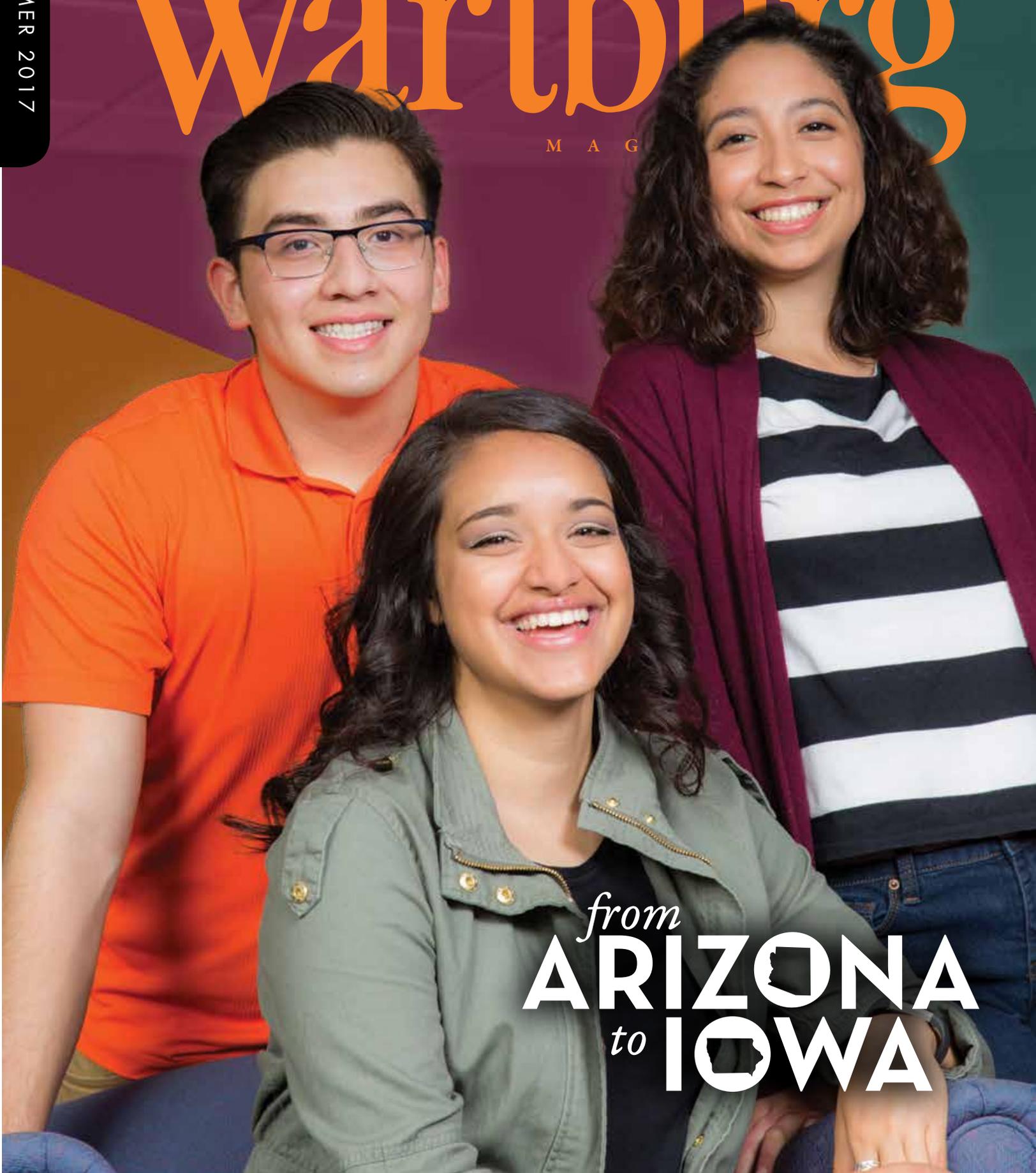


DESIGNING HIS LEGACY | SEEKING THE SEVEN SUMMITS | ALWAYS REFORMING

SUMMER 2017

# Wartburg

M A G



*from*  
**ARIZONA**  
*to* **IOWA**

# TRANSFORMING TOMORROW

## The end of a remarkable campaign

It's hard to believe our work with the Transforming Tomorrow campaign has almost come to a close. When we started the campaign in 2012, our \$75 million goal seemed like a large hill to climb. Skip ahead five years, and we've not only hit that mark, we surpassed it more than a year ahead of schedule.

Since then, our focus has been on filling the different "buckets" of the campaign. While we've crossed some major items off the list—like the renovation and expansion of Clinton Hall into the McCoy Living and Learning Center—other priorities still need your support.

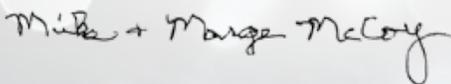
We've been highlighting the need for more scholarships and strong giving to the Annual Fund, as both are key to the quality education students expect to receive at Wartburg. More scholarships are necessary to help additional students and their families afford enrollment here. Annually funded scholarships provide financial support to Wartburg families right now, while endowed scholarships will aid students far into the future. Greater giving to the Annual Fund assists students directly and also increases the dollars at the college's disposal to undertake new initiatives and programs.

We couldn't have come this far without the dedicated support of the entire Wartburg community. So many of you have given of your time, talent, and treasure to make this campaign a success. But the institutional needs of the college don't vanish once the campaign is over, and your continued support is vital.

Provide a donation to the Annual Fund. Renew your pledge to scholarships. Make a gift to an interest area of your choosing. Every dollar we have raised—and every dollar we continue to receive—will help us truly transform the lives of the students at Wartburg as we prepare them for leadership and service as a spirited expression of their faith and learning.

For more information, contact the Advancement Office at **319-352-8495**, toll-free at **866-219-9115**, or online at **www.wartburg.edu/give**.

With gratitude,



Mike and Marge McCoy



## CAMPAIGN GOALS



### Investing in People: \$31 million of \$37 million raised



\$37 million (in current and deferred gifts)

- Scholarships (\$35 million)
- "Worth It" Marketing Initiative (\$2 million)

### Investing in Places: \$14 million of \$14 million raised



\$14 million (in current gifts)

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

### Investing in Programs: \$14 million of \$16 million raised



\$16 million (in current and deferred gifts)

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

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



\$8 million (in current gifts)

### Undesignated Gifts – \$19 million

### Total – \$84 million toward \$75 million goal

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

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

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



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*From Arizona to Iowa*



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*Designing His Legacy*



20-23

*Always Reforming*

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# Wartburg

SUMMER 2017

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**ON THE COVER:**

Abram Hernandez '19, JulieAnna Olague '18, and Sierra Lovato '18 are just three of the all-star students Wartburg has recruited from Arizona in the last four years.

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

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



## Wartburg earns sustainability honor

Wartburg was recognized as a sustainability leader in the 2016 Sustainable Campus Index, receiving high rankings in the area of water for the second time in as many years.

The index highlights top-performing colleges and universities in 17 areas, as measured by the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS). Wartburg tied for fifth nationally in the water category, which honors efforts to conserve water and protect water quality.

“We want to do our part to ensure clean water for our future generations,” said Anne Duncan, Wartburg’s environmental sustainability coordinator. “We also are advancing these efforts by choosing plants for our campus that will be drought-tolerant when needed.”

The college uses minimal irrigation and only waters flowering beds during times of low rainfall. The installation of water conservation devices has led to a 30 percent reduction in consumption in recent years. Rainwater management efforts, including rooftop retention, landscaping to remove silt and pollution from surface runoff water, and water runoff management during rain events, also were applauded.

## Trachtes honored with Wartburg Medals

The contributions of the Rev. **Larry ‘66** and **Lois Reyelts ‘66 Trachte** were recognized at the college’s December Commencement.

Larry, a Wartburg professor emeritus of religion, earned a Master of Divinity degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary in 1970. He was an associate pastor at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Waverly prior to joining the Wartburg faculty in 1974. He served his alma mater for 35 years as college pastor, dean of the Chapel, and an instructor in religion and philosophy.

Lois was an English and speech teacher in the Tripoli Community School District. After retiring in 2002, she joined the Wartburg Pathways Center staff in fall 2003 as a part-time associate for the Writing, Reading, and Speaking Lab.

Larry received a Wartburg Alumni Citation in 1988. The Pastor Larry Trachte Award for Service is given during Saint Elizabeth Week to faculty and staff who embody his commitment to Wartburg’s mission of service. An endowed scholarship also honors his distinguished career.

The Trachtes are members of the President’s Round Table, Heritage Society, and Tower Society. Children Aaron Trachte and Joy Trachte Becker graduated from Wartburg in 1992 and 1997, respectively. Becker currently serves on the Wartburg mathematics faculty.

## Lackner selected for new scholarship program

**Michelle Lackner ‘18** was one of 20 college students from Iowa and California selected for the first class of the Principal Community Scholars Program.

The pilot program encourages student leadership to meet community needs. Lackner, a social work major from St. Louis, conducted a program evaluation study for IMpower, a Wartburg program that seeks to empower and increase self-esteem in elementary-aged girls.

Students receive a \$1,000 scholarship from Principal upon completion of a service project. Recipients were selected by Principal, Iowa Campus Compact, and California Campus Compact after being nominated by faculty or staff from their college or university and a rigorous review process.



## Schroeder inducted into CoSIDA Hall of Fame

The late **Duane Schroeder '58** was inducted into the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) Hall of Fame at its annual convention June 12.

He was one of two current and four former sports communication professionals recognized for their outstanding contributions to the field of college athletic communications. Schroeder, who was offered a full-time job at Wartburg the day after his graduation, was an award-winning news and sports information director for 42 years. A founding member of CoSIDA, he received the organization's Warren Berg Award in 1998 and Lifetime Achievement Award in 1999. He died in August 2004.



## Students selected for national intercollegiate honor band

Three Wartburg College students were selected to perform with the prestigious College Band Directors National Association Small Band Programs Intercollegiate Band.

**Garrett Arensdorf '20** played in the tuba section, while **Stephen Klaassen '18** played percussion. **Emily Brekunitch '17** was selected as the second flute alternate. This was the first time the college has nominated students for this honor.

## Wartburg Magazine archives now available online

Digital editions of every *Wartburg Magazine* dating back to 1984 now are available online. The project is one of several Amy Moorman, the college's archivist, has undertaken during her first months on the job.

"The magazine is a wonderful resource of articles about students, alumni, faculty, and staff that also documents significant college events and initiatives over the years," Moorman said. "The Wartburg College Archives is committed to the collection and preservation of records that document the history, development, operation, policies, people, activities, and events of the college. Our digitization projects aim to make these resources more easily accessible to the college community."

Like the previously digitized *Fortress* yearbook collection, the alumni magazine, as well as Volumes 1 through 22 of *The Wartburg Trumpet* newspaper, spanning from 1935 through 1957, are available at [knightguides.wartburg.edu/collegearchives/home](http://knightguides.wartburg.edu/collegearchives/home). The remaining editions are expected to be digitized by summer 2018.



## New paraments reflect college's mission

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN

A new set of white and gold festival paraments handcrafted in Neuendettelsau, Germany, and donated by **Gil '59** and **Mary Reiff '60 Wessel** was recently added to the collection of chapel adornments owned by the college.

Paraments are used to visually transform worship spaces and reflect the message and mood of each church season. White paraments are typically used during the Christmas and Easter seasons, as well as during lesser festivals and commemorations.

But the Rev. Dr. Ramona Bouzard, Herbert and Cora Moehlmann Chaplaincy Chair and dean of the chapel, said these paraments may find their way to the front of the chapel more often because they "are so appropriate for our mission."

The paraments illustrate the seven corporal works of mercy: feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, sheltering the traveler, comforting the sick, visiting the imprisoned, and burying the dead. The same images are referenced in Matthew 25:34-40.

"They make visible a lot of what our students learn about vocation and service. Now you can walk into the sanctuary and see that," Bouzard said.

Gil Wessel, a retired physician and member of the Board of Regents, said he wasn't as concerned with what was on the paraments as he was with the college owning a set from Neuendettelsau, the home of Wartburg co-founder Wilhelm Löhe. The paraments were crafted at Diakonie Neuendettelsau, which was founded by Löhe in 1854 as an institute for deaconesses. The Wessels visited the Diakonie in 2014 while traveling with the Wartburg Choir.

"As I witnessed them making the paraments in Neuendettelsau, I figured it would be nice if Wartburg had something from there," Gil Wessel said.

The paraments were dedicated Friday, Feb. 17.

"These are an heirloom, a longstanding gift that will be used by the college for a long time," Bouzard said. "These make visible what we talk about and read about in scripture, but it puts it all in one place and allows you to reflect on it, even just going in the chapel."

"I am just so grateful that Gil and other members of our Regents understand the deep connection between our mission as it began in Neuendettelsau and here. The mission Löhe had, to infuse the world with good news through good work, is what I think is so important to our students."

# PEAK PERFORMANCE

*Nelson, Ritterchor perform at legendary Carnegie Hall*



BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN PHOTOS STEPHANIE KLEMETSON

**THE HOUSE LIGHTS DIMMED** as approximately 270 singers walked onto Perelman Stage in Carnegie Hall, spilling over the sides of the risers and into the orchestra. Dr. Lee Nelson, Wartburg's Patricia R. Zahn Chair in Choral Conducting, took his place on the podium, inhaled deeply, and turned to face the sold-out audience.

"It's such a storied concert hall. The world's greatest conductors have performed there, and there is nothing like waiting backstage to go out onto the Carnegie Hall podium. I had to take a moment to stop and breathe and take it all in," said Nelson. "Then we started making music, and in the first 30 seconds I knew it was going to be something exceptional."

Though Nelson has conducted at Carnegie before, he said this experience, leading choirs from across the country, including 44 members of Wartburg's own Ritterchor,

through Randall Thompson's *The Testament of Freedom* on Presidents Day weekend was his "most memorable" yet.

"This was my fourth time conducting at Carnegie, but I've never worked with this many singers before and never with a full orchestra," he said. Other firsts included a sold-out house and a review by a New York music critic.

Like Nelson, **Austin Pauling '17**, a secondary math education major from La Porte City, had performed at Carnegie before but said this time was extra special.

"When I saw that the house was packed, I started to tear up, first because of the number of people in the audience and the impact that we as musicians would make on them and second because I realized that this was my second-to-last performance as part of the Ritterchor," Pauling said.

The concert promoter, Distinguished Concerts International New York, asked Nelson if Ritterchor would anchor the four-movement *Testament of Freedom*, which is scored for men's choirs. Nelson presented the February concert opportunity to the group, and many of the 70 members jumped at the opportunity (most of those who didn't already were committed financially to performing abroad with the Wartburg Choir during May Term).

Nelson led the full choir in two four-hour rehearsals, creating a cohesive sound among the men, who ranged in age from 14 to 87. Finding meaning in the text, penned by Thomas Jefferson, also was important to Nelson, who spent hours not only with the music but learning more about the history behind the words.

For **Jakob Hamilton '18**, an engineering science major from Algona, those discussions taught him how important music lyrics can be.

"We've been singing this work for more than a year, so the lyrics can become monotonous. But as the seriousness of this performance set in, the lyrics painted a picture of the Revolutionary War and the struggles of our ancestors," Hamilton said. "I not only appreciate our ancestors' actions much more, but I appreciate Thomas Jefferson's writings much more than I would have."

The men of Ritterchor also were able to enjoy the city, visiting iconic sites like Times Square and Rockefeller Center, and seeing shows.

