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New Journal Issue Out

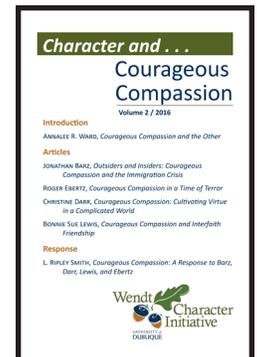
It's here! The new issue of *Character and . . .* This second issue of the Wendt Center's journal focuses on Courageous Compassion and can be found at digitalud.dbq.edu.

Authors Jonathan Barz, Roger Ebertz, Christine Darr, and Bonnie Sue Lewis spent much of last year meeting, researching, and writing articles that engage questions about character and courageous compassion toward the immigrant and/or the Other. UD Alum and former Wendt Character Lecturer L. Ripley Smith wrote an insightful response essay.

Join the Wendt Character Scholars on Monday night, October 17, in MTAC 146 at 6:00 p.m. to hear the authors speak about their work. (New Journal Issue cont. p. 7)



The research team meets to discuss the journal's progress.



On October 24, Father Greg Boyle, S.J., will deliver the Fall Wendt Character Lecture (see p. 7).

Character Integration in UD's MBA and PA Programs



Professor Rich Birkenbeuel outside the Wendt Center.

The MBA and PA programs are thoughtfully finding ways to integrate a moral character emphasis into their programs. One of the points of description in the MBA states, "graduates are equipped to exercise character and ethics in decision-making."

The program promises to challenge students "to develop the moral character needed to manage and lead with integrity, justice, and compassion." As Rich Birkenbuel, Director of the MBA and Associate Professor of Business points out, "Management with character are the beacons for a firm's success; those without character hasten its demise." (MBA and PA cont. p. 7)



Dr. Karkow advises PA students in the lab.

Wendt Character Scholars

Kick-off Picnic



New mentor, Dr. Beth McCaw, returning scholar, Trenton Grana-Curry, and new UD student and scholar Keyshawn Carr anticipate dinner.



New scholars Torrey Bahr, Olivia Walter, and Tyler Bolsinger get to know their new mentor group.



The Mississippi provides a gorgeous backdrop for new scholars Gabby Marchese and Paul Kaufmann, and returning scholar Jacob Alstadt to enjoy the food.

“Fearless Integrity,” our theme for the year, began at our kick-off picnic when new and returning scholars and mentors were grouped together for dinner. Sometimes, just getting out of our comfort zones is a step of fearless integrity as we learn to genuinely encounter each other. The 34 new scholars, 27 returning scholars, 2 returning mentors, and 3 new mentors enjoyed an evening of food, games, and fellowship.

Building new relationships and getting involved in our community in ways that encourage self-sacrifice and service are keys to the Wendt Character Scholars program as it seeks to develop character leaders who lead purpose-filled lives.



New mentor, Josh Thomas, leads the Wendt Character Scholars in prayer before dinner.

The picnic was a great experience for all the Wendt Character Scholars—first-, second-, and third-years—to get to know each other, and to really begin their journey and start making connections.

—Olivia Walter, first-year Wendt Character Scholar



The picnic concludes with the scholars linking arms for the traditional “circle game.”

Wendt Character Scholar Mentors

This year we welcome three new Wendt Character Scholar Mentors to the program.

Dr. Jon Barz, Professor of English and Department Chair, brings a wealth of experience and a love of literature and soccer to the Wendt Scholars program. His ability to draw students out in meaningful conversation is much appreciated, and we look forward to his leadership as a scholar mentor.



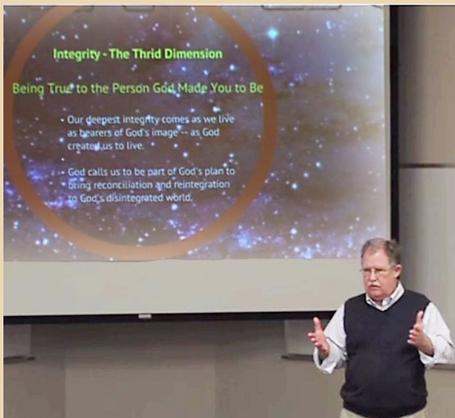
Dr. Beth McCaw, Pastor to Students and Assistant Professor of Ministry, returns to the Wendt Character Scholars program this year as a mentor. She was deeply involved in the start of the program in 2004-05, and it's great to have her back. Her passion for faithfully serving God wherever she is shines forth in how she serves the students.

Dr. Josh Thomas, Assistant Professor of Exercise Science, delights in students and his busy young family. As a mentor, he earnestly engages students in the topics at hand with a passion for helping them see the significance of a life well-lived.



Character Scholars Curriculum

As the Character Scholars have begun to examine the meaning of "Fearless Integrity" this semester, we have heard from a number of insightful speakers and perspectives.



Dr. Roger Ebertz, Professor and Chair of the Philosophy, History, and Religion Department, discussed integration and disintegration in the Christian story.



Kent Peterson, a member of UD's Board of Trustees, shared personal stories of truth-telling.



