

LEADING BY EXAMPLE | LOVE, NORM | STABILIZING FORCE

WINTER 2020

Wartburg

M A G A Z I N E



Kathryn
KOOB

Lessons
from Captivity



SHARE YOUR WORTH IT STORY

Bailey Wilson Jenson '15

MATH, ECONOMICS, SPANISH

*Actuarial senior specialist,
Nationwide Insurance*

Bailey and her husband, **Alex Jenson '15**, have hosted Wartburg students in their home and places of business through Orange Connection, a one-day job shadowing opportunity in Des Moines that allows students to gain an insider's view into a career field.

Why did you host a student for Orange Connection?

When I was in college, I always wanted to participate in Orange Connection, but there weren't any actuarial options. I want to make sure students have the opportunity to see what actuaries do while meeting other alumni.

Why would you encourage others to do the same?

Being a host for Orange Connection is such a fantastic way to give back to the college and to current students without a financial obligation – that means anyone can do it!

Why was your Wartburg experience worth it?

I loved going to a small school that allowed me to create meaningful relationships with friends and professors while being involved in numerous campus activities. Wartburg allowed me to succeed in the classroom and develop a deeper sense of my faith, all while being a four-year varsity starter for the volleyball team. I was able to study abroad for two amazing May terms (Costa Rica and Germany), which helped shape my liberal arts education. Wartburg was worth it in every aspect!



All alumni have a Wartburg story to share. We would love to hear more about yours. Please visit www.wartburg.edu/worth-it-stories-alumni to share yours. While online, visit www.wartburg.edu/oc to learn more about how you can volunteer with the Orange Connection career mentoring experience.

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Wartburg

WINTER 2020

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ON THE COVER:
Kate Koob '60 was held captive in Iran for more than a year. A display in Vogel Library tells her story.

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

TRANSCRIPTS:

To obtain an official college transcript, contact the Registrar's Office or complete an online request form at 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 FOR MORE NEWS



Gamez '98

Three new members join the Board of Regents

The Wartburg College Board of Regents recently added three new members.

Barbara Gamez '98, of Rochester, Minn., and **Tammy Jackson '83**, from Carol Stream, Ill., were each elected to a three-year term. **Paul Mugan '91**, from Waverly, will serve a four-year term as an ex-officio member as the president-elect and then president of the Wartburg Alumni Board.

After graduating from Wartburg with a bachelor's degree in biology, Gamez earned a Juris Doctor from Marquette University Law School. She is the development director for Laboratory Services and Partnership at Mayo Clinic. Gamez was a member of Wartburg's Alumni Board for seven years, serving as the president-elect for two years and president for two years.

After attending Wartburg for one year, Jackson transferred to Tuskegee University where she earned a bachelor's degree in political science. In 2006 she

earned a Master of Science in public service management from DePaul University. The director of the ELCA International Leaders Program is expected to graduate from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago with a master's degree in theological studies in 2020.

Mugan, a biology teacher at Waverly-Shell Rock High School, earned a Master of Science in education from the University of Wisconsin-Stout. He helped coach the Wartburg football team from 1999 to 2013 and again in 2019. His daughter, Anna, will graduate from Wartburg in 2020.

The Wartburg Board of Regents works with the president to provide fiduciary leadership for the college and is guided by the mission of the institution.



Mugan '91



Jackson '83

Toering Peters inducted into new Wahl Professorship in Biology

Dr. Stephanie Toering Peters, associate professor of biology, was inducted into the newly established Dr. Richard L. and Sandra K. Wahl Professorship in Biology during Homecoming & Family Weekend.

The professorship, provided through the generosity of Dr. Richard and Sandy Wahl, Waverly natives, will support teaching and learning in the biology department.

"Wartburg was very generous in awarding scholarships to help support my college education many years ago and helped prepare me for a broad range of career opportunities as a physician scientist," said Richard Wahl, director of the Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. "This professorship will facilitate the recruitment and retention of top professors to assure the continuation of Wartburg's high-quality liberal arts education with a focus on the sciences."

Toering Peters joined the biology faculty in 2005. She earned a Bachelor of Science in chemistry from Hope College and a doctorate in biochemistry from Stanford University. She serves as chair of the biology department.

"It is truly an honor to be selected as an endowed professor," said Toering Peters. "It is even more meaningful to have the gift come from an alumnus as a way to recognize the role Wartburg played in his career."



Stephanie Toering Peters (center) stands with Sandra (left) and Dr. Richard Wahl.

Richard, who graduated from Wartburg in 1974, is an internationally recognized physician scientist, a leader in the radiology field and is a member of the National Academy of Medicine, one of the highest honors in the fields of health and medicine. Sandy is an accomplished math educator whose passion for education extends far beyond the classroom.



(left) Lewis "Buzz" Levick (center) with President Darrel Colson and Mike McCoy, Board of Regents president (right) Harold and Grace Kurtz

Levick, Kurtzes receive Wartburg Medals in 2019

A longtime Wartburg basketball coach and two alumni who have found a multitude of ways to support their alma mater each received the Wartburg Medal in late 2019.

Lewis "Buzz" Levick received the Wartburg Medal during the men's basketball tournament played in his honor, while **Harold '58 and Grace Jahn '61 Kurtz** received their medals during the college's December Commencement.

Levick, who was the head men's basketball coach from 1965 to 1993, is revered for his inspiring commitment and loyalty to former players and longtime service to Wartburg College. In those 28 years, he compiled a 510-226 record and guided his teams to 14 Iowa Conference championships (including nine consecutive from 1967 to 1975), 13 postseason tournaments, and two NCAA quarterfinal finishes. Seven of his players were named All-Americans and 58 were All-Conference selections. He was named Iowa Conference Coach of the Year nine times.

The Kurtzes' charitable gifts have established five endowed scholarships and supported various projects at the college. Harold went on to earn a Master of Science in journalism from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He was a newspaper reporter and editor before becoming director of public

relations for Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, Ill. He later served as vice president for development at Children's Hospital of St. Paul. He also received the Alumni Citation award in 1973.

Grace taught English at the high school level before going on to earn a Master of Library Science from the University of Minnesota in 1980. She then served two decades as a library media specialist for St. Paul Public Schools. Grace served on the National Advisory Board for the Vogel Library and received an Alumni Citation in 1999.

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

A list of past recipients can be found at www.wartburg.edu/wartburg-medal-recipient.



WARTBURG COLLEGE IS NO. 2

IN THE NATION

FOR % OF STUDENTS SERVING DURING BREAK



147 STUDENTS

9% OF STUDENT BODY

2018-19 SERVICE TRIP LOCATIONS:

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| KANSAS CITY | DENVER (2 TRIPS) |
| ST. LOUIS | TENNESSEE |
| MADISON, WIS. | ARKANSAS |
| CHICAGO | FLORIDA |
| ROCKFORD, ILL. | NORTH CAROLINA |
| ARIZONA | WEST VIRGINIA |

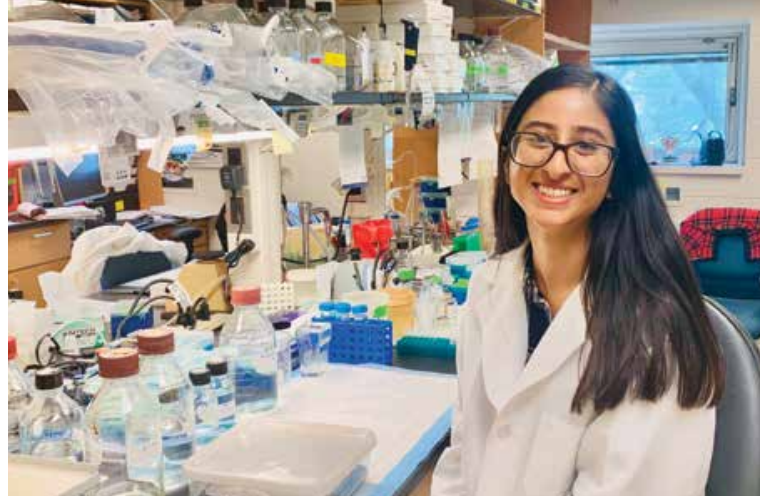
SOURCE: 2019 NATIONAL ALTERNATIVE BREAK SURVEY

Ndjuluwa receives International Association of Black Actuaries scholarship

Rachel Ndjuluwa '21, of Ongwediva, Namibia, was awarded a scholarship from the International Association of Black Actuaries for the 2019-20 academic year.

As part of the scholarship, she was invited to the organization's annual meeting and was assigned an IABA mentor who will share career advice from their personal and professional experiences.

Dr. Brian Birgen, professor of mathematics, recommended Ndjuluwa for the scholarship.



Munir, Reiher receive McElroy research grant

Sanah Munir '20, a neuroscience and psychology major, was awarded an R.J. McElroy Student/Faculty Research Award to study how a stressful activity can affect a student's perception of stress.

The Waverly native is partnering with Dr. Todd Reiher, Wartburg psychology professor, to complete the work. Munir's research will be used to understand the psychological underpinnings of state anxiety, which reflects the psychological and physiological reactions directly related to an adverse situation.

Last summer, Munir served as an undergraduate research assistant at the University of Michigan in the Department of Human Genetics as part of the Neuroscience Undergraduate Research Opportunity where she worked on a project that is examining the Ash1L gene and its implications for Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Wall receives scholarship for advancement of women in sports industry

Annika Wall '20 received an Advancement of Women in Sports & Entertainment Scholarship from the Floyd Mayweather Jr. Foundation.

Wall, a journalism and communication major from Jesup, has worked in the college's Sports Information Office and as a sports editor and anchor for the school newspaper and television station. She also works with Knight Vision, the college's live streaming network. Last summer she was a baseball journalist intern for Perfect Game U.S.A., the country's largest baseball scouting organization.



Tomsons' challenge gift will provide continued funds for ministry scholarships

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

The program, a partnership between the Lutheran-affiliated college and seminary, streamlines the preparation for pastoral ministry for first-career ministerial students. Funded by a nearly \$500,000 grant from the Kern Family Foundation, the program includes an undergraduate education at Wartburg College with at least one semester using the Wartburg Theological Seminary digital learning platform. Students will spend the rest of their time serving in a congregation while completing their master's studies through Wartburg Seminary. Students can choose from a variety of undergraduate majors and become a Lutheran minister in six years instead of eight.

The first round of scholarship support applied to students who enrolled in 2018 and 2019. This new challenge grant is available to students who plan to enroll in the program in 2020. Students who receive this scholarship will also receive a scholarship from the Kern Foundation, along with other financial aid from Wartburg College.

In its second year, enrollment in the program doubled from three to six students. The program goal is to enroll 10 new students each year.





Eric Stahlberg '86, Eric Hanson '96, and Lorene "Renie" Bunting Lenning '64 accepted their Alumni Citations during Homecoming & Family Weekend.

Wartburg honors three with Alumni Citations

The Wartburg College Alumni Board presented **Eric Hanson '96**, **Lorene "Renie" J. Bunting Lenning '64**, and **Eric Stahlberg '86** with Alumni Citation Awards during Homecoming & Family Weekend.

Upon graduating from Wartburg, Hanson's TV news career began at WEAU-TV in Eau Claire, Wis. He returned to the Cedar Valley as a reporter for KWWL-TV in Waterloo, pulling double-duty for a year as an adjunct professor at his alma mater. In 2000, Hanson joined KCCI-TV in Des Moines where he has served as a morning news anchor since 2014. He is most known as the originator of the weekly *This Is Iowa* series that shares the stories of Iowans doing what they do best. Hanson has received five prestigious national Edward R. Murrow awards, five national Society of Professional Journalists awards, a National Headliner award, six Emmys, and dozens of regional and statewide honors.

After earning her degree in elementary education, Lenning taught in Iowa, Colorado, and New York before earning her master's in elementary education from State University of New York at Brockport. In the 1980s, she developed a series of workshops for teachers called Creative Teaching on a Shoestring and a Smile. She authored a book, *More Than Money: An Activities Approach to Economics*, that is credited with giving wider inclusion of money matters in elementary schools. In 2017, she co-authored *Brain Changers 365: Build a Better Brain with 7*

Activities Each Day, drawn from her 40-plus years of creative teaching. Now retired, she is an active volunteer in Tucson, Ariz.

Stahlberg graduated with a triple major in chemistry, computer science, and mathematics and earned a Ph.D. from The Ohio State University in computation chemistry. He worked at the Ohio Supercomputer Center in Columbus and in 2001 began efforts to build statewide capabilities for scientists to use greatly expanded levels of high-performance computing. He was then a computational scientist-in-residence at Wittenberg University in Ohio before being named director of the National Cancer Institute's Center for Cancer Research Bioinformatics Core at Frederick National Laboratory in Maryland. When his sister developed a rare form of cancer in 2012, he saw firsthand the gap between research and the treatments available to cancer patients and led colleagues in collaborating with the Department of Energy, accelerating the progress in precision oncology and computing. He was named the Frederick National Laboratory's director of biomedical informatics and data science in 2018.

Nominees for the annual award are reviewed based on their personal and professional application of the college's mission statement pillars: leadership, service, faith, and learning.