"Going to New York City from Waverly is certainly a major adjustment, but I enjoyed the hustle and bustle and will never forget how bright Times Square shines so late at night," said **Cory Brannaman '18**, a business administration major from Mount Vernon. "I enjoyed all the things to do, from grabbing a burger and fries at Five Guys in Times Square, to ice skating in Central Park, to seeing the city from the Top of the Rock Observatory. This trip is definitely a top highlight of my time at Wartburg." 





# Choir sings at prestigious conference

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN PHOTO JULIE PAGEL DREWES '90

**IT WAS A PERFORMANCE THAT ALMOST NEVER HAPPENED,** yet now will never be forgotten.

The hesitation started with the application. Dr. Lee Nelson, Wartburg Choir director and Patricia R. Zahn Chair in Choral Conducting, had every faith in his singers, but one can never be certain that a choir is ready to perform at the American Choral Directors Association national conference, the highest honor a choir can earn in the U.S.

“Many of my colleagues have applied for the national conference and never been accepted,” he said. “It’s a lot of pressure, and when you are continually building the sound of a choir, it’s hard to know when you’ve arrived at that level.”

The choir’s audition CD—which included one piece from each of the last three years’ ensembles—was blindly screened by more than 80 of the country’s top choral adjudicators in late spring 2016. In the end, they chose just 25 of the 400 applicants worldwide, including the Wartburg Choir. A couple of months later, Nelson was once again questioning his decision. Another school already had selected the musical centerpiece of his program.

“The repertoire is critical to this performance, but in the end, I think it was divine intervention, because this was the reason I chose to use Raimonds Tiguls’ piece, *Moonlight Sound Design*,” Nelson said. Tiguls, one of only a few people in the world to play the hang drum, joined the choir for the performance at the Minneapolis conference in March.

Nelson continued to up the risk factor in his choir’s repertoire by adding *Ain’t No Grave Can Hold My Body Down* by Paul Caldwell and Sean Ivory. The song required the entire choir to sign the chorus and included a full-song sign language solo by **Samantha Hallgren '18**, a music therapy major from Arden Hills, Minn.

“I’ve never been so nervous before a concert. Standing up on stage, I knew that this would probably be a first for many of the people in the audience, and knowing that was kind of special,” Hallgren said. “I wanted to give them the best possible representation of what this was and what it meant for us to value this kind of diversity.”

Nelson said the reaction in the hall when the song was over shows just how moved everyone was by Hallgren’s passion.

“When you see this song performed, the whole choir is singing and then we cut out, and for 20 or 25 seconds we are only signing. Imagine as a choral professional if you lost your ears,” Nelson said. “It hit people so deeply on so many levels. You could hear a pin drop. It was very powerful.”

Though it wasn’t this year’s choir that earned the spot at ACDA, Nelson is confident the group represented their predecessors and the school well, adding that he has never heard this choir sing as “beautifully and emotionally” as they did during this concert.

“There were 15,000 in attendance at the convention, and at the end of our performance there was an instant standing ovation from the most critical crowd we have ever performed in front of,” he said. “I couldn’t have hoped for anything better. The Wartburg Choir ended up being the talk of the conference.” 

## Wartburg Choir wins The American Prize

The Wartburg Choir was named the 2016-17 winner of The American Prize in Choral Performance in the college/university division.

The American Prize is a series of nonprofit national competitions in the performing arts recognizing the best recorded performances by ensembles and individuals each year in the U.S. at the professional, college/university, church, community and secondary school levels.

“It is quite humbling to realize that our students have achieved an award of this status in a category filled with so many outstanding college and university ensembles from throughout the country. I couldn’t be more proud of the students, and I am so grateful for my music colleagues at Wartburg who have helped them achieve this award. It is a team effort and we have one of the best in our field,” said Dr. Lee Nelson, Wartburg Choir director and the Patricia R. Zahn Chair in Choral Conducting.





# Wartburg adds degree program in public health

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN PHOTO JULIE PAGEL DREWES '90

**WARTBURG COLLEGE IS EXPANDING ITS DEGREE PROGRAM OFFERINGS** in fall 2017 with the addition of a new major in public health.

The Bachelor of Arts degree, which was approved by the Board of Regents in February, was designed by Dr. Lorinda Sheeler, visiting associate professor of public health.

“Wartburg’s public health major is an interdisciplinary program that provides students with an understanding of the connections between public health and diverse disciplines, like social sciences, biological sciences, and business,” Sheeler said.

The field is growing in Iowa and nationally, with the Association of Schools of Public Health estimating a shortage of about 250,000 qualified public health workers by 2020.

“We’re very excited to be moving forward with our new public health program at a time when student interest is high and employment opportunities abound,” said Dr. Brian Ernsting, dean of the faculty and vice president for academic affairs. “Students who graduate from this program can expect to have access to careers in areas as diverse as epidemiology, health care administration, community health, public policy, and environmental science. Wartburg is proud to help prepare the next generation of public health leaders who will make the world a better place.”

Wartburg’s program will provide students with a basic understanding of the five core areas in public health: social and behavioral health, epidemiology, health policy and administration, biostatistics, and environmental health. As part of the degree program, students will be

required to complete an introductory field experience in their first or second year and either a service-oriented public health internship or original research project in their third or fourth year.

“These experiential opportunities will help them graduate with an understanding of the role of public health in assuring and improving health and protecting people and communities against health threats,” Sheeler said.

Initiatives developed by public health professionals promote healthy lifestyles to combat diseases like cancer and diabetes. Others investigate the spread of infectious diseases, ensure the safety of the food supply, implement programs that protect workers’ health, or develop policies that ensure access to quality health care.

“It has been a busy year putting together the new public health major,” Sheeler said. “My desire was to create a program that is focused on providing meaningful experiences and will instill passion in students to improve our communities by doing something valuable, something that helps others be healthy. It’s just the right thing to do.”

Sheeler earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Auburn University and her master’s and doctorate from Texas Tech University. She has served as the principle epidemiologist for the Tennessee Department of Health and, most recently, was the director of assessment and evaluation and associate professor at the School of Physician Assistant Studies at South College in Tennessee. 

“Students who graduate from this program can expect to have access to careers in areas as diverse as **epidemiology, health care administration, community health, public policy, and environmental science.**”

— Dr. Brian Ernsting



# Focused planning initiative to help chart the college's future path

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN PHOTOS JULIE PAGEL DREWES '90

Wartburg College has launched a new constituent engagement initiative that will explore targeted opportunities and shape priorities in the final three years of the college's strategic plan.

The Board of Regents approved Focus on the Future during its October 2016 meeting. More than 150 task force members met for the first time in February, first with the Board of Regents and then as committees, to begin working on ways to implement the new initiative as the college's strategic plan, *Living our Learning, Claiming our Calling, Transforming Tomorrow*, enters its final phases.



Tomson-Hooper

"As our successful Transforming Tomorrow campaign draws to a close, we are turning our attention, once again, to the future," said Darrel Colson, Wartburg president. "Keeping in mind the first goal of our strategic plan, to expand deep and integrative learning in the liberal arts tradition, we will identify and clarify the next investments we are going to make, the investments for the future."

**Sara Tomson-Hooper '89**, a Board of Regents member and executive with Habitat for Humanity International in Atlanta, and Dr. Todd Reiher, Wartburg professor of psychology, serve as co-chairs for Focus on the Future. **Lia Kampman '08**, Wartburg's associate director of institutional advancement, and Janeen Stewart, executive administrator for the President's Office at Wartburg, serve as co-directors.



Reiher

"The level of constituent engagement designed in the initiative provides a strategic opportunity to draw on the knowledge and expertise of a vast array of multidisciplinary professionals," said Tomson-Hooper. "The work together over the upcoming months will result in strengthening Wartburg's existing programs, prioritizing expansion into new areas, and developing new interdisciplinary approaches and solutions for addressing today's ever-evolving challenges."

Colson said the range of topics the focus groups are examining prove that "opportunities abound" for continued growth at Wartburg.

"The future belongs to those who can be bold and innovative, as our own vision statement says that we will be," Colson said.

Task force recommendations will be finalized in September, with recommendations presented to the Board of Regents in October.

"I'm prepared, as is the board, to invest in the future; I want to get to it," Colson said. 



Kampman



Stewart

## Areas of focus will include:



- **Academic innovation**, with task forces on engineering science, health sciences, and interdisciplinary programs.



- **Student success**, with task forces on the living and learning environment and student recruitment, support, engagement, and satisfaction.



- **Expanding our reach**, with task forces on experiential learning and entrepreneurial endeavors, and regional partnerships.

For more information about the Focus on the Future committees and their charges, visit [www.wartburg.edu/magazine-focus-future](http://www.wartburg.edu/magazine-focus-future).



# RESEARCH BECOMES REALITY

*Vogel watches plan to combat malaria take shape over course of his college career*

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN PHOTOS TYLER VOGEL '17 AND MICHAEL BOWDEN '17

## FOUR YEARS CAN SEEM LIKE A LIFETIME IN A COLLEGE STUDENT'S WORLD.

During those 1,460 days, they will have enrolled in more than 20 courses; attended or been a part of multiple Homecomings, music concerts, and athletic events; taken more tests than they can count; and grown from a recent high school graduate into a young adult ready for the world.

Interspersed in that, **Tyler Vogel '17**, a biology major from Oelwein, can add serving as student body president and trying to save the world—or at least a small village in Peru.

As a freshman, Vogel was one of three Wartburg students to receive a provisional \$5,000 Clinton Foundation Resolution grant at the Clinton Global Initiative University. Thousands of students annually submit ideas to CGIU, founded by former President Bill Clinton “to engage the next generation of leaders on college campuses around the world” by “coming together to discuss and develop innovative solutions to pressing global issues.” Only 1,200 groups are invited to the conference and only two dozen are selected for the grant competition.

This spring, just a few months before his graduation, he finally saw his research—which proved that a bat species capable of devouring 1,000 mosquitoes per hour could be used to combat malaria—put into action in the Sucusari community in the heart of the Amazon.

“It was worth every second I put into it,” Vogel said. “When we left the

village for the last time, seeing the bat house completed and how excited the community was to have this opportunity, it was a dream come true. I always thought this was a good idea, but figured we were just fast-talking freshmen and it would never really happen.”

## BIG IDEAS, FEW OPPORTUNITIES

When Vogel; **Isaac Chikuse '16**, of Malawi; and **Ana Julante '17**, of Angola, presented *Wings of the Night* at Arizona State University in March 2014, they told judges they had found a way to combat malaria in Lilongwe, Malawi, using a small colony of insectivore bats.

Though CGIU judges found value in the project and granted them a provisional fellowship, the trio faced multiple roadblocks during the implementation phase. Their attempts

to connect with African officials were either ignored or rejected.

“We spent the better part of two years working with Bat Conservation International, trying to get a bat house in Malawi, but it is incredibly difficult if you don’t know anyone on the ground,” said **Dr. Michael Bechtel '94**, assistant professor of science education.

As the months ticked away and the possibility of taking their work to Malawi dwindled, Chikuse and Julante stepped away, leaving Vogel to continue the charge. Discouraged but unable to give up, Vogel doubled down on his work with Bechtel to find a welcoming home for the project.

As Vogel’s junior year came to a close, he began to wonder if his dream would ever be realized. That summer, Bechtel made connections that rejuvenated their passion and switched their focus from Africa to South America.

## FINDING A PLACE IN PERU

By the end of 2016, Vogel had found success working through EcoTeach, an educational travel organization, and One Planet, a nongovernmental organization (NGO) that places volunteers with a specialization in environmental and animal welfare concerns. The organizations had the resources Vogel needed to move forward with the bat houses in the Peruvian Amazon and allowed him, Chikuse, and Julante to claim full fellowship status through the Resolution Project.



Members of the Maijuna community helped Tyler Vogel '17 construct the bat house that now towers over their village.

Only one obstacle still stood in their way. The Bat Conservation plans could accommodate up to 30,000 bats. Vogel knew this large structure wouldn't fly with the Maijuna community in Peru and enlisted the help of **Jakob Hamilton '18** and **Jay Tegge '18**, both engineering science majors, to reduce the 28-module structure down to six that could hold roughly 6,000 bats about 30 feet in the air.

"This was a great opportunity to get involved in an extracurricular other than athletics," said Tegge, a soccer player from Naperville, Ill. "I was excited to have the chance to help solve a real-world problem."

But they had to do it without many first-world luxuries. In addition to scaling down the plans, Hamilton and Tegge had to make sure each piece could be transported from Waverly to Peru or found in-country. The structure also had to be built without the use of electricity, and the nearest village with materials was more than seven hours away—by boat.

These restrictions, and the importance of the project, only made them work harder.

"I've been to rural parts of Haiti and Costa Rica and understand the seriousness of malaria transmission. If applying the principles I've learned through Wartburg's engineering science program can make anyone's life just a little bit easier, I'm going to jump on that opportunity," Hamilton, of Algona, said. "Overall, the whole building experience was incredibly rewarding, and I hope the structure will serve the Maijuna for a long time."



Dr. Michael Bechtel '94 and Tyler Vogel '17 partnered with Iquitos-native Elvis Valderrama to make connections in the community.

## PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Though the bat house's success is yet to be determined, Vogel and Bechtel left Peru in early March with high hopes. More than 40 communities already have expressed interest in the project. Vogel left his on-the-ground contacts with a detailed shopping list and step-by-step building instructions so the houses could be constructed in other communities without his oversight.

The next two years will continue to be busy for Vogel, who will head to the University of Minnesota this fall to begin his Master's in Development Practice, which uses biology, social sciences, public health, and management to work with developing and developed nations to empower communities. He also will continue to receive support from the Resolution Fellowship. In addition to providing seed funding for *Wings of the Night*, the CGIU fellowship also connected

Vogel with two professionals who can serve as mentors and help him as he navigates the professional world.

But that doesn't mean his work with the bat houses is done. He will continue to work with One Planet to collect data to determine if the outcomes are positive enough to warrant expanding the project into more communities. He hopes to return to Peru as early as May 2019 as an alumni chaperone with Bechtel's class.

"It's crazy to think that this project could make a difference in the lives of people we didn't even know," he said. "But even if it doesn't work, it was still a successful beta test to see how something like this can move from a small college in the U.S. to a rural community in the Amazon. That's an important process in itself." 





# DESIGNING

## HIS Legacy

*Bell finds his niche helping others restore historic buildings*

**BY** EMILY CHRISTENSEN **PHOTO** JULIE PAGEL DREWES '90  
**ILLUSTRATION** KATIE BENDER '17

## ANDREW BELL'S '08 PASSION FOR HISTORY STARTED YOUNG.

As a child, he read about castles and medieval history. As a young adult, he majored in it. Outside the college classroom, though, a new interest burgeoned—one that, when coupled with his history degree, would eventually lead him to his future vocation.

During his college years, Bell enjoyed serving the community as a Habitat for Humanity volunteer. On the build site, he learned valuable carpentry and leadership skills that allowed him to help build a home for himself and his then-fiancee, **Ellen Engelbrecht '08**. Though he cut his teeth in the construction world with new builds, his heart remained in the history of older buildings.

"It is fascinating to see how buildings respond to and reflect their inhabitants over time. Changing cultures and markets leave physical residue—from the names of children scrawled playfully in marker on the wall of a closet of my previous home to realizing that a 100-year-old building had its second-story opera house converted into cobbled-together apartments," he said. "Post offices can become bike shops. Masonic temples and former speakeasies can be converted to apartments."

At Wartburg, Bell dabbled in physics, math, and engineering in hopes of finding an outlet for this new passion. In each of these areas he kept stumbling upon a single roadblock: a lack of interaction with people.

