

**CHRIS HALE**, San Antonio, is program coordinator of music marketing at Luther College, Decorah.

**COLBY HANSEN**, Ames, is a recruiter and account manager at Aerotek, Overland Park, Kan.

**HALEY HARMS**, Albert Lea, Minn., is a creative intern at Mortarr.

**CASSIDY HARRINGTON**, Spring Valley, Minn., is an early childhood special education teacher at Southeastern Minnesota Education Consortium.

**ASHLEE HENDERSON**, Mankato, Minn., is pursuing a master's of accounting with data analytics at Villanova School of Business, Philadelphia, and is an audit associate with KPMG LLP, Minneapolis.

**ALLISON HIESTAND**, Plainfield, Ill., is a first-grade teacher with Oglesby Public School District 125.

**DESTANY HIMSCHOOT**, Cedar Rapids, is a graduate student in the social work advanced standing program at the University of Northern Iowa and is on the support staff at the Larrabee Center in Waverly.

**MADISON HINEGARDNER**, Montour, is a graduate student in post-secondary education student affairs at the University of Northern Iowa.

**SETH JOBES-RYAN**, Waterloo, is an actuarial student at Transamerica, Cedar Rapids.

**MCKENZIE KIELMAN**, Waverly, is a marketing and engagement coordinator for the Iowa Association of Business and Industry, Des Moines.

**MEGAN KINSETH**, Independence, is a special education teacher at Fellows Elementary, Ames.

**JOHANNA KLUCK**, Bruning, Neb., is a graduate student in environmental toxicology at Duke University.

**KAITLYN KREGEL**, Decorah, is a regional director for CHOICE Employment.

**KATHRYN KREIS**, Windsor, Wis., is a communications associate at Wartburg College.

**KAYLA KRUSE**, Burnsville, Minn., is a graduate student in pharmacy at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

**KYERA LOVE**, Chicago, Ill., is with the City Year AmeriCorps Program.

**JORDYN MACDONALD**, Manchester, is a customer service representative at Geico, North Liberty.

**MATT MCALEER**, Ankeny, is an audit associate with KPMG, Des Moines.

**TROY MCALLISTER**, Waverly, is a personal assistant and care coordinator.

**BENJAMIN MCCULLOUGH**, Davenport, is a tax associate at PWC LLP, Milwaukee.

**WILLIAM MCDONALD**, Dubuque, is a management trainee at Hajoca Corporation, Boulder, Colo.

**TREVOR MCLAUGHLIN**, La Porte City, is a territory account manager for RMB Company Inc., Iowa City.

**BLAKE MEYER**, Sumner, is an application developer with CUNA Mutual, Waverly.

**EMMA MOSS**, North Liberty, is a special education teacher at Buford Garner Elementary.

**MEGAN NEWBROUGH**, Tripoli, is a sixth-grade English teacher, Denver Middle School, Denver, Iowa.

**KALEB NOEL**, Granger, is a staff accountant for Terex Corporation, Waverly.

**CODEY OLSON**, La Motte, is a graduate student in the nuclear engineering Ph.D. program at the University of Utah, Salt Lake City.

**HANNAH ONKEN**, Jefferson, is a graduate student in sport administration at Belmont University, Nashville, Tenn.

**KAYLA PHELPS**, Tipton, is a high school Spanish teacher at Pleasantville High School.

**BREYANNA PRIMOUS**, St. Louis, Mo., is a graduate student in the master's of management program at Rockhurst University, Kansas City, and is a residence hall director.

