

Wendt Character Lecture: Nontombi Naomi Tutu



Inside: See what the Wendt Character Scholars have been up to this fall!

What's it like to grow up black in apartheid South Africa, as the daughter of an Anglican archbishop and social activist? How does such an experience shape one's identity, world view, and passions?

Nontombi Naomi Tutu joins us as the Fall Wendt Character Lecturer on October 19, 2015 at 7:00 pm in John and Alice Butler Hall of UD's Heritage Center.

A race and gender justice activist and daughter of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Ms. Tutu will share her experience and the impact Courageous Compassion has had on her life.



This lecture is free and open to the public, but tickets are required for admission. Contact Farber Box Office at 563-585-SHOW to reserve tickets.

IN THIS ISSUE

Wendt Lecture	1
Resources Unite	1
Kickoff Picnic	2
Scholar Stats	2
Climate Change	3
Research Team	4
Advisory Board	5
Acorn and Oak	5
New Logo	5
Academic Integrity	6
Made for Goodness	7
Character Sightings	7
Director's Note	8

Josh Jasper Introduces Resources Unite

Local entrepreneur and service advocate Josh Jasper visited UD's campus in early September to speak to the Wendt Character Scholars about service.



Jasper is the President, CEO, and founder of Resources Unite—a volunteer launchpad that connects volunteers with local non-profits. Read Mr. Jasper's blog and learn more about Resources Unite at www.resourcesunite.com.

Josh Jasper challenges Wendt Scholars to serve and helps connect them through Resources Unite.



Character Scholars

Kickoff Picnic

The 2015-16 Wendt Character Scholars and mentors gathered on September 3 for their annual Kickoff Picnic at Eagle Point Park. We welcomed 25 new scholars to the program this year, and 35 returning scholars were welcomed back.



group

Picnic activities included ice-breakers, a devotion and prayer, meeting mentors, getting to know new members, and an introduction to the year's theme: Courageous Compassion. And, of course, eating.



Wendt Advisory Board members and the Vice President and Academic Dean, Dr. Mark Ward, were also invited to the event. VP Ward noted, "I was impressed by the students' enthusiasm for the new year, by the welcome that returning students gave to new UD students, and by their pride in being part of Wendt Character Scholars program."



And new Wendt Advisory Board member, Coach Mike Durnin, added, "As I was able to listen to the interactions of the group, I was impressed with the depth of thought by the students and the care and concern shown by the mentors."



The Kickoff Picnic serves as the scholars' first opportunity to begin forming relationships with one another and their mentors—relationships that spur growth, accountability, and honest reflection. Built on this foundation, we have high hopes that this year's scholars and mentors will grow in character, learning more about what it means to have courageous compassion in their lives and experiences.



SCHOLAR STATS

- 25 first-years, 21 second-years, and 14 third-year scholars
- 14 freshmen, 15 sophomores, 12 juniors, 15 seniors, and 4 seminarians
- 31 females, 29 males
- 18 majors represented
- 10 different states represented with 6 scholars are from Dubuque
- Enrolled in football, track, soccer, cross country, baseball, cheer, lacrosse, volleyball, wrestling, basketball, tennis, and golf
- Made up of Christians (Baptist, Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist, Non-denominational, Presbyterian, United Church of Christ, etc.) and others who claim no religious affiliation
- Musicians, actors, artists, writers, photographers, and public speakers
- All have been involved in service within their communities





Dr. Reese Halter and Climate Change

Picture 65 Wendt Character Scholars and their mentors walking across Loras' campus--most of them in their signature Wendt t-shirts. An invasion? No, an opportunity to join together to hear environmentalist Dr. Reese Halter speak about "Climate Change and Peace."

Dr. Halter's September 21 lecture focused on the negative or positive impact human actions can have on the natural environment. As scholar Icfe Freeland noted, "While it may not seem like the actions of one person does a lot, when a lot of people are doing the same thing it makes a big difference."



Dr. Reese Halter

As humans, it is our responsibility to take care of the one home that God has given us all to share. There is still time to stop the negative effects that we are doing to Earth.

— Scholar Jackson Sheppard

Scholar Katie Silberstein reflected, "I will take away [from the lecture] a sense of urgency towards the Earth's critical condition. I think that it is absolutely imperative to take immediate action in this case."

When asked how they plan to be better stewards of the environment, scholars responded with several ideas, including planting trees and gardens, conserving water and energy,

recycling more, driving less—walking or biking instead—and being mindful of the types of products they consume and how they affect the environment. As Scholar Jacob Alstadt said, "Perhaps what I can do is stay conscious that us being here is more of a privilege than it is a right, and that we need to treat it as such."

Scholars left Dr. Halter's lecture with a sense of stewardship and better knowledge about how we, as humans, can affect our environment. As scholar Anna Runge put it, "The biggest and best resource on earth is us. We have the brain power to identify problems and find solutions. We are also the most abundant and diverse. We have the capability to help our environment and conserve the natural wonders God has provided us with." Scholar Austin Moutry added, "It is up to us as individuals to make change in the environment. To do so, courageous compassion will play a key part in having the right mentality."

