

# Wartburg

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## Renee Clark Voves '04

COMMUNICATION ARTS

*Associate Director of  
Institutional Advancement,  
Wartburg College*

### Why did you choose Wartburg College?

Ironically, Wartburg was not even on my list of possible colleges to visit. It was only after months of listening to a friend speak so passionately about Wartburg that I came to campus with the sole purpose of disproving him. Stepping onto campus, however, I quickly realized the accuracy of his perception. The people and atmosphere made Wartburg College the place I wanted to call home for the next four years.

### What is your favorite Wartburg tradition?

While it is difficult to pick just one of the numerous Wartburg traditions, my favorite is Homecoming & Family Weekend. It is such a special event in which alumni, parents, and students come together for an entire weekend. Walking up to the campus mall after the parade and seeing so many people at the Renaissance Faire with Old Main as its backdrop is undoubtedly my favorite moment of the entire weekend. It is a weekend in which I can literally see the Wartburg community come home and unite as one.

### Why was your experience worth it?

My Wartburg experience was worth it because of the numerous unique experiences and invested people that shaped me and impacted my future. My Wartburg experience included multiple internships, studying at Wartburg West, touring Australia, performing with Castle Singers, meeting my best friends and husband, and preparing for a successful career after college. I am confident these experiences were unique to my Wartburg education and made my Wartburg experience truly **#WorthIt**.

## SHARE YOUR WORTH IT STORY

Serving as your associate director of institutional advancement, I've had the privilege to meet many Wartburg alumni and know firsthand the numerous alumni with stories to share. I invite you to share your successes and #WartburgWorthIt stories with us. Please visit [www.wartburg.edu/worth-it-stories-alumni](http://www.wartburg.edu/worth-it-stories-alumni) to tell us your story, which may be featured on the website or in future magazines.

**Orange for life,**

*Renee*

Renee Clark Voves '04



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# Wartburg

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**ON THE COVER:**

Martin Luther and the Wartburg Chapel spires stand as symbols of the college's history and its future in this illustration by Joshua Peterson, the magazine's art director.

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

**TRANSCRIPTS:**

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

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

# WARTBURG

— IN THE NEWS —

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



## Seminary president receives honorary Wartburg degree

The Rev. Louise N. Johnson, president of Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Wartburg College during the college's Opening Convocation in September.

A Wartburg Theological Seminary graduate, Johnson was elected as its 14th president in 2015. The seminary, which educates women and men to serve the church as ordained and lay leaders, is one of eight theological schools of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

"President Johnson is recognized not only at Wartburg (Theological) Seminary but throughout the ELCA as a visionary leader," said the Rev. Dr. Kathryn Kleinhans, the former Mike and Marge McCoy Family Distinguished Chair in Lutheran Heritage and Mission and newly installed dean of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University. "Under her leadership, the seminary is considering new models for program delivery without compromising the deeply embedded community values Wartburg (Theological) Seminary prizes."

Johnson earned her Master of Divinity degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary in 1999 and her Bachelor of Arts in German from Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio, in 1991.

"I'm overwhelmed and honored by this. To honor not only the Reformation, but also the historic relationship between these two institutions, is a great joy," Johnson said.



Johnson

## Wartburg's accreditation reaffirmed by the HLC

Wartburg College has received reaffirmation of its accreditation from the North Central Association of the Higher Learning Commission.

The reaffirmation comes after a comprehensive evaluation by the HLC, one of six regional institutional accreditors in the United States. The HLC accredits post-secondary institutions in 19 states.

"The whole Wartburg community engaged in this reaffirmation project with tremendous energy and positivity, and that spirit shines through in the report of the visiting team," said Dr. Brian Ernsting, dean of faculty. "We have a great story to tell, and it is gratifying to see that the team of experts in higher education responded so well to our work."

The continued accreditation affirmed that Wartburg is meeting the Criteria for Accreditation, pursuing institutional improvement, and complying with requirements set by the U.S. Department of Education. Post-secondary institutions must be accredited by a federally recognized agency to participate in federal financial aid programs, which provide low-cost student loans.

In particular, the visiting review team noted that the college's mission was clear and used to guide decisions; employees and students embody the college's values of leadership, service, faith, and learning; and students and faculty are meaningfully engaged in scholarship and creative work.

## Student's short film featured in Los Angeles festival

A short film shot and edited by **Maya Weatherall '18** was featured at the fifth annual New Urbanism Film Festival in Los Angeles in October.

Weatherall, a journalism and communication major from Chicago, filmed the three-minute video while studying at Wartburg West in Denver, Colo. The film, *Community Engagement: Colfax Avenue*, allowed her to get more experience behind the camera and in the editing bay.

The film features community members and representatives from WalkDenver and the city talking about issues facing pedestrians at a busy five-point intersection in the heart of the city. The short film premiered at a neighborhood block party in Denver last summer.

Weatherall connected with Colleen Baker, an actress in *This Day Forward*, a feature film shot in the Cedar Valley in May that tells the story of a Waverly family's journey with cancer (see pages 6-7), who encouraged her to submit the film.

"Being in L.A. was great, and it was nice to see my short documentary on the silver screen at the film festival. The support I got from the director of *This Day Forward* (**Brian Ide '96**), Colleen, Chris Wilson (a former Wartburg professor), and many others was phenomenal," Weatherall said. "L.A. is on the list for career possibilities after graduation."

Her video can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/2fboIEE>.



## New Regents join the board

The Wartburg College Board of Regents has announced new members.

**Steve Meirink '99**, of Eagan, Minn., was elected to a three-year term. Meirink is executive vice president and general manager of financial services for Wolters Kluwer, a global company providing information, software, and services to the health care, tax, finance, legal, and regulatory industries. In addition to his volunteer work with Feed My Starving Children, he also served on two Wartburg task forces focused on technology and engineering science in 2017. Meirink will serve on the board's Business and Finance Committee.



**Mike Franzman '00**, of Bettendorf, has been selected president-elect of the Wartburg Alumni Board. He joins the Board of Regents as an ex-officio member during the years he is president-elect (2017-19) and president (2019-21). Franzman is the owner of Quad Cities Periodontics and an adjunct assistant professor at the University of Iowa College of Dentistry. He is the local dental coordinator for World Relief and provided no-cost dental treatments through the Iowa Mission of Mercy. Franzman will serve on the board's Enrollment Management Committee.



**Tom Buchheim '93**, of Sun Prairie, Wis., has moved into the role of Alumni Board president and will continue as an ex-officio member of the board from 2017 to 2019. He is the executive social media adviser for American Family Insurance.



## Students selected for 2017 Iowa intercollegiate honor band

Twelve Wartburg College students were selected to perform with the prestigious Iowa Collegiate Honor Band at the Iowa Music Educator's Conference in November. Those selected were:

- Payton Brinkman**, flute, of Cassville, Wis.
- Britni Cohen-Wichner**, clarinet, of Stoughton, Wis.
- Mary Kate Hines**, clarinet, of Davenport.
- Brianna Schares**, bass clarinet, of Gilbertville.
- Logan Merley**, French horn, of Sheldon.
- Carlee Bertram**, trumpet, of Hampton.
- Kassie Hennings**, trombone, of Dysart.
- Garrett Arensdorf**, tuba, of Asbury.
- Noah Hickman**, tuba, of Sheldon.
- Alex Astiazaran**, percussion, of Phoenix.
- Scott Eiklenborg**, percussion, of Aplington.
- Stephen Klaassen**, percussion, of Tulsa, Okla.

"This band is made up of the best of the best college players at Iowa colleges and universities," said Craig Hancock, Wartburg director of bands. "No other school had more representation in the group, and no other school had every nominated student selected."

The 110-member band, conducted by Jack Stamp, conductor at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, represented 19 schools from around the state.



## Four honored with Alumni Citations

The Wartburg College Alumni Board presented **Tomas Lindor Griebling '87**, **Brenda Barth Roman '84**, and the Rev. **Roger '60** and **Rosemary Dhein '59 Schneider** with Alumni Citations during the college's annual homecoming celebration.

**Roger and Rosemary**, of McHenry, Ill., have guided the Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church for 47 years, growing the church community from 300 to more than 3,000. Roger led the congregation through four building projects and developed an endowment fund that gathered nearly \$2 million for student scholarships and to assist those in need. Rosemary, the church organist, also taught junior high vocal music for 16 years.

**Roman**, of Middletown, Ohio, earned a medical degree from the University of Nebraska, then completed a residency in psychiatry at the University of Cincinnati. She began her career in academic medicine as the first director of community psychiatry at the Boonshoft School of Medicine at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. In 2014 she was appointed assistant dean for curriculum at the medical school.

**Griebling**, of Mission, Kan., earned a medical degree from the University of Iowa College of Medicine and a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Kansas. He is the senior associate dean for medical education at the University of Kansas School of Medicine, holds the John P. Wolf 33<sup>rd</sup> Masonic Distinguished Professorship in Urology, and is faculty associate at the Landon Center on Aging.



## Wartburg to offer first graduate program in 2018

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN

**AFTER 166 YEARS OF OFFERING UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES FIRMLY ROOTED IN THE LIBERAL ARTS,**

Wartburg College will expand its reach in 2018 with its first graduate program: a Master of Arts in Music Therapy.

The college has developed two master's degree paths: a traditional program and the equivalency-plus program, which will allow those who have earned any undergraduate degree in music to pursue a career in music therapy.

"We remain the only private undergraduate degree program in the state, and now we have become the full package," said Dr. Brian Pfaltzgraff, Department of Music chair. "We promise our graduate students will have the same intimate experience we have promised our undergraduate students."

The graduate program has been approved by the National Association of Schools of Music and the American Music Therapy Association. In spring 2017, the college also received accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission for graduate programs.

"The approval of the Master of Arts in Music Therapy represents a significant step forward for the college. Our faculty have designed an excellent curriculum that builds on the strengths of our liberal arts tradition and extends our mission to challenge and nurture the advanced students who will study in this program," said Dr. Brian Ernsting, dean of faculty. "We look forward to enrolling the first class and to welcoming these new Wartburg Knights."

Ernsting said the college will continue to research opportunities for master's level programs.

The Master of Arts in Music Therapy will offer training in advanced competencies for already credentialed music therapists or those who have completed a bachelor's degree in music therapy. The program is expected to take one to one-and-a-half years to complete.

The equivalency-plus program is designed for those who have earned a degree in any music discipline but would like to pursue a career in music therapy. Prior to beginning the MA-MT program, students will complete a specialized curriculum to acquire AMTA professional competencies, which includes practicum experience and an internship. This program is expected to take two-and-a-half to three years to complete.

"I am excited for the new opportunities to collaborate with brilliant faculty at Wartburg College as well as our community partners in medical, mental health, and educational settings," said **Dr. Melanie Harms Espeland '99**, associate professor in music therapy and a leading force behind the new program.

The college began considering a master's program more than five years ago.

"I'm very proud that the music department was organizationally the department that was able to field the college's first master's program. This opens the door for the college to come up with other interesting and diverse offerings," Pfaltzgraff said.

Visit [www.wartburg.edu/music-therapy-masters](http://www.wartburg.edu/music-therapy-masters) or contact Doug Koschmeder, assistant dean of the faculty, at [doug.koschmeder@wartburg.edu](mailto:doug.koschmeder@wartburg.edu) for more information about the program. 



Taha Al-azzawi '18 and Dr. Daniel Black oversee the work being done by the newly automated mill.

Sammie Hallgren '18, a music therapy major from Arden Hill, Minn., works with young adults at the Bremwood Residential Treatment Center in Waverly.

## New Innovation Studio gives students more space, equipment to succeed

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN

**IT'S A RARE DAY THAT JAKE HAMILTON'S HANDS DON'T SMELL LIKE A CAMPFIRE.** As one of the first lab assistants for the college's new Innovation Studio, **Hamilton '18**, an engineering science major from Algona, spends a great deal of time in the three lower-level Science Center rooms. His favorite new piece of equipment is a laser cutter that can create pieces out of wood, acrylic, and other materials in just minutes.

The 1,500-square-foot studio was funded in part through a \$123,000 grant from the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust with an additional \$60,000 from individual supporters of the engineering science program. The funds allowed the college to update its existing machine shop with a computer-controlled lathe. The same technology also can be used to run the existing mill. Next door, students can design and create using a new laser cutter or 3-D printer. The third space provides students with a place to collaborate and store in-progress projects.

"This lab space and the new equipment changes a lot of things for the students coming through the program," said Hamilton, who will go on to earn his master's in industrial engineering from Iowa State University through the schools' accelerated cooperative program. "My ISU adviser was over the moon when I told her all of the stuff I was able to work with over the summer."

Hamilton and **Taha Al-azzawi '18**, an engineering science major from Iraq, were part of a small crew that Dr. Daniel Black, the Gary and Donna Hoover Distinguished Professor in Engineering Science, entrusted with assembling the lab last summer. In addition to the upgraded technology, Black also is excited that the lab provides the students in his growing program with some much-needed space.

"We had one classroom lab space and the machine shop for many years. It was an inefficient setup for our students because they would have to tear everything down every time they were done so the space could be used by the next class," Black said. Senior design students, who work with community clients to design and create solutions to real-world problems, now have dedicated space to work as well as permanent storage for their projects.

The Innovation Studio is open to only engineering science students this year. During the 2018-19 year, Black expects to have enough assistants trained to offer open lab times for all Wartburg students.

"I am really jealous of the upcoming students," said Al-azzawi, who plans to seek full-time work after graduation. "They will have four years to work with these tools and really get to know how to use them. The applications and opportunities are unlimited."

A dedication ceremony is scheduled for Feb. 15 at 11:30 a.m. 



# STORY OF STRUGGLE COMES TO BIG SCREEN

*Alumnus shares classmates' faith amid brain cancer battle*

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN

PHOTOS SUBMITTED

**For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

— John 3:16

**WHEN JENNIFER JOHNSON JENSEN'S CELL PHONE RANG** on March 21, 2013, she knew it couldn't be good. Only a short time earlier, Jensen '97 and her husband, **Mike '96**, had left Advanced Diagnostics Imaging in Waterloo following an MRI of Mike's brain. The neurologist on the other end of the line solemnly told her that she and Mike needed to be in the office at 8:30 a.m. the following morning to discuss what had been found.

When Jen looked at the clock, it read 3:16 p.m.

"Retrospectively, I will never forget that phone call, that feeling of panic, both of us thinking we don't have time for this ... then looking at the clock. Maybe that was God's

way of saying, 'I'm still here, and I still love you,'" she said.

The following morning, the neurologist told them there was a large tumor in Mike's frontal lobe.

"The world just drops out from underneath you," Jen said. After one month of researching their options, consulting with neurologists at some of the country's leading hospitals, and trying several alternative therapies, the Jensens proceeded with surgery. What the doctor had found was a Grade 3 anaplastic astrocytoma, a rare brain tumor requiring aggressive treatment. The median survival rate is only two to three years.