**COLIN RICHARD**, West Des Moines, is a systems analyst for Waldinger Corporation.

**MEGAN ROTT**, Marion, is a graduate student in dentistry at the University of Iowa.

**ASHLEY ROTTINGHAUS**, Mason City, works in the finance development program at John Deere in Fargo, N.D.

**LAUREN RUPPRECHT**, Pine Island, Minn., is a family support worker at Lutheran Services in Iowa, Charles City.

**ALISON RUSCH**, Waverly, is a staff accountant at Hormel Foods, Austin, Minn.

**KIMBERLY SCHLESINGER**, Compton, Ill., is a music therapy intern at Roman Music Therapy Services, Wakefield, Mass.

**BRITTANY SHINDELAR**, Calmar, is a staff accountant for Cambrex, Charles City.

**MADISON SIMMONS**, Indianola, is a management development trainee at Geico, Iowa City.

**VICTORIA SPELTZ**, New Hampton, is a graduate student in occupational therapy at Allen College, Waterloo.

**NATHAN STUMME**, Burt, is a graduate student in chemistry at University of Iowa.

**ALEXIS SWAIN**, St. Peters, Mo., is pursuing a Master of Divinity at Iliff School of Theology, Denver, Colo.

**NINA VITARI**, Woody Creek, Colo., is a music therapy intern at Shalom Park Nursing Home, Aurora.

**CLAYTON WELTHA**, Baxter, is a sales representative with Pella Corporate, Pella.

**MICHAEL ZHANG**, Avondale, Ariz., is a property and casualty actuarial analyst for Allstate Insurance, Chandler.



# IN MEMORIAM



## 1937

**Gladys Goodspeed Garbes**, Denver, died Nov. 3. She was a bookkeeper and farmer and later served her church as a Sunday school secretary and deaconess.

## 1940

**Anita Stange Davis**, Ainsworth, died April 2. She earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa. She authored two children's books and was a teacher before retiring in 1979.

## 1944

**Helena "Lee" Begalske Schafer**, Havana, Ill., died May 7. A U.S. Navy veteran, she went on to teach in college and high school.

## 1945

**The Rev. Harold Brokering**, Windsor, Colo., died Feb. 18. He attended Wartburg Theological Seminary and served parishes in Kansas, Nebraska, and Colorado for more than 40 years.

## 1947

**Joan Gold Diemer**, Chicago, died July 15, 2018. She is survived by her husband, **Gerhard Diemer '43**.

**Avis Leinbaugh Patterson**, Tulsa, Okla., died Dec. 29.

## 1948

**Marie Echelberger Dallman**, Otho, died Nov. 30. She was employed at Tony's Famous Restaurant for 18 years, managed the Palm Grove elevator for 18 years, and later became a founder and volunteer for People Against Cancer.

**Lester Zelle**, Waverly, died March 21. He served with the U.S. Army in Europe during WWII. He went on to become a project engineer at Shield Bantam Company before retiring in 1986.

## 1949

**William Hansen**, Cheyenne, Wyo., died April 21. A U.S. Navy veteran, he was a physical education teacher and athletic director with Laramie County School District 1.

**Sarah Gimbel Pieske**, Rolla, Mo., died March 12. She was a teacher in Colorado, South Dakota, and New Guinea.

**The Rev. John Planz**, Titonka, died Nov. 9. He completed seminary training in Nebraska and was ordained in 1957. He served congregations in North Dakota, Nebraska, Missouri, and Iowa.

**Leroy Quandt**, Minot, N.D., died Jan. 17. He was a teacher, worked in the civil service, and maintained a farm and ranch operation for 50 years.

**Edith Baehr Sultze**, Hudson, Wis., died Jan. 4. She earned her master's degree in elementary education from the University of Minnesota and dedicated her life to helping and teaching children.

## 1950

**Lynn Brown**, Bloomington, Ill., died Nov. 28. A U.S. Navy veteran, he went on to earn his doctorate in mathematics from the University of Iowa and was a professor of mathematics at Illinois State University for many years.

**Mary Ann Dovenmuehle Proehl Koch**, Waukesha, Wis., died Aug. 8, 2018. She was a retired fifth- and sixth-grade teacher and an American Red Cross and hospital volunteer.

**The Rev. Gerald Mertz**, Peoria, Ariz., died Feb. 21.

**Helen Rachut Smith**, Burt, died Oct. 30. She taught for many years in towns around Kossuth County until her retirement.