"By then I knew I was making a choice between the three pieces of the building industry: the worker, the engineer, or the architect," he said. "I didn't want to work in the hot and cold. I didn't want to do the engineering piece and have less interaction with people. Architecture seemed like an interesting mix and a good fit."

Following his Wartburg graduation, Bell went to Iowa State University, where he earned a master's degree in architecture. Some of his peers already had earned an undergraduate degree in architecture. Others came to Iowa State with backgrounds in English, art, and engineering.

"It was an interesting experience. I was decent at math and had seen how the building industry works on a microscale, but it was still an uphill road because I am not exceptionally good at drawing," he said.

At the time of his graduation, Andrew needed 5,600 hours demonstrating professional capabilities before applying for his architect's license (which he earned late last year). To begin accumulating hours, he helped design and construct his brother-in-law's home. He then interned with the Iowa Historic Preservation Office, where he learned about historic tax credits.

This experience allowed him an opportunity with John Lott at Benjamin Design Collaborative in Ames. Lott and a developer were rehabilitating the Sheldon-Munn Hotel on Main Street in Ames and were seeking historic tax credits to complete the project.

Bell helped shepherd the project, working with a historian to prove it was a historic building, then showing the architectural firm's plans for the renovation, including laying out the building's historical features and how the developer would preserve them while reworking the single-room apartments into larger suites.

"One of the most interesting things that has happened through this process was that my definition of 'historic significance' has changed," Bell said. "While I may not find a fabled relic, I often get a real glimpse into the lives of a building's previous occupant. That can be as profound as seeing a marvelous painting or a knight's ornate armor."

However, a permanent position in Ames was never the plan. The Bells settled in Cedar Falls, where Ellen, who had completed the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program at Iowa State, had accepted a job with Brookside Veterinary Hospital. At a professional conference in Des Moines, the stars aligned again for Andrew when Lott introduced him to some of the partners at AHTS Architects in Waterloo.

"AHTS does a lot of churches, senior living, historic rehab, and downtown redevelopments. It just seemed like that really aligned with where I want to be. It was all about people and how the building affects them," he said.

What sealed the deal for the higher-ups? They were working on a historic tax credit project in West Union that would result in upper-level apartments in three downtown buildings. In addition to ushering the tax credit paperwork through the system, Andrew also was tasked with the construction management piece of

the project, despite being the new guy on the team. He followed that up with a similar downtown project in Waverly.

"Seeing a historian's diligence and success in piecing together the lives of a particular building's owners, builders, or architects is wonderfully engaging and makes me appreciate that the places around us have a significance that is unique and doesn't need to express some greater movement in history to be profound," he said.

Andrew credits his Wartburg education with at least some of his success, so now he's finding ways to give back to the college as a mentor through ACES, a scholarship program for academically and civically engaged students.

"My own track and current position would not have been possible without the help of several individuals willing to offer their advice and support through the years," he said. "My liberal arts education has offered me a broad perspective that has paid dividends in working with people from a variety of backgrounds and being sensitive to their needs and goals. While an undergraduate degree in architecture may have allowed me to graduate two years earlier, I would not trade that for the foundations that a more diverse curriculum helped create." 🍷

“  
My liberal arts education has offered me a broad perspective that has paid dividends in working with people from a variety of backgrounds.

- Andrew Bell '08



# Seeking the **SEVEN** SUMMITS

*Loeb conquers Everest, sets sights on Vinson*

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN PHOTOS SUBMITTED

## FOR MORE THAN SEVEN YEARS

**Jen Loeb '98** has built a climbing resume rivaling that of only 21 other American women.

Mount Kosciuszko and Carstensz

Pyramid in Australia. Denali in North America.

Aconcagua in South America. Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa. Elbrus in Russia. Mount Everest in Nepal.

With only a few years of climbing under her belt, she's only one summit (Mount Vinson in Antarctica) away from joining the ranks of the most elite climbers in the world—those who have climbed the tallest peak on every continent.

“When I got started I thought I would just climb a couple peaks and then move on to the next thing, but after I climbed my first few, I was hooked,” Loeb said. “Each new peak was progressively more difficult and had a higher altitude. I continued to have success climbing those difficult peaks, and now I work to fund my climbing habit.”

## Climb safe. Climb smart.

Every new peak presents a different challenge, even for seasoned climbers.

Loeb does all she can to prepare. When undertaking a new climb she can control her health and fitness level. She can be sure to have the gear needed to successfully summit. But there always will be the things she can't control—route conditions, the weather, those climbing with her and above her who might unintentionally interfere.

“Climb safe and climb smart,” she said. “Then, when all the pieces come together, you have a successful expedition.”

That's what she was hoping for this spring when she attempted to summit Makalu in the Himalayas, the fifth-highest mountain in the world at 27,838 feet. She was forced to turn around just hours from the top.

“The chances of success were slim because it's a big, technical peak that is prone to avalanches and bad weather,” she said.

## Summiting Everest

In 2013, Loeb was part of a group that summited Denali, also known as Mount McKinley, the highest peak in North America at 20,310 feet. Her guides told her to consider Everest.

“I thought they were teasing, but then I realized if the professionals thought I was ready for Everest, then I should seriously consider it. I had always thought it was for the elite, the professionals, not some farm girl from Iowa.”

Climbing Denali was no easy feat. Each climber is responsible for his or her own packs and pull sleds to get gear from one place to another. The weather is more unpredictable than on other mountains. Loeb's team spent five days at 14 Camp waiting out bad weather, hoping the storm would break before their food and fuel supply ran out.

Then there's Everest. The altitude is brutal and the days are long, but Sherpas provide much-needed gear support. Staying healthy on the ascent and descent can be tough,



Jen Loeb '98 holds the photo of her friends, which she takes on all her climbs, atop Mount Everest.

## A little help from her friends

Loeb, who was born and raised in Iowa, came to Wartburg because of its storied biology and running programs. She admits her college years were a struggle, but with the help of a few close friends she persevered, developing lifelong friendships and the character needed to handle hardships on the side of a mountain.

**Kel Anne Hocker Davis '98** met Loeb at a cross country camp their first year at Wartburg. They trained and later lived together. From the beginning, Davis saw Loeb push herself to excel—and try new things.

“She isn’t a daredevil. She just enjoys having something to work toward,” Davis said. “She started with hiking, then doing service hikes—where you improve or create trails—for her vacation.”

Davis remembers talking to Loeb about Kilimanjaro, which seemed like a natural progression from her interest in hiking. Quickly she moved on to bigger and more dangerous climbs, yet still Davis tried not to worry.

“If it were anyone else telling me they were thinking of climbing mountains, I would be insanely worried,” she said. “But Jen is smart, and she is tough mentally and physically. I know she’s not going to put herself at unnecessary risk—if you don’t count crossing crevasses on aluminum ladders with giant spikes on your boots while carrying a pack and the wind blowing risky.”

Today, Loeb’s college running friends join her on all her big climbs—at least in spirit. At the top of each mountain, Loeb gets a photo taken of her holding a photo of her friends. When she returns home, she posts the new picture on Facebook where they can celebrate together.

“It’s amazing to be a small part of her journey, to be there for her, to encourage her, support her, and celebrate each win,” Davis said. “I am thankful that Wartburg brought us all together. I can’t imagine my life without these women as my friends.”

and a simple cold can sideline, or kill, even the most experienced climbers.

Loeb knew preparing for Everest would consume her. Physically, emotionally, and financially, she would be committed to the cause for years. And for what? There were no guarantees she would reach the peak.

“The determining factor for me was I didn’t want to look back with regret on this lost opportunity,” she said. “As a little old lady, I didn’t want to have to wonder if I would have made it. I think I would have regretted the fact that I didn’t at least try.”

It took three years to plan and prepare for the expedition. Loeb filled those years with rigorous training, as well as additional climbs that would keep her in top physical condition for one of the most dangerous climbs of her life. Twice a week she would lift weights. Four to six times a week she would do cardio, including a grueling workout on a stair climber carrying a backpack filled with sand.

But no amount of training can fully prepare one for the gut-busting, nine-week expedition that is climbing Mount Everest.

“There is just no way to sugarcoat that experience,” said Loeb, who became the first woman from Iowa to reach the top of Mount Everest on May 19, 2016. “I was pushing hard and walking that fine line. It’s hard to stay smart. I was hypoxic, starved for oxygen. When that happens it gets hard to think. It was brutal.”

## Finding the next challenge

With Everest under her belt and the Makalu expedition now behind her, Loeb already is searching for ways to complete the Seven Summits, a feat between 50 and 75 women worldwide and about 125 Americans have completed, according to several online resources for climbers.

Physically and emotionally, she’s sure she’s ready; however, finances likely will delay the expedition for several years while she continues to pay down the \$65,000 in debt she accrued to make Everest a reality. The cost of a Vinson expedition, which usually takes about three weeks to complete, is about \$30,000 plus the cost of airfare, insurance, gear, and other climbing necessities.

Loeb has worked the last 17 years at General Mills in Cedar Rapids. During the longer expeditions, the company allows her to take all her vacation and then unpaid leave, while holding her position for her.



# from ARIZONA to IOWA

College increases recruiting efforts in the Grand Canyon State

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN PHOTOS MACKENZIE SELLNAU '18 ILLUSTRATIONS KATIE BENDER '17

**FOUR YEARS AGO**, very few high school students in and around Phoenix had ever heard of Wartburg College. Today, thanks to a partnership with the Aguila Youth Leadership Institute, that is changing.

**Kyle Vowell '10**, the Wartburg admissions counselor assigned to Arizona, has cultivated a relationship with the organization, which empowers and prepares youth for college admission and persistence to graduation, as well as future professional excellence. For many Aguilitas, that means anything from attending one of Arizona's state schools or private colleges to finding their fit at schools like Brown, Purdue, and now Wartburg.

"Many of these students don't even know they can go to a private liberal arts school like Wartburg. Being able to give them that opportunity is fantastic," Vowell said.

But convincing them that Wartburg should be a top consideration isn't always easy. Selling the school's academic programs is never an issue. Selling its location—more importantly, its distance from Arizona—can be a serious sticking point for many families.

Dr. José Reyes-Tomassini, visiting assistant professor of biology, understands this concern. A native of Puerto Rico, Reyes-Tomassini said there is a strong emphasis placed on the family structure, and because of that, many never leave the island.

"I think the kids from Arizona, whose parents were born in the U.S., may have less of a problem, but I think there is a sense that leaving that support system is a really big thing," he said. "Your family may not be able to understand what is going on. If you are a first-generation student, that is even worse because your parents haven't been to college and don't understand the pressures."

**Sierra Lovato '18** said having her mother's support made leaving the nest much easier.

"My mom really liked Wartburg. Everyone made her feel good about me going here, which made me feel good about going here because I hate being this far away from my parents," she said.

## Identifying a need

Though Iowa's high school graduation rate is more than 91 percent, the number of students graduating in the state has decreased and recouping those losses will be slow.

Projections released by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education show the number of high school graduates in Iowa growing from 32,000 in 2017 to 34,000 in 2023; however, this is down from more than 35,000 in 2010. In Arizona, that number increases from 66,000 this year to 68,000 in 2023. In 2010, Arizona high schools graduated 62,000 students.

"We have known for several years that the number of students in the Midwest is declining, and we had to start opening up new markets, such as Arizona, Texas, and Florida. But the cost of recruiting out of state is greater, and, as our alumni keenly know, the real value of Wartburg is 'fit,'" said Todd Coleman, assistant vice president for admissions. "While we want these students to come to Wartburg, we are more interested in making sure that this is the right choice for them so they get that feeling in their bones that so many of our alumni know; it's a special place."

To that end, the college has started a Fly-in Program that offsets the cost of traveling to campus for students who have been accepted (see sidebar). Dr. LeAnn Faidley, professor of engineering science, directs the college's IINspire program, a pre-orientation bridge program that gives underrepresented populations majoring in STEM fields a chance to meet their future professors and classmates before school starts. The program offers continued support



and mentorship throughout the academic year. Additional coordinated support systems also have been implemented to ensure students in all majors persist to graduation.

## At home across the country

Though Vowell is based in Chicago, he makes regular trips to Arizona to meet with prospective students and their families. He encourages students, and their parents, to visit campus, usually on one of the three annual Scholarship Days. Those interested in a STEM field can attend the Scholarship Day that coincides with the Wartburg Science Symposium (formerly the Cedar Valley Science Symposium), where they meet professors and students from their area of study.

Like any other personalized tour, they spend the night on campus, eat in Mensa, visit classes, and meet with professors, music directors, and coaches. But what stands out most is the “Towa nice” vibe on campus and in the community.

“I left campus to walk to the gas station, and there was a gentleman in his front yard doing yard work,” said **Abram Hernandez '19**, who didn't visit campus until his registration and orientation day. “He stopped and asked me how I was doing. That just doesn't happen back home.”

Many Arizona recruits also are invited to participate in one of the college's two summer bridge programs, which help students transition to the rigor of college academics and the freedom of living away from home. Both programs offer continued support throughout the academic year and provide leadership and mentoring opportunities for upperclass students.

Vowell and Dr. Zak Montgomery, associate professor of Spanish, also have coordinated several informal gatherings, both during the academic year and on breaks when the students are unable to return home. The meetings included everything from coffee and ice cream dates to bowling to meals at Montgomery's home.

Hernandez hopes to formalize those opportunities in the coming year through the Spanish and Latino Student Association (SALSA), which will provide cultural, educational, and social opportunities for the Wartburg and Waverly communities. Reyes-Tomassini will serve as the faculty adviser.

“During my interview, I talked with Jette (Irgens, assistant director of the Pathways Center), and she said the college was trying to recruit more Hispanic students,” said Reyes-Tomassini. “That was a high point of the interview for me and when I could say that Wartburg would be a good fit. I hope that working with these students, I can help them be a bridge between the Hispanic and non-Hispanic students on campus so that we can all learn from each other.”

## Fly-in Program sees early success recruiting, retaining students

**“IF WE CAN GET A PROSPECTIVE STUDENT ON CAMPUS, WE HAVE THEM.”**

Anyone who has talked to Todd Coleman, assistant vice president for admissions, has heard these words before. Coleman and his entire team know the Wartburg campus and community are strong selling points for the college.

But what happens when a student lives so far away that a quick trip to campus is cost-prohibitive? In the past, Coleman may never have known. Today, as the college puts an emphasis on recruiting out-of-state students, he has cold, hard facts that show a small travel stipend can be a game changer for students visiting from places like Arizona, Colorado, and Texas.

Now in its fifth year, the Fly-in Program, which offers a reimbursement of up to \$300 for accepted students who must travel more than 450 miles round trip to reach campus, is seeing marked success for minimal investment. In 2013-14, the team brought in 18 students, of which 10 enrolled. The following year, 45 students visited and 21 enrolled. The number dropped to 16 of 33 the following year, and it's still too early to see how many of the at least 36 who visited during the 2016-17 academic year will come to Wartburg next fall.