From the beginning, the Waverly family—which includes Aria, 18; Alexandria "Allie," 15; and Naomi "Mimi," 10—shared Mike's battle publicly on a GoFundMe page. They posted updates about his 40 days of radiation and seven monthly doses of oral chemotherapy. They shared the blessings of repeated clean MRIs in 2014. Then in February 2015, the nearly defunct page was resurrected to share that a new, inoperable tumor was found in Mike's corpus callosum.

Fellow Knight **Brian Ide '96** was one of the hundreds who followed along from afar. Then, in January 2017, his church, All Saints' Parish in Beverly Hills, Calif., contracted his company, Meriwether Productions, to create a film focused on telling a story about faith from a different perspective. He instantly thought of the Jensens.

"We wanted to honor stories that haven't been perfect, to show people that it is OK to struggle with their faith, but hopefully it will remain intact," Ide said.

Ide's church-funded production team was on board. It didn't take long for the Jensens to agree, either. A second round of radiation, called tomotherapy—a high-dose treatment that delivers 40 days of radiation in just three treatments—had taken its toll on Mike. He was unable to work and needed near-constant supervision. Jen had sought volunteer outlets for Mike to serve, but kept finding dead ends.

"I knew God was still using him for something, I just had to find out how. He needed something to fulfill his soul and God's mission for him," she said. "Then Brian called. Mike getting his message out this way is bigger than anything we could do here. It's bigger than the church, or Wartburg, or even Iowa. We are learning to trust that God has a plan, even if it isn't my plan or Mike's plan."

Ide flew from Beverly Hills to Waverly just a few days later. He met with city and Wartburg officials—in addition to being an alum, Mike also taught courses



Read more about the Jensens' journey and the experience Wartburg students had on set at [www.wartburg.edu/this-day-forward](http://www.wartburg.edu/this-day-forward).



Mary Johnson (Jen's mother), Hayden Lash (the actress who played Jen), Naomi "Mimi" Jensen, Jen Johnson Jensen '97, Brian Ide '96, Alexandria "Allie" Jensen, and Mike Jensen '96 celebrated the Beverly Hills premiere of *This Day Forward*.

in the music department and led Hope Overflow—to see what in-kind support might be available for the donor-funded project. In February, he returned with the writer and lead actor, Randy Coleman.

“I told the writer I didn’t want him to write anything until he came to visit. I didn’t want any Iowa stereotypes. I wanted him to spend time with Jen and Mike and the family and their friends,” Ide said. “On the flight home, we started solidifying our story.”

Ide brought a small crew to town in March to scout locations, then he returned in April to begin filming. Using a crew of about 30 from All Saints’ and more than 20 Wartburg students, Ide completed filming in only a few weeks.

“Working with the Wartburg students was great. They got the opportunity to see what it was really like to work on a set, but also had the benefit of sitting in Mensa for lunch with the crew and talking to them about things they wouldn’t have been able to if they were working in a traditional production environment,” said Ide, who estimated the students logged more than 5,000 hours total during May Term. “We never could have done this without them.”

The Jensens, who lived in a hotel during the shoot, were integral throughout the process. Their home was used as the main set. Jen’s parents, the Jensens’ two youngest daughters, and Jen’s closest friends played themselves. Jen was even cast as one of her best friends.

“It really made it a familial experience for everyone. This is their house, their reality,” Ide said. “It was so honest and so real. If we needed to talk about seizures or anything else they were dealing with, we could just sit down and talk to them. Emotionally the highs and lows were extreme.”

Jen, a chiropractor who owns Worldwide Wellness Center in Cedar Falls, adjusted her schedule to spend as much time with the team as possible. And Mike was there

**Mike getting his message out this way is bigger than anything we could do here. It’s bigger than the church, or Wartburg, or even Iowa. We are learning to trust that God has a plan, even if it isn’t my plan or Mike’s plan.**

— Jennifer Johnson Jensen '97

every step of the way, asking Ide and producer Spero Stamboulis to take him back to California so he could learn to surf, Jen said.

“It was really fun to have so many people here we trusted. This was an incredible and amazing opportunity.”

More than 20 people from Waverly, including most of the Jensens, flew to California for the film’s premiere in November. The film, titled *This Day Forward*, will debut in Waverly at the Palace Theatre on Jan. 19.

“We had two goals with this movie:

to tell a story of faith for those who are on their own journey so that they feel a little less alone and to honor the Jensens, and I think we did that,” Ide said. “When people watch this, we hope they feel that.”

Jen said she certainly felt it during her first viewing on the big screen.

“Everybody who worked on this movie did so because they

were called to do it and because they wanted to be a part of it. Everyone on that production team, their intentions were clear and their intentions were good,” she said, adding that the profits from the movie will fund mission work for peace and justice. “Of course I am going to give them my story. How could you ever tithe to that magnitude? We can’t give money like that to the world. That we not only can have an impact on the people who watch the movie, but the people who will benefit from the proceeds, that’s really cool to me.

“The entire idea behind the story is that

it is not a cancer story, it’s not a brain tumor story. It is the story of a struggle,” she continued. “And it’s not if, but when every human on this planet is going to have a struggle, and it is going to be unimaginable. What are you going to do when the unimaginable hits? How are you going to get up the next day? We just hope that this helps them feel a little less alone.”





# Preaching to a larger crowd

BY KATIE KREIS '19 PHOTO SUBMITTED

**IN MAY THE REV. LYDIA POSSELT '07** laid bare her preaching talents in an international competition and won.

The pastor of Family of God Lutheran Church in Buckingham, Pa., was selected to deliver a sermon during closing worship of the Lutheran World Federation 12th Assembly in Namibia, Africa.

The contest, directed specifically at young pastors, commemorated Martin Luther, who was 33 years old when his *Ninety-Five Theses* triggered the Protestant Reformation in 1517. Posselt was a perfect candidate; she was 32.

"It's sometimes a challenge being a woman in ministry, and I encouraged my women pastor colleagues to enter because I knew how important it would be for a woman to preach at this event," Posselt said.

Each of the 10 finalists wrote sermons based on the same text from Galatians 5.

"I gave myself permission to be freed from worrying about sounding extraordinarily smart or having the exactly right phrase."

Upon studying the text, praying, and reflecting on her life experiences, she named her sermon *The Jesus Parade*.

"Like the theme of the sermon itself, I felt liberated to write what Galatians was speaking to me. I preached to myself, as I do in most of my sermons, and left it in God's hands," she said.

She submitted a video of her sermon to be voted on by the public.

"The whole experience felt very dreamlike. I don't think I realized then how much I was experiencing and learning at the time. Only later have I taken time to reflect and articulate how these experiences have become part of who I am now as a person and a pastor."

Though Posselt always will remember preaching in front of an international audience, it was a moment during the Global Commemoration of the Reformation service, attended by about 10,000 people, that she counts as the most "moving."

"I expected that singing *A Mighty Fortress* with these Lutherans from all over the world would be the most moving moment of the service ... but it wasn't," Posselt. "The moment of unity I was hoping for did come, however, when we sang the closing song *We are Marching in the Light of God*. Men, women, pastors, children, Germans, Namibians, all of us were singing with our whole hearts in harmony, clapping, with tears streaming down our faces, in awe in being united in one shared heritage of God's grace and celebrating our hope in the future, reformatting the nature of God that had brought us all together."

It was a lifetime of experiences that brought Posselt to that moment in

Namibia. Her calling to pastoral ministry first came while serving as a counselor at a Lutheran summer camp.

"I didn't so much discover it as was sort of chased down by God a bit," she said. "I thought I was going to be a writer. Now I still do write, only mostly sermons."

Posselt's vocation became stronger at Wartburg, which instilled in her a passion for lifelong learning, service, and reaching for new opportunities, like being involved in campus ministry, playing in Symphonic Band, and singing in the chapel choir.

"I learned to stretch myself and seek out new adventures. I even preached my first sermon during one of the weekly chapel services," she said.

Posselt said her network of support pushes her to continue her service in greater capacities.

"I could not have accomplished all that I have been able to in the last few years without being surrounded by the love and support of my friends and family," Posselt said. "It is through these relationships that I have most directly felt the presence and grace of God. I feel like I am a living embodiment of 'there but by the grace of God go I.'"

To see *The Jesus Parade* visit [www.wartburg.edu/magazine-posselt](http://www.wartburg.edu/magazine-posselt). 

# A NEW calling

*Bouzard plans for retirement as she prepares to step down as dean of the chapel*

BY STEPHANIE ROBBINS BOEDING '99

**WHEN THE REV. DR. RAMONA BOUZARD** came to Wartburg 24 years ago, the position seemed to check all of the boxes, with an added bonus.

“As a pastor, all I wanted was a decent organ, a fountain, and a place where I didn’t have to raise the money to redo a sanctuary,” said Bouzard, who will retire in May as dean of the chapel. “So when I came to Wartburg, it was all here. And then it also had bells! ... I love that sound.”

The now-familiar tolling of the chapel bells timed perfectly with Bouzard’s career at Wartburg; she accepted the call as director of church relations and associate in campus ministry in 1994, the same year the Wartburg Chapel was dedicated. She previously served as a parish pastor in Texas and Pennsylvania.

At Wartburg, she ministered to the college community alongside the Rev. **Larry Trachte '66**, campus pastor, until he retired in 2009. Bouzard was then called to serve as dean of the chapel, and the Rev. Brian Beckstrom accepted a call to Wartburg as a second full-time campus pastor.

“One of my highlights has been working with my pastoral colleagues here. Larry and Brian are great preachers, care-givers, collaborators ... who could ask for anything better?” Bouzard said.

“Ramona has been an incredible mentor to me over the past eight years,” said Beckstrom. “I couldn’t be more grateful to God for calling us to work together. She’s helped me become a much better pastor than I would have been without her influence.”

Also at the top of the list of things Bouzard will miss is interacting with students.

“Having the deep conversations with students who want to talk about God and theology and wonder who they are; I’ve gotten to continue to grow with those conversations, too,” she said. “It’s such a privilege to walk with young people through this time of formation. Everything I’ve learned about the world, I’ve learned from 18- to 22-year-olds, and it’s wonderful.”

Bouzard also cherishes the exposure to top-notch music during worship on campus.

“The music here ... (college organist) Dr. Karen Black, with her church musicianship, it just pains me to be anywhere else because it is so good here,” she said.

Instead of the many changes she’s experienced over a long career in college ministry, Bouzard focuses on the consistencies in her years at Wartburg.

“We continue to have an amazing teaching faculty at Wartburg who are committed to Wartburg’s mission of teaching and deep learning with our students,” she said. “And the incredible growth of students while they’re here, that hasn’t changed over the years. Wartburg continues to present opportunities to help them have meaning in their

lives, in the classroom, through co-curriculars, and volunteering.”

Besides leading worship and preaching in Wartburg Chapel, Bouzard has taught a variety of classes, administered the college’s annual Graven Award, and maintained relationships with area churches. For years, she ran the national Things That Matter in the Lives of Children Conference and junior high and high school events on campus.

Ramona’s husband of 43 years, the Rev. Dr. Chip Bouzard, will continue as a professor of religion at Wartburg. They have two adult children, Greene and Gabriel. The couple will eventually move to the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia.

“I have to redo my funeral plans,” joked Bouzard, “because I want the Wartburg Choir to sing at mine, and they aren’t coming to Virginia.”

The well-known campus pastor also wants to try some new things in retirement. A history major in her college days, she plans to be involved with a program that helps people record their personal history as part of their legacy to their families. The music-lover also wants to learn to play the bagpipes.

“It is in my soul ... music is my spiritual connection. There’s just something about Scottish bagpipes and Irish music,” she said. “Chip is glad that where we’ll retire there’s a place I can practice. He thinks they sound like howling cats.” 



# Hope

## AMONG DEVASTATION

*Wartburg alumni, students experience effects of hurricanes firsthand*

**BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN**

### WHEN HURRICANE HARVEY MADE

**LANDFALL** near Rockport, Texas, on Friday, Aug. 25, **Wayne Zemke '92** was watching. He knew the Category 4 hurricane was headed toward Houston, where he lives with his wife and daughter. He also was hopeful that, like other hurricanes before it, this one would lose intensity and spare the city he has grown to love.

By Saturday, he knew that wasn't likely. Harvey hit Houston at the most unfortunate time. While most storms rain themselves out quickly after making landfall, Harvey hit another storm in Houston, causing it to stall over the city of 2.3 million people.

By Sunday, Zemke had started to worry about the safety of his home. Though it wasn't prone to floods—it survived the Tax Day Floods of 2016, when a storm system dropped 17 inches of rain—city leaders were warning those in his neighborhood they may not be so lucky this time around.

By Monday, the Zemkes were moving everything they could to the second floor of their home. The Addicks Reservoir, which protects their home and the rest of the Buffalo Bayou from flooding, was full. To keep water from spilling over and inundating the whole area, officials agreed on a planned release that would minimize the damage in Zemke's neighborhood.

"We are on the bottom side of the reservoir. My house sits at 108 feet above sea level. The water got to 109 feet in the reservoir," Zemke said. "We ended up with nine inches of water in the house. If the city had let the water go over the dam, we would have had a lot more water in our home. Our house would probably be gone, and there very likely would have been casualties."

His family was initially forced to evacuate and then allowed to return. As of Nov. 3 they were still confined to the

**The biggest challenge was to realize all of those pre-Harvey concerns are still present. So now there are people experiencing divorce plus Harvey, or cancer plus Harvey, or fill-in-the-blank plus Harvey.**

*— Laura Vincent Wood '07*

upper level of their home. Despite all of that, Zemke counts himself among the lucky Houstonians. A small fleet of knowledgeable volunteers—mostly his colleagues at Caterpillar—spent their Labor Day at his home cleaning and tearing out water damaged materials. He's been able to use existing relationships to find and hire the professionals needed to properly dry out his home and begin the rebuilding process.

"We will be the first home in our neighborhood that is completed," Zemke said. "But we couldn't have done it alone. We've had an outpouring of support from around the globe, whether it was other Caterpillar employees or our vendors and suppliers, friends, or family. People need to know that those things matter."

**Laura Vincent Wood '07** also counts herself among the lucky ones. Though her Houston neighborhood was cut off from the rest of the city, her home remained untouched by floodwaters. However, in the aftermath of Harvey, Wood, a licensed clinical social worker at the Carole & Ronald Krist Samaritan Center, has helped dozens of survivors. This was her first time serving after a large-scale natural disaster.

"Pre-Harvey, I counseled people with all kinds of concerns. Post-Harvey has probably been the most demanding period in my career," Wood said. "The biggest challenge was to realize all of those pre-Harvey concerns are still present. So now there are people experiencing divorce plus Harvey, or cancer plus Harvey, or fill-in-the-blank plus Harvey."

A University of Michigan study—released after Hurricane Katrina devastated parts of Florida and Louisiana in August 2005—found that 30 to 40 percent of adults directly affected by the event may suffer from PTSD, while 10 to 20 percent of rescue workers and 5 to 10 percent of the general population may experience PTSD symptoms. Wood remembers reading an American Red Cross list of common emotional responses following a traumatic event or natural disaster and relating to more than half of the items.