## 1951

**Erna Hanselmann Hinkle**, Olathe, Kan., died Oct. 25.

**Raymond Klute**, South Milwaukee, Wis., died Oct. 15.

**Luther Wachholz**, Kalispell, Mont., died March 21. He earned a degree from Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque, and served churches in Kansas, Oklahoma, and Iowa. He changed careers and worked for Pacific Telecom and then owned and operated a maintenance business until 2001.

**Dr. Curtis Wuest**, Iowa City, died Oct. 31. A U.S. Air Force veteran, he earned his medical degree from the University of Iowa and was a family physician for 36 years until retiring in 1997. He is survived by his wife, **Joan Kampfe Wuest '51**.

## 1952

**The Rev. Marvin Hulse**, Fort Dodge, died March 24. He graduated from Westmar College, Le Mars, and Evangelical Theological Seminary, Naperville, Ill., and served congregations in Iowa for 40 years. He later served as director of admissions at Friendship Haven.

**Richard Swensen**, Arden Hills, Minn., died Jan. 10. He earned his doctorate in physical chemistry from the University of Iowa and went on to teach chemistry, physics, and mathematics at the University of Wisconsin–River Falls. Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for 19 years, he retired as professor emeritus in 1993. He is survived by his wife, **Grace Hartman Swensen '53**.

## 1953

**Eunice Langholz Grube**, Newton, died Feb. 1. She was an elementary music teacher in Osage for 36 years.

**Lyle Kramer**, Urbandale, died Feb. 17. A U.S. Army veteran, he earned his MBA from the University of Iowa. He worked at Dial Finance and went on to serve in management positions at hospitals in Iowa, Ohio, and Missouri.

## 1954

**The Rev. Marvin Hartmann**, Fargo, N.D., died Jan. 10. He attended Wartburg Theological Seminary and was ordained in 1958. He served parishes in South Dakota and North Dakota for many years. He is survived by his wife, **Marion Gutknecht Hartmann '54**.

**Elizabeth Obermeyer Hoops**, Columbus, Ohio, died April 6. She was a teacher.

**Daphne Oltrogge Lundt**, Fairbank, died Dec. 31. She went on to earn her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Upper Iowa College. She was a teacher, farm wife, and homemaker.

**Janis Fink Klingman Schmitz**, Cedar Rapids, died Nov. 26. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees in elementary education from the University of Iowa and went on to teach first through third grades, retiring in 1997.

## 1955

**William Landt**, Napa, Calif., died Jan. 7. He earned his master's degree in mathematics from the University of Iowa and taught high school for three years before becoming a statistical analyst. Later he owned a dental supply business.

**Jeanette Schnoor Paulsen**, Clinton, died Nov. 21. She was a teacher and later went on to become a regional coordinator with the Take Off Pounds Sensibly organization until her retirement.

**The Rev. Paul Reyelts**, Grand Rapids, Mich., died March 21. He attended Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and served as pastor to congregations in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Georgia, and Tennessee for over 45 years.

## 1956

**The Rev. Carl Buette-meier**, Shoreview, Minn., died Feb. 16.

**Wayne Wiegmann**, Allison, died Feb. 26. He taught in the Allison school system for many years.

**The Rev. Eldor Windhorn**, Indianapolis, died Dec. 4. He was an ordained Lutheran minister.

## 1957

**Robert Geizler**, San Andreas, Calif., died Jan. 27. A U.S. Army veteran, he was a teacher and principal for 33 years and a volunteer firefighter for more than 20 years. He served as a director of the San Andreas Sanitary District for 17 years and eight years on the Calaveras County Water District board. He is survived by his wife, **Marjorie Clark Geizler '59**.

## 1958

**Nancy Mista Anderson**, Waverly, died March 3. She was a professor of physical education at Wartburg College until her retirement in 1991. While teaching at Wartburg, she earned her doctorate in physical education from the State University of Iowa. She is survived by her husband, **Wayne Anderson '89**.

**Rosalia Kruger Dewald**, Fargo, N.D., died Feb. 19. She was a city auditor.

**Kenneth Freeman**, Cedar Rapids, died March 14. He went on to earn his master's degree at the University of Northern Iowa and a second master's degree at the University of Iowa. He taught for 42 years in Iowa school systems, became president of CREA, and later was an administrator at the Educational Service Center.