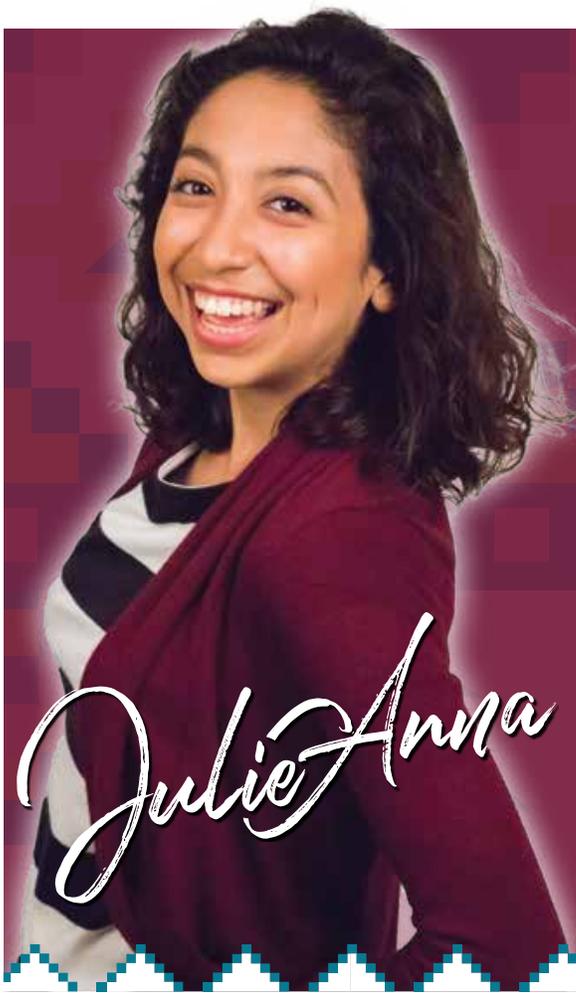
“This is real money that someone has to find in their budget to send their kid, and possibly a parent, here to visit. They could be looking at \$1,000 for airfare or gas, hotel, and food,” Coleman said. “We aren't paying for their whole trip, but we want to help them subsidize it so they can come out and see the campus for themselves.”

**JulieAnna Olague '18**, a biology and Spanish major from Avondale, Ariz., visited a handful of other schools within driving distance of her home. Using the Fly-in Program subsidy, she was able to visit Wartburg during a Scholarship Day weekend.

“Kyle (Vowell, admissions counselor) met me at the airport. We came to campus and I met my overnight host, Kaitlyn, who was the best,” Olague said. “Even though I was by myself, I was never really by myself. I met Todd and the other admissions counselors. Every faculty member I met made me feel like a rock star.”

Though some donors have earmarked gifts for the program, Coleman said most of the funds to support this endeavor still come directly from Admissions' annual operating budget.

“People are making a big investment when they choose a college. You wouldn't buy a car without test driving it or a house without walking through it,” he said. “How can we expect any family to make an investment of this magnitude without actually stepping foot on campus?”



Julie Anna



Like many other high school students in Arizona, **Julie Anna Olague '18** had never heard of Wartburg College when

her college search began. Though she focused almost exclusively on schools in the southwest (minus Pacific University in Hawaii), she applied to Wartburg on a whim during an overnight scholarship event hosted by the Aguila Youth Leadership Institute.

"**Kyle** (Vowell, admissions counselor) was there doing a presentation, and he talked about the school's biology program," Olague said. "I thought it was a cute school, so I applied online with no intention of actually ending up here."

But after being accepted and offered a large scholarship, Olague agreed to visit campus using the Fly-in Program to help offset the cost.

She liked everyone she met, and the quaintness of Old Main, the little brick college building of her dreams, didn't hurt either.

"I knew that if I came here to major in biology, I also could major in Spanish and still graduate in four years. Wartburg's acceptance rate into medical and graduate schools was another big factor," she said. "It all looked so good. I kept wondering what the catch was going to be."

Three years later, she has yet to find one.

Beginning with the IInspire pre-orientation bridge program, there have been plenty of people willing to step in if she needed anything.

"My whole freshman year, I would have people constantly asking me if I was doing OK," she said. "I had no complaints beside the obvious stress



Abram



Choosing Wartburg College wasn't an easy decision for **Abram Hernandez '19**.

Wanting to keep her oldest of five boys closer to home in Mesa, Ariz., his mother was strongly opposed to him leaving the nest for a school more than 1,500 miles away.

Yet Hernandez, who had never visited campus, was drawn to Wartburg, where he felt he could get the personalized attention he wanted and the results he needed when applying to dentistry school (more than 80 percent of all Wartburg applicants are accepted into a post-graduate program, about double the national average). His father proved to be the voice of reason, reminding his eldest that he had to take the path that would lead him where he wanted to be.

"The way I see it, my education is an investment that I will be paying for and benefiting from for many years

to come," said Hernandez, who is majoring in biochemistry and Spanish. "I wanted to do something that would benefit me."

Wartburg President Darrel Colson and **Kyle Vowell '10**, admissions counselor, were in the Mesa area at the Aguila Youth Leadership Institute, along with Hernandez, when he informed them he had committed to the college. The conversation eventually turned to the Hernandez family's tamale restaurant.

"Right before he left, President Colson said, 'Tell your father we will be down for dinner,'" Hernandez said. "He came, and we had tamales for dinner. I will say, President Colson can eat his chiles. It was respectable."

That meal helped assuage Hernandez's parents' concerns about their son traveling so far away from home.

"My father said he could see that the school does care for its students.

of being a new college student. I got homesick, but I think that will happen whether you are 30 minutes away or 24 hours away."

Today, she is mentoring others through IINspire and helping **Abram Hernandez '19** start the student-led Spanish and Latin Student Association. She also is secretary of the Chemistry Club, an ambassador for the Admissions Office, and works on campus.

After she graduates next year, she plans to pursue a master's degree in public health with an emphasis in Latin American studies. Her end goal is to attend medical school.

"I really want to stay in Arizona or another community where there is a need for health professionals who can work with those with a Latino heritage," she said. 🌍

It says a lot for a president to sit down to dinner with a potential student's family and even more when it's at the family's restaurant," Hernandez said.

Though his parents have yet to visit campus—his brothers start school in August, and leaving the family business for an extended period of time is difficult—Hernandez is certain he made the right choice, though he misses his family and the food.

In addition to being a student manager in the Konditorei, he has served as a student senator and also started the Spanish and Latin Student Association (SALSA).

"There are a lot of students coming to campus from Arizona, Texas, California, and Florida who identify as Hispanic or Latino. This group will offer a place for them to come together, help each other out, and have some good, authentic food," he said. 🌍



In high school, **Sierra Lovato '18** played three sports, served on the student council, and maintained good grades with a particular interest in science. Though she had never heard of Wartburg College, **Kyle Vowell '10**, admissions counselor, knew she'd be a perfect fit.

After hearing him talk in a high school class, she thought he could be right. Using the college's Fly-in Program, Lovato and her friend, **Megan Burke '18**, visited campus for Scholarship Day.

"Being here on campus in January was definitely a culture shock," Lovato said. "But I liked the atmosphere. The biology program was strong. Everyone was so friendly everywhere we went. The admissions counselors all knew who we were and made us feel like celebrities all weekend."

She remembers connecting with the biology students who hosted her overnight and the Scholarship Day interviewers, including Ashley Lang, director of campus programming. Lovato and her mother, Manie, also were impressed they met President Darrel Colson, an opportunity that wouldn't have happened at her other top choices: the University of San Francisco and the University of Arizona.

With a little urging from her parents—her mother loved the campus and the people— Lovato finally decided on Wartburg. Burke sweetened the deal when she agreed to be Lovato's roommate.

Like several other Arizona students, Lovato, an environmental science major, participated in the IINspire pre-orientation bridge program.

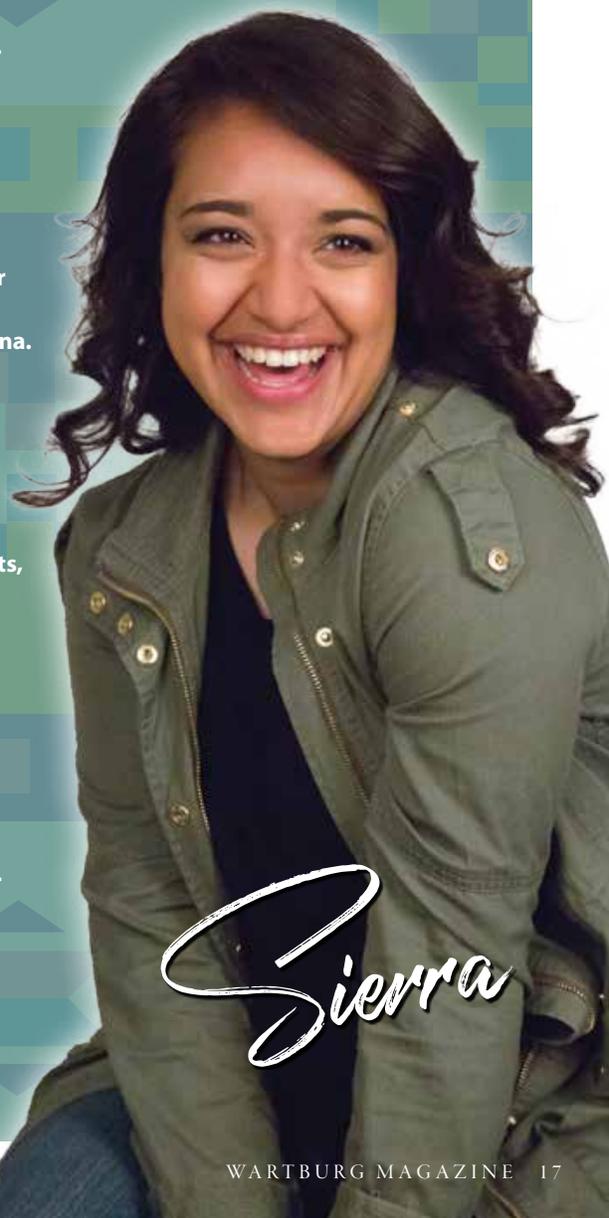
"There were about 10 other students, and we had the chance to do our first Biology 151 lab down at the Cedar River and meet all our professors," Lovato remembered.

"Then we were paired up with mentors who could talk about their experience in the science program and what we needed to do to be successful in college."

Lovato must have taken their talks to heart, because today she is excelling academically and as an inaugural member of the college's lacrosse team (which was not one of the three sports she played in high school). She also works in the Sustainability Office and served on the Homecoming Committee.

She stays connected to her roots through informal gatherings organized by Vowell and Dr. Zak Montgomery, associate professor of Spanish.

"Zak really cares about all of us as a group," she said. "It shows that people at Wartburg don't just want you here to have you here, but they really enjoy having us on campus and want to make sure we succeed." 🌍



# BOOKING IT

## AROUND THE RINK

**BY** STEPHANIE ROBBINS BOEDING '99  
**PHOTOS** JULIE PAGEL DREWES '90  
DONNA OLMSTEAD

**SEEING SARAH VOELS '09 WORKING AMONG THE SHELVES** of the downtown Cedar Rapids Public Library, you could easily guess she was an English major at Wartburg. What you probably wouldn't guess, if you are the kind to judge a book by its cover, is that she also plays on a roller derby team.

Voels always has been athletic and even had a work-study stint in the Athletic Office. But as an English major, she yearned to be around books, so she took another work-study position in Vogel Library and opened a new chapter in her life.

She had just graduated and was working part time at the Cedar Falls Public Library when she first learned about a new roller derby team starting in the Cedar Valley. She went to the Push-Up Brawlers' first practice as a spectator.

By the second practice, she had a new set of gear and was skating.

"Everybody was just out there having fun, and I needed some of that. Everyone was strangers but so helpful with one another."

Soon after Voels joined the Brawlers in 2010 as her alter ego, the Dibrarian, she was accepted into the University of Pittsburgh's library science program.

"That was a sad day, leaving the team ... there were a lot of care packages during that time," she said.



After an intense 11-month graduate program, Voels volunteered through AmeriCorps at a low-income school in the Pittsburgh area. As she was nearing the end of her term, her story returned her to where it began: Cedar Rapids. Her hometown was finally opening its new public library: the old one had been destroyed in the flood of 2008. As the river water overtook much of the city's downtown, she was living her own version of the story in Waverly, where she was interning at the Waverly Public Library as part of her coursework.

"When emergency services and City Hall were flooded out and moved into the (Waverly) library, that's where I really saw the library as a focal point of the community," she said. "That was absolutely a terrible experience for everyone, but a really important one in my career."

Today, Voels is a materials librarian, responsible for purchasing for the youth and young adult collections, which total nearly 90,000 items.

Being back in Cedar Rapids also meant being close to family and the Brawlers.

"It's more than a sports team, which it absolutely is, but it's very much a family," said Voels.

Though many still hold outdated beliefs about the sport—ones that include fishnets and short shorts—the new generation of derby women are focused on athleticism, with skaters dressed more modestly in jerseys and capris. Where the "angry women" derby perception still holds true is with the names. Other Brawlers names include After School Special, who's a teacher; Occupational Hazzard, an occupational therapist; and Exsie Cute, one of the coaches.

Voels' smaller physique gives her an advantage on the track. With the jammer's star on her helmet and the help of her teammates, Voels earns points by passing the four blockers on the opposing team.

"To know they have my back on and off the track has been really important and valuable in developing confidence and appreciation for what I can do if I set my mind to something," she said of her time on the track.

Wartburg gave her confidence, too, in pursuing her passion in her field.

"There are so many things you can do with an English degree. People truly don't realize it," Voels said. "That exposure to different stories and different story-telling techniques has helped to shape my thinking outside the box, to be a more creative yet empathetic problem-solver."

Two of her professors, Drs. Joyce Boss and Penni Pier, were particularly influential.

"They are very smart, savvy, intelligent, kind, and caring," Voels said. "They both challenged me to think and to think more broadly than I was used to."

Boss remembers Voels showed fierceness with whatever she did, particularly Japanese poetry.

"She became an absolute haiku master in World Literature class," said Boss. "So in that sense, Sarah's having become a roller derby star as well as a librarian comports absolutely with her character—a sublime combination of intellectual and warrior sensibilities." 

# ALWAYS *Reforming*

*Spiritual Life & Campus Ministry constantly seeks new ways to connect with students*

**BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN**

**PHOTOS JULIE PAGEL DREWES '90, WARTBURG COLLEGE ARCHIVES**

**THE LIGHTS DIM IN THE CHAPEL COMMONS.** From the back of the room, the first chords of the piano sound in the nearly quiet space. Soon a guitar, electric violin, and several voices join in.

Though the numbers are smaller during May Term, the feel of Sanctuary is the same. Relaxed. Intimate. Safe.

"I know when I come here I can let everything go and recharge spiritually and mentally," said **Sarah Gruman '19**, a music education major from Harpers Ferry. "As a Catholic, it's more comfortable for me than Eucharist was because it is relaxed, more like a church camp or people just hanging out and talking about their faith."

The Rev. Brian Beckstrom, campus pastor, and the Rev. Dr. Ramona Bouzard, dean of the chapel and Herbert and Cora Moehlmann Chaplaincy Chair, started Sanctuary in fall 2016 as a way to revitalize the college's traditional Wednesday night Eucharist gathering. The gathering is more Bible study than traditional worship, but still includes time for music, prayer, and communion.

"The culture has changed. The church has changed. Big Eucharist-styled gatherings are still happening on larger campuses, but even in those contexts the numbers have declined," Beckstrom said. "For our younger generation, it's all about creating relationships, and that is something Sanctuary can help them do. This is a space for them to ask questions, share what is going on within them, and contribute to the product of the service."

Switching up the weekday gathering is just one way the Spiritual Life & Campus Ministry team has evolved in recent years to better relate to students on their individual faith journeys. Other changes include a more robust social media presence and live-streamed weekday and Sunday services.

"The church's job is to see what God is doing in the world and then partnering with Him on that mission. How is God remaking the church today through all these cultural changes? What is God calling us to be in this time?" Bouzard said. "Those are the mini reformations that you can't say for sure are going to work, but you have to experiment. I would hope that Lutheran churches and all churches would be doing a lot of experimenting right now. We don't know what God is calling us to do, so let's spend time listening to God, discerning and trying things out, and coming back together and reflecting on that."