Wartburg Wind Ensemble to perform at Iowa Bandmaster's Conference

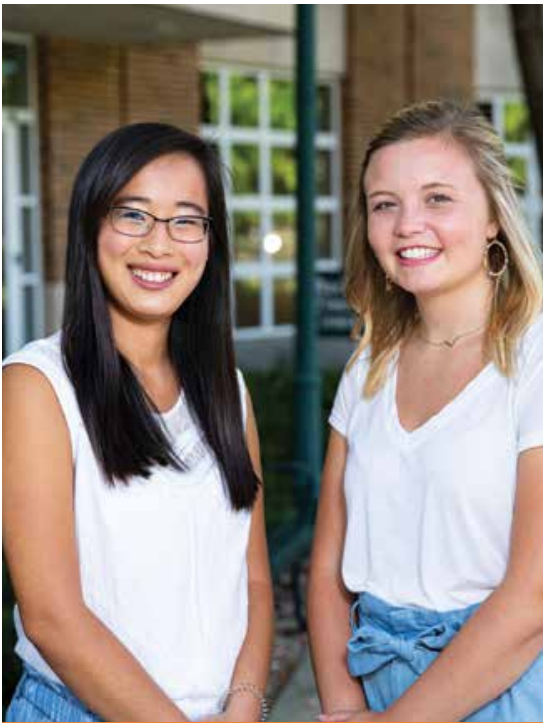
The Wartburg College Wind Ensemble has been selected to perform during the 2020 Iowa Bandmaster's Conference.

The Wind Ensemble, under the direction of Dr. Craig Hancock, will perform Thursday, May 14, at 5 p.m., at the Des Moines Marriott Downtown. The band will play selections from its spring tour through the Midwest. Private Iowa colleges can apply every other year to perform during the prestigious conference. Only one school is selected biennially through a blind audition based on submitted recordings. The Wind Ensemble was last selected for this coveted spot in 2000. In 2018,

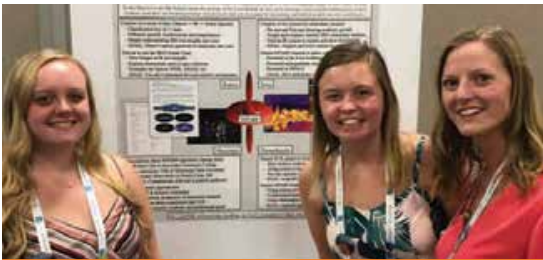
the Wind Ensemble was selected to perform as a clinic band during a conference presentation with young conductors.

"It is an honor to be chosen, a dream come true, and a fantastic opportunity for the Wind Ensemble, its members and for the college," Hancock said. "Our alums will be proud, for sure. Some of them were in the band when we played at this conference in 2000, and others have had the opportunity for their groups to perform on this stage.

In addition, 14 members of the college's concert bands were selected to perform at the 2019 Iowa Intercollegiate Band Festival in November.



Emily Cook and Johanna Vander Wilt



(l-r) Jennifer Wiley, Johanna Vander Wilt, and Hannah James

Science education students seek new opportunities for real-world experiences

Several Wartburg students majoring in education (and one in religion) found new ways to learn and share what they've learned.

In late summer, **Emily Cook '20** and **Johanna Vander Wilt '21** were two of nine educators from across the country to win the Pets in the Classroom Lesson Plan Contest. Pets in the Classroom is an educational grant program that provides financial support to teachers who want to purchase and maintain small animals in the classroom. Their lesson plans are posted at www.petsintheclassroom.org for all educators to download and use.

In October, five students presented at the 2019 Iowa Science Teaching Section Fall Conference. Those who presented were:

- **Tori Miceli '20**, whose research focused on *Non-Visual Differentiation in the Science Classroom: A Multi-sensory Approach*.
- **Hannah James '20**, **Jennifer Wiley '20**, and Vander Wilt, who spoke about *Astronomy in the Elementary Classroom* as part of the NASA/IPAC Teacher Archive Research Program. Wiley also presented on the *Comparison of Active and Passive Learning on Long-term Academic Retention in Elementary Schools*.
- **James Wenman '20**, who researched *Educational Aquaponics*.

In addition, **Dr. Michael Bechtel '94**, associate professor of science education, presented on *Biophilia in the Classroom*.

Then in January, Bechtel, James, Wiley, and Vander Wilt traveled to Honolulu for the American Astronomical Society winter meeting, where they once again presented their NASA/IPAC research regarding astronomy in the elementary classroom. The presentation wrapped up a year of research with Luisa Rebull, associate research scientist at the California Institute of Technology and director of the NASA/IPAC program, and an elite group of teachers and researchers from Massachusetts, Kansas and Mississippi. The team identified at least 185 Young Stellar Objects (YSOs), or stars in the earliest stages of development, in the Lagoon Nebula (M8).

Using that research, the Wartburg team created lesson plans that were developmentally appropriate for preschool through eighth grade students in accordance with the Next Generation Science Standards. In addition to the AAS meeting, they also presented their research findings at the Hawaiian International Conference of Education.

Eight inducted into the Wartburg Hall of Fame

AKEEM CARTER '09

Carter was a four-year member of the wrestling team, a two-time NCAA champion, and three-time All-American. He was a three-time conference champion and has a career record of 99-11 with seven major decisions, five tech falls, and six falls. Carter was inducted into the NWCA Hall of Fame in 2016. He is the president and founder of Tunnel Light Fitness, a nonprofit organization in Iowa City. He has two children and lives in Waterloo.

ANGELA HARTWIG ELSHAEUSER '09

Elmshaeuser was a four-year member of the softball team. The pitcher was a three-time First-team All-Conference selection, a three-time All-Region honoree, and a two-time All-American. She continues to hold Wartburg's career record in strikeouts, games

started, complete games, and wins. She ranks in eight other career categories in the circle. Elmshaeuser earned her doctorate of physical therapy from the University of Iowa and lives in Columbus, Miss., with her husband, Joshua, and son, Henry.

JOEL REYNOLDS '05

Reynolds was a four-year member of the baseball team as an infielder. He was a three-time All-Conference selection and two-time All-Region honoree. He ranks in nine career categories, including second in doubles, and still holds the season record in doubles. Reynolds also helped lead the Knights to a fourth-place finish at the NCAA Division III College World Series his senior year, where he was named to the all-tournament team. He is an oral and maxillofacial surgeon at Iowa Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, PC,

and lives in West Des Moines with his wife, **Annie Fox Reynolds '05**, and daughter, Ellie.

ANTHONY SOUHRADA '00

Souhrada was a four-year member of the football team on the defensive line. He was a three-time All-Conference selection, is still the career leader in quarterback hurries, and ranks in four other career categories. He is the owner and operations manager of Legacy Management, a real estate asset management company in Iowa and Illinois. He lives in Bettendorf with his wife, Jesell, and two sons, Alex and Sam.

LEON WEBRAND '62

Webrand was a member of the basketball and baseball teams at Wartburg from 1950 to 1953. The Knights won the 1951-52 conference championship in basketball during

'Lebenskreuz' sculpture dedicated to celebrate chapel anniversary

The sculptural representation of a Neuendettelsau "Lebenskreuz," or "Cross of Life," was installed outside the Wartburg Chapel in celebration of the building's 25th anniversary.

The cross depicts the Seven Acts of Mercy found in Matthew 25:35-40. These acts, also known as the Parable of the Judgments, were a source of inspiration for Wartburg's founder, Wilhelm Löhe, who also founded a social ministry enterprise still operating today in his hometown of Neuendettelsau in Bavaria, Germany.

Tom Stancliffe, professor of art at the University of Northern Iowa, fabricated the 600-pound cross out of stainless steel and stained glass. The sculpture sits on a 1.5-ton limestone base quarried by Weber Stone Company of Stone City that matches the pillars and foundation of the Wartburg Chapel and many other buildings on campus. Total height, including the base, is 12 feet.

The cross was created with blessing from Löhe's Diakonissenhaus Neuendettelsau (now known as Diakoneo). The Wartburg Chapel's Cross of Life was inspired by David and the late Cindy Carlson, after Cindy visited Neuendettelsau and learned about the Lebenskreuz during a Wartburg College Lutheran Heritage Seminar in 2010. Their vision was brought to life through a leadership gift from Mike and Marge McCoy, a generous gift from Vern and **Jean Heard '67 Byl**, and contributions from additional alumni and friends of the college.

"The sculpture reaffirms the college's commitment to instilling ministry and service into the hearts of all students, faculty and staff, and reflects Löhe's original vision of ministries of mercy guided by Matthew 25's Seven Acts," said **Tara Young '03**, daughter of David and Cindy Carlson.



his career. Baseball, however, was his passion. His collegiate career was cut short after three years at Wartburg when he joined the armed forces followed by several years of professional baseball. He completed his degree and graduated from Wartburg in 1962. The retired president of Litton's Aero Products Division lives in Westlake Village, Calif., with his wife, Sandy. They have one adult son, Blair.

AARON WERNIMONT '09 (POSTHUMOUS)

Wernimont was a four-year member of the wrestling team, a two-time NCAA champion, and three-time All-American. He had a career record of 151-12 with 21 major decisions, 13 tech falls, and 14 falls. He ranks second in career wins and was a CoSIDA Academic

All-American. Wernimont, who died following a sudden illness in 2012, received Wartburg's Young Alumni Award posthumously in 2017. He is survived by his wife, **Kahri Heinemann Wernimont '10**.

HEIDI PORTER WILEY '07

Wiley was a four-year member of the cross country and track and field teams. She was the 2007 outdoor national champion in the 800 and a member of the 2005 national championship relay in the distance medley relay. She was the 2007 USTFCCCA Regional Athlete of the Year on the track for the indoor and outdoor seasons and a six-time All-American. She is a doula and stay-at-home mother and lives in Madison, Wis., with her husband, **Nathan Wiley '11**, and two children, Oliver and Willow.

ASHLEY ROGERS WINTER '08

Winter was a four-year member of the volleyball and softball teams. She was the conference MVP in volleyball her senior year, a four-time First-team All-Conference selection, a three-time All-Region honoree and an All-American. On the softball field, she was a three-time All-Conference selection and two-time All-Region honoree. She continues to hold four career records in volleyball and five career records in softball. Winter is the head softball coach at Loras College in Dubuque, where she lives with her husband, **Bud Winter '07**.



The Big Fix

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN

PHOTOS EMILY CHRISTENSEN AND JULIE PAGEL DREWES '90

Hancock's instrument repair skills prove valuable for students, area bands

TWENTY-ONE INSTRUMENTS IN VARYING STATES OF DISREPAIR lined the hallway outside the Instrument Repair Room at Wartburg one Friday morning last fall. By Sunday night, the dents had been rolled out, pads had been replaced, valves were no longer sticking, and years of built-up gunk had been washed clean.

The “Instrument Repair Blitz,” as Dr. Craig Hancock, professor of music, coined the weekend, was part real-world experience for his students and part community service as each of the instruments belonged to the Charles City band program.

“The Wind Ensemble was in Charles City on our way to the airport for our international tour in Japan last May. We met the band and shared the stage with them at a concert that night,” Hancock said. “I saw that two of their tubas had serious damage to the bell and told the director I had the skills and tools to help him.”

This fall, Jacob Gassman, the Charles City High School band director, called Hancock and asked him if his offer still stood. Before the end of the conversation, the repair list had grown to include a bass clarinet, mellophones, a marching baritone, oboes, trumpets, a French horn, a baritone, alto saxophones, and a sousaphone.

“When you use the same instruments year after year, you have to keep them maintained, but that costs money we don’t always have,” Gassman said. “I can do some repairs on site, but I don’t always have the time or expertise. They did some great work. I couldn’t have asked for better from them.”

Hancock, who leads the Wind Ensemble, has been repairing instruments in one way or another for his entire 41-year career, though he was never formally taught the craft. Instead, he credits a father who instilled in him a thirst for knowledge and a passion for working with his hands.

“It’s just me against the dent,” he said. “I enjoy the battle.”

Even though **Jared Knapp '22**, a music education major from Humboldt, has yet to take Hancock’s instrument repair course — it’s on his schedule for May Term 2020 — he’s often the go-to guy when a friend has a sticky valve or other common brass instrument issue. He’s picked up most of his knowledge from hometown friends who work in instrument repair and Hancock’s summer band camp, where high school students can take a session on basic repairs.

Then during his first year at Wartburg, Knapp received a more detailed rundown of the space which is jam packed with out-of-commission instruments, two large tubs for bathing brass instruments, a worktable for detailed work, and shelves and drawers packed with all the possible tools of the trade. Since then, Knapp has been putting in as many hours as he can since “Doc (Hancock) can’t be down here all the time.”

Though Hancock does eventually teach his college students how to roll out dents and creases, much of his focus is on what he calls “desktop repairs,” which are skills they can hone without a huge equipment or space investment. This includes everything from learning how to safely remove a sticky valve to completely disassembling an instrument so it can be thoroughly cleaned.


“The skills we are learning with Dr. Hancock can potentially save the schools where we end up working a lot of money,” said Knapp, who hopes to teach high school band. “As budgets in schools get smaller, I hope that more schools will recognize the value in these skills.”

Anna Galioto '21, a music education and music therapy major from West Des Moines, may never end up in a classroom, but she knows there is value in the skills she has learned and was happy to share them with the Charles City band.



Jacob Gassman



A photograph showing two men in a workshop. On the left, an older man with glasses and a beard, wearing a blue shirt and a red apron with the word "Easter" on it, is working on a trumpet. On the right, a younger man with glasses, wearing a dark t-shirt and a brown apron, is assisting him. They are both focused on the task. The background shows shelves with various items and boxes.