"My first response was one of becoming angry with myself. I felt weak and questioned what right I had to feel overwhelmed when I should feel nothing but grateful," she said. "I recognized that I have to treat myself with the same compassion I am showing to others. The last few months have forced me to evaluate how to practice better self-care in order to reduce compassion fatigue."

### HEEDING THE CALL

**Laura Wulff '04**, a clinical social worker in Greensboro, N.C., put her life on hold for a week post-Harvey to serve as a disaster mental health worker through the American Red Cross. Her stations in Austin and Houston served as shelters for those whose homes were no longer inhabitable nearly one month after the storms hit.

"I was shocked that there were still about 350 people at my shelter in Houston at that time, including men, women, and children. For the most part, those at the



shelter a month after are those who likely didn't have many resources or had other needs," Wulff said.

Yet people still tried to care for and give what they could to the volunteers.

"A group of us from the Red Cross would be out wearing some of our Red Cross gear. Strangers would stop us and thank us. I had strangers buy meals and drinks for us to show their appreciation, even though they had lost so much," she said.

Wulff said one of the most memorable moments of the week was reconnecting with a young woman she met for the first time while working at Lutheran Services in Iowa's Bremwood campus in Waverly. The young woman, who was only 12 when they first met, sought out Wulff while she was visiting a Red Cross site in Houston. Wulff connected her with a Red Cross case worker, a county case worker, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to begin the assistance process.

"The next day, she and her best friend met me at my hotel with their two young children, and we all played in the pool. One of them commented that this was the first time they had been able to relax or have fun since before the storm hit," Wulff said.

### WARTBURG RESPONDS

The hardest-hit communities are not expected to fully recover from the devastation caused by hurricanes in 2017 for years.

"I know people who have yet to return to their homes and some who will never return and have chosen to move instead," Wood said. "There is heartbreak all around, and yet the strength and resilience of people never ceases to amaze me. It's part of why I love what I do as a

To help send Wartburg Service Trips to Florida and Texas in 2018, please make a donation at [www.wartburg.edu/givetoservice](http://www.wartburg.edu/givetoservice) and select the designation "Service Trips – Hurricane Relief."

social worker. Person after person has described having their faith in humanity restored and seeing God at work. Seeing the way people have rallied around one another and to compile their resources and skills has been truly inspiring."

In March a group of Wartburg students, led by **Maria Munguia '20**, will travel to Munguia's hometown of Immokalee, Fla., which was devastated by Hurricane Irma on Sept. 10. A second group is expected to spend time helping in Houston this April. This will be the second time Munguia has been able to give back to her community since coming to Wartburg; she also led a service trip to Immokalee in 2016.

This time, the crew will partner with Rural Neighborhoods, a nonprofit that works in rural areas to help develop strong communities where people can live and grow.

"Immokalee was hit pretty bad by Hurricane Irma. The problem is that

a lot of homes are trailer homes that are very fragile during strong wind storms," said Munguia, a journalism and communication and Spanish major. "A lot of families lost their trailer homes, and since Immokalee is mostly farm workers who aren't paid well, they are struggling to find places to relocate."

She is thankful that her new home has been so willing to help her first home.

"I would not be at Wartburg if it weren't for my hometown. Everything I have ever done has led me to this very moment of giving back to them," said Munguia, who hopes to teach her classmates about Immokalee during their trip. "I will never be ashamed of my small town. It is full of love, support, and amazing people with beautiful hearts. I feel extremely blessed to be able to give back in Immokalee and know that I have the support of my school behind me." 📍



# HOMEGROWN

*Krystal Graves '16 combines her passion for food and family to found Kubo, a Filipino-American cuisine food truck*

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

**COMING BACK FOR YOUR FIRST HOMECOMING** after graduation is a great experience in itself. But for **Krystal Graves '16**, the weekend was much more than that: she also debuted her new business venture, Kubo, a food truck that serves Filipino-American cuisine.

Since her Wartburg “home” had helped her incubate the idea and provided the relationships and resources that made Kubo a reality, it only made sense to have her first event on campus in October 2016.

“Coming to my first-ever Homecoming with Kubo was a huge deal,” Graves said. “It was a train wreck for me, but Wartburg was the perfect place for a first outing with all the support!”

The business administration major didn’t plan on going into the food business at first.

“I’ve been part of restaurants my whole life, and I thought I wanted to get out,” said Graves, whose parents have worked in the restaurant business for more than 30 years in Waterloo and Cedar Falls, operating Waffle Stop and Gravy’s. “I thought I’d get my dream office job.”

She tried accounting, but didn’t find a good fit. Then Wartburg professors Dr. Gloria Campbell and Dr. Allan Bernard brought up an idea that whetted her appetite.

“Gloria brought the food truck idea to me,” Graves said. “She knew the background I had with the food industry and restaurants and asked if I’d thought of food trucks.”

In Bernard’s entrepreneurship class during her final semester, Graves created a business plan for a food truck. Bernard



## Where to find Kubo

Search for Kubo on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to see when and where the food truck will be serving food. You can also contact Krystal Graves about catering and special events.



See Krystal Graves '16 in action on the Kubo truck at [www.wartburg.edu/homegrown](http://www.wartburg.edu/homegrown).

also connected her with alumnus **Mike Murphy '89**, president of Powerhouse Retail Services, who earned his MBA at Texas Christian University. Murphy encouraged the class to send a team to TCU's Values and Ventures business plan competition, which focuses on plans that make a difference in the world.

Graves was part of a team of students that presented a plan featuring a food truck that would use ingredients from local farm suppliers and would donate a portion of profits to a local food co-op.

"It's probably one of the best experiences I had at Wartburg," said Graves. "We presented in front of the founder of eHarmony and another food truck operator, so we got amazing feedback. It was really inspiring."

Though the food truck plan didn't win prize money at the competition, the idea took hold. Just two months after graduating, Graves and her mom, Madelyn, saw a food trailer for sale at an auction. The trailer was one of the final items up for bid, and Madelyn put up her card. They won the bid, and Graves had the trailer to make her dream come true.

"Sometimes you need that little push to get your dream going," she said. "I could tell my parents really believed in me. I couldn't have done it without the support of family, friends, and my Wartburg classmates."

"Krystal is a great example of what Wartburg students accomplish," said Bernard. "She not only developed her business plan in the entrepreneurship class, she also researched the industry in her senior seminar research project."

In her research, Graves found there were no Filipino food options in the Cedar Valley, and food trucks were still a novelty. Personal experience told her everyone loved her mother's authentic cooking.

"I wanted to honor my mom's culture. That's why I chose 'Kubo'; I wanted to highlight togetherness, which is a huge part of the Filipino way of life," Graves said, adding that "kubo" means "little hut" in Filipino.

In the year since its Wartburg Homecoming debut, Kubo has gained a following of loyal customers in the area, parking in the lots of local businesses that see the value of hosting a homegrown restaurant on wheels.

"I cook at Gravy's every day, then take it out in roasters," said Graves. "We try not to run out."

The support from her Wartburg family keeps coming, too.

"We've had a lot of Wartburg alums come out and say, 'I'm giving this a try because you're a Wartburg alum!'"

Graves' relationship with her professors didn't end after graduation; though she is no longer a student, their office doors are still open.

"My professors were some of the first that I contacted when I got my trailer," she said. "And Professor Kim Folkers emails me whenever she sees Kubo in the news."

Now Graves is one of those alums who, like Murphy, can extend a helping hand to the department's current students.

"I get to speak at a Business Visit Day and do a food truck simulation with prospective students," she said. Her business is an example to students to follow their dreams, even if the path isn't the norm. "Some people looked down that I was going to do a food truck after going to college. Work your butt off, follow your dream. I don't have to have a certain job just to impress someone."

The giving back doesn't end there. Taking inspiration from her leadership classes at Wartburg, Graves knew she wanted her business to do good in the world.

"The leadership minor really made you think about your whole experience and your purpose," she said. Kubo has partnered with Water to Thrive, a faith-based nonprofit spreading awareness about the global water crisis. "I'm happy to help advertise a good cause and give a percentage back to an organization."

What's next for the mobile business?

As word gets out about her unique cuisine on wheels, she's had requests to take Kubo outside the Cedar Valley. During the cold months, she also takes on more catering jobs.

"People have asked me if I want a brick and mortar location, and no, not right now. I want to be able to travel."

There is one place you'll surely find her each year, though: "home" for Homecoming & Family Weekend, serving up food to her Wartburg family. 🍷



The line was long the day Krystal Graves '16 brought Kubo to Waverly.



# TOMORROW TRANSFORMED

*Wartburg community donates \$89 million, surpassing \$75 million goal*

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN PHOTOS JULIE PAGEL DREWES '90

**IN 2012, WARTBURG COLLEGE EMBARKED ON AN AMBITIOUS FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE** to secure the critical resources necessary to position it and its students for even greater success. Though the suggested target for the campaign was only \$55 million, the Board of Regents and Advancement team persisted and quietly launched the \$75 million Transforming Tomorrow campaign.

For more than three years, the devoted team worked behind the scenes, engaging alumni and friends who could invest in the future of the college and in the lives of its students by providing financial resources, both immediate and longterm, that would enable the college to sustain and enhance the distinctive educational opportunities it offers. By the time the campaign entered its public phase in October 2014, the team already had secured \$53.9 million, including an \$11.5 million gift from **Ray '65** and **Judy Slade '65 McCaskey**, the largest gift commitment in the college's history.

"We were grateful for many early leadership gifts, and it was wonderful to announce we had raised more than \$51 million toward our \$75 million goal by the public launch in 2015. During our early campaign stage, we had 12 \$1 million-or-more gifts,

and those generous donors, along with countless other stories of generosity during the quiet phase, helped propel the rest of the campaign," said **Lia Kampman '08**, then campaign director and now assistant director of stewardship and special gifts.

By the time the campaign closed two years and thousands of donations later, the total collected had soared to \$89,582,393.

The comprehensive campaign resulted in investments across campus, including new donor-funded scholarships, which already have aided more than 170 students; the creation of new endowed chairs and professorships, which provide academic support to the college; the construction of the Knief Outdoor Athletics Pavilion, which provides practice space as well as amenities for fans and players; and the renovation of Clinton Hall into the McCoy Living and Learning Center, which features expanded common areas, a faculty-in-residence apartment, and energy-efficient upgrades.

"The entire Wartburg community came together to transform tomorrow," said **Kirk Vogel '83**, chair of the National Campaign Committee. "The commitment from our volunteers was extraordinary. It's been great to see people from across the country and world lend their support to this effort to better serve our students."



TOTAL RAISED  
**\$89,582,393**



	INVESTING IN PEOPLE	\$ 33,944,669
	INVESTING IN PLACES	\$ 14,350,243
	INVESTING IN PROGRAMS	\$ 14,482,046
	ANNUAL FUND	\$ 6,495,059
	UNDESIGNATED	\$ 20,310,376
	57% OUTRIGHT, 43% DEFERRED	

• \$75 million Transforming Tomorrow campaign begins (silent phase)

JUNE 2012

FEB. 2013

SEPT. 2013

• Celebrated the dedication of Zimmerman Field at Walston-Hoover Stadium

• Celebrated the Gary and Donna Hoover Distinguished Professorship in Engineering Science



*"These upgrades helped to enhance the experience for student-athletes and spectators. We were able to showcase these improvements at two home playoff football games and the 2016 NCAA Track & Field Championships."*

– Rick Willis, Director of Athletics and the Lowell J. Walker Athletics Directorship Chair



*"The Hoover professorship has been an important step forward in the ongoing development of our engineering science program. The generous gift began paying dividends immediately by raising awareness of the growth and success of the program, which has helped us to continue to attract and retain successful students. The funds and time the professorship provide have allowed us to expand our K-12 outreach efforts and continue to form and cement ties with prospective employers both in the U.S. and abroad. Intangibly, the support of Gary and Donna and donors like them help Dr. LeAnn Faidley and me to stay focused on what the true mission of our program is: to bring the benefits of the liberal arts to our engineering science students and to expand the horizons of our liberal arts students by bringing engineers to our campus."*

**– Dr. Daniel Black, Gary and Donna Hoover**  
Distinguished Professor in Engineering Science

Ray '65 and Judy Slade '65 McCaskey donate \$11.5 million, the college's largest-ever gift commitment. The funds created the McCaskey Orange Opportunity Scholarship Program to benefit students from the Chicago area.

Celebrated the Slife Social Work Institute and creation of the Tomson Family Distinguished Chair in Social Work

Transforming Tomorrow campaign enters public phase, \$53.9 million raised in gifts and pledges

SEPT. 2013

OCT. 2013

NOV. 2013

AUG. 2014

OCT. 2014

JAN. 2015

OCT.

Celebrated the Mike and Marge McCoy Family Distinguished Chair in Lutheran Heritage and Mission

Faculty, Staff, Emeriti, and Retirees Campaign begins

Waverly Community Appeal begins

*"I'm grateful I had the opportunity to attend Wartburg, which was made possible by generous alumni giving back to the institution that meant so much to them. Giving to Wartburg is the least I can do to help future students have the same opportunity."*

**– Tara Price Winter '01, Director of Student Recruitment**

*"I was a little concerned how my family would afford me going to college. The McCaskey Orange Opportunity Scholarship was a huge blessing as it gave me the opportunity to attend an amazing school."*

**– Esmeralda Alarcon '20, International Relations,  
Peace & Justice Studies, Political Science**





New Innovation Studio



McCoy Living and Learning Center

Clinton Hall Countdown begins

Celebrated the elevation of the previous professorship to the Gerald R. Kleinfeld Chair in German History, held by Dr. Daniel Walther

Dedicated the Knief Outdoor Athletics Pavilion. The pavilion, near Hertel Field and the soccer fields, features a state-of-the-art pitching simulator, team meeting spaces, and public restrooms.

Campaign ends, \$89,582,393 raised

2015      DEC. 2015      FEB. 2016      MARCH 2016      MAY 2016      OCT. 2016      OCT. 2017

\$75 million raised

Broke ground on Clinton Hall renovation

Celebrated the Eugene and Ruth Weidler Drape Distinguished Professorship in Music Education

Dedicated McCoy Living and Learning Center & Clinton Hall. The center encompasses the residence hall and an addition, which includes the high-tech Soenke Classroom, expanded common areas like the McElroy Theater Room, and the Zimmerman Residence, a faculty apartment.



*"While we never thought our \$75 million goal was out of reach, we could not have predicted surpassing it a year ahead of schedule. That success belongs to each and every person who came together to support Wartburg, its students, and its mission."*

– **Mike and Marge McCoy**, Campaign Co-chairs

*"The generosity of the Wartburg community is stunning. To surpass our goal by such an amount shows that our students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents, and friends are truly committed to our mission."*

– **Darrel Colson**, President



# Work has already begun on Focus on the Future recommendations

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN

**NEW MAJORS, GROWING TARGETED EXISTING PROGRAMS, AND EXPANDING ONLINE COURSE OPTIONS** were just a few of the nearly 60 recommendations put forth by the Focus on the Future committees tasked with exploring opportunities to help guide the college in the coming years.