How is God remaking the church today through all these cultural changes? What is God calling us to be in this time? Those are the mini reformations that you can't say for sure are going to work, but you have to experiment.

—The Rev. Dr. Ramona Bouzard



## A MILESTONE ANNIVERSARY

This year, Lutherans around the world are celebrating the 500th anniversary of the start of the Protestant Reformation. Martin Luther, a professor, composer, and priest, took issue with several teachings and practices in the Roman Catholic Church and penned his *Ninety-Five Theses*, outlining his position against the selling of indulgences, which were believed by many to reduce the amount of punishment for sins committed by the purchaser or their loved ones in purgatory.

In addition to leading to sweeping changes in the church and the birth of Lutheranism, the Reformation also succeeded in the widespread dissemination of information. Luther, who was excommunicated by Pope Leo X, sought refuge in the Wartburg Castle in Eisenach, Germany. During his months in hiding, he worked tirelessly to translate the Bible from Latin into the vernacular of the people. This effort, along with the new availability of the earliest printing press, made the Holy Scriptures more accessible to laity.

While the first years following the Reformation were full of changes, Beckstrom said in more recent times the church has neglected its own principle of “ecclesia semper reformanda est,” or “the church must always be reformed.”

“We institutionalized the Reformation,” Beckstrom said. “And because of that, we’ve made it harder to adapt to change, be nimble, and follow where the Spirit is leading.”

The challenge: Where God is leading isn’t the same for everyone.

“Luther brought faith into the everyday lives of his people. We have to do the same,” Beckstrom said.

## REFORMATION ON CAMPUS

When the **Rev. Larry Trachte '66**, Wartburg’s campus pastor from 1974 to 2009, came to Wartburg as a student in 1962, the college didn’t have to work very hard to share its Lutheran heritage. The majority of the faculty, staff, and students came from a Lutheran upbringing. Students were required to attend a twice-weekly convocation, with Tuesday being a traditional convocation and Thursday dedicated to worship. Only students who were not Lutheran could apply for an attendance waiver.

“Herman Diers was the campus pastor, and he was a very dynamic preacher. We called him ‘Helicopter Herman’ because his hands were always going,” Trachte recalled. “But it was a very different time. Religion was taken for granted.”



Trachte

Shortly after Trachte graduated, spiritual life on campuses across the country began to shift. At Wartburg, students occupied the president’s office, and Diers was leading peace marches against the Vietnam War. In general, Trachte said students were becoming “more radicalized toward social issues.”

“When I came back to Waverly in the ‘70s, Wartburg had changed dramatically,” said Trachte, who was pastor at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church from 1970 through 1974. “Sometimes I would come up for a campus worship, and there would only be 25 or 30 students in Sunday worship.”

## NEW LEADERS, NEW IDEAS

Challenged by the Board of Regents to reinvigorate the campus ministry culture and preserve the college’s Lutheran heritage, Trachte took the helm in 1974. Even then, he faced the same issues today’s campus pastors are working to overcome: welcoming an increasingly diverse group of students into the college’s religious life, even if they weren’t Lutheran or even Christian.

“It was a balance of trying to be true to your heritage and affirm those traditions while at the same time moving decidedly toward an ecumenical ministry on campus and working with those of other faiths,” Trachte said.

In addition to chapel on weekdays, Trachte oversaw Sunday worship, Wednesday night Eucharist, a Christmas candlelight service, and several outreach programs, including a clown ministry troupe and an Adopt-A-Grandparent student organization.

The college’s Campus Ministry Board included faculty and student representatives from each of the special ministries, regardless of their religion. In an effort to connect faculty with the Lutheran faith and the college’s mission, Trachte led Winter Break trips to the top Luther sites in the ‘80s. Eisenach and the castle were added to the itinerary after the Berlin Wall fell in 1989. Similar trips continue today and have been opened to all faculty and staff.

The reformation continued under Bouzard, who in 1994 was called to serve as director of church relations and associate in campus ministry. In 2009, when Trachte retired, the college called her to serve as dean of the chapel and the Herbert and Cora Moehlmann Chaplaincy Chair. Soon after, the college called Beckstrom to serve as a second campus pastor, a first for Wartburg.

The two continued to respond to the ways students organized around spirituality and faith. In 2011, the name was changed from just Campus Ministry to Spiritual Life & Campus Ministry, reflecting the more open approach that students had to spiritual life and to be more inclusive of the college’s commitment to help all students explore faith and learning. Still, Bouzard felt they weren’t doing enough to ensure that everyone felt welcome on campus and in the chapel.



“Our experiences in the United States with interfaith engagement were so narrow. I remember there were three women from African countries and a couple of our Muslim students, and they told stories about how they went to each other’s worship services because they were neighbors, not because they practiced the same religion,” Bouzard said. “That is not how we do things in the U.S., so it is very foreign for adults to realize that this is not new for the Christian church.”

## WIDENING THE REACH

Today, about 32 percent of Wartburg students who report a religious affiliation select Lutheran. More than 28 percent self-identify as Roman Catholic. Of the 1,253 who answered the question, 70 said they did not identify with a religious tradition and 229 did not respond. In all, more than 25 Christian denominations and several world religions are represented on campus.

While faculty, staff, and students from other Christian religions always have been welcome to offer the message at Weekday Chapel, those who practiced other religions, including Judaism, Hinduism, and Islam, were only offered the opportunity to share their faith in that setting about four years ago. Bouzard said it took quite some time for those students to feel safe speaking about their faith so publicly in a Christian setting.

“Developmentally, they are just like our Christian students. They come to us in the same place as our Christian students. They have learned their faith from their family traditions, and now they are sorting through it,” Bouzard said. “They are at a time in their life when they are asking the same questions about their purpose and meaning and what they are being called to do.”

Beckstrom said it is important to remember that these interfaith conversations still happen in the context of Christian worship.

“It takes courage for them to come in and share something about their tradition with us,” he said. “I don’t know how I would have felt as a college student speaking at a mosque. It has to be hard for them, too.”

Though the idea of an interfaith chapel isn’t always welcomed by everyone, Beckstrom believes the college’s faith community is stronger because of it.

“Research shows that constructive engagement with others is more likely to strengthen the faith you have than to make you into something else. We don’t have a lot of students from other world religions on campus, but I have many more interfaith relationships and friendships here than I ever did when I lived in Phoenix or Minneapolis,” Beckstrom said. “As a rule, we tend to segregate ourselves by our faith tradition, whether intentionally or not, or just not talk about it at all. That’s not how we try to operate here. We are a small enough place that you are going to meet someone from a different faith background, and we want everyone to feel comfortable enough to talk about what that means.”

## RECOGNIZING A NEED

In the early years, Eucharist would draw hundreds, including students from the University of Northern Iowa.

“It was standing-room only. People were sitting in the aisles,” said Trachte. “In the early ’90s, contemporary worship was where it was at. We had the worship band. We offered a place for community. The result was beyond any of our expectations.”

“The first night Ramona and I were standing at the altar, and they were singing a Catholic hymn, *One Bread, One Body*, and the whole place was just vibrating. It was thrilling.”

But as students changed over the years, the service also changed. Beckstrom recognized this shift and, with the help of a new group of students, this year changed the Wednesday evening gatherings from the traditional Eucharist service to the more relaxed and intimate Sanctuary gatherings.

Beckstrom vividly remembers the week **Bree Truax ’96** visited campus and Sanctuary. Truax, who will be ordained this summer, was instrumental in starting the college’s Eucharist gathering in 1994, the same year the Wartburg Chapel opened.

“I really thought Bree was going to think this was ridiculous. Here we are, with our 60 people, gathered in Chapel Commons, sitting on bean bags,” he said. “But she agreed that this was exactly what we should be doing right now.”

## LOOKING AHEAD

In 2008, Phyllis Tickle wrote in *The Great Emergence* that “every 500 years the empowered structures of institutionalized Christianity, whatever they may be, become an intolerable carapace that must be shattered so that renewal and growth may occur. Now is such a time.”

Beckstrom calls it reformatting.

“Most people, in terms of looking at religion and culture today, would say we are at that time right now. There was a long time of stability in the church where, especially here in the U.S., you could just about assume that everybody was going to come from the same kind of faith background, where they would go to church on Sunday and that was just part of their civic life.”

Today, that demographic is changing. Wartburg students are coming from more diverse backgrounds, and more and more of them do not have the same faith development or identity that young adults did 10 to 15 years ago.

Along with a guiding team, Bouzard and Beckstrom will soon complete a program review to help determine what Spiritual Life & Campus Ministry might look like in the coming years.

“We have to experiment. One of the big things we’ve learned from our meetings and our student focus groups is that religious faith is not disappearing,” Beckstrom said. “If anything it may be becoming more important, but the way people are relating to it is changing, and we have to find how we adapt to that in ways that are faithful and innovative.”



## DEANNA NICKEL ROSE '63

I remember the Rev. Herman Diers, who was the campus pastor in the '60s. He was ahead of his time in being concerned about ecological issues and how mankind mistreats our homeland—the Earth. He wrote a skit that I later used several times in church on Earth Day. It was a dialogue between God and Earth. I lost my copy of it many years ago, but still remember how well-written and thoughtful the Rev. Dier's writing was. Almost every year I wish I still had that copy.

I think he has been an influence in some of my writings. I published a contemporary book of prayers in 2015. Several of the prayers in *So Prays My Soul* reflect Pastor Diers' message of God's desire for us to take care of the Earth. Loving and caring for God's creation is a spiritual experience.

## THE REV. KRISTIN WENDLAND '00



The ways that Campus Ministry at Wartburg has impacted my life are too many to number. First, regular opportunities to worship, to study, and to pray provided a spiritual community that I needed. It was especially important that this community left space for questions.

Serving on the Campus Ministry Board and as chair of the Sunday morning worship committee gave me experience in planning and coordinating worship and affirmed the vocation I was discerning toward ministry of Word and Sacrament.

Finally, both campus pastors were invaluable support. Pastor (Larry) Trachte was incredibly gracious when I sat in his office just a week after campus gushing about how happy I was to be there. Pastor Ramona (Bouzard) actually made the phone call to get me a new adviser when I realized that I would be changing my major to religion—and four years later preached at my ordination. She has continued to be an important conversation partner for me since graduation.



## JEAN BUCKINGHAM '82

When I was a student, it was just Pastor Larry Trachte (PT), and he also taught several classes (his Living with Death class was hard to get into and memorable for many). Chapel was in Neumann Auditorium and other events were held in the old Buhr Lounge.

In the fall of 1981, Wartburg alum Vicki Klotzbach was murdered in Iowa City. PT called students across campus who he knew were friends of hers to tell them personally, not a small feat as at the time the only phones were in hallways, not in individual rooms. PT gathered us, grieved with us, and helped us through those very dark days. He made that very sad time a little easier by his presence and support.

That being said, I also can't count the number of weddings and happy occasions that PT (Larry), Ramona (Bouzard), or Brian (Beckstrom) have been a part of. It is a memory that is still very vivid after all these years that PT cared so deeply for us students.



For more about how Spiritual Life & Campus Ministry has impacted students and alumni, visit [www.wartburg.edu/2017/05/23/magazine-reformation](http://www.wartburg.edu/2017/05/23/magazine-reformation).

# ONE FOR THE RECORD BOOKS

*Wrestling team earns 13th national championship*

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN PHOTOS SUBMITTED

**IT WAS A WEEKEND (AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, A SEASON)** to remember for the Wartburg wrestling team.

On Saturday, March 11, the team earned a record-breaking 13th NCAA Division III championship, crowning nine All-Americans and accumulating 129.5 team points. Rival Augsburg—the Minnesota team has 12 national championships—finished second with 79 points.

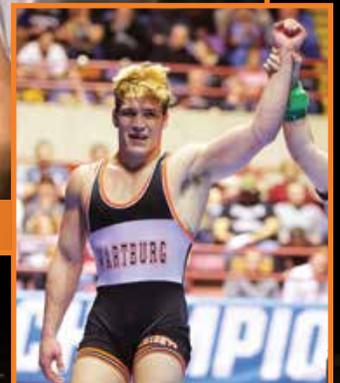
“Wartburg celebrates excellence, and there are no limits to what you can accomplish here. The amount of commitment and dedication that this team invested in each other played a major part in the history-making season they had,” said coach Eric Keller. “They made their minds up last spring that they were going to be great and jumped levels all season every time they were challenged. Every single guy in our program had a piece in this historical accomplishment.”

In addition to the national team honors, nine (out of a possible 10) wrestlers were crowned All-Americans and one, Eric DeVos '18, earned an individual national championship. All of this came after the team won a record-breaking seventh consecutive National Wrestling Coaches Association National Duals title, its 196th consecutive IIAC dual (another record), its fifth consecutive Central Regional title (more records falling here), and a record-setting 25th IIAC title.

Three wrestlers—Lance Evans '18, a biology (pre-med) major from Solon; Tyler Lutes '18, a business administration major from Conrad; and DeVos, a political science major from Okoboji—earned NWCA Scholar All-America honors. Evans also was named a CoSIDA Academic All-American. 🏆



Cross Cannone '20



Eric DeVos '18



To hear Keller, his wrestlers, and Jim Miller, coach emeritus, talk about the program's history of dominance, visit [www.wartburg.edu/magazine-wrestling](http://www.wartburg.edu/magazine-wrestling).

# finding *the* good

*Kokare overcomes obstacles to spend future building peace*

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN PHOTOS JULIE PAGEL DREWES '90, SUBMITTED

**TO SAY KAILAS KOKARE'S '17 LIFE HAS BEEN DIFFICULT** would be an understatement. He grew up in a shepherding family in a rural community in Pune, India. Neither his mother nor his father completed high school. When he was 1, while his mother was out fetching water for the family, he put his right hand in the indoor cooking fire, causing severe burns to his hands and wrist. A lack of appropriate wound care during the healing process caused his hand to fuse to the inside of his arm.

But Kokare finds only the good in all of his life experiences. He was sent to boarding school when he was 11. With the help of the Akshara Foundation, an organization that

works to improve access to education in India, he eventually attended a United World College in Italy where he met Todd Coleman, Wartburg's assistant vice president for admissions.

He was drawn to Wartburg's campus and the helpful nature of everyone he encountered. The possibility of running on the cross country and track teams was a bonus for the small but athletic Kokare.

"I'm not really that fast now, but in the beginning, I was always dead last," said Kokare, who ran competitively in India but never experienced the training commitment of a collegiate athlete. "I didn't know anything about rigorous practices and workouts. I didn't even really know how long a mile was because I was used to tracking distance in kilometers."

His old track shoes weren't adequate for this new level of competition, but buying new running shoes wasn't in Kokare's budget. Though they hardly knew him, his teammates and then-head coach Steve Johnson stepped in and bought him a new pair of shoes so he could safely train and compete.

"It was really a blessed moment for me," he said of their generosity.

But it wasn't the only "blessed moment" he had in those first few months. When the weather turned cold, Johnson stepped up again, providing Kokare with a warm coat and clothes. He also was introduced to Peggy Hamilton, a woman he would come to think of as family.



Kailas Kokare '17 and Peggy Hamilton in San Francisco.

"She was the first person to show me around the town. During breaks I would stay at her house. I've learned so many things from her," Kokare said. "We've gone mushroom hunting and on vacation. I've met her relatives and celebrated holidays and birthdays with them. She's like my mom in Waverly."