Dr. Craig Hancock works with Garrett Arensdorf '20 to roll dings out of a trumpet.


“It’s just me against the dent.

I enjoy the battle.”

– Dr. Craig Hancock

“This is really something I enjoy doing,” she said while meticulously laying out the valves from the French horn she was cleaning. “It’s a great refresher for what I learned in the class, and I like helping Doc out.”

Though some may think the repairs are nothing more than cosmetic — a crinkled tuba bell is never pretty — Gassman knows these repairs are going to make a world of difference in the quality of the sound his band produces.

“I’ve always equated instrument maintenance with car maintenance. If you don’t take care of them, they won’t perform as well,” Gassman said. “Some of these instruments have had the tuning slides in them stuck, so now our students will be able to not only play more in tune, but I can teach them better how to tune their own instruments. Dr. Hancock is a fantastic resource for local directors. Whenever we have an encounter with him or his band I always feel like my students are in a better position than they were before. We always leave Wartburg a little better than we were when we got there.” 



Logan Merley '20 inserts a once-stuck tuning slide on a tuba.

Dr. Craig Hancock is always looking for used instruments in any condition. Those that can’t be played are either harvested for parts or further damaged to teach students how to do all kinds of repairs. If you have an instrument you no longer have use for, contact Hancock at craig.hancock@wartburg.edu.

LEADING BY Example

New graduate certificate program builds on history of success in leadership development

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN PHOTOS JULIE PAGEL DREWES '90

ONE OF THE FOUR PILLARS OF THE COLLEGE'S MISSION STATEMENT, leadership has been the bedrock of the Wartburg experience since the school was founded in 1852. The concept, though always front of mind for Knights, wasn't formalized until the late '80s with the formation of the Irving R. Burling Chair in Leadership and the Institute for Leadership Education. That commitment was further solidified in 2001, when the faculty approved the leadership minor. In 2020, Wartburg will embark on the next step in its leadership education journey when a cohort of graduate students begin their trek to earn the college's new Graduate Leadership Certificate.

The certificate was designed specifically for working professionals and provides a deep foundation of problem-based learning about leadership from different perspectives. Unlike some other leadership programs, Wartburg is offering the certificate entirely online except for two brief on-campus summer residencies at the start and end of the program. The second cohort, and all subsequent ones, also will benefit from an overlap in the program that will allow those finishing the program and those starting the program the opportunity to talk and learn from one another during the summer residency.

"I think this cohort model, with its bookending residencies, will allow participants to develop interpersonal relationships resulting in vulnerability and authenticity among the students. This will better allow participants to reflect on what they are doing in class and how it relates to their work and personal life," said Dr. Michael Gleason, the Irving R. Burling Distinguished Professor in Leadership.

Each of the courses will be taken one at a time to honor the busy schedules of most adult learners.

Following in the footsteps of Wartburg's successful leadership minor, which was implemented by **Dr. Fred Waldstein '74**, professor of political science and former director of the college's Institute for Leadership Education, the Graduate Leadership Certificate will require an applied leadership project and portfolio. As Wartburg defines leadership as "taking responsibility for our communities and making them better through public action," these projects will happen within each participant's own "community of interest," like a workplace, church, or other community organization.

"One of the other core elements of the program is utilizing adaptive leadership, which is analyzing problems in different ways to get at the root cause. This allows students to think through how they can effect change on some of our more difficult problems," Gleason explained.



Michael Gleason

“The program will introduce concepts around innovation and leadership theory that will all be directed toward how they can help influence the way they are engaging with their organization around the change project.”

While some of the concepts might be similar, even students who minored in leadership at Wartburg will be able to benefit from this new certificate, Gleason said.

“This is a very applied program, and the application component will look different than it is at the undergraduate level because of the fact that students are going into workplaces or their other communities of interest and then coming back. As with any graduate setting, there is more onus on the student to get the most out of the experience.”

The depth of the certificate program also positions its graduates to

make quick work of a proposed master’s level program that Wartburg is considering. Though Waldstein developed much of the certificate program, Gleason is no stranger to the process. He helped develop a master’s program in communication and leadership at Washburn University, where he served as director of the Leadership Institute from 2013 until coming to Wartburg in 2019.

“The fact that leadership is one of four pillars of the college says so much. As I become more familiar with the history of leadership programs in higher ed, Wartburg has always been on the cutting edge of this, and Fred deserves so much credit for moving us in that direction,” Gleason said. “We have the ability to make leadership development even more pervasive at Wartburg, which makes this a very exciting time.”

Waldstein wraps up 30 years of curricular leadership development at Wartburg

Dr. Fred Waldstein '74 took a leap of faith when he returned to Wartburg in 1989 to serve as the college’s first Irving R. Burling Chair in Leadership. A gifted political science professor at Bentley College in Massachusetts, Waldstein was intrigued by the concept of leadership as it related to political figures, and the opportunity to return to his alma mater to develop a program that could help shape the next generation of leaders was too exciting to pass up.

“I had a blank canvas to create something that really meshed with the Wartburg mission,” Waldstein said. “I wanted to develop a program that got students engaged and thinking about their responsibility to their community in ways that were intentional and positive.”

The endeavor started with 12 students in one course. That number dropped to six by the time Waldstein returned for the second class. Despite the early adversity, the course eventually became popular enough that a second and third had to be added. In 2001, the leadership minor was created.

“Some people have asked why it never became a major. We were never really interested in that because for us it was more important for students to think about leadership in the context of the major they were in,” Waldstein said.

With the addition of the minor came the addition of faculty — mostly professors already teaching in one area but vested in leadership development — and community partnerships. Waldstein also served as the first director of the Institute of Leadership Education, which currently houses the minor, the Summer Leadership & Service Summit, Community Builders (a collaboration of Wartburg students, area middle school students, and adult volunteers), and the Baldwin Leadership Fellows Program. The new Graduate Leadership Certificate also falls under the ILE umbrella.

Some people have asked why it never became a major.

We were never really interested in that because for us it was more important for students to think about leadership in the context of the major they were in.

— Dr. Fred Waldstein '74

Knowing that his retirement was just around the corner, Waldstein, who was instrumental in developing the graduate certificate program, said this was an opportune time for him to step back and let someone else lead the program through this next phase.

“It’s just been such a great ride. If I could draw up my professional career, I can’t imagine it would be much different than the career I have had,” Waldstein said. “Wartburg stresses finding your vocation, and I really believe I’ve had the opportunity to do that here and fulfill my vocation in a satisfying way.”

Dr. Michael Gleason, who was charged with taking over the program, called Waldstein a “visionary in the area of leadership.”

“We should be proud of all of the amazing contributions he has made and the mutually beneficial community partnerships that have been cultivated under his direction,” Gleason said.



Fred Waldstein '74



Pederson to create music for Wartburg Choir, mentor students

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN PHOTO SUBMITTED

KYLE PEDERSON, A MINNEAPOLIS-BASED COMPOSER, is serving as Wartburg College's guest composer for 2020.

It was the up-and-coming composer's setting of *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*, which included an electric guitar, that first caught the attention of Dr. Lee Nelson, Wartburg's Patricia R. Zahn Endowed Chair in Choral Conducting and Wartburg Choir director. Pederson attended one of the choir's Minnesota concerts last spring and heard his song performed live for the first time.

"I was blown away by how they brought the piece to life," Pederson said. Knowing he had more songs waiting for a debut, he reached out to Nelson to see if the choir would be interested in additional pieces. Nelson and Pederson met this summer on the Wartburg campus to see if they could agree on a song.

"We spent some time in Orchestra Hall with Kyle at the piano playing some of these pieces. As he was going through the list, I was like, 'That's a great piece. Well, that's a great piece, too,'" Nelson said. "I just didn't know how I was going to choose. When he threw out the idea of being a guest composer, I knew we had our answer."

Hugh Brown '21, a music education major from Iowa City, has enjoyed working with Pederson in rehearsals but is especially excited for the opportunity this partnership has afforded him to grow as a composer in his own right. Brown is working with Pederson to bring his first composition, *Prayer of the Lost*, to the stage.

Written for a four-part men's choir, like the college's Ritterchor, the piece was inspired by Brown's life growing up and the biblical story of the Prodigal Son. He started writing the piece during May Term, but kicked his work into overdrive when he learned Pederson had offered to mentor young composers on campus.

"It's great to have that outside perspective. I am always around Dr. Nelson and Dr. (Karen) Black and all the music faculty. I'm always able to get their opinions," he said. "But to have a prominent composer review your work and help you understand how to make it better is an invaluable opportunity."

Pederson's first piece as guest composer was the premiere of an all-male version of *Since I Laid My Burden Down* mashed with *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*. He also worked with Charles Anthony Silvestri, the guest poet for Wartburg's Meistersinger Honor Choir, on a piece that honored Martin Luther King Jr. for that festival's finale concert. The Wartburg Choir will premiere a new setting of *Soon I Will Be Done* mixed with spoken word during the ensemble's international tour this May. Pederson also is seeking opportunities to arrange pieces for other Wartburg ensembles.

Like Brown, Nelson also is excited for the opportunities Wartburg's budding composers will have to be mentored by someone currently living their dream.

"Any time we can show our students that a living, breathing person is doing this thing that they want to do, it is an opportunity we have to take," Nelson said. "Kyle is a father. He was a middle and high school social studies teacher. He owned his own company after that. And then he decided that music was his passion, his calling, and that story for our students has been very powerful." 🍷

“

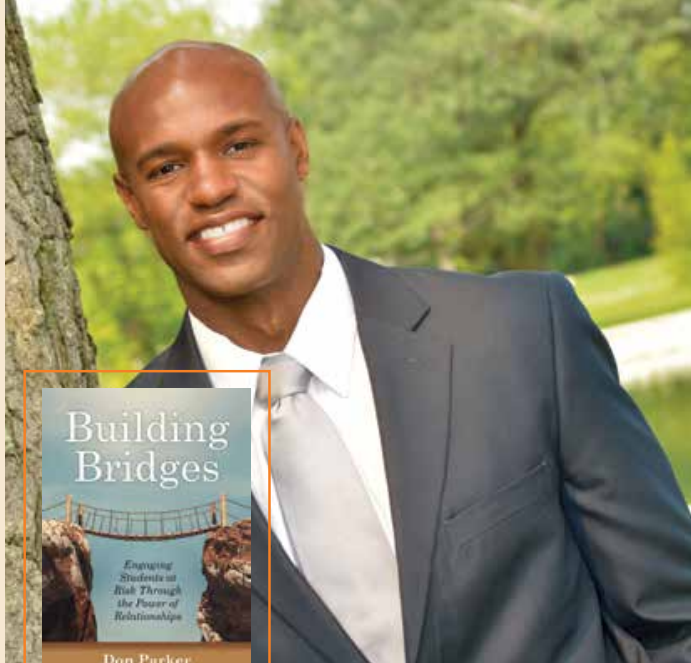
Any time we can show our students

that a living, breathing person

is doing this thing that they want to do,

it is an opportunity we have to take.

– Dr. Lee Nelson ”



BUILDING BRIDGES

Parker combines personal, professional experiences to reach at-risk students

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN

PHOTO CLAUDIA PARKER OF CLAUDIA PARKER PORTRAITS AND PRODUCTIONS

PARKER SAYS

The author delves into these ideas and more in *Building Bridges: Engaging Students at Risk Through the Power of Relationships*:

1 Have a “relationship-building mindset.” You are going to encounter some tough kids. It’s not going to be easy, but you can be successful. You have to have the mindset that you are going to commit to it and do whatever it takes to be successful. Find solutions to problems. Have the mindset that this is a challenge I am facing, and I am going to overcome it.

2 Get to the root of the problem. Most times, the behavior that is on the surface is because of a lot of underlying issues. A lot of these students have ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) or problems at home. We have to treat the real problem and not just the symptoms. The way we do that is by connecting with the student, developing trust, and opening lines of communication. We have to break down the wall and engage students.

3 Build the student’s self-esteem. This will help academically and behaviorally. Give them positive messages. Speak positive affirmations to them, and let them know that they can do it and you are in their corner. Academically give them tasks they can accomplish. Use the constructivist approach in education. Give them a more challenging task, help them accomplish that, and reward the effort with continued praise and affirmation for their hard work. Celebrate and build on each small success until the students believe in themselves.

Parker’s book is available at www.solutiontree.com/products/building-bridges.html.

AS A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT IN CHICAGO, DR. DON PARKER ‘97 EARNED DECENT GRADES but was never top of the class. Where he excelled, in addition to on the basketball court, was as a relationship builder. When his grades were hovering between a D and a C or a C and a B, Parker knew he could usually rely on those relationships to lead to conversations and an extra credit assignment that might get him above the threshold for the higher grade.

Today, he uses those experiences and the lessons he learned as a high school physical education teacher to help his colleagues across the country build bridges with students who have been labeled challenging or at-risk.

“You know how some athletes are late-bloomers? Well, I was a late-bloomer when it came to academics. I figure things out more easily now than I did as a kid,” he said. “But, I had teachers and mentors who stuck with me. They didn’t give up. Like with anything, you have to keep working at it, keep letting them know you believe in them, and they will get there.”

That philosophy guided Parker as he progressed from a PE teacher to an administrator — he is the principal at Posen Intermediate in the Chicago area — and a professional development provider and author. It was while working toward his doctorate in educational leadership at Argosy University in Chicago that Parker decided it was time to share what he was learning with other professionals.