Third-year scholar Zach Marotta put it simply: "Change is possible."



(Left) Some of the Wendt Character Scholars take a photo with Dr. Ward after Dr. Halter's lecture.

GRATITUDE WEEK

Gratitude Week takes place

November 9-13 this year. Join us in thanking those who make a difference on campus and in the Dubuque community, and start thinking about creative ways to express your gratitude. And look for on-campus events put on by the Wendt Character Scholars during Gratitude Week!

What's New?

Wendt Center Researches Courageous Compassion



This fall, Wendt director Dr. Annalee Ward gathered four UD/UDTS faculty members to form a research team on *Courageous Compassion*.

Following on the heels of the 2013-2014 research project on Social Media, this year's team will focus on what courageous compassion means, how it has played out in history, and how it might be applied to issues of immigration.



The team meets weekly to discuss their individual focus areas. Each will write a paper on their research, which will develop into the second issue in the Wendt Character Initiative's journal, *Character and . . .*

Joining the *Courageous Compassion* research team are Dr. Jonathan Barz, Dr. Christine Darr, Dr. Roger Ebertz, and Dr. Bonnie Sue Lewis.

Look for more about the *Courageous Compassion* research team in our next newsletter.

And check out last year's journal, *Character and . . . Social Media*, at <http://digitalud.dbq.edu/ojs/character>.

CHARACTER AND . . . SOCIAL MEDIA

Number of people searching for "Character" or "Social media" and finding our journal:

1900+ views

599 downloads

...and counting!

Character and . . . Social Media

Volume 1 / 2015

INTRODUCTION

ANNALEE R. WARD, *Character and Social Media*

ARTICLES

GARY PANETTA, *Stewardship and Global Social Media*

MATTHEW R. SCHULMAN, *Fantasy Football and Friendship: The Company We Keep Online*

JENN SUPPLE BARTELS, *Parents' Growing Pains on Social Media: Modeling Authenticity*

RESPONSE

JOHN STEWART, *Ethics and Social Media: Responses to Panetta, Schlimm, and Supple Bartels*



MEET THE TEAM



Dr. Jonathan Barz
Professor of English, Dept. Chair



Dr. Christine Darr
Asst. Professor, Worldview Studies



Dr. Roger Ebertz
Professor of Philosophy,
Dept. Chair



Dr. Bonnie Sue Lewis
Assoc. Professor of Mission and
Native American Christianity



Coach Mike Durnin Joins Wendt Advisory Board



UD's Coach Mike Durnin joined the Wendt Advisory Board this year. As the board's newest member, we wanted to learn a little more about Coach Durnin.

Q: *Where are you from?*

A: "I was born and raised in Milwaukee, WI, yet finished my last two years of HS in Evansville, IN. Since graduating from high school I have lived in 8 different states."

Q: *Where did you attend college?*

A: "I completed my undergraduate studies at UW-La Crosse and my masters at Mankato State."

Q: *What is your position at UD?*

A: "I started my 3rd year as Assistant Head Football Coach this fall; I also serve the team as Defensive Line Coach & Special Teams Coordinator."

Q: *Why did you want to join the Wendt Advisory Board?*

A: "I have long been interested in the development of character of the young men I coach & the students have had the honor of teaching and humbled by the influence a coach & teacher can have on players & students. I truly believe the development of character needs to be purposeful and as such, treasure the opportunity to be involved with the Wendt Program."

THE ACORN AND THE OAK

Ever wonder why the Wendt Character Initiative's logo is an acorn? Well, the logo derives from the English proverb, "Great oaks from acorns grow."

The acorn represents the God-given potential embodied in each person under the care of the Wendt Character Initiative. We believe potential is realized and fostered through education and reflection.

Within the WCI's intentional community, each individual receives the opportunity to grow, develop, and mature into a person of strong and enduring character, rooted in the values of integrity, justice, and compassion in the context of the university's Reformed Christian identity.

In other words, we seek to cultivate seeds of character ("acorns") to grow people of excellent moral character ("great oaks").

WENDT GETS A NEW LOOK

The Wendt Character Initiative has a new logo! Staying true to our acorn and oak roots, we have come up with a fresh new look. Wondering if it's Wendt? Look for our logo!



Character on Campus

Academic Integrity Conference

How do we make academic integrity the norm on campus? Eight faculty and staff from UD attended the 2015 Conference on Ethics in Practice: Building a Classroom and Campus Culture for Academic Integrity to be a part of this discussion.

Keynoter James Lang, Director of Assumption College's Center for Teaching Ethics, is the author of *Cheating Lessons: Learning from Academic Dishonesty*—the Wendt Book Club pick for spring 2015. Lang focuses on making changes in the learning environment and pedagogy to increase learning and decrease the temptation to cheat.

Dr. Gail Hayes, Senior Associate Dean, commented on the strategy of fostering intrinsic motivation. “[Intrinsic motivation] can be achieved by incorporating materials in the classroom that connect in a meaningful way to students’ lives . . . to help build creativity and foster authenticity.