**Max Harksen**, Escondido, Calif., died March 3. He graduated from Augustana College and served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War, earning numerous honors, including four Bronze Stars.

**The Rev. John Pannkuk**, Fort Wayne, Ind., died April 28. He attended Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and was ordained in 1962. He served congregations in Iowa and Indiana for more than 30 years. He is survived by his wife, **Kay Overbeck Pannkuk '58**.

## 1959

**Marcia Kahl Aguilar**, Brownsville, Texas, died Dec. 11. She was a teacher at Brownsville Independent Schools and adjunct professor at the University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College.

**Richard Oberheu**, Janesville, died Oct. 25. A Navy veteran, he owned his own construction company for many years before becoming a real estate agent. He owned and operated his real estate business until 2014.

## 1960

**Dennis Bryant**, Mason City, died Feb. 26. An Army veteran, he served as a plant manager for US AgriChemicals for 18 years before returning to the family farm in Mason City.

**Joyce Brumm Knitt**, Appleton, Wis., died Dec. 8. She was a social worker and later a school secretary for 23 years. She is survived by her husband, the Rev. **Leon Knitt '59**.

**Vincent Maurer**, Iowa City, died Dec. 14. He graduated from the University of Iowa College of Law. He worked at First National Bank for 50 years and served as senior vice president and senior trust officer.

**Elfrieda Hoefing Saylor**, Pocahontas, died Feb. 1. She graduated from Buena Vista College, Storm Lake, and was a school educator and farmer.

## 1961

**Carl Evert Jr.**, Marxville, Wis., died Nov. 10. He went on to earn his bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He worked for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in game management and land acquisition and was appointed the director of the Bureau of Real Estate before his retirement in 1997.

**Robert Hesterberg**, Gifford, died April 20. He owned and operated an electrical business before retiring in 1999 and was a volunteer firefighter for 33 years. He is survived by his wife, **Norma Jean Orth Hesterberg '61**.

**Darwyn Meyer**, Chico, Calif., died Feb. 18. An Army veteran, he went on to earn a master's degree at Chico State University. He was a financial adviser for 44 years.

**Marvin Ott**, Waverly, died April 25. He earned his master's degree in education from Northeastern State College, Talequah, Okla., and a doctorate in research and statistical methodology from the University of Colorado, Greeley. He started his career as a high school math teacher and went on to teach math at Wartburg College. Later he was a research assistant at the University of Northern Colorado then returned to Wartburg and served as director of administrative computing, registrar, and director of computing services and institutional research, retiring in 2000. He is survived by his wife, **Janice Wegenast Ott '63**.

## 1962

**Carol Froehlich Bahr**, Waverly, died Dec. 10. She was the assistant bookstore manager at Wartburg College, serving the college for 50 years before her retirement in 2012. She is survived by her husband, **Eugene Bahr '62**.

**Roger Dahms**, Kansas City, Mo., died Nov. 22, 2017. A U.S. Air Force veteran, he went on to work for Trans World Airlines, retiring in 2003.

**The Rev. James Hughes**, Newark, Ohio, died March 23, 2018. He was ordained a pastor in the American Lutheran Church in 1966 and retired in 2003.

## 1963

**Joan Kreiter Gibson**, Naperville, Ill., died Feb. 1. She went on to earn her master's degree in education from the University of Illinois and was a teacher and founder of a preschool, where she was the director before retiring in 2004.

**Donald Grimm**, Manchester, died April 29. A U.S. Army veteran, he sold agricultural products for more than 55 years.

**Francis "Frank" Merrill**, Waterloo, died March 11. He was a teacher and coach in Denver community schools for 31 years until his retirement in 1998.

## 1964

**Bonnie Loufek**, Camarillo, Calif., died Dec. 30. She worked for an electronics company in Simi Valley.

## 1965

**Sara "Sue" Strable Groh**, Johnston, died April 11. She worked for several Des Moines-area businesses, including MidAmerican Energy, before retirement. She is survived by her husband, **John Groh '64**.