“My experiences have mostly been in Chicago or schools in lower socioeconomic communities. I was working with and developing relationships with even hard-core students. I wanted to show other teachers how they could work with difficult students to help them be successful instead of giving up and sending them to an alternative school or relying on suspension,” he said. “I saw a problem I could help solve.”

He submitted his professional development plan to the Illinois State Board of Education, they saw value in it, and they approved it, making his expertise now available to any educator in Illinois for continuing education hours. Over time, Parker has spread his message even further, speaking at education conferences across the country. Knowing that not everyone has the time or funds to attend these conferences, Parker also put his pen to paper and wrote *Building Bridges: Engaging Students at Risk Through the Power of Relationships*.

“The goal is to empower teachers and administrators so they can work with students more efficiently and effectively,” he said. “It’s so rewarding to talk with participants after a training and hear how they are going to implement the strategies they learned and how their hearts have changed toward their approach to working with a challenging student.”



← IRAN HOSTAGE PARADE

The hostages were given a ticker-tape parade in New York City to celebrate their release; Kate Koob (right) rode in the parade with City Comptroller Harrison Goldin.

LESSONS FROM

Captivity

BY STEPHANIE ROBBINS BOEDING '99

PHOTOS WARTBURG ARCHIVES, JULIE PAGEL DREWES '90, ROLAND FERRIE '08, UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

Forty years ago, alumna **Kate Koob '60** was at the heart of an international crisis. Koob, a U.S. Information Agency employee, had moved to Tehran, Iran, on assignment in July 1979. Just a few months later, on Nov. 4, Iranian college students and supporters of the Iranian revolution suddenly took over the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and held American diplomats and staff hostage, including Koob. They demanded the U.S. return the exiled Shah to Iran to be put on trial for crimes committed during his rule. The Iranian Hostage Crisis would extend to 444 days before the 52 hostages were released in January 1981.



An exhibit in Vogel Library through May features the sparse possessions Koob was allowed and that she treasured during her captivity in Iran, plus a selection of letters, pins, artwork, and photographs that are part of the Kate Koob Collection held at the Wartburg College Archives. Over the years, the college's archives has preserved Koob's items, which transport viewers back to the time of Koob's confinement in Iran and when a nation held its collective breath for the safe release of the hostages.

The collection includes handmade decorations Koob crafted to celebrate holidays in her room, gifts she made for a fellow hostage, the Bible she used daily, letters from family and well-wishers that were sporadically delivered, examples of yellow ribbons worn by well-wishers across the country, and much more. Also included in the collection are drafts of her memoir, *Guest of the Revolution*, published in 1982, and many vintage photographs, including of her visit to Wartburg's campus in 1981 to extinguish the light atop Old Main that had burned brightly during the crisis.



ativity

When you talk to people about this time 40 years ago, especially for those who were not alive then, what do you want them to know about your experience as a hostage?

Kate: We often face things we have no power over, like an unexpected illness, death of a loved one, loss of a job, so many different things. And yet we have the grace of God to face those things with the support of friends and family. Even though I wasn't talking with my friends and family, I knew that they were praying for me. You use those resources you have, and you deal with the unexpected in your life one day at a time, or 15 minutes at a time. Sometimes, it was just, "Dear Lord, get me through the next 15 minutes."

How did your experiences at Wartburg help you get through your time as a hostage?

Kate: When you come to Wartburg, you change your lifestyle. In terms of professors here, they challenged my beliefs but said it's OK to ask questions, and that's one of the most important things. It's so easy to fall into the trap of "this is what I was taught when I was 5"... you have to grow. That basic truth you were taught at 5, that Jesus loves me, grows until you find that manifestation of love comes in so many different ways, so you have to grow and mature.

It was the process of maturing, of knowing it was alright to challenge things and question things, that was really important. And when things don't always go the way you wanted them to, you have to accept, adapt, and move forward.

In your memoir, you seem to hold back at times during your ordeal, and you carefully choose your moments to speak your mind to your captors. How did your theater studies as a Wartburg student help you?

Kate: One guy who thought he was the head guy came in and was saying, "When you return the Shah..." and I said, "Don't give me that ... the Shah is dead and you know it!" And he said, "Who told you? How do you know?" and I said, "YOU just did."

I was pretty sure he was dead, because the Shah had terminal cancer, and it was that kind of bluff that came from theater. You do those things sometimes for survival, and you use the talents God gave you.

What changes have you seen in those decades from when you were a student to when you returned to teach at Wartburg?

Kate: The students were just as engaged as they ever were. And the accessibility to the outstanding faculty and staff we have here was as accessible as it ever was. The spirit of Wartburg was the same. Students who were for the most part serious about their work, professors who did their best to give the best training, the high standards. The traditions, like Outfly and Christmas with Wartburg. There's a wonderful French saying, "plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose"— "the more it changes, the more it stays the same."

It's building on what was good and recognizing that those things are what moved the campus forward.



What was it like to come back to campus in 1981 and extinguish the light on Old Main?

Kate: It was an honor to be remembered that way. But again, then I looked at professor Bob Smith, who had been my speech professor when I was a student at Wartburg, and he persevered with polio and he was still making his mark on campus. Those were the models that I had. ... Bob Smith, who didn't let polio stop him from a career that he loved, working with students. It was pretty phenomenal. And being part of the assembly and hearing the choirs sing Give Me Jesus. That song particularly, because I had heard choirs sing that one all over.

What do you hope that someone today who sees the exhibit would come to know?

Kate: That faith changes and moves, grows and develops. (Fellow hostage) Ann Swift put that cross on the rock because she said, "You talk about it so much." I wasn't even conscious of it, but I do. We talk about the bedrock of faith, and the wise man who built his house upon the rock, and you don't realize how integrated those symbols become in your life, until someone quotes them back at you, I guess. Life isn't static; it grows, changes, and changes again, but you have to have a bedrock on which to found it. You have to know you're loved and God's grace is sufficient.



CROSS ON THE ROCK
An Easter 1980 gift made for Kate Koob by her roommate and best friend during captivity, Elizabeth "Ann" Swift. The wooden cross was affixed to the rock with chewing gum. Swift told Koob she spoke so often of God as a rock, and so the cross became the center of the women's worship area for the remainder of their captivity.



HOSTAGE CROSS
A "hostage cross," similar to one that was sent to Kate during her captivity

COME BACK WITH NO ANGER, BITTERNESS, OR HATRED.

When you came back to teach at Wartburg in 1999, how did your hostage experience come through in your courses?

Kate: (Religion professor) Kit Kleinhans asked me if I would be available to teach a May Term class, and that's how I started teaching a course on reconciliation, because that's something I had worked on so much. Turning to the scriptures of course happened after I got a Bible at Christmas time (during captivity in 1979). Luke 6 says, "Love your enemies." And it doesn't say it just once; a few verses later it says it again, "Love your enemies." It doesn't say, "Think about loving your enemies" or "Try to love your enemies" or "Do your best." It says, "Love your enemies." I said, "OK, God, this is something we've got to work on."

I had done a lot of work while I was in Iran, and I'm so grateful because I came back with no anger, bitterness, or hatred. ... If you carry that burden with you, you live under the power of those people who wanted to do you harm all the time. If you can find it in your heart to forgive them, they lose their power. Because there's a stronger power, and that's the power of God's grace and love. 🗉



Dr. Penni Pier, the Grant L. Price Endowed Department Chair in Journalism and Communication, is working with Koob to record an audio history of her experience in Iran. The college's social media will share the complete project so you can hear Koob's incredible story in her own words.



For Christmas 1979, the Iranian students gifted Kate Koob a Revised Standard Edition of the Holy Bible. Koob has recalled how meaningful to her this gift was, as it helped her to remember prayers and stories she was attempting to incorporate into her daily schedule. The Bible was a place that Koob used to store letters she received and items she wished to keep with her. Since she was moved from room to room often, and without warning, it was helpful to keep the most valuable items together and easily transportable.

ABOUT THE ARCHIVES

The Wartburg College Archives is housed on the third floor of Vogel Library and collects, preserves, and makes available materials that document the development, operation, people, activities, and history of the college. Items include administrative records, vintage photographs, college memorabilia, audio-video recordings, digitized versions of *The Trumpet* and *The Fortress*, and much more.

Though Koob's collection is the most extensive one held on campus, the Wartburg College Archives also boasts personal items from well-known college faculty members Grant Price,

Gustav Neumann and Otto Proehl, who was the college president when the campus was located in Clinton during its controversial closure and move to Waverly.

Vogel Library also houses the Archives of Iowa Broadcasting, which recently added more than 500 digitized recordings from WHO Radio that are now accessible at the AIB website, knightguides.wartburg.edu/aib.

A searchable catalog of materials and more information can be found at www.wartburg.edu/archives. Visitors may visit by appointment only by emailing vogel.archives@wartburg.edu.



Fintel's ideals for life of service took root at Wartburg

BY STEPHANIE ROBBINS BOEDING '99 PHOTOS SUBMITTED

A SERIES OF FORTUNATE EVENTS LINED UP TO LEAD A NEBRASKA FARM BOY TO WARTBURG:

winning an airplane in a lottery, stopping to meet a friend in Waverly, and a carefully placed college brochure. And for **Norm Fintel '51**, the ideals of equality and peace that had been planted in his childhood grew at Wartburg into a legacy that would reach around the world. He would eventually serve as an influential president of Roanoke College in Virginia for 14 years, but his lifelong values are what most inspired daughter Barbara Fintel Collins to write a book about her father in *Love, Norm: Dr. Norman Fintel on Equality and Courage in a World Calling for Change*.



Barbara Fintel Collins

In 2016, Fintel was diagnosed with stage four lung cancer. For the 91-year-old non-smoker, the news was a shock, but during a nine-month remission he was on a mission to expand the book of life lessons he had been writing for his nine grandchildren. To finish the book, father and daughter recorded their conversations about his life and lessons. She also dug through hundreds of documents that Fintel had written on the themes of humankind, peace, love, and equality. "The book became a message of hope for the world and appealing to everyone to examine your life, see what your place to stand is, what your values are, and are you serving other people," Collins said.

Taking a stand on equality started when Fintel was a 10-year-old farm boy in Nebraska. He noticed how skin color made a difference in how someone was treated, and it bothered him. Fintel would carry the deep significance of equality for all people with him throughout his life, and it would lead him to explore the work of the Lutheran church in Tanzania, where he lived in his later years.

A lottery prize and a carefully placed college brochure brought Fintel to Wartburg. "When he was 21, he entered a lottery in town and won an airplane and flying lessons," said Collins. Once, when he was flying to Wisconsin to visit family, former high school coach Wilmut Freuhling (who was teaching psychology at Wartburg) invited Fintel to stop. Norm got a tour of the



college, and Freuhling tucked an admissions brochure in the side of the plane. Within three months, Fintel traded in his plane for a Studebaker and drove from Nebraska to Waverly.

On campus, Fintel played three collegiate sports and was student body president as a senior. Tradition at that time required the campus leader to help recruit prospective students over the summer; Fintel's success prompted the college to offer him the job as director of admissions and public relations just before graduation. He had planned to attend seminary like half of his graduating class of 110. "I thought about it for about 10 minutes and decided I did not have the call to the ministry," Fintel recalls in the book. "I had graduated by noon on June 2, said goodbye to my family, and was in my new office preparing for work at 2 p.m."


In 1958, with his wife, Jo, and three young children, Fintel headed to the University of Wisconsin-Madison for graduate school. When several synods of the Lutheran church merged into the American Lutheran Church in 1961, Fintel was in the ALC's Twin Cities headquarters for several years, working with Lutheran colleges and universities. He earned his Ph.D. and in 1975 became president of Roanoke College.

The Wartburg connection continued in the next generation, too. His son, **Bill Fintel '79**, is now medical director at Carilion Clinic Hematology-Oncology in Roanoke, Virginia. Both father and son were recognized by Wartburg for their work: Norm received an honorary doctorate in 1985, and Bill received the college's Graven Award in 2002.



Bill Fintel '79

The book captures the essence of a man who had an airplane's view of humanity and used his life to help others see the world that way. After Fintel died in 2017, Collins finished the book, which is available for purchase on Amazon.

"He was such a humble man, that he never really shared his feelings — a stoic German, that deep Lutheran, reserved," Collins said of her father. "And the themes that ran through him since his childhood. I think he was too humble to think he had something big to say." 



Stabilizing force

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN PHOTOS SUBMITTED

*Only three hours separated the culmination of the foster care certification process and the call asking **Brian '93 and Renee Benzel '93 Bernhard** if they would temporarily accept a 28-day-old baby boy into their home. Two years later the little boy, Andy, became an official Bernhard. Shortly thereafter, armed with the knowledge from their own experiences and a desire to help others walking a similar path, the couple launched Foster Source, a nonprofit that works to make life easier for families by providing foster parents with the physical supplies and emotional nourishment they need to continue offering a safe space for children to land. ➤*

"We were already doing a lot of this work informally through our own networks, so this seemed like a good next step," Renee said.

Early in the Bernhards' fostering journey, the couple found a small group of other area foster parents they could speak freely with and who understood the unique challenges that come with fostering. The families, children included, would meet in the Bernhards' home where they could laugh, cry, and share recommendations for things like therapists, low-cost or free supplies, and dentists who accepted Medicaid.