Character Scholars visited the Bisignano Art Gallery to view the exhibit, "Touch, Anoint, Heal," and explore its connection to "Fearless Integrity."



Josh Jasper of Resources Unite and Sharon Boer, former Wendt Character Scholar and summer intern for Resources Unite, presented on reasons to serve and the tools to find service opportunities that are a good fit.

It's a rare occurrence anymore to have someone challenge us to make a personal sacrifice to do the right thing.

—Dr. Annalee Ward, Director of the Wendt Center for Character Education

Character on Campus

UD Athletics

The Wendt Center collaborated with the Athletic Department to bring Wade Salem, founder and president of Character Matters, to campus to speak to athletes, Wendt students, and coaches on the importance of character in athletics. Mr. Salem emphasized that every single issue we deal with today is a character issue and encouraged athletes to build character through teamwork. He ended with the challenge to scholars and athletes to be unbreakable and live out excellent character virtues in all aspects of life.



Wade Salem presents on character in athletics (above and below).



We need to seize the opportunity sport provides to develop character in our athletes. Coaches have an enormous influence on athletes, positive or negative.

—Dan Runkle,
Director of Athletics



Dan and Deb Runkle enjoy the Character Matters event.



We are one team, one family, and if we structure our team around good quality character, no matter what the outcome is in any game or match, we will grow and become better people.

—Trenton Grana-Curry,
Wendt Character Scholar and Athlete

Who we are out on the field mirrors who we are as individuals. Due to this belief we ensure that we include respect, teamwork, and a solid work ethic into each and every one of our games. I am beyond grateful that I am involved in an athletic program that exemplifies such great character and integrity.

—Alora Esparza,
Wendt Character Scholar and Athlete

Wendt Character Initiative Programs

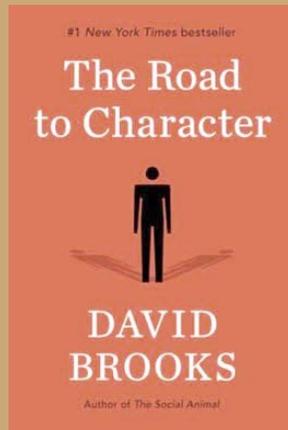


BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS

This fall, 28 UD faculty and staff members spent five weeks reading and discussing *The Road to Character*, by David Brooks.

In it, Brooks examines the excessive emphasis on success in our culture and how we might regain balance between what he calls “resume virtues” and “eulogy virtues.”

Through character studies of historical figures, Brooks identifies traits and habits that have served each his subjects well and contemplates how we might learn from their examples.



NEW 2016-17 RESEARCH TEAM



We are hard at work on the third issue of *Character* and . . . with the theme of *Screen Life*. Our new research team includes Associate Professor of Communication Franklin Yartey, Assistant Professor of Discipleship and Christian Formation Susan Forshey, Assistant Professor of Business Rafic Sinno, and Reference and Instruction Librarian Sarah Slaughter. The group will meet throughout the fall semester to hone their focus and read and discuss their ideas as they get into their research and writing.

SUMMER FACULTY GRANTS

The Wendt Center funded several faculty projects over the summer. Dr. Brian Hallstoos and Dr. Angie Brandel took students from their *Iowa History: Inclusive Perspectives* course on a trip around Iowa to facilitate students’ exploration of different perspectives in Iowa’s history, including visits to the longest-standing mosque in North America, the Iowa Women’s Archives, the Meskwaki National Museum, and the home of Alexander Clark, a 19th-Century African American civil rights leader.

Dr. Christine Darr attended a workshop through the Aldo Leopold Land Ethic Foundation to expand her knowledge and acquire tools to help students in her *Environmental Perspectives* and *Worldview Studies 2* courses understand the connection between character and the natural world.

Prof. Amy Ressler hosted guest artist Michael Agnew, who worked with UD’s Courage and Social Action Theatre Troupe to develop their shows and also trained troupe members to facilitate post-show reflection with their audiences.



Drs. Angie Brandel and Brian Hallstoos visit the Fort Des Moines museum with UD students Philip Senn, Katherin Schroeder, and Christian Kowolchuk.



Dr. Christine Darr attends the Aldo Leopold Foundation’s Land Ethic workshop.

Character Sightings on Campus

Caught in the Act



A SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS

Ameriserve contributes to a sustainable campus environment by growing herbs and vegetables in pots and “found” spaces near Peters Commons, and using the produce here on campus. Being good stewards of the environment is part of our understanding of what it means to have fearless integrity.



UD FACILITIES CREWS STEP IT UP

We had approximately 40 offices moves this summer. If you weren’t among them, just imagine the work! Maintenance staff’s positive attitude was evident in their extra effort as they added six of those moves to their regular task list. “The staff’s can-do spirit in serving those of us who were moving was an inspiration,” said Dr. Mark Ward. We also use an outside moving service, but it was UD staff who painted offices, cleaned carpets, made repairs, and put things back together.



Dave Ede, Dennis Stillmunkes, Sam Sanchez, and Jeff Frommelt set up bleachers for an upcoming soccer game (left).



Scott Estal, Mark LeGrand, and Eric Siese are ready to fix a malfunctioning autoclave (right).