“It is especially fitting we took on Focus on the Future in the 500th anniversary year of the Protestant Reformation. Reformation is not a one-time event. It is an ongoing process of remodeling, reconsidering, and reorganizing to keep moving forward. That’s what these task forces were enlisted to do,” said President Darrel Colson. “Higher education is notorious for moving slowly, but we knew we couldn’t wait to capitalize on the success of the Transforming Tomorrow campaign. We must keep moving the college forward in important ways.”

Last fall, Colson and the Board of Regents reviewed the recommendations and agreed on ones the college should make a priority in the coming months and years.

Among the ideas the college will move forward on are:

- **Increasing the number of faculty in engineering science** to better accommodate the program’s growing number of students.
- **Enhancing and expanding the college’s capacity to offer online or hybrid courses**, which will allow more flexibility for students studying, interning, or pursuing other experiential opportunities off campus.
- **Developing new and meaningful relationships** with organizations that can help the college by offering internships, job opportunities, and other partnerships.
- **Increasing the college’s commitment** to ensuring that at-risk student populations have the same opportunities to succeed as others on campus.

## A little history

From February through September 2017, a dedicated group of more than 150 Wartburg faculty, staff, alumni, and friends met regularly in seven Focus on the Future task forces to discuss opportunities centered around three strategic areas of focus:

- 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.

*Reformation is not a one-time event. It is an ongoing process of remodeling, reconsidering, and reorganizing to keep moving forward. That’s what these task forces were enlisted to do.*

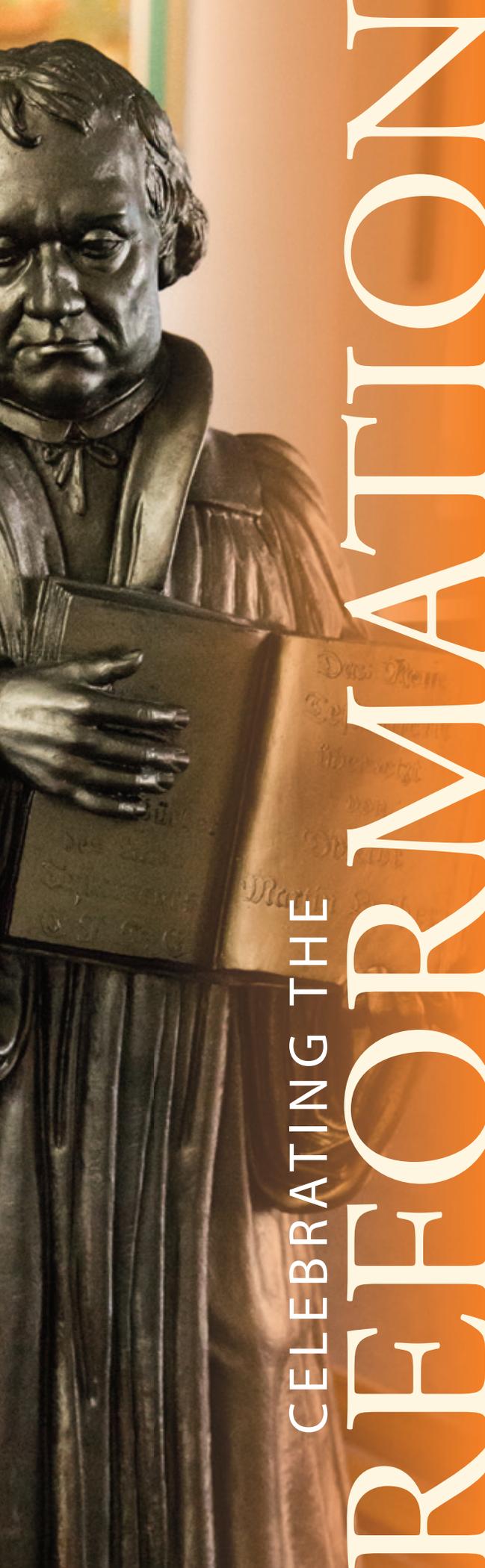
– President Darrel Colson

“There were so many people involved from so many different aspects of the college, we were able to put forth very good recommendations,” said Dr. Todd Reiher, a Wartburg professor of psychology who served as a Focus on the Future co-chair. “I think one of the potential secondary goals that really is important is if this helps us develop a culture of change and innovation and willingness to examine all that we do and not be afraid to change.”

Other priorities will include the creation of the Department of Health and Human Performance, finding specific approaches to implement an administrative unit for interdisciplinary programs, ways to structure the college’s expectation for all students to pursue and complete high-impact learning opportunities, and the addition of more master’s degree programs. The college also is partnering with Credo, a higher education consultation firm, to determine how better to allocate and repurpose space to support these new endeavors.

“These ideas enjoy support within our own campus community as well as among our constituents, and I believe that they are potentially practical to implement,” Colson said. “They raise lots of questions, obviously, but we shouldn’t be deterred by questions; we should be energized.”





# CELEBRATING THE REFORMATION

*Spiritual Life & Campus Ministry embarks on mission to better serve changing needs of students*

**BY THE REV. BRIAN BECKSTROM**

**ON REFORMATION DAY, OCT. 31**, the Wartburg community came together for an unprecedented gathering. Following a celebration event in Wartburg Chapel, students, faculty, and staff were given the afternoon off to participate in table talks across campus. Almost 250 people met in small groups to talk about Wartburg’s mission as a College of the Church and the future of Spiritual Life & Campus Ministry.

The table talks were the culmination of a year of reflection for Wartburg College and the Spiritual Life & Campus Ministry Office. It seems fitting that this took place in 2017 as we celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

The guiding team began its work in spring 2016 by conducting extensive research through focus groups, interviews, and a campuswide survey. We discovered that there is broad support for our mission as a College of the Church, but our population and its patterns of practice have changed. Here are a few of our findings:

- Students identify classes as important sources of spiritual meaning and have many faculty and staff faith mentors.
- Those who attend on-campus worship find Wartburg to be a spiritually nurturing community.
- We can’t assume that everyone understands the religious identity and mission of the college or how it shapes the Wartburg experience.
- People want to talk about faith, religious diversity, and other spiritual matters.
- For a variety of reasons, many of our students put their faith on the shelf during their college years. These students are unlikely to come to the chapel to seek out spiritual support.

## The Guiding Team

The reflection process was led by a guiding team of students, faculty, and staff. Members of the guiding team include:

- The Rev. Brian Beckstrom, campus pastor
- Dr. Allan Bernard, assistant professor of business administration
- Stephanie Robbins Boeding '99, editor and email marketing manager for marketing and communication
- The Rev. Dr. Ramona Bouzard, Herbert and Cora Moehlmann Chaplaincy Chair
- Ieshia Brown '14, coordinator for academic and multicultural student services
- Dr. Christine DeVries, associate professor of chemistry
- Dr. LeAnn Faidley, associate professor of engineering science
- Scott Leisinger '87, vice president for institutional advancement
- Kennedy Haut '18, social work
- Jackson Reynolds '20, psychology and religion
- The Rev. Dr. Dwight Zscheile, associate professor of congregational mission and leadership, Luther Seminary

After gathering this research, the guiding team began to discern what God is calling us to do by reflecting on scripture, prayer, and discussion. We completed and posted an executive summary of our report, which includes the following recommendations:

- The guiding team should partner with other stakeholders to draft a theological identity statement for the college.
- Spiritual Life & Campus Ministry should move toward a more decentralized ministry model by experimenting with partnerships across campus and different staffing structures.
- Wartburg has a strong foundation for spiritual reflection in the classroom, and we should seek to further integrate spiritual reflection and exploration into the curriculum.
- Spiritual Life & Campus Ministry should partner with others on campus to engage the community in conversations about God, faith, and meaning.
- New ministry experiments, like spiritual direction, coaching, and mentoring could be explored by SL&CM.

As God calls us forward into the future, we remember that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. We covet your prayers and appreciate the support of the greater Wartburg community. Thank you for all you have done to support the faith mission of the college. May God richly bless you, this day and always! 



The Rev. Brian Beckstrom, campus pastor, speaks during the college's 500th anniversary of the Reformation celebration.



Students, faculty, and staff gathered in small groups to discuss how Spiritual Life & Campus Ministry can better serve students in the coming years during the afternoon Table Talk sessions.



## New documentary showcases Wartburg Choir's tour through Germany

**THE WARTBURG CHOIR IN GERMANY: CELEBRATING 500 YEARS OF THE REFORMATION** premiered to a nearly full McCaskey Lyceum to wrap up the college's Homecoming & Family Weekend celebration in October.

The one-hour documentary, produced by the college's Marketing & Communication Office, follows the choir on its 2017 May Term tour through several German towns with strong ties to the college and the Reformation, including Wittenberg, Eisenach, and Neuendettelsau. The video project was funded by Mike and Marge McCoy and **Bill Hamm '66**.

**Mark Lehmann '74** served as the travel manager and translator, and **Travis Graven '01** narrated the film.

"Even though I was never in choir, I have been going to choir concerts my whole life, and I am very impressed with the Wartburg Choir," Hamm said. "We know the Wartburg Choir is world-class, but this was a fine product that any college would be proud to put out."

The documentary boasts 13 songs, including *Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott* and *Ain't No Grave*, performed in locations like the Wartburg Castle and the Castle Church in Wittenberg. Interviews with Dr. Lee Nelson, Wartburg Choir director and Patricia R. Zahn Endowed Chair in Choral Conducting; Lord Mayor of Eisenach Katja Wolf; the McCoys; Wartburg President Darrel and Christy Colson; and several Wartburg students are used to explain the importance of the Reformation in the Lutheran religion and the meaning behind the chosen concert locations.

The McCoys agreed that there was an added excitement on this trip, knowing there would be "something wonderful at the end of it that we all would be able to enjoy for years down the road."

The McCoys, who accompanied the choir for much of the 13 days of taping as part of an alumni tour led by the Rev. **Larry Trachte '66**, retired Wartburg pastor, attended five choir concerts in Germany.

"Seeing them never gets old. It's fresh all the time," Mike McCoy said. "The energy these kids have day in and day out is incredible."

"We thought the documentary was fabulous. The scenes were breathtaking, the sound was phenomenal, and of course listening to the choir again was special," Marge McCoy said. "We found ourselves wanting to clap at the conclusion of each song. It felt like we were back in Germany with the choir again."

Though the choir tour lasted well beyond the sites highlighted in the video, Nelson said singing in these historical settings with deep ties to the college was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for his students.

"It was a tremendous honor to have the choir sing in these incredible venues during the historic 500th anniversary of the Reformation, and having the sights, sounds, and emotions captured so beautifully on camera is a treasured gift," he said. 



The Wartburg Choir in Germany: Celebrating 500 Years of the Reformation is available online at <http://bit.ly/WartburgChoirFilm>.

## New heritage wall finds home in Luther Hall

**IN THE SEVEN YEARS** since **Chris Knudson '01** visited a trio of German cities with deep ties to Wartburg College, his desire to bring the rich stories he heard back to campus never waned.

Knudson, Wartburg's director of marketing and communication, visited Wittenberg, Eisenach, and Neuendettelsau in 2010 as part of a donor-funded faculty and staff heritage seminar led by the Rev. Dr. Kathryn Kleinhans, the former Mike and Marge McCoy Distinguished Chair in Lutheran Heritage and Mission and newly installed dean of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University.

"Each place has an important role in the history and heritage of Wartburg College. In our discussions about the significance of these places, it became apparent to me that we had very few markers or visual histories available on our campus to tell these stories," Knudson said. "Certainly, we have places on campus named after these places, like the Eisenach Room and Luther Hall, but there were no stories to accompany these names, so their significance wasn't present."

In the reflection paper he wrote following his visit to Germany, Knudson relayed his wish for a mural that would tell those stories, but the idea always was pushed to the back burner as the college tackled more pressing projects.

Until last summer.

With the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation drawing near, Knudson resurrected his wish to bring a visual piece of German history to the college. He enlisted the help of his marketing and communication team to create a 70-foot mural that would eventually be installed on the second floor of Luther Hall.

"It almost seemed meant to be that we had a large, empty wall in Luther Hall where we could tell these stories of Martin Luther and the Reformation, the Wartburg Castle and Eisenach, and Wilhelm Löhe and Neuendettelsau," he said.

The wall was finished just in time to welcome a delegation from Eisenach and thousands of Homecoming & Family Weekend visitors.

"The heritage wall is a powerful visual reminder that we are part of something so much bigger than ourselves," Kleinhans said. "In a time when walls are so often used to divide, the Heritage Wall tells a story that unites us. Whether you are a member of the faculty or staff, a student or a prospective student, an alum or a friend, when you walk down the hallway, it's easy to feel that you, too, are a part of the Wartburg story." 

# BREAKING BARRIERS

*Wartburg network helps classroom project blossom into successful business*

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN

WHEN ARMAND PIECUCH AND SIX OF HIS CLASSMATES created Fourth Wall Productions for Dr. Penni Pier's journalism and communication capstone class, they never envisioned what their required production company could grow to be.

Yet after graduation in 2014, **Piecuch, Justin Szykowny, Peter Hoffman,** and **Holly Hejlik** found themselves wanting to continue what they had started: a production company dedicated to breaking through the invisible, imagined wall separating actors from the audience, better known as the fourth wall.

"We enjoyed the process of researching, producing, and executing a creative vision so much that we decided to just keep doing it," Piecuch said.

Within weeks the group had partnered with **Travis Bockenstedt '09**, then Wartburg's McElroy Chair in Journalism and Communication, and fellow 2014 grad **Torie Jochims** to officially open Fourth Wall for outside business.

Pier hasn't been surprised by the group's success. She's seen several other graduates go on to start their own businesses, but said Fourth Wall was the first to come out of capstone as a nearly holistic entity and continue the production company they started.

"It was an incredibly hard-working group, a very, very talented group," Pier said. "I remember the students coming to me after the class and asking what I thought about them starting a company, and I said they should go for it."

In the early days, the group split their time between the Cedar Valley and Denver, Colo.

During a visit to Wartburg West, Bockenstedt connected with **Jim Licko '00**, a Wartburg West National Advisory Board member and vice president of GroundFloor Media, a public relations agency that prides itself on a model comprising only seasoned industry talent.

Licko, recognizing the changes in his industry, was excited to present his team with a proposal that could provide them with top-notch video work at a reduced cost and give fellow Knights a leg up on the competition in Denver.

"The product they gave us was very good. We could tell these kids had been getting hands-on experience even though they had just graduated," Licko said.

The well-respected and award-winning agency offered the startup office space and a steady stream of work, an arrangement that benefited both agencies.