"After that meeting, we always felt more nourished than we did attending our county-sanctioned support group, so we approached the county and asked if they would give us the same continuing education credit for our informal support group that they gave for attending their groups," Renee said. "They said 'yes,' and through that we just slowly started helping people find the resources they needed."

Their commitment to the cause was recognized in 2015 when they were named the Adams County Foster Parents of the Year. In 2016, they closed their home to new foster children — it was hard on their children to see other young people come and go — and launched Foster Source. For two years Renee operated the nonprofit out of their guest bedroom. More recently they rented space (for \$10 per year) in the Adams County Human Services Building. This building has been perfect for them because while children are meeting with their biological parents, the foster parent(s) can wander down the hall, chat with Renee or the other volunteers, pick up supplies, and if it's a really bad day, leave with a Starbucks gift card to give them a boost for the afternoon.

Larger events, like support groups and trainings, are usually held in area churches — the nonprofit serves all of Colorado — but unlike many county-sponsored events, Foster Source always provides free child care, which means that both foster parents can attend.

"Parents need these hours. They are required to do 20 hours of continuing education each year, but there are so few child care or respite options for foster parents that we would often attend the trainings alone," Renee said. "One of us would come home and feel nourished and ready to tackle the next week while the other is sitting in their secondary trauma."

These also are priceless opportunities for the foster children to connect with others who are walking the same path. Children who are struggling can see others in similar situations

enjoying the moment, and it gives them hope that happiness is possible for them, too.

"There is something special about getting up on a Saturday morning and watching those foster parents come in with their kids. It's a feeling that this is the right thing and exactly what we are supposed to be doing," said Brian, who is a senior practice group manager working on immigration issues for Ogeltree Deakins, one of the largest labor and employment law firms in the world. "How blessed are we that we can do this? This work is truly my calling."

Foster Source is also a resource for foster parents who need additional or replacement items in their home. Throughout the year, the organization collects extra diapers, strollers, car seats, and other essentials. When they don't have what is needed, the volunteers will take to their social networks to find it, whether that means hunting down a new mattress or a bunk bed frame.



foster source HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2019

15 *team members*

1,823 *volunteer child care hours*

34 *trainings*

3,099 *CLIENTS SERVED*

1,104 *foster parents*

1,995 *children*

SUPPORT PROVIDED




car seats: 63
weighted items: 149



mattresses: 74
beds and bunk beds: 48
miscellaneous items: 571

Sometimes, they even collect cash to help offset the cost of replacing flooring that has been urinated on — a common coping mechanism for some older trauma victims. Renee said these kinds of resources aren't available from the county and are often the reason that a family will close their home to additional foster children.

“For us, the difference is we have been in their shoes. We know how hard it is. When someone thanks us, we always say that they are the ones doing the hard work. We just want to walk with them to make it a little easier,” she said. “So far we have about 92 percent of our parents saying they will foster longer because of Foster Source, and that is what we need. Every time a child moves, that is another trauma. Our goal is to recruit, retain, and nourish our foster parents.” 



Read more about Foster Source and the Bernhards' time at Wartburg at www.wartburg.edu/foster-source.



Nina, Renee, Andy, Brian and Simon (l to r) Bernhard

10 SPECIAL EVENTS



Freezer meals, respite, sporting events, Kites for Kids

38 TRAINING/SUPPORT EVENTS

Trauma - Behaviors - Expert Panels - Therapy Options - Disorders - Self Care - LGBTQ - Support Group - Mental Health First Aid - The Indian Child Welfare Act - Attachment



KNIGHTS FALL RECAP



FOOTBALL EARNS THIRD-STRAIGHT CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

Wartburg football turned in a 10-2 overall record in 2019, going 7-1 during conference action to share the American Rivers Conference crown with Central College. The Knights earned an at-large bid to the NCAA Playoffs and fell in the second round at No. 7-ranked University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. Eleven Knights earned All-Conference honors, while offensive lineman **Nic Vetter '20** was named an AFCA First-team All-American. **Will Hasken '20** and **Kolin Schulte '20** were named Academic All-Americans.



WOMEN'S TENNIS HAS FOUR MEDALISTS AT CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Knights went 6-2 this fall during American Rivers Conference action. At the conference championships, two Wartburg doubles pairs received medalist honors, with **Hannah Fox '20** and **Madison Overmann '22** earning bronze in 'A' doubles along with **Olivia Phillips '23** and **Sydney Powers '21** earning a silver medal in 'B' doubles. Fox, Overmann, and **Lauren O'Brian '20** were selected to the All-Conference team.



KNIGHTS FIVE-PEAT AS CONFERENCE CHAMPS IN VOLLEYBALL

For the fifth time in as many years, the volleyball team won the regular-season conference championship title. Wartburg went undefeated at 8-0 during conference competition prior to falling to Dubuque in the A-R-C Championship. **Katie Foster '21** was named the Conference MVP and Defensive Player of the Year, and received AVCA All-Region Central Team and All-American Honorable Mention honors.



WOMEN'S SOCCER WINS A-R-C TOURNAMENT, HOSTS NCAA REGIONAL

The women's soccer team defeated Luther in the American Rivers Conference Tournament Championship to earn a third-straight trip to the NCAA Tournament. Wartburg hosted an NCAA regional and advanced to the round of 32 for the first time since 2015, falling to No. 8-ranked Pomona-Pitzer to finish the season with a 15-3-3 overall record. For the first time in program history, three Knights were named to the United Soccer Coaches All-Region First Team: **Sarah Campbell '22**, **Kate Luers '22**, and **Joy Smith '22**. In addition, Luers was named a Third-team All-American.



CROSS COUNTRY SWEEPS CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Wartburg men's and women's cross country teams both took first at the American Rivers Conference Championships in Dubuque for the first time since 2005. Also, **Carina Collet '21** and **Joe Freiburger '21** took first in their respective races, marking the first time since 2004 that Wartburg received individual MVP honors for both men and women. The Knights hosted the NCAA Central Region Championships for a second-straight season, with the men winning a back-to-back title while the women earned a runner-up finish. At the NCAA Championship meet in Louisville, Ky., Collet and Freiburger each earned All-American finishes.



WOMEN'S GOLF TAKES SECOND AT CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Wartburg wrapped up its fall season in Ames at the American Rivers Conference Championships. The Knights took second at the 54-hole stroke play tournament, while **Katie Choate '21** took sixth place to earn All-Conference laurels.



WARTBURG LEADS WAY WITH 75 FALL ACADEMIC ALL-CONFERENCE HONOREES

Seventy-five Wartburg fall sport student-athletes earned Academic All-Conference honors, more than any other school in the American Rivers 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.



FIVE KNIGHTS RECEIVE COSIDA ACADEMIC ALL-DISTRICT AWARDS

A trio from football — **Luke Grzech '21**, **Will Hasken '20**, and **Kolin Schulte '20** — along with a pair from volleyball — **Kylie Bildstein '21** and **Sydney Rottinghaus '21** — were named Academic All-District. The group of five Knights combined for an average GPA of 3.84. The Academic All-District Teams, selected by College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA), recognize the nation's top student-athletes for their combined performances on the field and in the classroom.

TWO SENIORS EARN ALL-CONFERENCE HONORS IN MEN'S SOCCER

The Knights qualified for the American Rivers Conference Tournament for the 19th-straight season, but were eliminated in the first round at Simpson College. **Riley Close '20** and **Nathan Feiner '20** were both honored on the All-Conference team.



New online ESL endorsement designed for current teachers

AS THE DEMAND FOR EDUCATORS TRAINED TO TEACH ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE RISES ACROSS THE COUNTRY, Wartburg College is stepping up to help fill the shortage without requiring teachers to leave their classroom.

Beginning in summer 2020, the college will begin offering an English as a Second Language (PK-12) Endorsement through a 12-month online program. The endorsement already is offered to current Wartburg students.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, 32 states, as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, have reported shortages in ESL educators.

“New teachers graduating with this endorsement will have a competitive edge in the job market, and current teachers will likely find themselves more in demand,” said Stephanie TeKippe, Department of Education co-chair. “Some schools are even signing increased compensation bonuses for ESL-endorsed teachers.”

Building on the success of the existing program, the new endorsement will include six courses in intercultural communication, language development, sociolinguistics, and bilingual education and the structure of English, as well as assessment, methods, and pedagogy.

“This program is an opportunity to reduce an area of teacher shortage and serve a population that is not currently being served,” said Maryam Rod Szabo, assistant professor of education and one of the online instructors.

According to the Iowa Department of Education, English learners are among the fastest-growing populations in schools and comprise about 6 percent of the student population in Iowa and 10 percent nationwide. These students bring both linguistic and cultural assets to their districts, but regularly experience significant gaps in achievement compared to their peers.

Starr Covington '19 was one of the first Wartburg students to earn an ESL endorsement. She currently teaches ELL and STEM at Rogers Elementary in the Marshalltown Community School District.

“I love learning about different languages, and I think that is what Wartburg is all about. I think these classes should be required for every teacher,” she said. “When I had my first field experience with high school students, I got to see the difference an ESL teacher can make for their students.”



Stephanie TeKippe

Knight

1960

RON BECKMAN, Westminster, Colo., is the Rocky Mountain Synod fundraising campaign director.

1970

Golden Knights Class Reunion, May 22-24

The Rev. **FRANK PHILIPP**, Aurora, Colo., retired after 40 years of ministry serving in parish and college ministry, intentional interim work, and serving as a board-certified hospital chaplain.

1972

DAN GRINSTEAD, Iowa City, is a contributor to the book *Combat Social Work* to be published in early 2020. His chapter is titled "Social Work at Forward Operating Base Mehtar Lam, Afghanistan."

1975

JANET ROBINSON REINERS, Council Bluffs, retired in 2016 as chief human resources officer from Council Bluffs schools.

1977

BETH NELSON CHASE, Mt. Morris, Ill., is the executive director of international nonprofit Bright Stars of Bethlehem.

NANCY PETERSON, Rochester, N.Y., is the controller and human resources manager for Cognivue, Inc.

1979

SANDRA POOCK WELLS, Ocala, Fla., sings with the Ocala Symphony Orchestra Chorus.

1980

GARY ZITTERGRUEN, Waverly, retired from the Benton Community School District after 34 years. He served as superintendent for 20 years and was in Iowa education for 39 years.

1981

SANDY BUHROW, Washington, retired after teaching middle school math for 34 years.

KEVIN ROBB, Delhi, retired after 17 years as an assistant professor at Upper Iowa University in the exercise and sports studies program, and was the first department chair. He retired from the U.S. Army in 2017 with the rank of master sergeant with over 27 years of service.

S in the News



Stay Connected

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

1982

RANDALL SCHROEDER, Coralville, is the director of the Williamsburg Public Library.

1983

CHERYL BRUST CRANMER, Godfrey, Ill., celebrated 20 years at Boeing.

RUSS NORDMAN, Council Bluffs, is a full professor of media arts and coordinator for art and art history at the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

1990

ROHIT ROY, Mont Saint Hilaire, Quebec, is director of international trade for organic grains and pulses at Provalcid, Inc.

ERIK RUSSELL, Woodburn, Ind., is the global co-chair of Conduent's Differently Abled Impact Group.

1991

JOEL FENTON, Urbandale, was awarded the Roxanne Conlin Public Justice Award for his leadership of the Amicus Appellate Committee by the Iowa Association for Justice. Fenton serves on the board of directors of IAJ and practices law in West Des Moines.

1992

SUZANNE YUNKER MONTGOMERY, Lino Lakes, Minn., is an infant teacher at the Bethel University Child Development Center.

1993

ALEXIS OBERDORFER, West St. Paul, Minn., is president of Children's Home Society of Minnesota and associate vice president of adoption and foster care at Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota.

1994

The Rev. **ERIKA BREDDIN**, Cedar Falls, is designated pastor at First Congregational United Church of Christ, Mason City.

JILL ZIETLOW PHILBY, Sully, retired after 23 years of teaching elementary school and is an independent certified health coach.

1995

DANIEL SCHARNHORST, Wautoma, Wis., is executive director of Mt. Morris Camp and Retreat Center.

1996

CARLA MANCERA STRACHAN, Vacaville, Calif., is a senior health and safety specialist at Marathon Petroleum and received her 15-year recognition award. She also volunteers as a Girl Scout leader and received the Volunteer of Excellence award.

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

KRISTINA TRESCH WILDE, Osage, is a preschool teacher at St. Paul's Lutheran School, Waverly.

1998

MICHAEL GRAHAM, Iowa City, earned Certified Executive Chef certification through the American Culinary Federation.

1999

JOSEPH CARTER, Emmetsburg, is superintendent of the Algona Community School District.

EDUARDO EHAPO, Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, owns a company providing engineering and business support services.

LUCY COLLINS EVANS, Waterloo, retired in 2018 as a principal in the Waterloo Community School District.

Dr. **ANDREW GREEN**, Pella, published the book *From the Iowa Caucuses to the White House: Understanding Donald Trump's 2016 Electoral Victory in Iowa*.

Dr. **AMANDA HAES**, Iowa City, is a full professor in the chemistry department at the University of Iowa.

MARIAH HURLEY, Cedar Rapids, is manager of client operation for FG Network Better.

KELLY SCOTT KUYPER, Madisonville, La., is a senior account manager for STERIS IMS and a recipient of the President's Club award and distinguished Circle of Excellence award in 2019.