**Daniel Rogness**, Anchorage, Alaska, died June 4, 2017. He graduated from the University of Iowa and went on to work for the U.S. Public Health Service for 25 years.



## 1966

**Steven Shaeffer**, Marion, died March 3. An Army veteran, he was an educator in the West Delaware schools from 1970 until his retirement in 2000.

## 1967

**Gaylen Fick**, Walcott, died March 12. A U.S. Army veteran, he was a science teacher and coach at Danville, Fertile, and Sigourney. He earned a master's degree in guidance from Northeast Missouri State.

**Lana Kjergaard Fossell**, Grand Forks, N.D., died Jan. 15. She volunteered for the Red Cross, was a Sunday school music leader, church secretary, and substitute librarian.

**Margaret Meckley Owens**, Fairbank, died Dec. 5. She was a teacher in the Wapsie Valley Community School district for more than 30 years and was a substitute teacher for many years after retiring.

## 1968

**Allen Anderson**, Cedar Rapids, died March 28. He taught science for more than 40 years in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa, last teaching in Pella for 26 years. He is survived by his wife, **Joan Havener Anderson '71**.

**Richard Bro**, New Brighton, Minn., died May 2. He worked for 38 years at the Anoka County Daytime Activity Center and then Achieve Services, Inc.

**Lawrence England**, St. Paul, Minn., died Feb. 2. He was a disc jockey and writer, retiring from KFAI in 2017. For many years he was on the board of the Dakota Foundation for Jazz Education and was awarded the "Jazz Hero" award by the Jazz Journalists Association in 2018.

## 1969

**Gary Konarske**, San Antonio, Texas, died Nov. 19. He was a senior vice president at S.C. Johnson and Son, Inc., for over 25 years and taught at the University of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio, for 12 years.

## 1970

**Linda Rieken Allison**, Tucson, Ariz., died Jan 21. She was a teacher.

**Tonie Ewoldt**, Myrtle Beach, S.C., died Jan. 20. She taught business education and computer science for 18 years then went on to a career with Women of the Moose as office manager, director, and grand chancellor until retiring in 2005.

## 1972

**Robert Foster**, Waverly, died March 12. He was a radio announcer and news director.

**William Nus**, Muscatine, died Nov. 27. He went on to attend the Graduate School of Banking in Colorado and served as a bank vice president until his retirement in 2003. He is survived by his wife, **Tjode Schulz Nus '73**.

## 1973

**Gerald Brown**, Waupaca, Wis., died March 15. He was the director of the Waupaca library for 32 years.

## 1974

**Katherine Rask Redding**, Golden Valley, Minn., died Nov. 24. She went on to earn her nursing degree from North Hennepin Junior College and became a certified clinical research professional working on projects in North and South America and Europe.

**Victor Wilcke**, Spirit Lake, died Dec. 16. He went on to earn his degree in economics from the University of Chicago.

## 1977

**Kasey Kincaid**, Des Moines, died April 10. He earned his law degree from Drake University. He served successive clerkships with judges on the Iowa Supreme Court and the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit and was a senior partner with a law firm. He lectured at multiple law programs and went on to pursue writing and co-authored the first edition of *Iowa Practice: Evidence*, the treatise on Iowa evidence law and practice.

**Kimberly Koth**, Lakeville, Minn., died Oct. 27. She was a teacher in Iowa and Minnesota before retiring in 2016.

## 1978

**Christine Leytham Lewis**, Orange Park, Fla., died Feb. 22.

## 1983

**Nancy Wise Higgins**, Waverly, died Nov. 9. She earned a second bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Iowa. She worked at State Bank and the city auditor's office, both in Waverly, and the Target Distribution Center in Cedar Falls.