The conference allowed me a dedicated time to reflect on how to best support students by engaging them in discussions about academic integrity and helping them learn and use practices that are ethical and honest.
— Dr. Jessica Schreyer

Assignments that Emphasize Scholarly Integrity.”

Academic Affairs Coordinator Ann Kendell noted, “The follow-up panel where faculty shared how they were implementing strategies in their classrooms offered practical advice beyond just theory. The student panel was particularly eye-opening as well. It solidified the gray area in student minds about what constitutes cheating.”

UD faculty left the conference with ideas for improving the learning environment to increase academic integrity. As Dr. Jessica Schreyer noted, “The conference allowed me a dedicated time to reflect on how to best support students by engaging them in discussions about academic integrity and helping them learn and use practices that are ethical and honest.”

Courageous Compassion is this year's Wendt theme. Join us in looking for ways you can show courageous compassion on campus, in the community, and beyond!

WENDT HELPS SPREAD THE LOVE

This September, the WCI helped local humanitarian and honorary Wendt Character Scholar Clare Vosberg-Padget spread the love.



Clare is a 10-year old with a giant heart.

Founder of Clare Cares—an initiative with a mission to “change the world by building friendships and making the community a better place”—she worked with St. Stephen's Food Bank to organize a “Spread the LOVE” Peanut Butter and



Jelly drive for the hungry in the community during September, which is Hunger Action month.

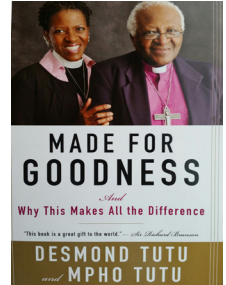
The Wendt Center served as one collection hub for the PB&J, and all UD faculty, staff, and students were invited to donate. Together, we contributed 19 jars of peanut butter and 16 jars of jelly. Way to help spread the love, UD!



Made for Goodness Book Discussion

This fall, the Wendt Center is hosting a faculty/staff book discussion group on *Made for Goodness and Why This Makes All the Difference*, written by South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu and his daughter Mpho Tutu.

The Tutu's stress that all human beings are made in God's image and so made for goodness, addressing what that means about who we are and how we respond to the world around us. Archbishop Tutu speaks from his perspective of a black clergyman who lived through many trials in apartheid South Africa.



The discussions enlighten awareness of the God-given value, talents, and abilities that every student, faculty, and staff member has on our campus to help serve God's greater purpose.
— Coach Jon McGovern

Phyllis Garfield, UD's Director of International Student Services and Study Abroad, says of the book, "From the hand of a different author, who had not seen what Bishop Tutu and his family have seen, the idea that man is made for goodness could be seriously questioned. But Bishop Tutu's experience gives this message real resonance!"

The Wendt faculty/staff book discussion groups create a sense of community at UD while also addressing topics important to character and the Christian tradition.

As UD Head Wrestling Coach Jon McGovern states, "The book discussions on *Made for Goodness* are very helpful in getting to know other team members at the University of Dubuque. The discussions enlighten awareness of the God-given value, talents, and abilities that every student, faculty, and staff member has on our campus to help serve God's greater purpose."

This particular book discussion group consists of 22 faculty/staff members from all different disciplines and departments. Thanks to everyone participating in the group!

CHARACTER SIGHTINGS ON CAMPUS



Director's Note

Naming the Good

Courageous compassion. That's turned out to be quite a focus for the Wendt Center during a year of worldwide turmoil, violence, displacement, and desperation. We, all of us, have a calling as God's image bearers, to care for others. To care for God's creation. To care for God's creatures.

A quick glance at a few titles of recent research on compassion demonstrates that compassionate caring is not a forgotten virtue. "Compassion that hurts." "The suffering of the world." "Compassion and Repression." "Compassion, Caring, and Justice." Even as I write this, there's a news article calling for a "compassion revolution" ("It's Time to Make Compassion Fashionable").

Caring and compassion must be a part of our lives, but it is fueled by gratitude that names the good. As we name the good, and as we name the Author of goodness, we find strength to keep on caring.

Yet, the needs can quickly overwhelm us. When that happens, we may want to turn away. But a better response is gratitude. As Wendt Scholar, Sara Sutter, reminded us in a recent presentation, a Hebrew understanding of gratitude might be framed as "recognizing the good." In other words, naming the good in our lives. Caring and compassion must be a part of our lives, but it is fueled by gratitude that names the good. As we name the good, and as we name the Author of goodness, we find strength to keep on

caring. Archbishop Desmond Tutu reminds us that we were "made for goodness."

Learning about another's culture by attending a Festival celebration or Children of Abraham—that's compassion at work. Donating peanut butter and jelly to help stock a local food bank—that's compassion for our community at work. Redoing a class lecture to make it better—that's compassion for our students at work. Listening to a colleague or student—really listening—that's compassion at work.

Opportunities to be a campus of courageous compassion abound. One example is Gratitude Week, November 9-13. Together, let's gratefully name the goodness here and keep it going.

—Annalee

WENDT CENTER FOR CHARACTER EDUCATION



Dr. Annalee Ward
Director



Patience McCarty
Administrative Assistant



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