"That early experience for a startup production company was invaluable. It acclimated us very quickly to the fast-paced world of marketing and PR and helped us make a name for ourselves in the local industry," Piecuch said. "We had plenty of opportunities to learn and even more opportunities to fail, but those experiences taught us to value ourselves, value our product, and value the people who loved and supported us along the way."

That partnership lasted until last summer, when GroundFloor Media and its sister agency, CenterTable (the agency's creative arm), upped the ante. In August, the agency announced that CenterTable had acquired Fourth Wall Productions, officially bringing the young team—which still includes Piecuch, Szykowny, and Bockenstedt—into its fold of seasoned professionals.

"After 16 years of owning a business, you know when you come across an individual or a team that exemplifies what we call 'talentude'—mad skills complemented by a great outlook on both work and life," said Laura Love, GroundFloor Media founder and chief cultural officer. "The Fourth Wall team certainly showed us this, in addition to their integrity, work ethic, and willingness to jump in and be a part of our team. We both took a risk with one another, but when you feel that it is just meant to be, you know to trust your gut and make something bigger happen."

Piecuch called the experience "one of the most surreal" of his life.

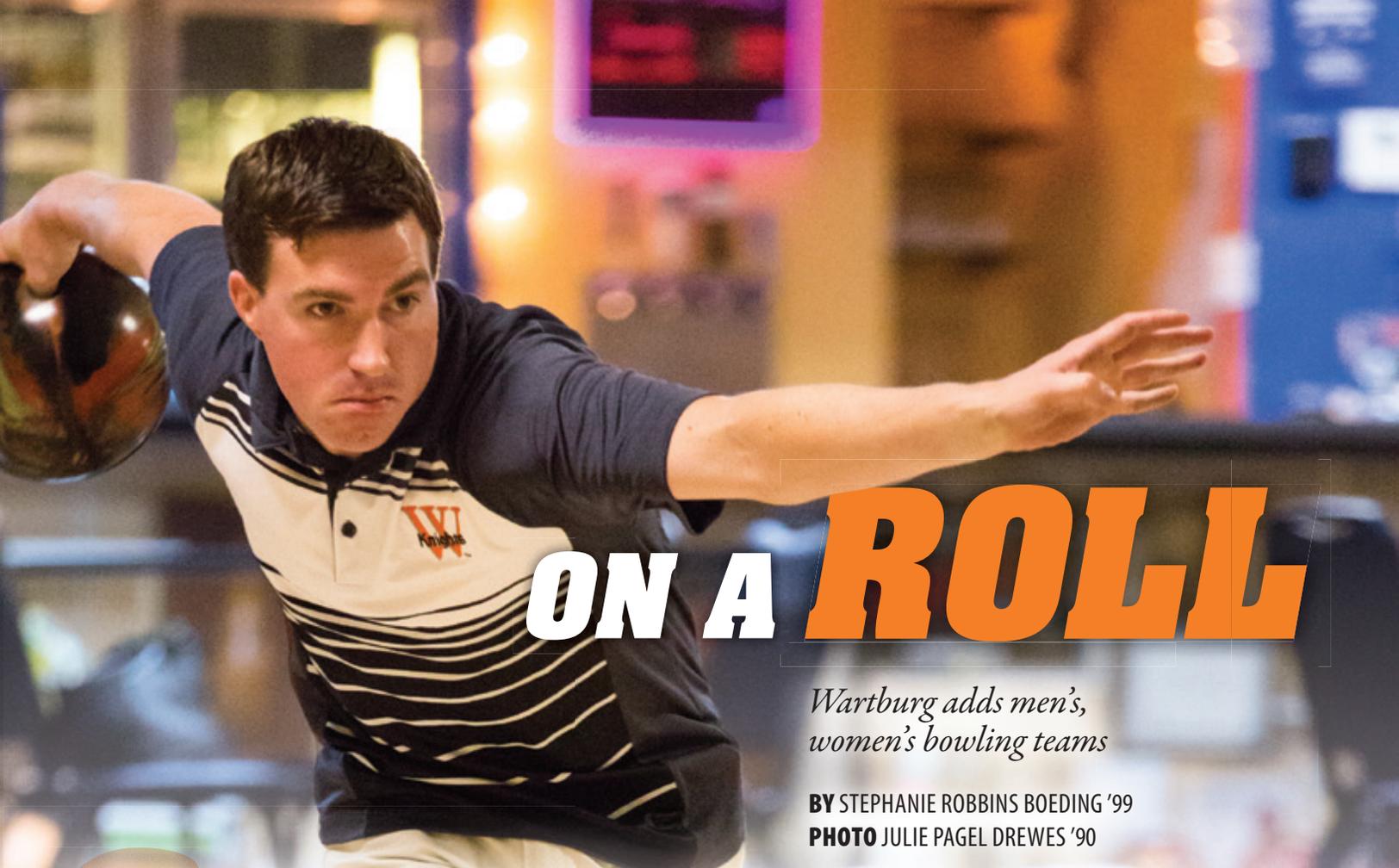
"It is an honor to work with a company that has consistently earned its place on the top of *Outside* magazine's Best Places to Work list," he said. "It is also incredibly humbling to know that something that my peers and I built out of our own raw talent and persistence has become a notable force in the industry, capable of telling compelling stories and affecting great change." 



Licko



Travis Bockenstedt, Justin Szykowny, and Armand Piecuch



# ON A ROLL

*Wartburg adds men's, women's bowling teams*

**BY** STEPHANIE ROBBINS BOEDING '99

**PHOTO** JULIE PAGEL DREWES '90

**SOON, WRESTLING AND BASEBALL** won't be the only Wartburg athletics programs with pins and strikes. The college has announced the addition of men's and women's bowling as varsity sports, beginning competition in the 2018-19 academic year.

Joe Squires, former Waldorf University head men's and women's bowling coach, will lead the program. He served at Waldorf for two years, taking the men's team to its first postseason bid in 2015-16. The Warriors made a repeat appearance in 2016-17.

Wartburg fans will enjoy the unique atmosphere of collegiate bowling competition, Squires said.

"There is nothing like sitting on the edge of your seat, as a fan, when your team throws a ball and you're hoping for a strike. There is always cheering and noise going on; it's a part of the demand for focus during the games and competitions," he said.

The men's and women's teams will practice at Waverly Bowl Inn and will travel for competition. Squires has been recruiting bowlers in Iowa, Minnesota, and Illinois, reaching out to high school coaches and promoting the new program. Bowlers have already committed to play at Wartburg in fall 2018, and Squires will continue to recruit heavily in the region this spring.

"I hope they can enlighten the general public about the growing interest in the sport, especially at the youth level," said Keith Denton, former Waverly Bowl Inn co-manager. "I also hope our youth bowlers see there are opportunities for them at the collegiate level. It's exciting that Wartburg is taking this step and that the Waverly Bowl Inn will get to be a part of that."

Collegiate teams use the baker scoring format, which Squires said is "a little different than what the recreational bowler is used to." In baker scoring, five teammates bowl toward one game score.

The first teammate bowls frames 1 and 6, the second teammate bowls frames 2 and 7, and so on, with the fifth teammate bowling frames 5 and 10.

"It promotes an even greater emphasis on team play and the team dynamic in bowling," Squires said.

This marks the first new men's program since soccer was added in 1982 and the newest women's program since lacrosse was established in 2013. The two bowling teams will bring Wartburg's total number of varsity teams to 22—11 each for women and men. Wartburg's bowling teams will compete as independents, as bowling is not an Iowa Conference-sponsored sport.

"Bowling is a very popular sport within our state and region at the high school level," said Rick Willis, Wartburg athletic director. "The number of college teams has been growing in recent years. We are excited to offer this opportunity for prospective students.

"Joe's experience as a college bowling coach, his understanding of the regional bowling landscape, and his liberal arts background make him an excellent fit for our program."

Prior to Waldorf, Squires was the head boys bowling coach for two seasons and the girls bowling coach for one season at Mason City High School. The Albert Lea, Minn., native bowled at the varsity level all four years in high school and qualified for the state tournament three times. Squires earned his bachelor's degree from Cornell College in 2008 and his master's degree from Waldorf in 2016.

Several other schools in the Central region have women's bowling programs, including Augustana College (Ill.) and the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. Augustana's team began its inaugural season last fall. 



# KNIGHTS FALL RECAP

## Football rolls into the postseason

After recording its fifth undefeated season in program history, winning the Iowa Conference Championship, and earning an automatic bid into the NCAA Playoff series, the Knights saw their season come to an end with a 41-27 loss to the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh in the Elite Eight. This was only the fourth time in program history the team had advanced that far into the post season.

In addition, for the first time in school history a Knight was named one of four finalists for the coveted Gagliardi Trophy, awarded to the top player in Division III football. Quarterback **Matt Sacia '19**, who also was named the IIAC Offensive MVP and set the school's single-season record for most touchdown passes with 35, traveled to Salem, Mass., for the Dec. 13 ceremony.

Coach Rick Willis was named the Iowa Conference Coach of the Year and AFCA Regional Coach of the Year. **Riley Brockway '18** became the program's single-season record holder in pass receptions and receiving yards. Offensive lineman **Derek Schipper '18** was named an AFCA First-team All-American, the first AFCA All-American for Wartburg since 2014. Schipper and Brockway were also named D3football.com All-Americans, as first-team and second-team selections, respectively

## Knights sweep season, tournament titles in volleyball

For the third time in as many years, the volleyball team swept the IIAC regular-season and tournament titles, earning an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament where they fell to No. 16 Gustavus Adolphus in the regional semifinal.

Defensive specialist **Katie Foster '21** earned IIAC Freshman of the Year honors and middle blocker **Aryn Jones '18** repeated as the IIAC MVP, while the coaching staff took home Coaching Staff of the Year.

## Neuendorf, Crow earn soccer honors

**Morgan Neuendorf '18** scored 13 goals, including five game-winners, earning her IIAC Offensive Player MVP honors. She also was named Third-team Scholar All-American by the United Soccer Coaches Association. The honor was a first for Neuendorf and a third for the program. To be eligible, students must be nominated by their coach, have at least a 3.3 GPA, start in more than 50 percent of all games, and have contributed to the success of her team.

In a shutout against Simpson to end the regular season, goalie **Beth Crow '18** became the women's soccer program's all-time leader in goalkeeper with 42 career wins.

The team earned an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament, where they lost to St. Thomas University in the first round.

## Klostermann earns 11th individual medal

**Brooke Klostermann '19** was the individual medalist at the Iowa Conference Golf Championship, setting a new program record and earning conference MVP honors. Her 296 (75-75-71-75) also broke the all-time Iowa Conference Championship scoring record of 300, set by Sarah Paulson of Central in 2009.

The team's IIAC Championship win—its 10th in 11 years—earned it an automatic bid to the NCAA Championships in May 2018.

## Wartburg leads way with 77 Fall Academic All-Conference honorees

Seventy-seven Wartburg fall sport student-athletes earned Academic All-Conference honors, more than any other school on the Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

To be eligible, a student-athlete must be on the eligibility list for the sport of nomination, be at least a sophomore in academic standing with at least one year in residence, and attain a 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale) GPA or higher.



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

# Knights

in the News

Do you recognize any of these new graduates from the Class of 1976? We will post the photo on social media Jan. 25, and invite everyone back to celebrate the Class of 2018 on May 27.



## 1952

**HERB HILDEBRANDT**, Ann Arbor, Mich., shared a guest opinion in *McKnight's Long-Term Care News* titled "Technology and the senior ethical terrain" on Aug. 21.

## 1954

**TED FRITSCHER**, Centennial, Colo., was named volunteer of the year at the Colorado Democrats' 84th Annual Dinner.

## 1955

The Rev. **RUSSELL** and **JANE BUENZOW '58 RUDOLF**, Owatonna, Minn., were featured in the Owatonna People's Press 2017 *Portraits in Steele* magazine, celebrating pillars in the community.

## 1959

The late **JOHN SOLEM**, Coarsegold, Calif., had a room dedicated to him in the new William Rolland Art Center on the California Lutheran University campus, Thousand Oaks, Calif.

## 1967

**LAIRD YOCK**, Wiscasset, Maine, is retired.

## 1970

**GERALD EDGAR**, Garner, chairs the Iowa Board of Podiatry.

## 1971

The Rev. **PAUL JOHNSEN**, Highland Lake, N.Y., retired after 41 years as an ELCA pastor.

## 1973

**PEGGY HAMILTON**, Waverly, is an adjunct professor in computer science at Wartburg College.

**HENRY HYDA**, Waukee, retired from Kemin Industries after more than 40 years.

## 1974

Dr. **REBECCA PETERSON KAMM**, Decorah, retired as communications faculty at Northeast Iowa Community College.

## 1977

**STEVEN FERGUSON**, Cedar Falls, is a ministry assistant at St. John Lutheran Church.

**DEBORAH MOLSTAD KELLOGG**, Bloomington, Minn., is a tenured professor in German at Normandale Community College. She was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to study at the Summer Akademie in Leipzig, Germany. She also was published in *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Best Mom Ever*.

## 1979

**TIM SCHUMACHER**, Estherville, is an adjunct professor in guitar and handbells at Wartburg College.

**SANDRA POOCK WELLS**, Urbandale, retired from the Municipal Fire and Police Retirement System of Iowa after 24 years.

## 1980

**GLENDA BAUGH-JOHNSON**, Chicago, earned a graduate certificate in contemporary theory in addictive behavior from Capella University, Minneapolis.

**GARY ZITTERGRUEN**, Van Horne, was named the 2016-17 Iowa Superintendent of the Year by the School Administrators of Iowa. He works in the Benton Community School District.

## 1983

**EDMOND BONJOUR**, Stillwater, Okla., received the Outstanding International Leadership Program Director Award at the 2016 meeting of the International Association of Programs for Agricultural Leadership.

## 1988

The Rev. **RUSS LEEPER**, Charles City, is pastor of St. John Lutheran Church.

## 1990

**JEFF FROST**, Gilbertville, is the executive director of professional education for the Waterloo Community School District.

**KATHIE SCHINDEL HICOK**, Dallas Center, was chosen as the 2017 Iowa School Social Worker of the Year by the Iowa School Social Workers' Association. She is a school social worker for Heartland AEA 11, serving Indianola and Pleasantville.

## 1992

**RACHELLE KARSTENS**, North Sioux City, S.D., is the chief of staff/attorney for Briar Cliff University, Sioux City, Iowa. She is a doctoral student in education at Drake University.

## 1993

**JOEL STRAWN**, Truro, is the eastern region lead for break/fix at Facebook.

## 1994

Jerry Ketoff and **TARA FRIDERES BAUMGARTNER**, Strawberry Point, were married July 1. Their blended family includes eight children: Anna, 24; Emilee, 22; Austin, 19; Delaney, 18; Olivia, 17; Benjamin, 17; Vienna, 14; and Cayden, 9. Tara is a vocal music teacher in the Oelwein Community School District.