2000

The Rev. **ADAM ARENDS**, Ettrick, Wis., earned a degree from United Lutheran Seminary in May and was ordained June 23. He is pastor at North Beaver Creek Lutheran Church.

BRIAN COLE and Emily Cox, Sioux City, were married Sept. 14. Brian is a band teacher at Sioux City North High School.

Ryan and **BRITTA MONSON FISHER**, Arvada, Colo., announce the birth of Adele Sierra, Oct. 28, 2018. She joins Kiri, 6 and Brecon, 4. Britta is the executive director of Denver's newly formed Department of Housing Stability.

JUSTIN GALBRAITH, Reinbeck, earned master's degrees in educational leadership and administration.

Rodney and **JAIMIE EDE HESTERBERG**, Windsor Heights, announce the adoption of Hailey Raelynn in October 2017. She joins Hannah Lee, 4.

2001

Paul and **SARA MCCLURE ROBERTS**, Avon, Colo., announce the birth of Mae, May 21. She joins Roy, 2. Sara is director of marketing and online media for Slifer, Smith and Frampton Real Estate.

SARAH SPELTZ, Boston, Mass., is director of individual giving and operations at Boston University School of Public Health.

MICHAEL TRETTIN, West Des Moines, is director of audit services at LWBJ.

2002

HEIDI TIEDT BIRD, Clarinda, earned a master's degree in professional school counseling from Buena Vista University and is a school counselor.

Travis and **KATIE SHANNON FUNSETH**, Ankeny, announce the birth of Kiara, July 10. She joins Felicity, 5, Gianna, 4, and Fulton, 1.

2004

KATIE KIRKLE CORY, Wheeling, Ill., is a technology portfolio manager at W.W. Grainger.

Josh and **TEMPA HAINES HUFFMAN**, Valley Center, Kan., announce the birth of Emery Kate, Jan. 29, 2019.

CHRIS KISTLER, Cedar Rapids, is an associate director of engineering at Collins Aerospace.

MATT and **CASSIE DEARBORN TOWNSLEY**, Waverly, announce the birth of Keely Marie, Dec. 27, 2018.

2005

EMILY CARSON, Rochester, Minn., authored the book *Holy Everything – Reflections on the Spirituality of Daily Life*.

JON HINES, Coralville, is a communications specialist with the city of Coralville.

RYAN HOLDEN, Waverly, is president of Zuidberg North America, Cedar Falls.

Kristofer Kiel and **KRYSTAL PHILLIPS**, St. Charles, Mo., were married May 25.

2006

Allen and **ASHLEY JESSICK BOHNSTENGEL**, Omaha, Neb., announce the birth of Aiden Allen, March 21, 2019. He joins Aubrey, 3.

Kevin and **STEFFANIE TOMLINSON BONNSTETTER**, Knoxville, announce the birth of Klay Joseph, May 17. He joins Kade William, 3.

JESSE GAVIN, Dubuque, is the marketing manager for the Five Flags Center.

JENNIFER MUHL HEITLAND, Bainbridge Island, Wash., earned a master's degree at Western Governors University and is the accounting manager at iClick, Seattle.

NAT JUCHEMS, Minneapolis, Minn., launched Green Meadow Memorials, providing personalized cremation urns.

Scott and **KATE HUNT VAN DAELE**, Duluth, Minn., announce the birth of Colton, Nov. 19, 2018. Kate is a public information officer for the city of Duluth.

2007

The Rev. Dr. **JEANETTE BIDNE**, Blue Earth, Minn., earned a Doctor of Ministry in biblical preaching from Luther Seminary, St. Paul, and serves as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church.

LUCY JOSEPH, Lake Worth, Fla., is a housing and community development coordinator for the city of West Palm Beach.

KATIEJO KUHENS, Mankato, Minn., is the coordinator of sports information at Bethany Lutheran College.

SHEENA TREANOR MAHAN, Waukee, is vice president of human resources at NCMIC Group, Inc.

Bryan and **AMY NEWTON MAURER**, Marion, announce the birth of Emily Marie, Oct. 6. She joins Hannah, 6.

LISAMARIE NIELSEN ODEEN, Osage, is the program manager at Habitat for Humanity of North Central Iowa, Mason City.

ANNINA RUPE, Indianapolis, Ind., is an environmental manager in geographic information system at the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

CAYLA BARESEL SCHNEIDER, Asbury, is a development officer at Loras College, Dubuque.

Jason and **KATIE REYES STEEGE**, Waverly, announce the birth of Chase Lyle, April 23. He joins Adalena Kay, 1.

Nathan and **HEIDI PORTER WILEY**, Madison, Wis., announce the birth of Willow, July 23, 2018. She joins Oliver, 2. They lived in the Netherlands, then in 2017 were missionaries in the Congo. Heidi is a birth doula.

2008

The Rev. **KATHERINE CHULLINO**, Longmont, Colo., is senior pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

Rashad Hunt and **LISA NOWELS**, Waverly, were married May 18.

Loren Corkery and Dr. **JESSICA SAUNDERS**, Jesup, announce the birth of Celeste Kari Kaye, Sept. 3.

2009

AARON BARTHOLMEY and **ALLISON ENGEL '10**, Colfax, were married March 19, 2019. Aaron is a junior high math teacher at Colfax-Mingo Community Schools. Allison is a TAG teacher at Baxter Community Schools.

John C. Fuller III and **MARGARET OLIVER FULLER**, Ogden, announce the birth of Cora Jane, June 24. She joins John, 1.

MATT LANGSTON, Seattle, Wash., is a laboratory director at Fremont Analytical, Inc.

Michael and **ABBY MOENK MESSERICH**, DeWitt, announce the birth of Carter Lee, May 4. He joins Brady Michael, 1.

EMILY VAN OOSBREE WEBB, Des Moines, was named among the *Business Record's* 40 Under 40 in Des Moines and among the Inspiring Women of Iowa from the Girl Scouts of Greater Iowa.

Jordan and **ALISHA HOFFMANN WILDERMUTH**, Elgin, Ill., announce the birth of Crosby Phillip, Aug. 14. He joins Emory, 4.

2010

VICTORIA BRESHEARS, Cedar Park, Texas, is a risk and fraud analyst for Indeed, Austin.

Jon and **MALLORY STOCKS COFFMAN**, Altoona, announce the birth of twins Asher and Everett, July 11. They join Scarlett, 8.

ANDREW and **KRISTEN MACDONALD KAHLER**, Waverly, announce the birth of Violet Ann, March 18. She joins sisters Adeline and Aurora, 2.

JOSH MONIZ, Cedar Park, Texas, is a senior reporter for the Hill Country News.

ABHAY NADIPURAM, Des Moines, was elected to the Iowa Law School Foundation Board.

2011

Mitchell and **AMANDA GAHLER FELTMANN**, Cologne, Minn., announce the birth of Coral June, Aug. 7. She joins Juniper Ann, 1.

Josh and **SHANNA SEILER SAVAGEAU**, Woodbury, Minn., announce the birth of Oden Anthony, May 20.

JESSICA SCHENK, St. Louis, Mo., is an association funding manager for Gateway Region YWCA.

JACK STOUT, Apple Valley, Minn., is website manager for Luther Automotive Group.

2012

Patrick and **CLAIRE TRAYNOR BAKER**, Mankato, Minn., announce the birth of Eliza Mae, March 27, 2019.

Eric Tubbs and **MACKENZIE BENSON**, West Des Moines, were married in July 2017. MacKenzie is a lawyer with the U.S. Attorney's Office.

DREW FLESCH, Greer, S.C., is SMB and eCommerce marketing coordinator at Gordian.

Schuyler Radke and **JORDAN KANE**, Aurelia, were married June 8.

PAIGE KLOSTERMANN, Albuquerque, N.M., is the assistant athletic director of development at the University of New Mexico.

EMILY KUENNEN, Parkville, Mo., is an assistant manager at QuickTrip, Kansas City division.

Travis Boots and **KAYLA KUENNEN**, Waukee, were married Sept. 7.

TRENT and **CHELSEA BACKER RASMUSSEN**, New Richmond, Wis., announce the birth of Grace Trena, Aug. 30. She joins Sadie, 2. Trent is an educational consultant with the Cooperative Educational Service Agency #11, Turtle Lake.

Adam and **AMY BACKER ROEPKE**, Cedar Rapids, announce the birth of Harrison James, Aug. 22.

Benjamin Arnold and **MALYNDA RYAN**, Cedar Falls, were married July 20.

ZAKARY STEIB, West Des Moines, is a recruitment services coordinator with DH&I.

AMANDA WOODIN, West Des Moines, is a reports developer at Wells Fargo.

2013

Andrew and **KRISTIN HELLE BUELOW**, Dubuque, announce the birth of Hallie Mae, Jan. 5, 2019.

EMILY DAHLE, Reading, England, is a client support manager for Sovos Compliance in Farnborough, UK.

REBECCA MARION-FLESCH, Greer, S.C., is a career adviser at Furman University.

David Baker and **HALLIE LEHMAN**, Joplin, Mo., were married May 2019. Hallie completed a residency in otolaryngology/facial plastic surgery and fellowship in otology/neurotology at the Paparella Ear, Head and Neck Institute, Minneapolis, Minn.

Chris Falkenrath and **HOLLIS HANSON-POLLOCK**, Mingo, were married May 18.

Brad and **STACEY KNOLL REINTS**, Shell Rock, announce the birth of Haley, June 29. She joins Jennifer, 2.

JAY SODERBERG, Shenandoah, was awarded the 2018 Corner Conference Baseball Coach of the Year.

SARA SPEVACEK, Mound, Minn., is a professional dog trainer and owner of Adventure is Barking, providing professional dog training and social events in the Twin Cities.

AUDREY WEIDMAN, Des Moines, is a demand generation specialist at Dwoila.

2014

ADAM BEST, West Des Moines, is a data engineer at Dwoila.

EMILY BELL, Nora Springs, is a music teacher in Korea. She previously taught in Kuwait.

MIRANDA FADDEN, Rapid City, S.D., is a captain in the United States Air Force.

EMILY HOGAN and **ELLA NEWELL '16**, Lincoln, Neb., were married on Aug. 3. Emily is the operations and budget manager for the Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs.

CODY and **ELLEN SCHWARZ LUEBKEN**, Davenport, announce the birth of Waverly Elizabeth, July 25.

EMILY PREUSSNER, Fayette, is associate athletic director for compliance and business affairs in athletics at Upper Iowa University.

ROSS RYAN and **SARAH BORAAS**, Pleasant Hill, were married Nov. 12, 2016.

AARON SACKETT, Fitchburg, Wis., is a pharmacist at UnityPoint Health-Meriter Hospital, Madison.

Steven Ochs and **KELLY SMITH**, North Liberty, were married Sept. 1.

TANNER WENGER, Washington, is a Strat II behavior teacher at Lincoln Elementary school.

2015

FELICIA FINLEY, Austin, Minn., is a seventh-grade math teacher at Ellis Middle School.

Dr. **ALISON FRAEHLICH**, Davenport, earned a Doctor of Medicine from the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine and is a resident physician in family medicine at Genesis Health System.

SAMANTHA HEINEN HILLIER, Wauke, works at Amazon.

MEGAN JORGENSEN, Clear Lake, is a naturalist at Washington County Conservation, Ainsworth.

Justin Lane and **ANDREA LOHF**, Iowa City, were married May 18.

JACOB MARTIN, Sayville, N.Y., earned a master's degree in political science at Iowa State University and is a doctoral student in political science at Stony Brook University.

NICOLE MITTELSTADT, Las Vegas, Nev., is an account supervisor at MGM Resorts International.

HAILEE REIST, Cedar Rapids, is an orthopaedic surgical resident at the University of Vermont Medical Center.

AMANDA RINIKER, Winthrop, is a chiropractic assistant at Revive Family Chiropractic, Marion.

NATASHA WILLEY, Des Moines, is a quality control specialist at Mittera.

2016

BRAXTON CHICHELLY and **MOLLY SCHARES**, Elk Run Heights, were married June 22.

JESSICA GRANT, Knoxville, Tenn., is a marketing assistant at Blackberry Farm, a five-star Relais & Châteaux resort.

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

MELODY JEFITA, Houston, Texas, earned a master's degree in accounting from Prairie View A&M University. She is an associate with BDO USA.

LAUREN LARSON, Owatonna, Minn., is a graduate student in biology studying duck migration ecology at Western Illinois University.

ANNA MALLEN, Johnston, earned a law degree from Drake University and is an associate attorney at Whitfield & Eddy, P.L.C.

ALIJON NG, Malaysia, is a graduate student in counseling.

Matthew Millar and **KAYLA POLSON**, Waterloo, were married Sept. 28.

MITCHELL and **MICAELA FORSYTH RAHM**, Cedar Falls, announce the birth of Bishop Noel, April 19. Micaela earned a Master of Science in nursing – family nurse practitioner at Allen College and is a nurse practitioner at Cedar Valley Cardiology.

SHANNON STEWART, New Hampton, is a counselor at New Hampton High School.

ELIZABETH TRIZZINO, Bettendorf, is a physician assistant at ORA Orthopedics.

ELLIOT STERN '17 and **MACKENZIE WALSH**, Des Moines, were married June 22.

MARK WEBER and **TORI SOAT**, Johnston, were married May 25.

KINSEY WOHLERS, Coralville, earned a Master of Social Work in 2018 and is a substance abuse counselor.