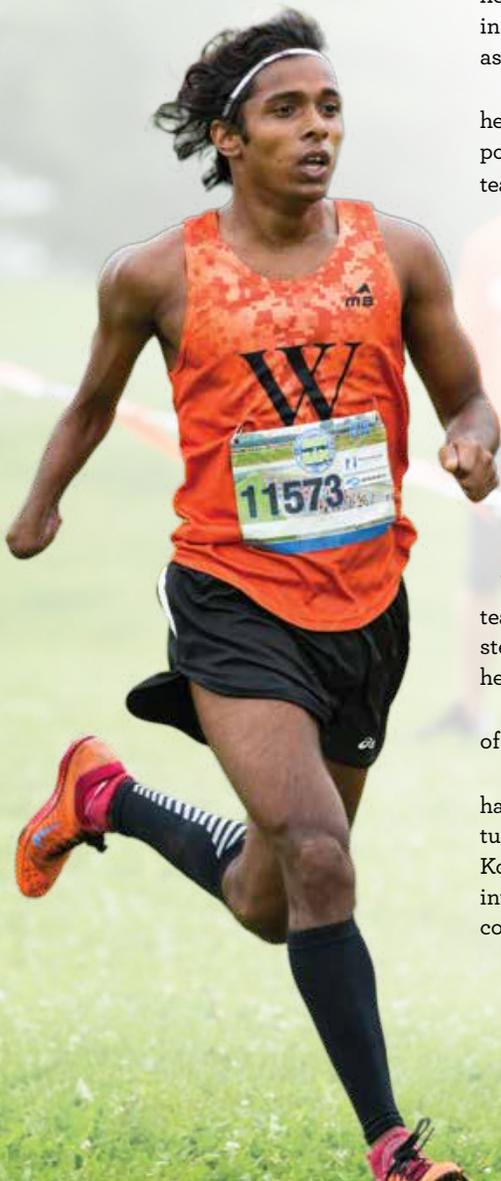
Hamilton takes her Friendship Family role very seriously. In addition to inviting Kokare along on day-to-day and special events, she regularly attends meets.

She's seen him take 12th at the conference championships, 14th at regionals, and 131st at nationals. He also earned All-Region honors in 2015.

"I don't have any kids of my own, so having someone who looks for me and counts on me to be there is new for me," she said. "I think he has affected me more than I've affected him. Nobody will be able to replace him."

Kokare, who majored in peace and justice studies, philosophy, and international relations, wants to help build peace wherever he lands. He hopes to spend at least one more year in the U.S., working under the Optional Practical Training program for international students. He's also considering graduate school.

"I want to work with the United Nations or be an ambassador," he said. "There are a lot of ways to build peace, and I want to help." 🌍





# 2017 YOUNG ALUMNI AWARDS

*The Wartburg College Alumni Board presented Young Alumni Awards on Friday, April 7. The award recognizes select graduates of the last 15 years who stand out as they exemplify the four pillars of the Wartburg College Mission statement: leadership, service, faith, and learning.*

## Randon Ruggles '09

*Burnsville, Minn.*

After graduating from Wartburg, Ruggles taught high school English in Minnesota. The teaching blog he created as a Wartburg student continued in his professional career and was recognized as a Best Teaching Resource in 2012.

He earned a master's degree in instructional technology: curriculum and instruction from the University of Northern Iowa. He also served as a consultant for instructors, staff, and students for effective course design and educational IT methods as the technology director at the FAIR School in downtown Minneapolis.

Ruggles became an education services engineer at Jamf, a software company, and was instrumental in the redesign of a comprehensive technical curriculum. He has continued his professional growth at Jamf through leadership promotions.

He volunteers with the Burnsville Relay for Life, Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance Walk, ZERO Prostate Walk, and Feed My Starving Children.

## Kara Trebil '06

*Cedar Rapids, Iowa*

Trebil's passion to serve others was ignited as she became heavily involved with service work during her time at Wartburg. As a student, she led a handful of alternative break service trips around the country.

She carried the spirit of Wartburg's mission to Cornell College, where she encouraged students to claim their calling. Trebil is a lifelong learner, earning a master's degree in higher education: student affairs and is working to complete her Doctor of Education. She was recognized by the *Corridor Business Journal's* annual Forty Under 40 list in 2012.

As the program coordinator for the Office of Community Engagement at Coe College, Trebil supports students in their personal journey of faith without judgment and strives to make the greater faith community stronger.

She enjoys tutoring adult English-language learners and reviewing grant applications for the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation.

## Nwabunie Nwana '09

*Atlanta, Ga.*

Nwana's career began at Tyson Foods as a microbiologist and chemist before earning a Master of Public Health degree from Emory University.

As a graduate student, she interned with the World Health Organization, providing logistical and technical support to field workers eradicating tuberculosis. Later she served as a principal investigator in borehole evaluation to provide safe and sustainable water in the Umuenechi community.

She also became a guest research scholar at the Centers for Disease Control under the Oak Ridge Institute of Science and Education fellowship program, a highly selective program that connects experts with research facilities.

She continues her spirit of service and faith as the president and founder of Water For Life Nigeria, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing clean and accessible water to communities in rural Nigeria.

## Aaron Wernimont '09

*Bloomington, Ind.*

In 2012, Wernimont died suddenly at the age of 26. His death shook the Wartburg community, especially those within the wrestling program.

He was a fun-loving individual who touched many lives. A transfer student from West Point Academy, Wernimont studied biology and was a two-time national wrestling champion and three-time Academic All-American at Wartburg.

After graduation, he and his wife, **Kahri Heinemann Wernimont '10**, settled in Bloomington, Ind., where he was pursuing an optometry degree at the University of Indiana.

Wernimont enjoyed sharing his faith and wanted everyone to experience the joy and contentment of loving Christ. In his memory, a group of his close friends created the Aaron Wernimont Inspiration Fund, which has generated more than \$100,000.

To date, the foundation has sent more than 100 Bibles to China, awarded nine scholarships to young adults, and established three endowed scholarships.

## Nominate a deserving young alum

Know someone who exemplifies what Wartburg is all about? The deadline to submit a nomination for the annual Young Alumni Award is Nov. 15. This award is given each spring to alumni who graduated within the previous 15 years (2003-2017). The recipients are selected based on how they live out the mission statement and its four pillars: leadership, service, faith, and learning. Visit [www.wartburg.edu/young-alumni/](http://www.wartburg.edu/young-alumni/) for more information and to submit a nomination.

# Knights

in the News



Castle Singers no longer sell tacos at the Renaissance Faire, but we have plenty of other great food and fun on tap for Homecoming & Family Weekend on Oct. 12-15. We can't wait to see you there!

## 1959

**ROGER BUHR**, Decorah, is the president of the Norwegian Singers Association of America.

## 1968

**50-Year Reunion**  
May 24-27, 2018

## 1971

The Rev. **PAUL JOHNSEN**, Highland Lake, N.Y., retired after 41 years in ministry.

## 1972

**Class Reunion Oct. 14**

**LINDA BARNES TILLER**, Douglasville, Ga., retired after 37 years as a teacher and media specialist.

## 1974

Dr. **PATRICIA FLEBBE**, American Canyon, Calif., retired after more than 30 years as an ecologist with the USDA Forest Service.

## 1977

**Class Reunion Oct. 14**

**STEVE HERDER**, Newbury Park, Calif., is board secretary for the Jubilee USA Network.

## 1979

Dr. **HEIDI WOHLRABE**, Wausau, Wis., published her first book, *Healthy and Lean: The Science of Metabolism and the Psychology of Weight Management*.

## 1981

**KEVIN ROBB**, Delhi, retired as a master sergeant from the U.S. Army Reserve after more than 26 years of service. He is an assistant professor of exercise and sport studies at Upper Iowa University, Fayette.

## 1982

**Class Reunion Oct. 14**

**SUZETTE LUEPKE RADKE**, Aurelia, is vice president of finance and administration at Buena Vista University, Storm Lake.

## 1983

**EDMOND BONJOUR**, Stillwater, Okla., received the 2016 Outstanding International Leadership Program Director Award from the International Association of Programs for Agricultural Leaders. He is the director of the Oklahoma Agricultural Leadership Program.

**BRUCE HUEBENER**, Ottumwa, is a social worker at Southeast Iowa Case Management.

## 1987

**Class Reunion Oct. 14**

**JANET WHITNEY**, Pleasant Hill, earned her Master of Education degree and teaches in the Medical Laboratory Science Program at Mercy College of Health Sciences, Des Moines.

## 1991

**ALAN FEIRER**, Winterset, is a leadership trainer and team development consultant. His business, Group Dynamic, was recognized as a 2016 Sapphire Award-winning Partner by Wiley's Talent Solutions group.

## 1992

**Class Reunion Oct. 14**

## 1996

**JANA CUTLER LARSEN**, State Center, is a 1st Five developmental support specialist/TOP facilitator in Marshall, Tama, and Hardin counties for Mid-Iowa Community Action, Marshalltown.

Demetrius Rice and **TINA NADERMAN**, Dubuque, were married Nov. 19. Tina is an addictions counselor with the Substance Abuse Services Center, Dubuque.

## 1997

**Class Reunion Oct. 14**

**KIM JASS-RAMIREZ**, Marshalltown, is the financial development director for the Marshalltown YMCA-YWCA.

Lonnie Upton and **EMILY DORWAY**, Waverly, were married Oct. 31, 2015.

## 1999

**ELLINGTON MILLER STARKS**, Rochester, Minn., won three awards—Editor's Letter, Profile Article, and Feature Article—from the Minnesota Magazine & Publishing Association for her pet magazine, *Wagazine*.

## 2000

Jared and **ANDREA SANDOVAL CHRISTENSEN**, Cedar Rapids, announce the birth of Matthew Jared, July 16. He joins David, 7; Anna, 5; Michael, 3; and Grace, 2.

## 2001

Brian and **MEGAN MYHRE BURKE**, Indianola, announce the birth of Ashton Eric, May 28. He joins Gabriel, 4, and Amelia, 1.

**SARAH SPELTZ**, Boston, is the associate director of alumni programs at Boston University.

## 2002

**Class Reunion Oct. 14**

Harlan and **GRETCHEN BARTLETT HELTERHOFF**, Knoxville, Tenn., announce the birth of Grant William, Sept. 28, 2015. Gretchen is employed by Scripps Networks Interactive as a media strategies coordinator for the DIY Network.

**JESSICA MCANINCH MORTVEDT**, Ames, is marketing director at Haverkamp Properties.

## 2004

Jason and **MAGGIE GIBNEY ATKINSON**, Elkhorn, Wis., announce the birth of Ian Bruce, Jan. 31, 2016.

**VICTORIA BAHE**, Milwaukee, is an environmental educator at the Urban Ecology Center. She was named Nonformal Educator of the Year by the Wisconsin Association of Environmental Education.

Wayne and **LORI HAMMERAND BOWMAN**, Verona, Wis., announce the birth of Logan Thomas, Nov. 27.

**JACOB BOYD**, Dubuque, is a technical webmaster at IBM.

Joshua Huffman and **TEMPA HAINES**, Valley Center, Kan., were married Nov. 26.

**NATHAN** and **RUTH FALINK KERL**, St. Anthony, Minn., announce the birth of Theodore Lee, born in December.

**RENEE CLARK VOVES** and **DAVID VOVES '07**, Waverly, announce the birth of William Clark, Feb. 22. He joins Michael, 3.

## 2005

**DRUPAL** and **ERICA HAUGEN '06 PATEL**, Nolensville, Tenn., announce the birth of Kushal, March 14, 2016. He joins Jayna, 4.

Barry and **MARY FULLER ROBINSON**, Atlantic, announce the birth of Arianna Nellie, Sept. 20. The couple was married March 19, 2016.

## 2006

**THOMAS** and **AMANDA INDRA BREKHUS**, Dallas, announce the birth of Carmella "Ella" Jo, Feb. 3, 2016. She joins Cora, 2.

Dr. **ANDREW EBERLINE**, Muncie, Ind., earned his doctorate from Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind., and is the physical education program coordinator and an assistant professor at Ball State University.

**COREY HELLAND**, Crystal, Minn., is a project manager at General Mills Inc., Minneapolis.

**JOSHUA** and Lydia **JOHNSON**, Charles City, announce the birth of Rhys Herbert, Dec. 20. He joins Ajay, 5; Dax, 4; and Quincy, 2.

**ANDREW** and **ALLISON BARNES '09 POTRATZ**, Burlington, Ky., announce the birth of Samuel, July 21. He joins, Josiah, 5, and Annabelle, 3. Andrew is a family life pastor at Hebron Lutheran Church, Hebron, Ky., and is a Master of Divinity student at The Master's Institute, White Bear Lake, Minn.

## 2007

### Class Reunion Oct. 14

Jason and **CHRISTINA SCHIPPER AUSTIN**, Toronto, announce the birth of Henry, April 22, 2016. He joins Amelia, 3.

The Rev. **JEANETTE BIDNE**, Vernon Center, Minn., has begun a new call at Trinity Lutheran Church, Blue Earth, Minn., and is a Doctor of Ministry in biblical preaching student at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn.

Cody and **EVA SERSLAND HAGAN**, Surprise, Ariz., announce the birth of Griffin Theodore, July 17.

**SCOTT** and Amanda **KEMPEL**, Lanark, Ill., announce the birth of Eden Jo, May 5, 2016. She joins Hadley, 2.

Andrew and **ERIN LUND PAUL**, Cedar Rapids, announce the birth of Scarlett, June 6. She joins Emmett, 2. Erin is a senior administrative assistant at Rockwell Collins.

Carl and **JANEL DVORAK SACKREITER**, Rochester, Minn., announce the birth of Lincoln Donald, Dec. 3, 2015.

## 2008

**KENDRA CHRISTENSEN OSWALD** and **JACOB OSWALD '10**, Dubuque, announce the birth of Hailey, March 17, 2016. Kendra is the office lead at RSM US, and Jacob is an assistant men's basketball coach at Loras College.

## 2009

The Rev. **ZECHARIAH ANDERSON**, Forest City, earned a Master of Divinity degree from Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn., and is associate pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Jared Lee and **DEETTA BOHLING**, Ottawa, Kan., were married Oct. 22.

**ELLEN HILGER**, Decorah, earned her master's degree in education from Viterbo University, La Crosse, Wis., and is a student-centered instructional coach in the Decorah Community School District.

**JOSHUA** and **LINDSAY ZELLE MCCLUNG**, Waverly, announce the birth of Zane Douglas, Nov. 2.

**NGA NGUYEN**, Chicago, is a senior marketing analytics analyst with CDW.

## 2010

**LUKE** and **KENDRA REITER APPLETON**, Loveland, Colo., announce the birth of Emersyn Mae, Nov. 26.

**REESE** and **BRITTANIE BARNETT GRAFFT**, Tulsa, Okla., announce the birth of Emma Charice, Oct. 24.

**ANDREW** and **KRISTIN MACDONALD KAHLER**, Waverly, announce the birth of twins Aurora and Adeline, May 10, 2016.

**KATIE KINSETH** and **BRENNAN DREW '11**, Las Vegas, were married June 4.

## 2011

**JUSTIN CONNER**, Johnston, is a videographer at Mary Greeley Medical Center, Ames.

**ABBEY HEMPEN CRAWFORD**, Ames, is a research analyst at Frank N. Magid Associates.

**REID** and **SARAH KUIL KELLER**, Davenport, announce the birth of Nora Joy, Dec. 27.

**CHRISTINE MARCHIK**, Lexington, Ky., earned her master's degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and is a physician assistant at Baptist Health Lexington.

**JESSICA BULLIS MESSERLI**, Cedar Falls, is a sixth-grade teacher and assistant volleyball coach in the GMG Community School District.