**WENDY WALTER STANSBERY**, Muscatine, is an art teacher at Jefferson Elementary School.

## 1995

Ret. Lt. Col. **MELANIE RANDOL BURJA**, Beavercreek, Ohio, was the recipient of the 2017 Pleasant Valley Community School District, Betterndorf, Wall of Honor Award.

**DEREK ODEN**, Corpus Christi, Texas, published a book, *Harvest of Hazards: Family Farming, Accidents, and Expertise in the Corn Belt 1940-1975*.

## 1996

**SARA MAX CERESA**, Louisville, Ky., is a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity of Metro Louisville and a patient educator about Von Willebrand disease, a bleeding disorder.

**PETE KORB**, Burlington, marked 10 years as a route sales representative for Aramark Uniform Services. He also is a union steward, representing the Teamsters Union, Local 238.

## 1997

**AMY BAKER ANDERSON**, Edina, Minn., founded SchedulePal, an online scheduling solution.

**TIMOTHY STOCKMAN**, Holly Hill, Fla., is a member of the Wartburg College Alumni Board.

Dr. Ron and **HEIDI LADENBURGER ZIMMERMANN**, Bolingbrook, Ill., announce the adoption of Fitz Stefan, born Jan. 9. He joins Emma, 3.

## 1998

**CHAD SHEETZ**, St. Cloud, Minn., is the associate athletic director for athletics revenue and university ticketing at St. Cloud State University.

**SHANE STOCKS**, Paris, Mo., is superintendent of the Madison C-3 School District.

## 1999

**TAYLOR ANDERSON**, Ankeny, is director of the Iowa Hall of Pride, Des Moines.

**JAIME SPRATT DAVIS**, Austin, Texas, earned a Master of Education degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of Texas at Austin. She oversees the compliance-training program for the university.

**JAMIE KLING**, Portage, Wis., is a clinical assistant professor practicing family medicine at UW Health.

**LISA RATHJE**, Oak Park, Ill., is the executive director of Local Learning: The National Network for Folk Arts in Education. She also co-edits the peer-reviewed *Journal of Folklore and Education* and serves as graduate faculty for the master's in cultural sustainability at Goucher College, Baltimore. In August, she presented the keynote address at the Chulalongkorn University Institute of Thai Studies conference in Bangkok, where she met Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand.

## 2000

**KATE SUNDQUIST ATKINS**, Madison, Wis., earned a master's degree in philanthropy from the University of Denver.

Rodney and **TARYN LAUER RYAN**, Fairfield, announce the birth of Karley Grace, Jan. 23, 2017. She joins Hailey, 10, and Aubrey, 6.

## 2001

**AARON BUZZA**, Macon, Ga., is the vice president of development/COO for the Macon-Bibb County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

**CHRIS KNUDSON** and Corey Hoefler, Waverly, were married June 17.

**JEANA LARSON**, Sheldon, was awarded the 2017 Jay Wicker Award (for outstanding middle school band directors) by the Northwest Iowa Bandmasters Association. The seventh- and eighth-grade band at Sheldon Middle School, which Larson directs, was selected as the Class 1A/2A Middle School Honor Band by the Iowa Bandmasters Association. The band performed at the association's annual conference.

## 2002

**STACY KELLY**, Chapel Hill, N.C., earned a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the University of North Carolina School of Law and was inducted into the James E. and Carolyn B. Davis Society.

## 2003

Roland and **ANNA JOHNSON BEDARD**, Lindstrom, Minn., announce the birth of Brooklyn Sophia, Nov. 21, 2016. She joins Parker, 2.

Mike and **MELISSA CARLSON BEER**, Woodbury, Minn., announce the birth of Patrick James, July 2, 2016. He joins Charlie, 5, and Katie, 2.

**CRYSTAL HEINS BUZZA**, Macon, Ga., is vice president of program development at The Job DNA Group.

The Rev. **TOM DOWLING**, Williams Bay, Wis., is pastor of Williams Bay Lutheran Church.

## 2004

**TYLER** and Brenda **HUNT**, Mason City, announce the birth of Owen James, June 14.

**MATT TOWNSLEY**, Mount Vernon, earned a Doctor of Education degree in school improvement from the University of West Georgia, Carrollton.

## 2005

**QUINTON** and Karen **CLAY**, Aurora, Ill., announce the birth of Ethan, Sept. 21.

**STEVEN** and Teresa **NEPTUN**, Morton, Ill., announce the birth of Lydia Lois, July 4. She joins Blake, 3.

Brian and **MISTY ONKEN PROSSER**, Fredericksburg, announce the birth of Dominic Wade, Nov. 29, 2016. He joins Natalie, 6, and Lydia, 3.

Jonathan and **EMILY LUBBERDEN WHALLEY**, Madison, Wis., announce the birth of Peter Frederic, March 16. He joins Lydia, 4.

Derek and **ELIZABETH CARR WILD**, Cedar Falls, announce the birth of Gwen Elizabeth, April 14. She joins Jett, 3.

## 2006

**CLINT** and Kate **BIKERT**, Dubuque, announce the birth of Jaclyn Marie, July 5. She joins Jesse, 2.

Andrew and **LINDSAY STEVENSON SCHAAPVELD**, Waverly, announce the birth of Lucy Rae, Feb. 27. She joins Ross, Nora, and Charlie.

**JASON** and **KATIE REYES '07 STEEGE**, Waverly, announce the birth of Adalena Kay, June 26.

## 2007

**JESSICA HARTMAN**, Stoughton, Wis., is a credit analyst at John Deere, Madison.

Brett and **SHEENA TREANOR MAHAN**, Waukege, announce the birth of Benjamin Brett, Jan. 27, 2017. He joins Brayden, 3, and Keegan, 1.

**LINDSAY BOEVERA SKEIE**, Denver, Iowa, is a trainer at CUNA Mutual Group, Waverly.

## 2008

Loren Corkery and **JESSICA SAUNDERS**, Jesup, were married June 24. Jessica earned her Doctorate of Musical Arts degree in vocal performance and pedagogy from the University of Iowa.

**KEVIN** and Stephanie **ESLICK**, Cedar Falls, announce the birth of Madison, Dec. 11, 2016.

Josue Morales and **KRYSTINA IRVIN**, San Antonio, announce the birth of William Josue, Aug. 18.

Joe Peters and **MEGAN HENDRICKS**, Waukege, were married May 20.

## 2009

Cale Edwards and **KELSEY STEFFENS**, Garner, were married June 17.

Doug and **NATALIE TENDALL PUGAR**, Dayton, Ohio, announce the birth of Emma Louise, Jan. 26. Natalie is the marketing director at Dayton Center for Neurological Disorders.

**ADAM** and **MEGAN BABER RIES**, Des Moines, opened Keystone Chiropractic in West Des Moines.

# EIGHT INDUCTED INTO WARTBURG HALL OF FAME

*These standout athletes were inducted into the Wartburg Athletic Hall of Fame as part of the annual Homecoming & Family Weekend festivities. Those inducted include:*

**Joel Demro '02**, a four-year member of the football team who played on the offensive line. He was a two-time First-team All-Conference selection, a First-team All-Region honoree by the Football Gazette and an AFCA First-team All-American. He is a product manager with Hormel Foods and resides in Austin, Minn., with his wife, Marty, and their son and daughter.

**Dan Grawe '99**, a three-year starting pitcher for the baseball team. He was a First-team All-Conference selection as well as the Iowa Conference MVP in 1997 and received First-team All-Region honors that same year. He is the director of customer care at Transamerica and lives in Cedar Rapids with his wife, Jessica, and their son and daughter.

**Fred Grawe '71**, a three-year member of the golf and basketball teams. He was the Iowa Conference individual medalist and subsequent MVP in 1971 and a member of the two-time Iowa Conference men's golf teams. Grawe was the basketball team's leading scorer in the 1970-71 season with 406 points. He resides in Waverly and has two grown children.

**Harrison Kibombo '06**, a four-year starter on the soccer team and the program record holder in points (164) and game-winning goals (19). He was a two-time Iowa Conference MVP and First-team All-Region selection. He was a Second-team All-American his senior season. He is a senior technology development and process engineer with Intel Corp. in Hillsboro, Ore.

## 2010

**MALLORY STOCKS COFFMAN**, Altoona, is a music teacher at Cattell Elementary, Des Moines.

**ASH EVANS**, Portland, Ore., is an English professor at Pacific University, Forest Grove, Ore.

**THOMAS** and **NOELLE TOPITZHOFER '12 FIELDS**, Blaine, Minn., announce the birth of Linnea Elaine, Nov. 22, 2016.

Jordan Holtkamp and **DEIDRE FREYENBERGER**, North Liberty, were married July 23, 2016.

**NGAIRE HONEY**, Nashville, Tenn., earned a doctorate in leadership and policy studies from Vanderbilt University. She is an associate researcher at Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile in Santiago, Chile.

**JUSTIN** and **MEGHANN BAUMANN '11 KROGMANN**, Marion, announce the birth of Landon Beau, Dec. 15, 2016.

Nick Maneman and **ASHLEY BOWDEN**, Asbury, were married July 29.

**JOSHUA MONIZ**, El Paso, Texas, is the lead public relations coordinator for the City of El Paso Water.

**ABHAY NADIPURAM**, Des Moines, is an associate in the litigation division at Davis Brown Law Firm.

## 2011

Trevor and **SARAH SHOEMAKER BAXTER**, Elkhorn, Neb., announce the birth of Malakai Michael, Sept. 19, 2016. He joins Gracie, 2. Sarah works at CrossFit Elkhorn.

Lawrence and **KRISTIN VALE CUDZEWICZ**, Greenfield, Wis., announce the birth of Natalie,

Sept. 14. Kristin earned a master's degree in band conducting from the American Band College of Sam Houston State University, Ashland, Ore.

Tim Klunenberg and **EMILY EWY**, Clive, were married Oct. 20.

**JOSH MCROBERTS** and Christopher Kuhn, Des Moines, were married Oct. 14.

Dr. **ROBERT NICHOLS**, Waterloo, earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy.

**JOSH SAVAGEAU** and Shanna Seiler, Woodbury, Minn., were married Sept. 22.

Brett White and **LEANNA NELSON**, Ottumwa, were married June 17. Leanna is a fourth-grade teacher and volleyball and girls' tennis coach for the Ottumwa Community School District.

## 2012

**PAIGE KLOSTERMANN**, Albuquerque, is the director of annual giving for University of New Mexico Athletics.

**ZACH** and **AMANDA PHIPPEN MCCALL**, Nashua, announce the birth of Kenzie Kay, April 3. She joins Colt, 1.

**TRENT** and **CHELSEA BACKER RASMUSSEN**, Madison, Wis., announce the birth of Sadie Anne, July 29.

**MALYNDA RYAN**, Waterloo, is a legal assistant for Trent Law Firm, PLLC, Cedar Falls.

**ERIC THIELE** and Megan Sisson, Hoyt Lakes, Minn., were married July 23, 2016. Eric is the pastor at Northern Lights Parish (Our Savior's Lutheran-Aurora, Minn.; Faith Lutheran, Hoyt Lakes; and St. Mark's Lutheran, Palo).

Chance Webb and **NATALIE GEMBERLING**, Collinsville, Ill., were married July 29.

## 2013

**KYLE BARTON**, Allison, earned a degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and was ordained. He is pastor of St. James Lutheran Church.

**BENJAMIN** and **ERICA OLSON '14** Gansemer, Coralville, announce the birth of Oliver Steven, June 5.

**JUSTIN KINSETH**, Oshkosh, Wis., is the head coach of the men's and women's track and field programs at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

**SAMANTHA KUNTZELMAN**, Beloit, Wis., is a certified veterinary technician in the critical care unit/emergency room at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

**MEGAN NUEHRING PEDERSEN**, Andover, Ill., is a development specialist for the Alzheimer's Association.

**REED PEDERSEN**, Andover, Ill., is pastor of Augustana Lutheran Church.

Dr. **GORDON ROEDEL**, Bellevue, Neb., is an orthopedic surgery resident at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. He graduated with an M.D. from the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health in May.

## 2014

Noah Meyer and **SARAH WICKETT**, Armstrong, were married July 15.

**JASON NEUMANN**, Eagle River, Alaska, is a mental health therapist for Denali Family Services.

## 2015

**ASHLEY DAVIS**, Silvis, Ill., is public relations and content manager at Wyffels Hybrids, Geneseo, Ill.

**SAMANTHA HEINEN HILLIER**, Kentwood, Mich., is a staffing specialist at Gill Staffing, Grand Rapids, Mich.

**ALEX JENSON** and **BAILEY WILSON**, Des Moines, were married Sept. 16.

**RACHEL KRUG**, Denver, Colo., earned a master's degree in social work from the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Denver and is working toward becoming a licensed clinical social worker.

**ANDREA LOHF**, Iowa City, is an assessment scoring specialist at The College Board, Coralville.

## 2016

**MATTHEW FORMANEK**, Cumming, is a credit analyst at Two Rivers Bank & Trust, West Des Moines.

**ADRIANA GONZALEZ**, Ankeny, is an ABA specialist at The Homestead.

**MELODY JEFITA**, Houston, is a management accountant at Schlumberger.

**LAUREN LARSON**, Owatonna, Minn., is a biological science technician with the U.S. Geological Survey, stationed in Washburn, N.D.

**TIFFANY PARK**, Woodbury, Minn., is a graduate student in communicative disorders and sciences at San Jose (Calif.) State University.

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

**Bridget Burns Martin '07**, a four-year member of the track and field team who won the 2005 National Championship in the 400m dash at indoor nationals. She earned three other All-American honors in individual events and nine as a member of a relay. She is an English teacher and track coach at Prairie City-Monroe Middle School and lives in Monroe with her husband, Ryan '07, and their daughter and son.

**Troy Osterhaus '01**, a three-year member of the men's basketball team and two-time First-team All-Conference selection, which includes the Conference MVP in the 2000-01 season. Osterhaus ranks sixth on the program's career leader list in free throw percentage and 10th in assists. He is the principal at Maquoketa Valley High School and lives in Dyersville with his wife, Jenny, and their three daughters.

**Ben Shane '00**, a member of the wrestling team and two-time Iowa Conference and National Champion at 142 and 149 pounds. Wartburg won the Iowa Conference Championship in both seasons and the 1999 National Championship. He is an entrepreneur and volunteer wrestling coach living in San Francisco with his wife.

**Kevin Wachholz '99**, a four-year starting outfielder. He was a two-time First-team All-Conference selection and First-team All-Region awardee his senior year. Wachholz led the Iowa Conference in batting average in two seasons. He is second on the career leader list in games played and runs scored. He is the dean of students in the Oshkosh Area School District and lives in Oshkosh, Wis., with his wife, Kimberly, and their two daughters.

