

Wendt



Character Initiative

UNIVERSITY OF DUBUQUE

FALL 2018

Journal Issue #4

Character and . . . the Places of Home

Volume 4 / 2018

Introduction

ANNALEE R. WARD *Character and the Places of Home*

Articles

PEG KERR *The Hospitality of Homemaking*

ANDREW JONES *Localized Character: Building Community and Modelling Authenticity and Integrity*

PAMELA CRAWFORD AND MARY BRYANT *Homeliness Goes to College: Virtues, Vocation, and Growth*

ADAM HOFFMAN *The Nurture of Nature: Developing Character Virtues*

Response

BRIAN J. WALSH *Meredith on the Subway: A Response to Kerr, Jones, Crawford and Bryant, and Hoffman*



The *Character and . . .* journal expanded its reach last year to 77 countries and 50 states!

The 4th issue, *Character and . . . the Places of Home*, debuted this month. The authors introduced their essays at a faculty meeting and we celebrated their fine work.

Peg Kerr, Andrew Jones, Pamela Crawford with Mary Bryant, and Adam Hoffman have written thoughtful and engaging essays around the relationships between character, place, and home. Last spring, they presented at the Wendt Center's conference, *Character and Place: How We Shape Home and Home Shapes Us*.

Brian J. Walsh, who delivered the Spring 2018 Wendt Character Lecture and served as scholar in residence at the Wendt Conference, provided the response article.

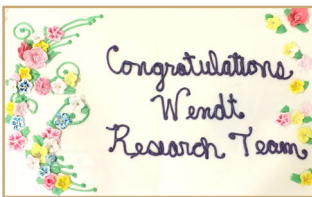
Read it online at digitalud.dbq.edu/ojs/character.



Professors Peg Kerr and Andrew Jones



The 2017-18 Wendt Research team presented at the Wendt Conference in Spring 2018.



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New Feature!

Character in the Disciplines

p 2—Character in Sociology/Criminal Justice

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Character in the Disciplines

Character in Sociology and Criminal Justice

The University of Dubuque is blessed with a strong Sociology and Criminal Justice Department, with faculty committed to character education in the curriculum, teaching and supporting students' understanding of character virtues as well as their character growth and development.



Professor Kim Hilby spoke at the annual Wendt Tea on a J-Term service trip to Cuba.

For example, Dr. Alice Oleson encourages Sociology students to embrace cultural identity through study of ancestral languages. She also teaches them about turning compassion into action through equity language, helping students see ways in which language supports or challenges societal norms.

Professor Kim Hilby focuses on compassion and justice through her efforts to combat human trafficking.

Other professors in the program focus on justice in their subjects but also model it in their lives.

The ability to shift perspective through language is a key to practicing empathy. The ability to ground oneself in cultural identity is a key for authentic voice, and is a reminder that all of us descend from peoples and cultures of strength.

—Dr. Alice Oleson
Associate Professor of
Sociology

See pp. 8-9 for character nominations Professors Bartels and Shook received on Character Day.

Prison Leadership and Character

by Professor John Shook, Criminal Justice Department Head

Treat people with respect and dignity. This is something that I would stress with my managers and staff throughout their time working with me. This statement applied not only to their staff, but also to the incarcerated men and women with whom we worked. Simply because a person commits a crime or is sent to prison, it doesn't mean that (s)he should not be treated with respect. Good people sometimes make bad decisions.

An example of compassion? On those rare instances when an inmate died in prison, I would always speak to the ambulance driver or medical personnel about not pronouncing the person dead until they got to the hospital (or at least off prison grounds). While my staff did not always understand this, to me it made perfect sense. No one should die in prison. No parent or spouse or sibling or child should have to get a phone call that says your family member died in prison. Compassion. It made sense. I found that when you treat people fairly, with compassion, respect and dignity, they return that back to you. A safe and effective prison can be run without using brute force. Programs and opportunities yield results.

It was a great privilege to work for and with Warden Claude Chester during his time at the United States Penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kansas. Warden Chester was a progressive warden and believed in the capacity of a person to change. He believed in compassion. He believed in programs. Because of his leadership style, he was respected by staff and inmates alike. I always look forward to opportunities to work with Claude.



Character in Education

Educator Ethics

by Dr. Jeff Haverland, Education Department Co-chair



One of the greatest challenges we face in the preparation of future teachers is ensuring that they enter the profession with a strong foundation in ethics and the ability to make sound ethical decisions throughout their careers.

Ultimately, we are charged with developing professionals of character who act with integrity, justice, and compassion. To do this effectively, we need to entrench ourselves in the research, engage with experts, and develop data-based strategies that impact powerful change.

At the University of Dubuque, we are making strong efforts to include educator ethics in our courses, as a required component in the application for student teaching, and as a mandatory seminar topic for student teachers. Collectively, the teacher education department strives to teach and model ethical decision-making so that our current students and graduates are able to positively impact young lives throughout their professional careers.

Seven full-time faculty continue to both model and integrate concerns for character in their teaching.

Global perspectives are integral to the development of character and justice issues. By broadening students' global perspectives, students are better prepared to be active citizens and more open-minded educators in the classroom.