**JOSH SCHINDLER** and **EMILY FELDMAN '12**, West Des Moines, were married Sept. 24.

## 2012

### Class Reunion Oct. 14

**NICOLE BETTERIDGE**, Decorah, is a graduate student in social work at Loyola University Chicago.

Filipe Betzel and **KATE TJEERDSMA**, Plymouth, Minn., were married in June 2016.

**TRISHA FEDERSPIEL CONNER**, Johnston, earned a master's degree in social work from St. Ambrose University, Davenport, and is a school social worker for Heartland AEA.

Levi Faas and **KATE GLENNEY**, Des Moines, were married Dec. 10.

**JIM KRAJEWSKI** and **ABBIE BAKER**, Marion, were married Oct. 8.

**JENNIFER RODRIGUEZ**, Chicago, is a marketing assistant and director of new business development at Marc Jacobson & Associates.

Alec Shern and **EMILY TIMMERMANS**, Minneapolis, were married Oct. 15.

**MICHAEL WINTERS** and **JULIANE HERDER**, Minneapolis, were married Sept. 17.

**ZACHARY YEOMAN**, Westminster, Colo., is an audit manager at Yanari Watson McGaughey P.C.

## 2013

**ALEXANDRA CIOTA CAROLAN**, Minneapolis, is a medical student at the University of Minnesota Medical School. She has been accepted into the urologic surgery residency program at Mayo Clinic, Scottsdale, Ariz.

**DREW CRAWFORD**, Ames, is a senior research analyst at Principal Financial Group.

**EMILY HOGAN**, Overland Park, Kan., earned a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Kansas.

**MARK LUESCHOW** and **ERIN KLEIN**, Waverly, were married Nov. 12.

## 2014

**JORDAN SMITH** and **JORDAN FINCH**, Victor, were married Aug. 20.

## 2015

**CHAD GIEBELSTEIN** and **KAITLYN KETELSEN**, Bennett, were married Oct. 8.

**ELIZABETH HEYING**, St. Louis Park, Minn., is a marketing communications specialist at Ameriprise Financial.

## 2016

**MICHAEL BALLHAGEN**, Allison, works in sales at Denso, Waterloo.

**ANNA BURKE**, St. Paul, Minn., is a food service sales representative at Hormel Foods, Irvine, Calif.

**AMANDA HALVORSON**, Cedar Rapids, is a substitute teacher.

**MEGAN HOWE**, Decorah, is a graphic designer at Iowa Rotocast Plastics Inc.

**BROOKE MOELLER**, New Liberty, is a music therapy intern at Western Home Communities, Cedar Falls.

**DENNIS SALEWI**, Houston, is a web adviser at Hostgator and serves in the U.S. Army Reserve.

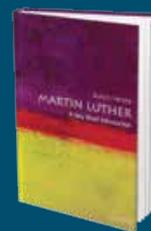
**JACLYN RIGGINS STOAKES**, Waterloo, is a microbiologist lab technician at Treehouse Foods, Cedar Rapids.

## Knight Reading

The 2017-18 common reading for new Knights is *Martin Luther: A Very Short Introduction* by Scott Hendrix. Incoming students will read the book this summer and discuss it in their IS 101 classes Fall Term.

*Martin Luther: A Very Short Introduction* details Luther's life, writings, world, and legacy as well as explains his importance in the Protestant Reformation, which celebrates its 500th anniversary this year.

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



# IN MEMORIAM



## 1929

**Leah Uhrig Mast**, Carlotta, Calif., died Sept. 14, 2012.

## 1934

**Julius Holm**, Austin, Texas, died Oct. 12, 2011. He attended Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and was ordained in 1938. He served churches in Iowa, Kansas, and Texas, retiring in 1979.

**Gertrude Grosshans Haebich**, Okemos, Mich., died Nov. 23, 2014. She earned a master's degree in library science from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. She was a high school teacher and librarian.

## 1941

**Mildred Monke**, Dickinson, N.D., died Jan. 17, 2016. She managed a complex, hostel, and school for the disabled and orphaned in India before becoming a parish worker in North Dakota. She also self-published a book, *North Dakota to India: The Memoirs of a Missionary*.

## 1942

**Rufena Blehm DeVilbiss**, Dayton, Ohio, died May 12, 2016.

## 1943

**Ruth Schlueter Hughes**, Williamsburg, Va., died Sept. 28. She was a retired second-grade teacher.

## 1944

**Marcella Ewy Peter**, Sun City, Ariz., died Jan. 30. She and her husband co-founded The Shoe Tree stores in Berkeley, Calif., and San Francisco.

**Donald Schoof**, Boone, died Dec. 18. A U.S. Army World War II veteran, he was awarded two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star. He worked for Iowa State University for 25 years.

## 1945

**Florence Diemer Keller**, Minneapolis, died Oct. 13.

## **Esther Fritz Villeneuve**,

Pawtucket, R.I., died April 27, 2014. A U.S. Navy World War II veteran, she received the 2001 Patriot Award for her service. She was a retired bookkeeper.

## 1946

The Rev. **Elton Walth**, Grand Island, Neb., died Dec. 11, 2006. He attended Northern State Teachers College, Aberdeen, S.D., and Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque. He served parishes in Minnesota, South Dakota, and Nebraska.

## 1948

**Hayes "Elgin" Allen**, Algona, died Jan. 10. A U.S. Navy World War II veteran, he earned his master's degree from the University of Iowa. A longtime educator, coach, and school administrator, he received Wartburg College's Alumni Association Community Service Award in 1975 and was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame in 2011. He is survived by his wife, **Gertrude Zahn Allen '49**.

## 1949

**Dale Caspers**, Swaledale, died Feb. 26. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa. He farmed.

**Russell Dillemath**, Rockwell City, died July 17. A U.S. Army veteran, he was the assistant county engineer for the Calhoun County Engineer's Office, retiring in 1989. He is survived by his wife, **Stella Buhr Dillemath '47**.

**Marvin Engel**, Fairbury, Neb., died Aug. 21. A U.S. Navy World War II veteran, he was a teacher, principal, and baseball coach at Peace Lutheran School, Deshler, Neb., for 25 years. He also worked for the city of Fairbury for 20 years and at Walmart for 25 years.

**Ann Marie Rath Schowalter**, Jackson, Wis., died Oct. 18, 2015. She taught strings and piano in Marshall, Wis., public schools and was a music therapist at a nursing home.

## 1950

**Donald Kruger**, Sheldon, died Nov. 28, 2015. He farmed and raised livestock, later working for Rome Ltd. and PK Pest Control.

**Milton Lorenz**, Lincoln, Neb., died Sept. 16, 2014. He was a math teacher and guidance counselor at Omaha (Neb.) Benson High School for 37 years.

**Mae Schmidt Muschinske**, Rice Lake, Wis., died Feb. 26, 2014. She is survived by her husband, the Rev. **George Muschinske '49**.

The Rev. **John Walker**, Olathe, Kan., died March 30, 2016. A World War II veteran, he was awarded four bronze battle stars. He earned a bachelor's degree in theology and master's degree in divinity from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and was ordained in 1953. He served parishes in Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, and Kansas, retiring in 1989.

## 1951

**Milton Blehm**, Loveland, Colo., died Dec. 13. A U.S. Army veteran, he was a high school teacher and coach in Iowa. Later, he worked for the U.S. Civil Service in Colorado and then in the insurance industry. He is survived by his wife, **Irene Reiman Blehm '49**.

The Rev. **Luther Cronrath**, Edmonds, Wash., died Oct. 16. A World War II veteran, he earned a Master of Divinity degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and served churches in California.

**James Denner**, Waverly, died Dec. 29. He was a teacher and coach in the Waverly-Shell Rock Community School District for 31 years. He was inducted into the Iowa Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame in 1993.

**Rolland Lauer**, Waukegan, Ill., died Sept. 8. A U.S. Army veteran, he earned a bachelor's degree in music education from Drake University and a master's degree in music from the Chicago Conservatory of Music.

He was a music teacher at Jack Benny Junior High for 28 years. He is survived by his wife, **Paula Schiffler Lauer '52**.

The Rev. **Kenneth Will**, LaCrosse, Kan., died March 16, 2016. A U.S. Army Air Corps World War II veteran, he earned his Bachelor of Divinity degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque. He served parishes in Kansas, Colorado, Missouri, and Nebraska. Following his retirement from ministry, he earned a degree in nursing home administration and worked in that field for five years.

The Rev. **Edward Winter**, Eaton, Ohio, died Aug. 27. He was ordained in 1954 and served churches in Indiana and Ohio for 47 years.

## 1952

**Helen Wendt Huey**, Rockwell City, died Nov. 28, 2014. She was a bookkeeper for 44 years.

**Grace Mumby**, Renton, Wash., died Aug. 6, 2014.

**Marian Petersen Renken**, Manson, died March 19, 2016. She was an elementary school music teacher. She is survived by her husband, **Melvin Renken '52**.

**Quintin Schowalter**, Jackson, Wis., died Nov. 24. He earned a degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and was a Lutheran minister.

**Bernard Siefken**, Wellton, Ariz., died Sept. 15. He served his country as a pilot. He was a pharmaceutical salesman and stock broker.

## 1953

**Jack Bostrack**, River Falls, Wis., died Nov. 30. A U.S. Army veteran, he earned his master's degree and doctorate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He taught at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls for 32 years.

The Rev. Dr. **Russ Mueller**, Paso Robles, Calif., died Jan. 9. A retired

U.S. Army Reserve major, he earned a Master of Divinity degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, Calif. He was ordained in 1957 and served congregations in Illinois and California. He also was a pioneer in television ministry. He is survived by his wife, **Norma Totsch Mueller '54**.

**Judith Ruehmann**, Mesa, Ariz., died June 24, 2014. She earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Illinois State University, Normal, and was an administrative assistant.

The Rev. **Donald Wandersee**, Menominee, Wis., died Feb. 19. He graduated from Northwestern Lutheran Seminary, Minneapolis, and served parishes in Wisconsin and Michigan. He also was an adjunct professor of botany at the University of Wisconsin-Marquette.

## 1954

**Gertrude Weidler Freidinger**, Mount Vernon, Ill., died Oct. 22. She was a Head Start teacher for more than 20 years.

**Janet Reinhardt**, Nauvoo, Ill., died Sept. 6. She worked at State Bank of Nauvoo for 30 years.

## 1955

Dr. **Carol Hansen Gleit**, Fairfield Bay, Ark., died Oct. 15, 2013. She worked for the University of Virginia School of Nursing, Charlottesville, for 20 years.

## 1956

**Bunice Danneman Heidtke**, Decorah, died Sept. 8. She was clerk of court for Barnes County, Valley City, N.D.

**Loren Stecker**, Des Moines, died Feb. 3, 2016. A U.S. Army veteran, he was a member of the Honor Guard. He earned his master's degree in business/economics from Drake University and retired as a senior underwriter at Central Life.

## 1957

**Millege Bremer**, Metropolis, Ill., died May 16, 2013.

**Richard Fondroy**, Albert City, died May 21, 2013. He earned a bachelor's degree in agriculture from Iowa State University. He served in the U.S. Army

Reserve and worked the family farm.

**Phyllis Hanselman Winkelman**, Clear Lake, died May 20, 2016. She was a parish worker in Florida, California, South Dakota, and North Dakota; a teacher's associate in Ventura Community Schools, Garner; and worked at Unisys, Clear Lake, and Park Clinic, Mason City. She also helped her husband farm, retiring in 1985.

**Frederick Wolf**, Germantown, Tenn., died Dec. 4. He earned a bachelor's degree in architecture and a master's degree in civil engineering from Iowa State University. Later, he earned his master's in business administration from Stanford (Calif.) University's Graduate School of Business. He served in the U.S. Navy's Civil Engineer Corps. He was associate director of the Office of Space Management and Academic Scheduling at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind., for 36 years.

## 1958

**Virgil Bohling**, Pickrell, died Dec. 9, 2015. He was an airman in the U.S. Navy and a county engineer, retiring in 1991.

**Arthur Lindell**, Sioux City, died Jan. 18. He served in the U.S. Marine Corp. and studied farm operations at Iowa State University. He worked for McCracken Co., originally Hydrotile Machinery Co. in Nashua, retiring in 2001.

**Marlene Kruse Lindell**, Sioux City, died Nov. 13, 2015. She was a retired nurse.

**Carol Sommers Oltmans**, Jordan, Minn., died Sept. 5, 2015. She worked in loan processing for Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Services, retiring in 1996.

**Carole Madsen Suozzi**, San Marcos, Calif., died Feb. 9, 2016. She was a social worker and later a bookkeeper.

## 1959

**LaVern Luepker**, Wheatland, died Nov. 20, 2009. He earned a degree in accounting from the University of Iowa and worked for John Deere and Co., International Harvester, and TRW. Later, he and a colleague formed their own management consulting company; he retired in 2003.

**Robert Stob**, Alexandria, Minn., died March 31, 2015. He served in the U.S. Army Reserve and worked

for Alexandria Boat Works for 17 years. In 1991, he and his wife, Ruth, started a company that sold flags and flagpoles.

**Mary Shimek Thorn**, Council Bluffs, died Aug. 14. She was a high school English teacher.

**Betsy Foshe Thronson**, Mount Horeb, Wis., died Sept. 3, 2014. She farmed with her husband and started Betsy's Kitchen, a restaurant in Barneveld, Wis.

## 1960

**Eileen Mieke Behrens**, Waverly, died June 21. She earned her master's degree from Drake University and taught special education, retiring in 2003. She is survived by her husband, **Marvin Behrens '58**.

**Duane Grimm**, Waverly, died Jan. 27. He served in the U.S. Army and was an insurance agent for several years before farming.

**Sandra Marsh Janssen**, Waverly, died Nov. 15. She was an elementary school teacher, retiring in 2000.

**Larry Niemann**, Denver, Iowa, died Jan. 6. He served in the Air Force Reserve and earned a master's degree from the University of Northern Iowa. A math teacher and coach in the Denver Community School District for 30 years, he was inducted into the Iowa Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2001. He also was a realtor. He is survived by his wife, **Ruth Juilfs Niemann '59**.

## 1961

**Floyd Senne**, Allison, died Nov. 11. He served in the U.S. Army Reserve, farmed, worked for Purina, sold insurance, and was a Pioneer Seed salesman for 33 years. He is survived by his wife, **Verlene Barth Senne '61**.

## 1962

**Joan Edson Meighan**, Phoenix, died Dec. 25. She earned a degree from Arizona State University, Tempe. She was a teacher at Sunland Elementary School for more than 30 years.

**Marlys Briley Schultz**, Moltke, Mich., died Feb. 20, 2009.

## 1963

**Melvin Epley**, Jacksonville, Fla., died Oct. 31. A U.S. Navy veteran, he earned his Master of Business

Administration from the University of North Florida. He retired from the state of Florida's health department as a budget manager.

**Alan Hassman**, Camp Hill, Pa., died Nov. 27. He served in the National Guard and was a businessman. He is survived by his wife, **Gloria Arnold Hassman '63**.

## 1964

**David Childs**, Yakima, Wash., died March 19, 2013. He was a shoe salesman at Nordstrom for more than 30 years.

**Andrea Bartman DeVore**, Charles City, died Sept. 26. She was the director of music and organist at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church for 46 years and served as the business director for 19 years, retiring in 2016. She is survived by her husband, **James DeVore '69**.

**Rosalie Gutknecht Jones**, Dundas, Ontario, Canada, died Nov. 19.

## 1965

**Daniel Moeller**, Manhattan Beach, Calif., died Oct. 25. He attended graduate school at the University of Northern Iowa and University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. He was an English teacher at Huntington Park (Calif.) High School, retiring in 2002.