## 2017

**NAOMI ALBRIGHT**, Aplington, is a tax associate at Ernst & Young, Minneapolis.

**KRISTINA ALEKSANDER**, Des Moines, is a communications specialist in the Iowa Secretary of State's Office.

**SAWYER ANDERSON**, New Hampton, is a chiropractic student at Palmer College of Chiropractic, Davenport.

**NATALIE BONTHIUS**, Iowa City, is a medical student at the University of Central Florida, Orlando.

**EMILY BREKUNITCH**, Ames, is an instrumental music teacher in the Greene County and Paton-Churdan school districts.

**MEGAN BRIDGEWATER**, Van Horn, is a communications coordinator at John Deere, Waterloo.

**JESSICA BRIMEYER**, Solon, is a fifth-grade teacher in the Lone Tree Community School District.

**GABRIELLE CALEASE FOX**, Waverly, is a seventh/eighth-grade language arts teacher at Hampton-Dumont Middle School, Hampton.

**KIMBERLY CONNER**, Jesup, is a ninth-grade general science teacher at Mason City High School.

**SOPHIA CORPSTEIN**, Anamosa, is an executive team leader at Target.

**KARLEIGH CREPIN**, Apple Valley, Minn., is a missionary with Young Adults in Global Mission in Adelaide, Australia.

**ZACHARY DRAPE**, Vashon, Wash., is in the financial development program at Deere & Co., Moline, Ill.

**JOSIE ESSER**, Portsmouth, is a second-grade teacher in the Missouri Valley Community School District.

**TAYLOR EVANS**, Urbandale, is a medical scribe at ScribeAmerica, Des Moines.

**ELLYN FELTON**, Monticello, is a digital producer at KCRG, Cedar Rapids.

**TAYLOR FLAMME**, Gladbrook, is a staff accountant at Care Initiatives, West Des Moines.

**EMILY FOLKEN**, Aplington, is a staff accountant at Terex, Waverly.

**JARREN FORD**, Grinnell, is an analyst I with Seagate Technology, Bloomington, Minn.

**KAMDEN GLADE**, Sioux Center, is a creel clerk with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources/AmeriCorps, Moravia.

**DANI GORDON**, Fairbank, is director of communications at St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School, Waverly.

**TRAVIS GUDENKAUF**, Dyersville, is a web developer at Westmark Enterprises, Dubuque.

**HANNAH HAAGE**, Rosemount, Minn., is a housing case manager at Start Today Hennepin, St. Paul, Minn.

**TARRON HANSEN**, Garner, is a teller at Clear Lake Bank & Trust.

**CAITLIN HANSON**, Sioux City, is a vocal director for grades 7-12 in the Sheldon Community School District.

**BRADLEY HAUPTS**, Waukee, is a graduate student in biomedical sciences at Iowa State University.

**RYAN HENKEL** and **NATALIE HALLER**, Conway, Pa., were married July 1.

**SHANA HOLMES**, Waterloo, is a match support specialist for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Iowa.

**ANDREW JORDAN**, Plymouth, Minn., is an insurance agent/producer at Cooper Insurance Services Inc., Indianapolis.

**LENART KALAN**, Skofja Loka, Slovenia, is a graduate student in technology management at the University of Ljubljana.

**EUNHO KIM**, Seoul, South Korea, is a dental student at Charles University, Prague.

**RILEY KOCK**, Greene, is a law student at Drake University, Des Moines.

**ALYSSA KOZAK**, Winona, Minn., is a broadcast production and digital video analyst at HBC.

**ROBERT LEONARD**, Knoxville, Tenn., is a graduate student in sociology-political economy and globalization at the University of Tennessee.

**KAYLA LONNEMAN**, Adrian, Minn., is a FEMA Corps member in Baltimore.

**RACHELLE MARKOWITZ**, Lakeville, Minn., works in customer experience sales at Brilliant Earth, Denver, Colo.

**ZACH MARPE**, Northwood, is a volunteer English as a foreign language teacher with the Peace Corps.

**MARKEL MOMMSEN**, Bettendorf, is a graduate student in physical therapy at Clarke University, Dubuque.

**ALYSON O'BRIAN**, Ely, is a kindergarten teacher in the Solon Community School District.

**TAYLOR OFFICER**, West Des Moines, is a fifth-grade teacher at Lakewood Elementary School, Norwalk.

**ALEC OSTRANDER**, Waverly, is a graduate student in human computer interaction at Iowa State University.

**BENJAMIN POLLEY**, Wapello, is an account manager at Better Business Consultants, Minneapolis.

**ERIC PULS**, Davenport, is a field engineer I at Terracon, Bettendorf.

**ERIC REVIS**, Farmington, Minn., is an assistant language teacher with the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program.

**SAMANTHA RIBBLE**, Evansdale, is a part-time German teacher at Waterloo West High School.

**JACLYN RITTGERS**, Gowrie, is a graduate student in physical therapy at Mayo Clinic School of Health Sciences, Rochester, Minn.

**TAYLOR ROBBINS**, Bettendorf, is an inside sales trainee at Ferguson Enterprises, Cedar Rapids.

**JT ROTTINGHAUS**, Mason City, is a math teacher in the Cedar Falls Community School District.

**ELIZABETH RUCKER**, Waterloo, is a unit financial counselor at John Deere.

**HILLARY SAMO**, Holland, is a manager at Root, Waverly.

**ASHLEY SANDERS**, Waverly, is a graduate student in field archeology at the University of York, England.

**MACKENSIE SAUERBREI**, Marengo, is a Spanish teacher at Tipton High School.

**ABIGAIL SCHAPER**, Waseca, Minn., is a graduate student in social work at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

**COLTON SCHNETZER**, Waverly, is a graduate student in physical therapy at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine, Iowa City.

**MITCHELL SCHNOES**, West Des Moines, is a personal lines underwriting assistant at IMT Group.

**ANDREA SCHRAGE**, Allison, is a scientist at Zoetis, Charles City.

**COURTNEY SCHULTE-WIKAN**, Waukon, is a dental student at the University of Iowa School of Dentistry, Iowa City.

**GREGORY SLOAN**, Cedar Rapids, is an imaging services transporter at UnityPoint Health, Cedar Rapids.

**ELIZABETH SOLSMA**, Oelwein, is an English/language arts teacher at Edgewood-Colesburg Junior/Senior High School, Edgewood.

**COURTNEY SOWLE**, Camanche, is a graduate student in clinical psychology at Minnesota State University-Mankato.

**ANDREW STEIERT** and **MALLORY MCDONALD**, Delhi, were married July 8.

**DAKOTA TELL**, Epworth, is a graduate student in student personnel administration in higher education at Concordia University Ann Arbor, Mich.

**CALYN THOMPSON**, Norwalk, is a multimedia journalist at KIMT-TV, Rochester, Minn.

**AKSHA UPADHYAY**, Waverly, is a private first class in the U.S. Army.

**SAMUEL VAN FLEET**, St. Paul, Minn., is a graduate student in mathematics at Iowa State University.

**MARISSA VOGT**, Eagan, is an assurance associate at EY, Minneapolis.

**CLAY WATERBURY**, Waverly, is a science teacher at Central DeWitt High School.

**ABIGAIL WETZLER**, Martensdale, is an English teacher in Tokyo.

**KAYLA WILEY**, Denver, Iowa, is a vocal music teacher and assistant speech coach at Cascade Junior/Senior High School.

**KAITLYN WILLIAMS**, Cedar Falls, is a chemist I at Hydrite Chemical, Waterloo.

**SOPHIA WILLIAMS**, Cedar Falls, is a medical student at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine.

**DANICA WINDFIELD**, Alburnett, is a software engineer at Rockwell Collins, Cedar Rapids.

**CASSANDRA WOODCOCK**, Winterset, is a graduate student in biomedical engineering at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

**BLAINE WOODSON**, Ossian, is a law student at Drake University, Des Moines.

**LILY ZHENG**, Manhattan, Kan., is a research assistant at Kansas State University's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

**MOLLY ZMUDKA**, Marion, is a fundraising coordinator at the Muscular Dystrophy Association of Iowa.

# IN MEMORIAM



## 1931

**Glen Woodruff**, Brush, Colo., died April 11, 2007.

## 1935

**Jane Bowers Jones**, Clinton, died Feb. 27. She was a retired teacher.

## 1939

The Rev. **Roy Grote**, Bella Vista, Ark., died Dec. 25, 2016. He earned a doctorate from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and was ordained in 1942. He served parishes in Texas, Arizona, Michigan, and North Dakota.

## 1942

The Rev. **Alfred Walck Jr.**, Urbandale, died April 27. He attended or earned degrees from Minnehaha Academy, Minneapolis; Augsburg College, Minneapolis; Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque; and the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. Ordained in 1945, he served as a missionary in Papua New Guinea for 26 years. Later, he served congregations in Minnesota and Iowa and was a nursing home chaplain.

## 1943

**Roy West**, Deshler, Neb., died Sept. 10, 2014. A U.S. Army veteran, he farmed and worked as a tax preparer.

## 1944

**Anita Steffens Parsons**, Eldorado, died Feb. 10. She earned a bachelor's degree in education from Upper Iowa University, Fayette, and a master's degree in library science. She was a retired elementary school teacher and librarian.

The Rev. **George Reinke**, Syracuse, Utah, died Sept. 27. He earned a bachelor's degree in divinity from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and a master's degree in theology from Princeton (N.J.) University. He was ordained in 1949 and served congregations in North Dakota, Ohio, and Illinois, retiring in 1990.

**Wilma Bergman Tyler**, Hot Springs Village, Ark., died Jan. 3, 2017. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees in library science from the University of Northern Iowa. She was the head of the Dike-New Hartford Community School District libraries for many years, retiring in 1981.

## 1945

**Margaret Dormaier Bittner**, Mitchell, S.D., died April 18, 2016. She was a teacher and later farmed with her husband, retiring in 1979.

**Clarice Wolf Morrison**, Rosemount, Minn., died Aug. 1. She was a teacher.

**Joy Lidtke Reis**, Cresco, died April 20, 2015. She helped her husband farm.

The Rev. **Roland Wittrock**, Spokane, Wash., died Feb. 11, 2010.

## 1946

**Adeline Prottengeier Otterness**, Goldsboro, N.C., died April 27. She earned a degree in home economics from Iowa State University and was a teacher.

**Shirley Kromer Perkins**, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., died Sept. 13. She was co-founder of Carriage Estates and Tom Perkins Gallery of Homes Real Estate Cos.

## 1947

**Faye Drees Ehler**, La Grange, Texas, died June 27. She was a secretary/accountant and seamstress.

**Loraine Grosskruetz Sagstetter**, Wausau, Wis., died July 13. She ran her family's market and later worked at Fiskars.

## 1948

**Edith Braulick Flathmann** of Minnesota died Aug. 19.

**LeRoy Voigts**, Waverly, died April 20. A U.S. Navy veteran, he was a teacher and coach. Later, he earned a law degree from Drake University, Des Moines, and was a partner and trial attorney at Goode Law Firm until his retirement in 2002. He also was a member of Wartburg's Board of Regents.

## 1949

**William Fredrick**, Dana Point, Calif., died Aug. 31. A U.S. Navy World War II veteran, he was an aerospace engineer and owned his own business. Later, he earned a Juris Doctor degree from Western State College of Law, Irvine, Calif.

**Mildred Krause Jungck**, Helena, Mont., died May 18. She was a bookkeeper and apple picker.

Dr. **Delbert Meyer**, Naperville, Ill., died Feb. 26. A U.S. Navy World War II veteran, he earned a doctorate in chemistry from the University of Iowa and an honorary doctorate from Wartburg in 1993. He worked for Amoco Chemical Co. for nearly 40 years and invented the process for making purified terephthalic acid, which made polyester easier and less expensive to produce. He was awarded the National Medal of Technology in 1992 and held 26 U.S. patents.

## 1950

**Dean Beneke**, Cedar Falls, died Sept. 10. He was a U.S. Army Korean War veteran.

**Lorna Karsten Wissink**, Waverly, died March 29. She worked in the banking industry. She served on the Wartburg Board of Regents and was awarded the Wartburg Medal in 2005.

## 1951

**Irving "John" DeYoung**, Sugar Land, Texas, died Oct. 18. He attended Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and was ordained in 1954. He served congregations in Arizona and Colorado before moving to Japan, where he began a 30-year ministry as a missionary, retiring in 1991. He taught English at Shizuoka University and opened the Shizuoka Student Center. He is survived by his wife, **Annamarie Walther DeYoung '51**.

**Norman Fintel**, Salem, Va., died April 7. He earned a master's degree in journalism from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a doctorate in higher education from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. He retired as president of Roanoke College in 1975.

**Melvin Gleiter**, Eau Claire, Wis., died April 16. He earned a doctorate in biochemistry from Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind. A Korean War veteran, he served as a professor in and chairman of the chemistry department at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

**Claude Grelling**, Coon Rapids, Minn., died Aug. 10. A U.S. Army Korean War veteran, he worked for Prudential insurance company for more than 40 years, retiring in 1991.

## 1952

**Norman Herman**, Waverly, died July 8. A U.S. Air Force Korean War veteran, he owned N.W. Herman Home Interiors and retired from Coonradt Ford in 2010. He is survived by his wife, **Carol Harmening Herman '63**.

**Walter Jackson**, Colorado Springs, Colo., died March 22, 2014. A U.S. Navy veteran, he was a carpenter, teacher, Peace Corps volunteer, and guidance counselor.

**Darlene Mikes Wagner**, La Porte City, died Dec. 4, 2013. She earned a degree in elementary education from the University of Colorado Boulder and taught for more than 34 years in La Porte City Community Schools.

## 1953

**Virginia Wishek Anderson**, Phoenix, died Sept. 8. She was a teacher for 39 years.

**Charles DeVries**, Minneapolis, died April 23.

**Edward Kittleson**, St. Ansgar, died Aug. 26. He was a teacher and coach, retiring in 1992.

The Rev. **Philip Kurtz**, San Pedro, Calif., died Oct. 3. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque. He served congregations in Wisconsin.

**Kenneth Lauer**, Cedar Rapids, died Feb. 2. He earned a master's degree from the University of Colorado. He was a financial aid officer at Kirkwood Community College for 40 years, retiring in 2007. He is survived by his wife, **Patricia Graessle Lauer '55**.

The Rev. **Floyd Olsen**, New London, Minn., died June 6. He earned a degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and served parishes in Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota.

**Georgia Nicolaus Stuebe**, Dearborn, Mich., died March 7.

## 1955

**Jurgen Haver**, Moriarty, N.M., died April 22, 2016. He was a writer, business consultant, teacher, and personal adviser to former New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson.

**Claudia Ringgenberg Horick**, Iowa City, died March 7. She earned a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Iowa. She was an elementary school teacher and later worked with special-needs students.

**Deane Hutchison**, Bonne Terre, Mo., died Oct. 11, 2016.

**Joyce Erks Staley**, Hampton, died March 27. She was a secretary in the public relations and student affairs offices at Wartburg; worked in the Air Force ROTC office at South Dakota State University, Brookings; was a department store sales clerk; did bookwork; and helped her husband farm.