2017

KIVILCIM ARDA DELIBAS, Estonia, is a verification specialist at Veriff and a graduate student at the University of Tartu.

ROCHELLE BEARDSLEY, Peosta, is the head women's golf coach at Clarke University, a graduate student in sports management at the University of Dubuque, and a graduate assistant in the business department.

NOLAN BOYD and **VICTORIA SPELTZ '19**, New Hampton, were married July 20.

RILEY COLE, Dubuque, is a marketing communication specialist at UnityPoint Health-Finley Hospital.

DANI GORDON, Waverly, is the assistant director of Alumni and Parent Relations at Wartburg College.

ALYSSA KOZAK, Huntington, W.V., is the broadcast video production manager at Marshall University.

CARLY KUHTZ, Cupertino, Calif., is a crisis response intelligence analyst at Pinkerton, Menlo Park.

ABIGAIL SCHAPER, Rochester Minn., earned a Master of Social Work and is an oncology social worker at Mayo clinic.

2018

PETER BRENNAN, Iowa City, is a graduate student at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine.

KELLY BROCKWAY, Denver, is a graduate student in athletic training at the University of Northern Iowa.

STEPHANIE DUNBAR, Waterloo, is a behavior strategist at Harmony House and a graduate student in applied behavior analysis at Capella University.

TYLER FRENCH, Cumming, works in promotions and sports play-by-play at Cumulus Media, Des Moines.

GRANT GINGERICH, Sherrard, Ill., is a medical student at the University of Illinois College of Medicine, Peoria.

CALEB HANSEN and **TRICIA WALZ**, Denver, Colo., were married May 25. Caleb is a graduate student in medicine at Regis University, and Tricia is a labor and delivery nurse at Lutheran Medical Center.

ALEXIS KEMP, Marion, works in marketing at Ahmann Companies, Hiawatha.

BETH MALLON, Davenport, is a graduate student in school counseling at the University of Northern Iowa.

T.J. Hansel and **MEGAN OFFERMAN**, Manchester, were married in June. Megan is assistant recreation director at the Good Neighbor Home.

DILLON RADEMAKER, Greene, is a technical sales representative at Nalco Water, an Ecolab Company.

ASHLEY REYNOLDS, St. Cloud, Minn., is a senior project and program associate at Wolters Kluwer – Compliance Solutions. She is choreographer for the Sumner-Fredericksburg (Iowa) show choir.

ALEXA SCHMITZ, Iowa City, is a graduate student in medicine at the University of Iowa.

ALEX STOFFREGEN, Greencastle, Ind., is a marketing and operations coordinator at French Knot, Lafayette.

AMANDA WRIGHT, La Crescent, Minn., is a medical student at Medical College of Wisconsin-Central Wisconsin.

2019

NICOLE ADAIR, Reinbeck, is a management trainee at Enterprise Holdings, Shawnee, Kan.

MINORI AIKAWA, Tokyo, Japan, is in optional practical training with Central Boeki Calif. Ltd., Los Angeles.

ALEX BARZ, La Porte City, is a staff accountant with Terex, Waverly.

DRAGOSLAVA BARZUT, Waverly, is a safe housing advocate with Friends of the Family.

HANNAH BLASKE, Bettendorf, is a graduate student in physical therapy at St. Ambrose University, Davenport.

ALEXIS BODZIOCH, Forest City, is the marketing director at Winn-Worth Betco, Lake Mills.

ADRIENNE BOETTGER, Cedar Falls, is a high school math teacher at Waterloo Christian school.

EMMA BOWMAN, Des Moines, is a graduate student in social work at the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minn.

SAMANTHA BRAUNDMEIER, Cedar Falls, is a youth specialist at Lutheran Services of Iowa – Bremwood Campus, Waverly.

AMBER BROCKMAN, Oskaloosa, is a PK-12 vocal music teacher at West Monona Community School District, Onawa.

MEGAN COWHERD, Bettendorf, is in the management development program at GEICO, North Liberty.

COURTNEY DURBALA, Cedar Falls, is a high school French teacher at Norwalk High School.

SAMUEL ENGELKEN, Manchester, is a graphics and multimedia designer with the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

MORGAN FINCH, Grinnell, is a recruiter for Aerotek, Minneapolis, Minn.

ELIZABETH FORBES, Centennial, Colo., is a hostess at Comedy Works, Greenwood Village, Colo.

EMILY GRAV, Austin, Minn., is an intern at CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP, Minneapolis, Minn.

TAYLOR GUTHRIE, Hopkinton, is a student in the paramedic program at Northeast Iowa Community College, Peosta.

SAMANTHA HALLGREN, Arden Hills, Mich., is a music therapist at Healing Rhythms, Rochester, Minn.

ANDREW HART, Altoona, is an auditor at Nolte, Cornman & Johnson P.C., Newton.

ABRAM HERNANDEZ, Mesa, Ariz., is a chemist at Analysis Now!

MARY KATE HINES, Davenport, is a 5-12 band teacher at Newman Catholic, Mason City.

TREY HOOKHAM, Dysart, is an associate software engineer at SciPlay, Cedar Falls.

JAKE HUNTLEY, Dodge Center, Minn., is a vocal music teacher in the Bellevue Community School District.

JILLIAN HUSER, Waverly, is a marketing coordinator at Prestige Global Meeting Source, Minneapolis.

DANIEL INZUNZA, Phoenix, is an English teacher volunteer with the Peace Corps, Ulanbataar, Mongolia.

COLIN JACOBS, Rochester, Minn., is a team member at Thesis Beer Project.

BENJAMIN JOHNSON, Waverly, is an inside sales representative at Ryerson, Minneapolis.

ELIZABETH JOHNSON, Faith, S.D., is a mental health practitioner at Nystrom & Associates, Ltd., Minneapolis.

KAYLA JOHNSTON, Shawnee, Kan., is an admissions representative at Grantham University, Lenexa.

PATRICK JONES, Colorado Springs, Colo., is a graduate student in pre-dentistry at the University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine.

CAMDEN KICKBUSH, Reinbeck, is a public accountant at Bowman and Miller, P.C., Marshalltown.

ALEXIS KUEHL, Des Moines, is a health and wellness assistant at UnityPoint.

BRETT LADOUX, Burnsville, Minn., is a mechanical engineer at BTD Manufacturing, Lakeville.

CODY LAURITSEN, Forest City, is a graduate student in infectious diseases and immunology at Washington State University, Pullman, Wash.

ETHAN LEMKE, Clinton, is a graduate student in medicine at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine.

KATHRYN LINTHICUM, Urbandale, is a missionary with ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission, Australia.

ELIZABETH LYKE, Geneva, Ill., is a music therapy intern at VNA Home Health and Hospice, Vero Beach, Fla.

SHAELYN MCENANY, Independence, is a nursing student in the accelerated nursing program at Allen College, Waterloo.

JAKEENA MCKAY, Decorah, is coordinator of diversity recruitment at Luther College.

EMILY MEEKER, Altoona, is a graduate student in clinical mental health counseling at the University of Northern Iowa.

MITCHELL MOHLIS, Denver, is a design engineer at Universal Industries, Cedar Falls.

JON MOHWINKLE, Aplington, is a sports broadcaster at KNIA-KRLS, Knoxville.

SABAH MUNIR, Waverly, is a graduate student in biostatistics at Emory University, Atlanta, Ga.

GRETA NELSON, Northfield, Minn., is a high school vocal music teacher at Webster City High School.

BRYCE ORIGER, Milford, is a land and water steward at Green Iowa AmeriCorps.

CARIA PHILGREEN, Manchester, is a second-grade teacher at Andrew Community School.

BRANDON PRINE, Waverly, is a sales associate at Fastenal, Cedar Falls.

SAMANTHA RIESE, Zearing, is a K-5 general music and beginning band teacher in the Pocahontas Area Community School District.

ELIZABETH ROBY-MIKLUS, Ankeny, is a sixth-grade literacy teacher in the Ballard Community School District.

AMBER ROTTINGHAUS, Des Moines, is a content development coordinator at Iowa Economic Development Authority.

CLAIRE SCHROEDER, Rock Island, Ill., is a fourth-grade teacher at Blanche Daughtrey Elementary, Bradenton.

KAYLEY SHOEN, Waverly, is a manager trainee at Professional Swine Corporation, Truman, Ill.

HEATHER STRIKE, Prophetstown, Ill., works in accounting and compliance at Farmer's National Bank.

RACHEL STUCKEY, Waukee, is a special education teacher at Des Moines Public Schools.

MALLORY SWIGART, Waukee, is a music therapy intern at Blank Children's Hospital, Des Moines.

OLIVIA TANGREN, Shakopee, Minn., is an educational mental health worker at Mount Saint Vincent, Denver, Colo.

ALISHA UNGS, Dubuque, is a graduate student at Wartburg Theological Seminary.

SARAH YOTTER, Mendota Heights, Minn., is an instrumental band teacher at ISD 640 Wabasso Public Schools.

2020

TAHJAE HANDY, Chicago, is a graduate student in clinical mental health counseling at Adler University.

IN MEMORIAM



1941

Rachel Brownson Hoth, Guttenberg, died Sept. 16, 2018. She was an elementary teacher and a farmer.

1942

Ruth Finck Schabacker, Waverly, died Oct. 8. She was an elementary teacher for 42 years, retiring from Waverly-Shell Rock schools after 38 years.

1944

Phyllis Henn Holt, Independence, died July 13. She was a teacher for over 30 years and later worked for the state of Iowa before retiring in 1983.

Lorraine Thorson Krieger, Spirit Lake, died June 3. She was an elementary teacher for 32 years.

1946

Richard Vagts, Alleman, died Oct. 4. A U.S. Army veteran who served in the Korean War, he was a banker for 34 years in West Union.

1948

Clara Gross Trapp, Carmel, Ind., died June 20. She was a homemaker, Sunday school teacher, and volunteer in several service organizations.

1949

Edward Droste, Largo, Fla., died May 22. A U.S. Army veteran who served in WWII, he earned a degree from Iowa State University and was a teacher and coach at New Hampton High School. He later worked at a publishing company where he was president and co-owner before retiring in 1986. He served 12 years on the Wartburg Alumni Board and was awarded the Wartburg Alumni Citation in 2007.

June Carroll Weber, Georgetown, Texas, died June 27. She worked as a chemist and then became a homemaker. She co-founded a food pantry and clothing shop in Cincinnati, Ohio. She is survived by her husband, **Cornelius Weber '52**.

1950

Velida Bruns, Titonka, died Nov. 9. She was a teacher in the Titonka and Britt school systems and was active as a volunteer in her church and community.

Fredrick Krueger, Kelso, Wash., died Feb. 15.

The Rev. Adam Meidinger, Mesa, Ariz., died Jan. 23, 2019. He earned a Doctor of Divinity degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and was ordained in 1953. He served congregations in North Dakota, South Dakota, Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin before his retirement in 1994.

Gaylis Borchardt Tenold, Northwood, died Aug. 4. She was a teacher and later an assistant librarian for 25 years.

1951

Wilma Reinking Buhr, Sumner, died Sept. 24.

The Rev. Otto Zwanziger, Cedar Rapids, died July 2. He earned a doctorate in theology from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and was ordained in 1955. He served congregations in Iowa and Michigan before retiring in 1994.

1952

Vivian McNeil Bitner, Wheatland, died Nov. 8, 2018. She was a school secretary for Durant schools until her retirement.

Howard Campbell, New Richmond, Wis., died Aug. 13. He served in the U.S. Navy Reserves and went on to work in technical and management positions with Sentry Insurance until his retirement in 1991.

Roger Kregel, Mankato, Minn., died Aug. 5. He was a Jehovah's Witness minister, truck driver, and English teacher. He also worked for the Mankato water department and retired from Mankato State University after 20 years.

The Rev. Edwin Roleder, Lincoln, Neb., died July 8. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and served congregations in Oregon, Colorado, and Nebraska. He went on to serve as director of development for retirement homes in Nebraska and Washington until retiring in 1998. He is survived by his wife, **Bonnie Balke Roleder '53**.

1953

Loraine "Lori" Hillmann McDermott, Baxter, Minn., died Sept. 20. She was a paraprofessional at the Pequot Lakes School District until her retirement.

1954

Theodore Fritschel, Centennial, Colo., died July 1. He earned a degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and went on to earn a doctorate from the University of Hamburg, Germany. He was a pastor in Shawnee Mission, Kan., and later served as a Lutheran campus pastor at the University of Hawaii for 18 years and the University of Iowa for 12 years before retiring. He was inducted into the Wartburg Athletic Hall of Fame in 2007.

John Hiltner Jr., Bowling Green, Ohio, died March 9. He earned a doctorate in geography from Northwestern University. He was a professor at Bowling Green State University, where he started the gerontology program.

1955

The Rev. Frederick Gonnerman, Northfield, Minn., died Aug. 28. He earned a degree from Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio, and served congregations in Ohio. He established the Office of Information Services at St. Olaf College and Luther Seminary's Office of Public Relations, retiring in 1998. During his career he received numerous awards, including a Wartburg College Alumni Citation.

The Rev. William Rosenow, Broadway, Va., died Nov. 2. He was an ordained pastor serving congregations in South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, New Jersey, Virginia, Florida, and West Virginia for 60 years. He is survived by his wife, **Janice Sorenson Rosenow '54**.