**Harry Rollings III**, Grafton, Wis., died Sept. 4. He earned his master's degree from the University of Nebraska-Omaha and his doctorate from Tulane University, New Orleans. He taught English literature at Lakefield High School, Hayfield, Minn. He also was a senior consultant with Rohrer, Hibler and Boston Consulting Group. Later, he taught industrial and organization psychology and human factors engineering at Marquette University, Milwaukee, and Milwaukee School of Engineering.

## 1966

**George Curtis**, Denver, Iowa, died Oct. 4. He earned his master's degree in music from the University of Northern Iowa. A U.S. Navy Vietnam War veteran, he was an instrumental music teacher in Minnesota and Iowa, retiring in 2002. He is survived by his wife, **Diann Cunningham Curtis '66**.

**John "Jack" Swanson**, Coal Valley, Ill., died Sept. 18. He was a retired science teacher.

## 1967

**John Dixon**, St. Cloud, Minn., died Sept. 15, 2014. He was a retired business teacher and coach at Fergus Falls High School and operated a tax accounting business for 45 years. He is survived by his wife, **Jane Schmidt Dixon '67**.

**Kenneth Nevenhoven**, Davenport, died Sept. 2. A U.S. Army Vietnam War veteran, he was awarded the Purple Heart, two Bronze Stars, and three Army Medals of Commendation. He was a teacher and coach at North Scott High School, Eldridge. He is survived by his wife, **Christie Fisher Nevenhoven '68**.

**Bruce Vosseller**, Oconomowoc, Wis., died Oct. 14. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. He was a teacher and school business manager. Later, he worked in health care construction, managing MRI building projects. He and his wife started their own business, Voss Products Ltd. After retirement, he farmed.

## 1968

**William Armbrister**, Wichita, Kan., died Nov. 27, 2015. A U.S. Army Vietnam War veteran, he was a retired Boeing/Spirit financial analyst.

The Rev. Dr. **Joseph Bleakley**, Springfield, Ill., died Sept. 16, 2012.

**Dale "Craig" Lichty**, Myrtle Beach, S.C., died Aug. 31. A U.S. Army Vietnam War veteran, he was a sales and marketing executive for Terex Corp. for 41 years.

## 1969

**Helen Buhr Brase**, Tripoli, died Sept. 8. She was a teacher in the Tripoli Community School District for 26 years.

**Tom Schleicher**, Bondurant, died April 23, 2016. He earned his master's degree from Winona (Minn.) State University and later earned a master's degree in school counseling. A Vietnam War veteran, he was a retired teacher and coach.

## 1970

**Jerry Hartwell**, Charles City, died May 23, 2016. He earned a master's degree in administration from the University of Northern Iowa. He was a physical education teacher and coach in Charles City for 34 years.

## 1971

**Steven Dooley**, Macomb, Ill., died Oct. 19. A member of the U.S. Army Reserves, he was an engineer at NTN Bower, retiring in 2014.

**Mary Bowman Marasa**, Skokie, Ill., died Sept. 19. She earned a graduate degree from Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., where she later worked in alumni relations.

## 1973

**Rick Biere**, Wauwatosa, Wis., died Dec. 30. He was a Medicare auditor.

**Myron Flugstad**, Jonesboro, Ark., died Aug. 22. He was an assistant director at the Arkansas State University library.

**Frank Stewart Jr.**, Bloomington, Ind., died Oct. 22. He worked in tire sales, retiring in 2011. He was inducted into the Wartburg Athletic Hall of Fame in 2005. He is survived by his wife, **Kristine Pohlmann Stewart '75**.

## 1976

**Michael Luber**, Leander, Texas, died April 26, 2014. A retired National Guard master sergeant, he was a teacher and freelance photographer.

## 1977

**Marilyn Meinecke**, Clear Lake, died Dec. 1. She was a teacher and coach, later working at Winnebago Industries.

## 1983

**Timothy Lewis**, Charles City, died Dec. 6. He was a die-cast operator at TriMark Corp., New Hampton.

## 1984

**Barbara Chick Bristow**, Onalaska, Wis., died June 18, 2014. She is survived by her husband, **John Bristow '81**.

**Jean Behrens Turner**, Ankeny, died Jan. 26. She was an accountant at MidAmerican Energy for more than 30 years.

## 1985

**Todd Hansen**, Santa Fe, N.M., died Aug. 1, 2014. He earned his master's degree from Arizona State University, Tempe, and was an elementary music teacher.

**Kirk Zehr**, Normal, Ill., died Sept. 5. He worked for Homeway Homes, Deer Creek, Ill.

## 1986

**Lonnie Nichols**, Boone, died Dec. 28. He earned a master's degree from Iowa State University and was an administrator for the Webster County Planning and Zoning Department.

## 1991

**Kirk Hummel**, Waverly, died Dec. 24. He worked at First National Bank.

## 1992

**Jennifer Thieman**, Ankeny, died Sept. 18. She earned a degree in criminal justice from Upper Iowa University, Fayette. She was a member service representative for Nationwide Insurance.

## 1995

**Archie Mangold II**, Oskaloosa, died Dec. 14, 2008. He earned degrees from the University of Northern Iowa and William Penn University. He worked at APAC for many years.

## 1997

**William Groby**, Wabasha, Minn., died Feb. 20. He was co-founder of Strategic Tax and Retirement, Rochester, Minn.

**Jerry Horstman**, McGregor, died Feb. 24, 2014. He was a social worker.

## 2001

**Amy Buzalsky**, Cedar Rapids, died Nov. 25. She earned her master's degree in social work from St. Louis University. She worked at Hope Lodge, Iowa City.

## Noteworthy friends

**Weston Noble**, Decorah, died Dec. 21. The highly accomplished, longtime director of Luther College's Nordic Choir was awarded an honorary doctoral degree from Wartburg in 2009. He was a visiting professor and interim conductor of the Wartburg Choir in 2008-09. Noble was a charter member of the American Choral Directors Association and an elected member of the American Bandmasters Association. In 1994, the North Central Division of the ACDA established the Weston H. Noble Award for Lifetime Achievement. Noble was the first to be honored by this award.

The Rev. **J. David Pepper**, Lawler, died March 12. Pepper served parishes throughout Iowa, including St. Mary Catholic Church, Waverly, from 1978 to 1988. During that time, he promoted ecumenical events that united Catholics and Lutherans in combined fellowship. Pepper joined with other Wartburg and Waverly community members to gift the *Dancing St. Francis* sculpture to the college. In 1999, Pepper received a Wartburg Alumni Citation honoring his many contributions to the college community.

**John Ylvisaker**, Waverly, died March 9. The church musician and composer was best known for the song *Borning Cry*. Though not a Wartburg alum, Ylvisaker was well-known in the community. Throughout the years, he mentored student musicians and would lead worship services with his music. He was awarded an honorary doctoral degree from Wartburg in 2008.

# a Papal Performance



*Carolan part of small choir that sang at Vatican celebrations*

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN PHOTOS SUBMITTED

**EVERY 25 TO 50 YEARS SINCE 1300**, the Catholic Church has called a jubilee year for the faithful to focus on reconciliation and solidarity. Even more infrequent are special jubilee years, which Pope Francis opened Dec. 8, 2015.

The Extraordinary Year of Mercy ended Nov. 20, with a closing Mass at the Vatican, and **Trevor Carolan '11**, as a member of the Basilica of Saint Mary's Schola Cantorum, was asked to sing at the event.

"Pope Francis has been revolutionary in the Catholic Church in terms of outreach to the poor, prisoners, and the needy. He talks about the need for all of us to focus on mercy, not only through prayer, but also through outreach and action, and this jubilee year was a way for us to focus on this," Carolan said.

Carolan believes the Minneapolis-based basilica's choir was chosen for this honor, in part, because it was the first U.S. church to be elevated to the rank of a basilica.

Shortly before leaving for Rome, Pope Francis announced he would hold a consistory in conjunction with the closing of the special jubilee year. The Schola Cantorum also was asked to sing for this ceremony.

"Most of the 120 cardinals from around the world were in attendance at St. Peter's Basilica," said Carolan. "It's a very solemn and rare service, so to get to sing for both of these papal services was pretty amazing."

At the jubilee closing, Carolan's choir sang with the Sistine Chapel Choir, which sings for all major papal Masses, as well as other specially selected choirs from around the world.

"While it has been a lifelong dream of mine to sing for a papal Mass at the Vatican, there are other reasons that make this trip more significant," Carolan said.

"More meaningful than singing in St. Peter's Basilica was the opportunity to pray together through song with Pope Francis and the tens of thousands of pilgrims from all around the world."

While the venue and events may have been extraordinary, performing overseas was nothing new for Carolan, who was a member of the Wartburg Choir.

"The opportunity to travel abroad twice with the Wartburg Choir included some of my greatest memories as a Wartburg student," Carolan said.

He also studied organ with Dr. Karen Black, the Rudi Inselmann Professor in Organ.

"Trevor's passion for music has always been evident. Even though he wasn't a music major, one would often find him practicing in the music building or on the organ in the chapel," said Lee Nelson, Wartburg Choir director.

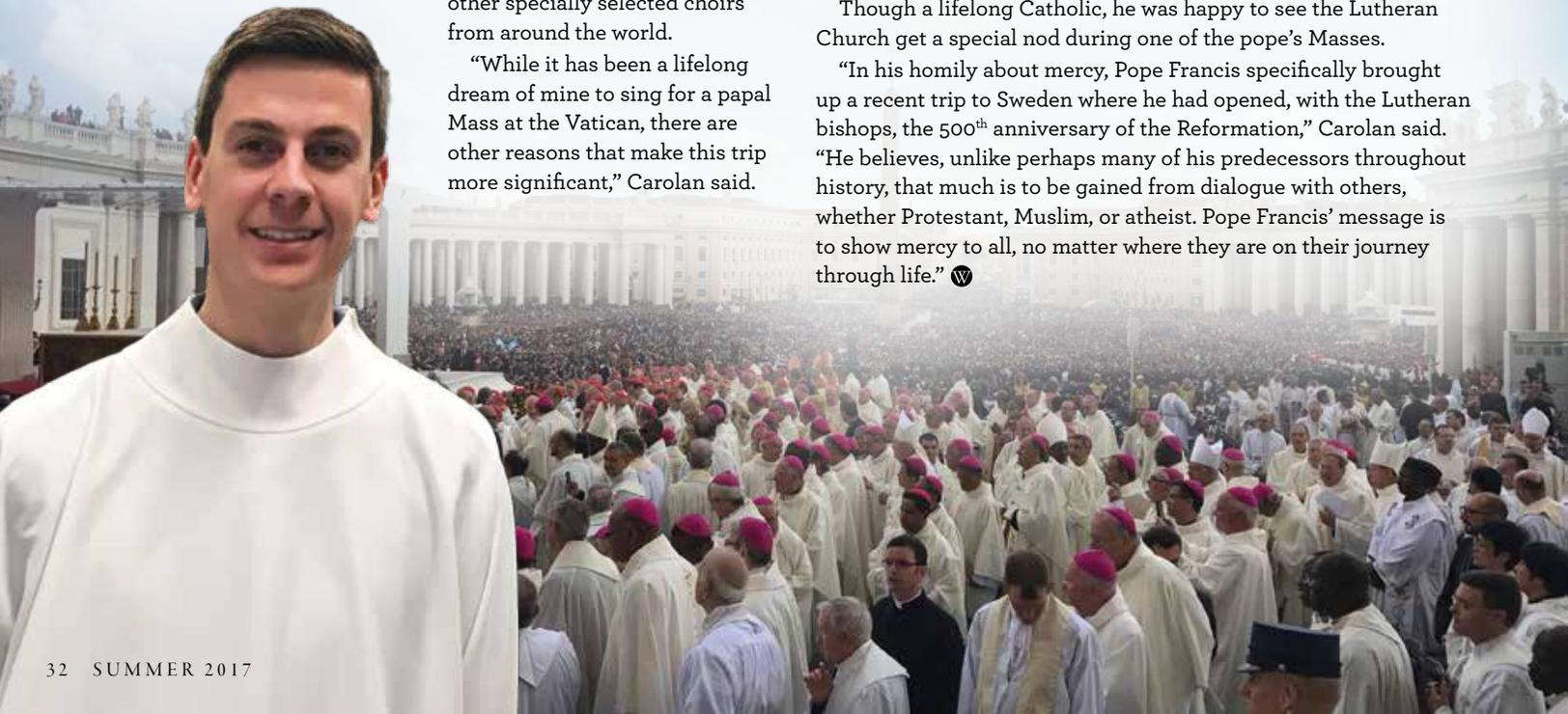
Nelson also remembers Carolan, who was student body president during his senior year, studying for his LSAT while hiding from students on Outfly as part of the longstanding tradition where students try to find the president.

"Students struggled finding him. He was finally discovered hiding inside the organ in Orchestra Hall," Nelson recalled. "He had brought numerous books to read and said he was studying for his law school exams."

Carolan passed the test, went on to law school at the University of St. Thomas, and is now a judicial law clerk for a federal judge in Minneapolis.

Though a lifelong Catholic, he was happy to see the Lutheran Church get a special nod during one of the pope's Masses.

"In his homily about mercy, Pope Francis specifically brought up a recent trip to Sweden where he had opened, with the Lutheran bishops, the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation," Carolan said. "He believes, unlike perhaps many of his predecessors throughout history, that much is to be gained from dialogue with others, whether Protestant, Muslim, or atheist. Pope Francis' message is to show mercy to all, no matter where they are on their journey through life." 



# GIFT PLANNING BY THE NUMBERS

Transformational gifts begin with people who value the faith and learning Wartburg College provides for students and make it part of their legacy. Through their bequests, beneficiary designations, and lifetime income gifts, members of the Heritage Society ensure a bright future for our students.

## ADDING IT UP

There's more than one way to make a gift that honors your legacy. Your planned gift can endow a scholarship, support our faculty, and strengthen an academic program. Your gift can, and should, be a permanent and individual expression of your faith and vision. To discuss your philanthropic planning, contact senior gift planner, **Don Meyer**, CFRE, at **319-352-8487** or **donald.meyer@wartburg.edu**.



Don Meyer

**144** Number of Heritage Society members added during the Transforming Tomorrow campaign

**1965** Class with the most Heritage Society members (46)

**\$100,000** Maximum amount of gift from an IRA each year if you are 70 ½ years old or older. It's not counted as income and qualifies toward your required minimum distribution.

**6.0%** Current rate of return for a charitable gift annuity providing lifetime fixed income to a 76-year-old

**\$88,204** Amount of an estate gift received in the fall of 2015 for "endowing a scholarship for a good student who could not attend Wartburg without financial assistance"

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### Platinum Partners

Cedar Valley Center for ENT and Sinus  
Cedar Valley Center for Skin Cancer

### Gold Partners

Mediacom  
Waverly Health Center

### Silver Partners

Coca-Cola  
First National Bank  
State Bank



## SAVE THE DATES

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

### JULY

1 Tokyo Outfly  
27 RAGBRAI Hospitality Tent

### AUGUST

3 Booster Club Golf Outing  
18 Wartburg Day at the Iowa State Fair  
TBD Fall Kickoff events in Dubuque and the Twin Cities

### SEPTEMBER

6 First day of classes

### OCTOBER

12-15 Homecoming & Family Weekend  
31 Reformation Day

### DECEMBER

1-3 Christmas with Wartburg West Des Moines/Neumann Auditorium, presented by Sukup Manufacturing Co.  
10 Commencement Wartburg Chapel, 10:30 a.m.



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# CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2017!