## 1984

**Kenneth Kuenstling**, Dunkerton, died March 15. He was owner and operator of Kuenstling Excavating.

## 1989

**Darel Secrist**, Anamosa, died Nov. 21. He worked at his family construction business.

## 1993

**Glen Vander Kolk**, Waverly, died Nov. 21. A U.S. Army veteran, he worked for the *Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier* for 24 years and as lab director for the City of Waverly for 20 years.

## 1995

**Amy Johannsen Denholm**, Cedar Falls, died Feb. 22. She went on to earn another bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Iowa and her master's degree from Iowa State University. She was a teacher and counselor for more than 20 years. She is survived by her husband, **Jim Denholm '92**.

## Noteworthy friends

**The Rev. Dr. Peter Nash**, Waverly, died April 15. He was professor emeritus of religion and former Franklin I. and Irene Saemann Endowed Chair in World Communities at Wartburg College, retiring in 2016. Throughout his time at Wartburg, he was a steadfast champion for diversity and inclusion, serving as the assistant to the president for diversity and inclusion as well as the affirmative action officer.

**Calvin Peterson**, Rock Island, Ill., died April 9. A World War II veteran, he worked for John Deere throughout the United States and Europe before retiring in 1984 as director of manufacturing. He was a former Wartburg College Board of Regents member.

# VOIGT HONORED AS 2019 NEWMAN CIVIC FELLOW

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN PHOTO JULIE PAGEL DREWES '90

**WHEN JOSH VOIGT '20 SPEAKS, THOSE AROUND HIM USUALLY STOP AND LISTEN.**

For starters, his South African accent is often cause for curiosity throughout the Midwest. On campus, though, the former student body president has developed a reputation for using his voice to ensure others can be heard.

That reputation, along with a nomination from Wartburg President Darrel Colson, caught the attention of Campus Compact's Newman Civic Fellows selection team, which named Voigt and 261 others across the U.S. to its 2019-20 cohort.

Voigt, who came to Wartburg from Waterford Kamhlaba United World College of Southern Africa, said his experiences at the international school, which serves more than 600 students from 60 nationalities, showed him what the world could look like, how people can be represented, and how a school can function to ensure that everyone feels represented.


"The thing that drives me the most is for those people who have also come from places like that, how can I try to get their voices heard, alongside mine, to create that kind of environment," he said. "So, while other people focus on volunteering and getting stuff done that way, I like to focus on big picture stuff and also making sure there are projects that make people feel like they have not only the right but the responsibility to make things happen."

Prior to his role as president, Voigt served on the Student Senate's diversity committee as a member and then the executive assistant for diversity, where he helped develop and organize Peace Dialogues and sought ways to visually display the diversity on the Wartburg campus, which boasts students from 53 countries.

"Josh stepped into leadership roles from the first moment he arrived on campus," wrote Colson in his nomination. "During his presidency, Josh has continued to facilitate dialogue and discussion on inclusion, race, and diversity. He identifies systemic challenges that make students' lives more difficult, and then he sets about to overcome them."

Most recently, Voigt saw his work find success in a reduced summer housing rate for all students, understanding that it is most often his fellow international students who struggle to find affordable housing close to their summer jobs.

"These are the people I live with, these are the people I'm friends with. I listen to daily conversations about the unique hardships that some people face, and more often than not, frankly, I don't have to face those," he said. "But, I also understand that I am someone who can influence and change people's minds. So, I don't think it's fair for me to look at my situation and say, 'There is something I can do about this,' and then not. My desire to help stems from looking at people, understanding their stories and knowing there is probably something I can do about this, or at least I can try."

The Newman Civic Fellowship, named for Campus Compact co-founder Frank Newman, is a one-year experience emphasizing personal, professional, and civic growth for students who have demonstrated a capacity for leadership and an investment in solving public problems. 





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4 First Day of Classes  
12 First Keep On Learning of the Year  
18 Booster Club Fall Luncheon

### OCTOBER

10-13 Homecoming & Family Weekend  
11 Alumni Board Meeting

### NOVEMBER

1 Alumni Referral Award Senior Deadline  
13 Booster Club Winter Luncheon

### DECEMBER

6-8 Christmas with Wartburg  
15 Commencement

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