1956

Joyce Bielenberg Schwartz, Emeryville, Calif., died Sept. 21, 2017. She was a teacher and later a school administrator.

1957

Harry Button, Rock Island, Ill., died Aug. 5. A U.S. Army veteran, he worked at KFJB radio in Marshalltown and went on to work for chambers of commerce in Iowa, Illinois, and Ohio before his retirement in 1998.

Kenneth Diemer, Sumner, died Sept. 25. He was a farmer.

Grace Meyer Johansen, Brandon, S.D., died July 22. She was a homemaker.

Clayton Ketterling, Palm Bay, Fla., died Jan. 19. He earned a master's degree in science from South Dakota State University, Brookings, and served in multiple roles at several colleges. He later went on to become vice president of Dakota Bake N Serve, Inc. He was then senior vice president of development at the national headquarters for Fellowship of Christian Athletes until his retirement in 1997.

The Rev. Rudolph Schildbach, Sheboygan, Wis., died June 8. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio. He was ordained in 1961 and served churches in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Ohio.

1958

Dale Duel, Chicago, Ill., died Aug. 31.

Harvey Groskreutz, New Albany, Ind., died Oct. 30. He earned a master's degree in physics from the University of Iowa and his doctorate degree in quantum physics from the University of Louisville. He worked as a physics professor at several colleges for many years.

Wendell Nolting, Cedar Falls, died June 3. A U.S. Army veteran, he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Northern Iowa and an associate's degree in golf horticulture from Hawkeye Community College, Waterloo. He worked for the Iowa Department of Corrections and later the Byrnes Park Golf Course and the Waterloo school system.

1959

Velda Peters Brown, North Aurora, Ill., died June 5. She is survived by her husband, **Verland Brown '59**.

Kenneth Lauterbach, St. Peters, Mo., died July 20. He worked in human resources.

1960

Mardella Buhr, Pueblo, Colo., died Oct. 26. She earned a master's degree from the University of Northern Colorado and went on to teach in Michigan and Colorado.

The Rev. Bryn Carlson, Allouez, Wis., died July 31. He earned a degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and was a prison chaplain and later became chief of chaplains for the Bureau of Prisons in Washington, D.C. He served in the National Guard and Army Reserves for 35 years.

Larry Raper, Bridgewater, died June 18. He owned a lawn mower sales and service business, retiring in 2013.

Melvin Walker, Ontario, Calif., died May 2, 2017. He was a salesman.

1961

Marilyn Miller Jepsen, Manson, died Aug. 4. She was a cook and later the food service director in the Manson school district for 28 years.

Evelyn Helms Lee, New Richland, Minn., died Oct. 28. She was a regional parish worker for the Board of American Missions of the American Lutheran Church and farmed with her husband.

David Piper, Strasburg, Va., died June 21. He earned a master's degree from the University of Northern Iowa and was a high school science teacher and elementary principal in Janesville, retiring in 1992.

Roger Wrage, Marshalltown, died June 21. A U.S. Army veteran, he worked at Kiowa Corporation in management for 35 years, retiring in 2001.

1962

John Ersland, Daytona Beach Shores, Fla., died Dec. 28, 2018. A U.S. Army veteran, he was a civil judge for the court system.

Joann Kohlenberg Kasik, Dubuque, died Oct. 18. She worked with the Dubuque Packing Company Local 150 union and later was a designer in the printing business for over 30 years.

1963

Judith Robinson Hicks, Mount Vernon, Ill., died Oct. 9. She was a teacher at Webber Township High School for 25 years, retiring in 2001.

Eunice Foege Hofmeyer, West Des Moines, died April 25. She was a choir director and piano teacher.

Roger Hubbard, Centennial, Colo., died Oct. 8. He worked for Ford Motor Company, for Luther Hospital, and later in the insurance industry. He is survived by his wife, **Nancy Bunger Hubbard '66**.

1964

Dave Schmidt, Preston, Minn., died Sept. 12. He earned a degree from the University of Minnesota and was a farmer for 40 years and later a crop insurance adjuster.

1965

The Rev. Charles Ager, Strawberry Point, died Aug. 11. He earned a degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and was ordained in 1969. He served congregations in Iowa and Texas.

Ronald Foelske, Janesville, died Sept. 10. He was a teacher and principal and went on to own and manage Denver Insurance and Realty for 30 years.

Susan Wiechers Hernandez, Napoleon, Ohio, died Nov. 1. She was a teacher and later worked at the JC Penney Catalog store, retiring in 2008.

Donna Meyer Mickelsen, Sandy, Utah, died Sept. 25. She earned a master's degree in education and was a teacher and assistant principal until retirement in 2000.

Marilyn Solomonson Osero, Amery, Wis., died Dec. 10, 2018. She was a teacher and homemaker.

James Zeller, Stockton, Calif., died Oct. 20. He earned a master's degree from Stanford University and a doctorate in German languages and literature from the University of California, Davis. He taught at San Joaquin Delta College for 49 years.

1966

Steven Allspach, Sioux City, died May 15. A U.S. Army veteran, he earned a bachelor's degree from William Penn University, Oskaloosa. He was a sports writer for several Iowa newspapers.

Arlene Loots Kruse, Boulder Colo., died July 12. She was a teacher and later owned an interior decorating business.

Susan Langholz Miller, Waverly, died Oct. 25. She was a teacher. She is survived by her husband, **Robert Miller '67**.

1969

Cheryl Weaver Hanna, Garner, died Aug. 27. She was a teacher until her retirement in 2004.

Amalie Beth "Betsy" Roggensack Zein, Elkader, died June 25. She worked at the Central Community preschool and Volga middle school and was a library aide for over 25 years.

1970

Gabor Gaug, Minneapolis, Minn., died Sept. 23. He worked for Air Wisconsin and United Airlines for 42 years. He is survived by his wife, **Mary Ann Braunschweig Gaug '69**.

Dale Repass, Dubuque, died July 11. He earned a Juris Doctor with honors from Drake University and worked for over 40 years in the financial industry. He was president and CEO of Mercantile Bank locations in Clinton and Dubuque and co-founder of First Community Trust, N.A. where he served as chairman and CEO for 14 years. He is survived by his wife, **Diane Schalkhauser Repass '69**.

1971

George Arku, Monrovia, Liberia, died Jan. 26, 2017. He earned a master's degree from Howard University and a Juris Doctor from Drake University School of Law. He worked for 32 years for the Bureau of Maritime Affairs as Deputy Commissioner in Switzerland and Virginia and later as the Liberian Permanent Representative to the International Maritime Organization in London.

James Hotz, Fredericksburg, died Oct. 13. He was a physical education teacher, principal, and coach until his retirement in 2008. He is survived by his wife, **Cheryl Cain Hotz '72**.

Duane Tuck, Rockton, Ill., died Jan. 27. A U.S. Air Force veteran, he earned an associate of arts degree at Waldorf College and a master's degree in administration from the University of Illinois. He was a science teacher.

1972

Patrick Taylor, Port Charlotte, Fla., died April 9. He worked at MidAmerican Energy for 40 years, retiring in 2013. He is survived by his wife, **Judy Banton Taylor '70**.

Mark Martens, Des Moines, died June 1. He was a rigger and traveled across the United States setting up lighting and sound equipment. Later he owned his own lighting and sound company.

1974

Joel Seegers, Central City, died Oct. 12. He worked at Seeger's Truck and Trailer Repair until 2018. He is survived by his wife, **Charlotte Mahlstedt Seegers '75**.

1975

Dan Lingen, Apple Valley, Minn., died June 1. He went on to earn a degree from Augsburg College.

1976

Marjorie Ubben Durand, Dumont, died Sept. 19. She was a teacher.

1977

Ronald Graff, Oshkosh, Wis., died Oct. 8. He worked at Bemis Company, Inc., before retiring in 2019.

Dennis Knaup, Michigan City, Ind., died May 12. He earned a master's degree from the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minn. He was a teacher and principal in the Michigan City area schools for 37 years.

Joseph Wrobel, Valparaiso, Ind., died July 31. He was a commercial sales manager.

1978

Sharon Bodecker Briner, Kansas City, Mo., died Nov. 6. She earned a degree from the University of Iowa School of Law and was the lead attorney in the Black Hawk County Juvenile Public Defenders Office until her retirement in 2007.

1983

Stephen Hansen, Fountain, Minn., died May 10. A U.S. Air Force veteran, he was employed at IBM and People's Food Co-op in Rochester.

1986

Dr. Joel Alexander, Salem, Ore., died June 18. He earned a master's degree in experimental psychology from the University of Northern Colorado and a doctorate in cognitive and physiological psychology from Iowa State University. He also held a postdoctoral fellowship at the Scripps Research Institute's Department of Neuropharmacology in San Diego. He was a professor, director of the Neurocognitive Laboratory, and department head at Western Oregon University.

1987

Kirsten Christensen Hafermann, Waverly, died July 4. She served with her husband as a missionary in Tanzania until her retirement in 2003.

Cindy Queel Jirak, Lawler, died Oct. 25. She was a nurse and later a convenience store clerk.

1989

Wayne Anderson, Waverly, died Aug. 1. A U.S. Army veteran, he earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from Upper Iowa University. He worked at Lutheran Mutual Life Insurance Company, Waverly, and graduated from Northwestern University School of Mortgage Banking. He earned the designation of Fellow of the Life Office Management Association Institute and retired in 1987 from Century Companies of America. He later worked part time as an accountant in the Wartburg College Controller's office.

Michele Nemmers, Des Moines, died Oct. 8.

1996

Larry Peterson, Patagonia, Ariz., died Feb. 10. He was a business management consultant and entrepreneur.

2014

Kenneth Anderson, New Orleans, La., died Oct. 20. He was an assistant coach at Wartburg College and Cornell College and had just begun coaching at Holy Cross School in New Orleans.

In safe hands

*Degree leads alumna to consumer safety in the FDA,
where she monitors development of drugs*

A S A COLLEGE SOPHOMORE, **Shalonda Clifford '01** thought she would be a veterinarian. As a junior, it was a marine biologist. By the time she was ready to graduate, she had changed her mind once again and had found a full-time job at GMAC, then a mortgage loan originator and servicer in Waterloo. Though she wasn't in a biology field, she was gainfully employed and happy living her new adult life.

Her mother wasn't nearly as happy with the decision and convinced her daughter to return home to Chicago to find a position that would put her biology degree to good use. Clifford submitted her name to a temp agency, which placed her in a research institute testing new drugs and whetted her appetite for work in biomedical research. Since then, she has worked in four states in multiple roles that culminated with her returning to the Chicago area where she has been a consumer safety officer for the Food and Drug Administration for the last four years.

Clifford works in biomedical research monitoring, which means she inspects all of the entities that have a hand in developing new drugs and the continued production of existing drugs, including the lab that does early testing on animals, the businesses and organizations that bankroll the project, programs that run the human clinical trials, the manufacturers, and follow-up on any reported adverse reactions to a product.

"My job is a lot of fun and hopefully I get to teach people a little something along the way," she said. "It's also satisfying to come home and feel like I have done something that will help the American people."

What's even better, Clifford said, was that she does all of this "with only a bachelor's degree."

"I had no idea that working with the FDA was even an option for me, that I could do something like this without going back to school," she continued.

At Wartburg, Clifford also served on the Black Student Union and gospel choir executive teams. She spent one May Term in Portland, Ore., at the Hatfield Marine Science Center where she studied sea anemones and dreamed of becoming a marine biologist with a fulfilling career at Shedd Aquarium. (That dream came crashing to a halt when she realized she would also have to work with less "cute" creatures, like eels.)

Among her fondest memories, though, were the Candlelight Dinners served in the old Castle Room on the first floor of the student union.

"Big sit-down meals like that, with multiple forks and spoons and courses, were not commonplace for me. This was my first real exposure to dining etiquette and how to have a business meeting over dinner," she said. "Little things like that were such an awesome part of my Wartburg experience and made me feel very prepared to leave Wartburg and join the workforce."

Now a pro at business dinners, Clifford is organizing similar meals for her son and his friends through a mentoring program designed specifically for minority children. Clifford sought opportunities to improve her engagement in her children's school and found Turning the Page, a nonprofit that links public schools, families, and communities to ensure students receive educational resources and a high-quality public education. She attended the organization's parent leadership conference and came back ready to take a stand.

"These conferences gave me the information and confidence to step out and participate in trying to ensure there is an equitable playing field for my children in Naperville," she said. 🍷

BY EMILY CHRISTENSEN

PHOTO JULIE PAGEL DREWES '90




2020

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SAVE THE DATES

MARCH

- 1 Alumni Citation Award nomination deadline
- 11 Booster Club Spring Luncheon
- 23-27 Junior Visit Week
- 26 UKnight Day
- 28 Athletic Booster Club Cash Draw

APRIL

- 3 Alumni Board Meeting
Young Alumni Award Recognition Dinner
- 7 RICE Day
- 18-20 Des Moines Orange Connection

MAY

- 7 Middle School Visit Day
- 22-24 Class of 1970 50-Year Reunion Weekend
- 24 Commencement

JUNE

- 7 Iowa Cubs Picnic/Baseball Event

AUGUST

- 3-7 Worth It Week

OCTOBER


- 15-18 Homecoming & Family Weekend


NOVEMBER


- 1 Deadline to refer a graduating student for the Alumni Referral Award
- 15 Young Alumni Award nomination deadline


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

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