I want to continue to be purposeful in my reflection of what character lived out looks like, and I hope that by presenting that to my colleagues we can “sharpen” one another.

—Prof. Kathleen Saleh,
Wendt Mentor and Assistant
Professor of Education

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT MEETINGS

The Wendt Character mission has entered into Education Department meetings this fall, on the suggestion of Assistant Professor of Education and Wendt Mentor Kathleen Saleh. Professor Saleh opens each meeting with a reminder of this year’s focus of “Fearless Integrity” and the character traits that we want to embody in our faculty and foster for our students. She then shares a short quote or Bible passage and prays. Her message in the first meeting included an exercise designed to help faculty identify their own character objectives and affirm one another in their goals.

Reactions have been positive. “It seemed to provide a place to quiet our thoughts and encourage one another,” Professor Saleh reports.

Wendt Character Initiative on Campus

NEW JOURNAL ISSUE OUT (Cont. from p. 1)

Each of the authors raises important concerns, but also provides insights into ways to respond.

Barz uses the novel, *Outsiders and Insiders*, to think about what courageous compassion means in the face of fear.

Ebertz shares the story of 1940s Colorado Gov. Carr's reaction to the country's fear of Japanese-Americans.

Darr struggles with the question, "What should I do?" in the face of tragic global immigration stories.



Lewis describes the work of the Children of Abraham, an interfaith dialogue and friendship group.

Smith responds to all and encourages us to move from sympathy to empathy.

We hope you enjoy reading this and are challenged to live with courageous compassion.

Feel free to share the link (digitalud.dbq.edu) with friends and colleagues.

True compassion needs to be rooted in empathy, fully recognizing that the Other is uniquely made in the image of God.

—Dr. L. Ripley Smith
Professor of International and Media Communication, Bethel University

MBA AND PA PROGRAMS (Cont. from p. 1)

Connecting moral character to disciplinary curriculums is key to a successful Wendt Character Initiative. It's also key for building a better world, a world where people act with integrity, treat people fairly and compassionately.

In our new Physician Assistants program, thought has also been given to how best make connections to character. Because PAs are licensed on a condition of having good "moral character," making these connections takes on extra significance.

"As medical care becomes increasingly complex and specialized, it is important that the front line medical provider – increasingly the PA of the future—have a trustworthy character," notes Dr. William Karkow.



Linda Chlapaty Hall is home to the new Physician Assistants Program

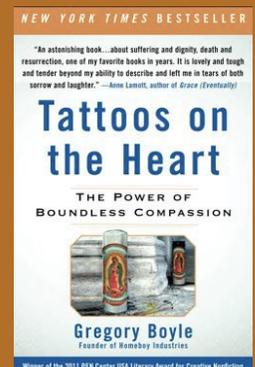
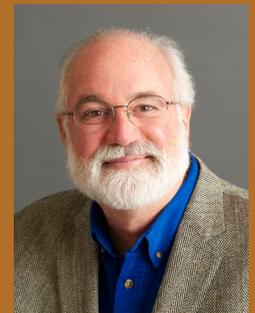
FATHER GREGORY BOYLE, OCTOBER 24!

Join us at 7:00 p.m. in Butler Hall, for the Michael Lester Wendt Character Lecture. **Father Gregory Boyle** is the author of *Tattoos on the Heart* and founder and CEO of Homeboy Industries, now the largest gang intervention, rehabilitation, and re-entry program in the world.

The subject of Academy Award-winner Freida Lee Mock's 2012 documentary, *G-Dog*, Father Boyle has received the California Peace Prize and been inducted into the California Hall of Fame. Come hear unforgettable stories of "Fearless Integrity."

Stop by Farber Box Office or call 563-585-SHOW for (free) tickets!

Stay after the lecture for a book signing with Father Boyle! We will have copies of *Tattoos on the Heart* available as well.



A Note from the Director

Catch the Good



A recent pruning at UD.

In late summer, as Mary and I crossed campus, we saw trees coming down outside of Blades. These grand old-timers have graced us with shade and sway for many years. How sad, we thought.

And yet . . . how wonderful. Isn't it amazing how well kept this campus is? And even when something hard has to be done, like pruning or actually cutting down trees, the decisions are made thoughtfully and carefully. One might even say courageously. For it's not always easy to face people upset by a decision even when the decision might be necessary. I've known places where employees rebel when trees are cut or parking lots made.

It makes me think about our opportunity to choose our attitudes and responses. We can focus our eyes on the negative or the positive. Let's find the positive.

Have you ever been in the situation where it feels like the rules of the organization are simply written to catch you doing something wrong. There's an implied threat of consequences.

Here at UD, we can choose to create a culture where we catch the good. Keep your eyes out for those who are making the tough decisions to do something right or who are fearlessly standing up to live lives of integrity. Catch someone doing good today!

—Annalee

Integrity is choosing courage over comfort; choosing what is right over what is fun, fast, or easy; and choosing to practice our values rather than simply professing them.

—Brené Brown,
Rising Strong, 2015

WENDT CENTER FOR CHARACTER EDUCATION



Dr. Annalee Ward
Director



Mary Bryant
Administrative Assistant



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