## 1956

The Rev. Dr. **Robert Hildebrandt**, New Orleans, died May 22. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque. He served churches in Waterloo and was an Iowa National Guard chaplain. He earned a master's degree and doctorate in social work from Tulane University. He retired from the Louisiana National Guard as a full colonel with the Legion of Merit after 28 years. He continued to serve congregations in Louisiana, retiring after 30 years.

**Robert Holm**, West Union, died Sept. 26. A former Marine, he was a State Farm Insurance agent for 40 years, retiring in 2000.

**June Sheldon Knecht**, Richmond, Ind., died Dec. 25, 2016. She taught special education in New Jersey, Ohio, and Indiana, retiring as principal of Wernle Children's Home, Richmond, in 1996.

## 1957

The Rev. **Charles Bichel**, Council Bluffs, died Dec. 15, 2015. A U.S. Navy veteran, he earned a Master of Divinity degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque.

**Wendell Hartman**, Los Angeles, died Feb. 3, 2013. He earned a degree in civil engineering from Iowa State University and retired from the Orange County (Calif.) Road Department.

**Jeanette Schmierer Pilgrim**, Tacoma, Wash., died March 13, 2016. She earned a master's degree from Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, Wash., and served as director of music at various churches.

**Duane Ringhand**, Anoka, Minn., died May 30, 2014. He worked in the apparel industry and is survived by his wife, **Ione Schuler Ringhand '57**.

## 1958

**Jeannette Boicourt Bahlmann**, Waverly, died Oct. 23. She is survived by her husband, **Alvin Bahlmann '57**.

**Andrew Foster**, Marion, died Dec. 12, 2012. He earned a master's degree in English education from the University of Iowa. A U.S. Army veteran, he taught English and math and coached in Monticello, retiring in 1995.

**Margaret Storek Hartman**, Barnes, Wis., died June 5, 2000.

**Marlene Schutz Holm**, West Union, died Sept. 11, 2016. She owned a leather products and woodcraft shop and was the secretary for Holm's State Farm insurance office.

**Melvin Nass**, Watertown, Wis., died March 25. A U.S. Army Korean War veteran, he was the postmaster in Johnson Creek, Wis., for 20 years, retiring in 1998. He also was an insurance agent.

The Rev. **David Nelson**, Waverly, died Sept. 24. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and was ordained in 1962. He served congregations in New Jersey and Illinois. He was the regional director for the American Lutheran Church/Commitment to Mission before becoming a senior development officer at Wartburg College. As a student, he and his brother Duane gave Clinton Hall its name in a contest. He is survived by his wife, **Patricia Larson Nelson '94**.

**Daniel Stufflebeam**, Kalamazoo, Mich., died July 23. A veteran of the U.S. Army Reserve, he earned his degree from the University of Iowa and a master's degree and doctorate from Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind. He was a professor and director of the Evaluation Center, which he founded, at Ohio State University, Columbus. Later he served as director of the Evaluation Center at Western Michigan University, retiring in 2007. He is survived by his wife, **Carolyn Joseph Stufflebeam '58**.

## 1959

**Charley Curtis**, Norwalk, died Sept. 27, 2015. He was a high school teacher for many years before going to work for EMCO/Formsteel, retiring in 2001.

The Rev. **Herbert Hafermann**, Waverly, died April 2. He attended Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and was ordained in 1963. He was district pastor for and later the head of the Uzaramo-Ulugura Synod in Kisarawe, Tanzania, Africa. Later he earned an MST degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary. He returned to Tanzania, where he taught and headed the language school at Lutheran Junior Seminary, retiring in 2003. He taught at Wartburg College while on sabbatical in 1987 and was awarded the Wartburg Medal in 2003. He is survived by his wife, **Kirsten Christensen Hafermann '87**.

**Keith Lunde**, David City, Neb., died April 28, 2016. He earned a master's degree from the University of Northern Colorado, Greeley. He was a music teacher and retired as the music director at Platte College, Columbus, Neb., in 1998.

**David Seifert**, Michigan City, Ind., died April 10. He earned his degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and was ordained in 1963. He served congregations in North Dakota, Illinois, and Indiana. He later was a hospital chaplain.

**Lyle Wilharm**, Newton, died May 31. A U.S. Navy Korean War veteran, he attended the University of Northern Iowa and the University of Iowa, and earned a master's degree in education from Drake University. He was a teacher and coach and retired from the Iowa Department of Public Instruction.

## 1960

The Rev. **James Adix**, Marion, died Aug. 4. He attended Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio, and Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, earning a bachelor's degree in divinity and an MST degree. He was ordained in 1964. He served congregations in Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Kansas. He was also a faculty member at Wartburg Theological Seminary.

**James Eissinger**, Lubbock, Texas, died July 13. He earned his Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks. He was a captain in the U.S. Air Force in the Judge Advocate General's Corps, later serving as an attorney on the law enforcement council, a division of the Attorney General's Office in North Dakota. He taught at the University of North Dakota School of Law and the Texas Tech School of Law, where he also served as associate and interim dean.

**Janaan Skibbe Rasmusen**, Minneapolis, died Sept. 8, 2016.

**Paul Schmitt** died Aug. 9. He was a fundraiser for St. Paul Children's Hospital, the Minnesota Orchestra, and St. Olaf College.

**John Tuecke**, DeKalb, Ill., died June 5. He earned a master's degree in mathematics and physics from Kansas State University, Manhattan. He attended the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, and taught computer science there. Later, he was assistant director of the Computing Center at the State University of New York, Albany. He retired as associate vice president for information technology at Northern Illinois University in 1999. He is survived by his wife, **Patricia Donahoo Tuecke '59**.

## 1961

**Gordon Peters**, Keokuk, died April 20. A U.S. Army veteran, he was a teacher and coach, retiring in 1998. He is survived by his wife, **Rose Dalton Peters '63**.

## 1962

**William Marten**, Odessa, Mo., died April 7. He is survived by his wife, **Sharon Hanke Marten '65**.

## 1963

**Maurine Borchers Laux**, Omaha, Neb., died Oct. 7, 2015.

**Adeline Becker Pastuck**, Edina, Minn., died Nov. 12, 2010. She was a teacher.

## 1964

**Michael "Larry" Klugman**, Decatur, Ill., died Dec. 27, 2016. He was a founding faculty member at Richland Community College, where he was a professor emeritus and adjunct professor.

**Anne Hartmann Mardorf**, Waverly, died May 24. She worked at Waverly Municipal Utilities and retired as CFO of Waverly Health Center in 2005. She is survived by her husband, **Paul Mardorf '63**.

## 1965

**William Anderegg**, Keota, died March 14. He was a teacher and coach, worked at the Farmer's Co-op, then owned and operated Keota Eagle Foods, retiring in 2010.

## 1966

**Janis Schoeman Morabito**, West Grove, Pa., died Jan. 8. She was a retired teacher.

The Rev. **Darwin Polesky**, Sarasota, Fla., died Sept. 5. He served in the Minnesota National Guard and earned a Master of Divinity degree from Luther Theological Seminary, St. Paul, Minn. He served congregations in Wisconsin, Michigan, and Florida.

**Marie Post**, Flanagan, Ill., died May 9. She taught high school English.

**Marcus Quade**, Charles City, died March 23. He owned his own construction company, retiring in 2010.

**Ronald Zwicker**, Rochester, Minn., died Aug. 13. He worked for various companies, several of which he started and ran himself. He is survived by his wife, **Carmen Berg Zwicker '68**.

## 1967

**Sylvia Christensen Burke**, Urbandale, died March 3.

## 1968

**Franklin Dahn**, Lake Mills, died June 30. He was a longtime band teacher. He is survived by his wife, **Caryl Wagner Dahn '76**.

**Marrian Lindaman Newhall**, Dumont, died Aug. 9, 2014. She was a teacher.

**Ellen Schnack Zschiegner**, Atwater, Ohio, died Dec. 9, 2014. She was a teacher for 29 years.

## 1969

**Byron Tweeten**, Naples, Fla., died Sept. 1. He earned a master's degree in education leadership, adult learning, and rehabilitation

counseling at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He also received an honorary doctorate of laws from Concordia University, Seward, Neb. He was the founder of Next Door Foundation Inc. Later, he was the director of development at Suomi College, Hancock, Mich. In 1981 he founded Growth Design Corp.

## 1971

**Eddie Coley**, Rocky Mount, N.C., died Sept. 20, 2016. He was a postmaster.

## 1972

**Victoria Heineman McCarville**, Elma, died Sept. 21. She earned a master's degree in guidance and counseling and elementary principalship from the University of Northern Iowa and in secondary principalship from Iowa State University. She was a guidance counselor at Mason City High School for 30 years, retiring in 2004.

## 1973

**Marlyn Lau Meyer**, Denver, Iowa, died March 17. She was a teacher for 35 years.

## 1975

**Ellen Knosby McBroom**, Webster City, died Feb. 22. She worked with the Drug Council and Operation Threshold, at John Deere Tractor Works and Frigidaire, and retired as an activity specialist with the Iowa Department of Corrections, Fort Dodge Correctional Facility, in 2010.

## 1976

**Beverly Auen Heuer**, Connersville, died Oct. 6, 2016. She earned her master's degree in social work from the University of Iowa and was a social worker.

## 1977

**Sandra Nitz Salzberg**, Chicago, died Feb. 17, 2007.

## 1979

**David Wilken**, Odebolt, died June 3. He farmed with his father and started a career in the auction business before going into banking, retiring from United Bank of Iowa in 2016. He is survived by his wife, **Twyla Prall Wilken '79**

## 1988

**John Paul Davidsmeyer**, Jacksonville, Ill., died Aug. 2. He was corporate safety director for his family's business, The IRC Group.

## 1989

**Curtis Eide**, Rochester, Minn., died Aug. 26. He was a software engineer for IBM for 28 years. He is survived by his wife, **Kaaren Hemmingson Eide '90**.

## 1990

**Timothy Maifeld**, Sioux Falls, S.D., died April 25, 2015. He earned his master's degree in electrical engineering from South Dakota State University, Brookings, and his doctorate in electrical engineering from Iowa State University. He taught at Colorado Technical Institute, Colorado Springs. He is survived by his wife, **Britt Lease Maifeld '92**.

## 2007

**Ashley Rink Merritts**, Marion, died April 22. She earned a master's degree and doctorate from Iowa State University. A licensed marital and family therapist, she was an associate professor in the marriage and therapy program at Mount Mercy University, Cedar Rapids.

## Noteworthy friends

**Kent Hawley**, Eugene, Ore., died Oct. 9. Hawley, a veteran of the Army Air Corps, was the vice president for Student Life at Wartburg College, beginning in 1976. In 1985, he became the director of International Programs; he retired in 1992. In 2012, Kent was awarded the Wartburg Medal.

**Cheryl Wogens O'Brien**, Cedar Falls, died Oct. 15. She was a math teacher and guidance counselor in Illinois and the Cedar Falls and Waterloo school districts. Later, she taught at the University of Northern Iowa and was a longtime member of the Wartburg College Department of Education faculty, retiring in 2015.

# KEEPING THE

# Faith

BY MARK ADKINS '90 PHOTO SCOTT NEER/SCOTT NEER PHOTOGRAPHY

## INJURIES HAD SIDELINED ROBERT ACOSTA '09 FOR THREE YEARS

when a last-chance opportunity landed him on a soccer pitch in Sweden last summer.

"My surgeon had plainly told me 'your body needs to reset,'" Acosta said. "So, I made the difficult decision and returned home to Arizona to live with my family and work. I was very discouraged, thinking I had played soccer for the last time."

Acosta, who played on three regular-season and one Iowa Conference tournament championship teams at Wartburg, hit the books, learning everything he could about fitness and nutrition in hopes of finding success as a personal trainer. He also turned to the one thing that had guided him over and around other hurdles throughout his life: his strong faith.

"There was a lot of prayer and silent time spent with the Lord when I was at home," he said.

After resting his body, Acosta accepted an invitation to play in Rochester, N.Y. One season later, his faith led him back to Iowa where he played with the Cedar Rapids Rampage, an indoor soccer team. From there, he connected with Bridges Football Club, a Chicago-based group that provides everything from housing and professional training to a platform for building character, leadership, and service.

"So, last March, I packed up and left for Chicago," he said. "I lived with 11 other guys in an apartment. We trained every day, twice a day—an hour and a half in the morning and then two hours in the afternoon through May and June. When the first of July rolled around, Bridges took us to Denmark, setting up matches against different premier division squads. From there, if anyone was interested, we could try out for their team. If they liked you enough, a contract offer could follow."

Acosta still had one challenge in front of him: His agent didn't want him to pursue the Bridges opportunity. However, in late July, the defender was released from his contract, signed his first outdoor professional contract, and began his Swedish sojourn.

"It was surreal," he said. "I always knew deep down it could happen, but with the injuries from age 24 to 27 and not getting many chances to play anywhere after that, I didn't know if



a contract would happen. The Lord was looking out for me. I was just so blessed to get another chance."

Acosta's team, the IFK As, were in the fourth division of the Swedish professional league.

"It was very competitive," he said. "Just like throughout Europe, there is promotion and relegation, so the club wants to be the best it can so it can move up into top-flight divisions. IFK As is on the rise, as it started in the seventh division. We did have a chance to go into the third division late last season."

In addition to spending time on the pitch, Acosta also enjoyed exploring Sweden during his downtime.

"I loved Sweden," he said. "It was the exact opposite of Arizona, very mountainous with plenty of green. I'm a nature freak, so I got into hiking and seeing the beauty of the area."

When his time with the IFK As wrapped up in the fall, Acosta found himself setting out on a new adventure stateside with the St. Louis Ambush indoor club. He's not worried about starting fresh with a new team. Since leaving Wartburg he's played for four professional arena soccer teams and three amateur teams.

For now, he's focused on bringing his best game to his new team and building his personal training business on the side. Where he goes after St. Louis is unknown.

But that's not a problem for Acosta. He'll continue to keep the faith. 



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## SAVE THE DATES

### JANUARY

- 21 Knight's Priority Scholarship Day
- 22 Meistersinger Honor Choir Festival Concert, Neumann Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

### FEBRUARY

- 4 Meistersinger Honor Band Festival Concert, Neumann Auditorium, 2 p.m.
- 11 Wartburg-Waverly Community Symphony Concert, Neumann Auditorium, 3 p.m.
- 18 Knight's Priority Scholarship Day
- 23-24 The Consul, Wartburg Players (Wartburg Opera Workshop), McCaskey Lyceum, 7:30 p.m.

### MARCH

- 22-23 Noises Off, Wartburg Players, McCaskey Lyceum, 7:30 p.m.
- 24 Booster Club Cash Draw
- 27 UKnight Day

### APRIL

- 12 RICE Day, campuswide, all day
- 13 Young Alumni Award Recognition Dinner
- 14 Wartburg-Waverly Community Symphony Concert, Neumann Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

### MAY

- 25-27 Class of 1968 50-Year Reunion Weekend
- 27 Baccalaureate and Commencement

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.



**MARCH 27, 2018**

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