—Dr. Julie Phillips
Assistant Professor of Education



Dr. Julie Phillips collected donations to bring to a school in South Africa during a trip sponsored by the Wendt Center.

See p. 11 for more details on summer Wendt grants, including a project headed by Dr. Angie Brandel, Associate Professor of Education.

A Student's Perspective—Finding Purpose in Work



Kenzie Helgemoe, education student and Wendt Character Scholar, found herself at times struggling to be productive while working on her Chlapaty research project this summer, as she wrote new curriculum for science kits that weren't up to standard for the Dubuque Community School District.

"I found that a lot of the time when I was three hours in and it seemed like I wasn't getting anywhere, I had to remind myself of all the people, both students and teachers, that this was going to help," Kenzie said. "I thought back to the reasons why I was doing it and somehow it became fun and exciting. I think that this happens a lot of the time with school, work or sports, where we have to take a step back and look at the reason we started it to re-excite us about continuing." Having a purpose can change one's perspective, and in Kenzie's case, knowing that her work would greatly benefit students and teachers made all the difference.

Wendt Character Scholars

Boundless Compassion

Our theme this year of Boundless Compassion, which calls for leaving one's comfort zone to reach others in need. We explored topics ranging from why we do service and practice gratitude to understanding the Golden Rule, and are looking forward to a year full of delving into the limitless bounds of compassion.



Retired Sergeant Eric Donoho shared his story of struggling with, but ultimately overcoming, PTSD. Focus on the good and never lose faith in humanity.



Ms. Emily Entsminger spoke to scholars on the importance of and reasons for doing service.

Dr. Roger Ebertz dissected the Golden Rule and the many considerations involved in "doing unto others as you would have them do to you."



Dr. Adam Smith discussed the trouble with compassion and how easily it can be confused with emotions such as pity and sentimentality.



Mr. Rick Mihm of the Dubuque Rescue Mission challenged everyone to confront homelessness, to reevaluate our habits and ways of life.



Wendt Scholars Keith Pitts and Darren Schach explored how practicing gratitude impacts our lives and the lives of those around us.

Kick-off Picnic

The Wendt Character Scholars kicked off the year on August 27 at Eagle Point Park, where returning scholars scattered to find new scholars to eat with, followed by reflections, get-to-know-you games, and our closing community circle.



The picnic got me excited to meet new people, form new relationships, and learn more about Wendt's presence on campus and in the community

—Brooke Goodman
First-Year Scholar



The picnic definitely made me excited for the rest of the year. It showed me not only will I get the the chance to talk with a fun group of individuals but an intellectually stimulating group as well.

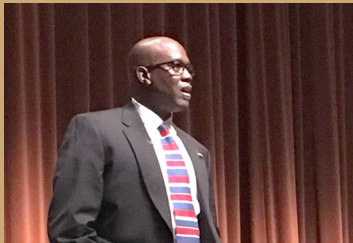
—Carissa Brown
First-Year Scholar





Claude Chester, Wendt Character Lecturer

Claude Chester, retired warden of United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, delivered the Fall 2018 Wendt Character Lecture on having compassion for one's fellow humans. He also spoke with two Intro to Criminal Justice classes and visited informally with Sociology and Criminal Justice students.



Claude and Joyce Chester

Alumni

We continue to hear great things from alumni of the Wendt Character Scholar Program. Check out some alumni news we've shared on Facebook recently with our "Where are They Now" series at [Facebook.com/WendtScholars](https://www.facebook.com/WendtScholars).



Anna Rechtenbach (WCS 2013-14)

Being a part of Wendt has given me an appreciation for giving back to my community that I didn't have before college.

—Anna Rechtenbach

In collegiate athletics we are faced with ethical dilemmas on nearly a daily basis. My time as a Wendt Scholar taught me how to sort out these issues and make just decisions.

—Jacob Ricketts



Nikki Pacheco (WCS 2012-13)



Jacob Ricketts (WCS 2012-15)

As a Wendt scholar I learned a lot about handling situations with moral justness and community consciousness through dialogue with other scholars.

—Temwa Phiri



Temwa Phiri (WCS 2010-13)

Being a Wendt Character Scholar made me very proud. It meant a lot to know that my efforts, attitude, and outlook on things were recognized in a positive manner.

—Nikki Pacheco

Character Day

Wendt Scholars Lead the Way

The Wendt Scholars helped campus celebrate International Character Day on September 26—a global initiative where school districts, organizations, families, and congregations of all sizes, join an online global conversation around the importance of developing character strengths. We highlighted excellent moral character on UD’s campus and reflected on what it means to us.

Students hosted a table in the Heritage Center where people could:

- Define what “Character at UD is . . .”
- Experiment with the ripple effect of compassionate waves
- Nominate someone who exemplifies good character (We had 41 new nominations by the end of the day!)
- Donate hygiene products for homeless Veterans. Those donations were taken to the Dubuque Area Stand Down to End Homelessness on October 4th, 2018, where the hygiene products were handed out to people who needed them.



Samuel Wu and Alyssa Klawitter were among the Wendt Scholars who helped with Character Day at UD.

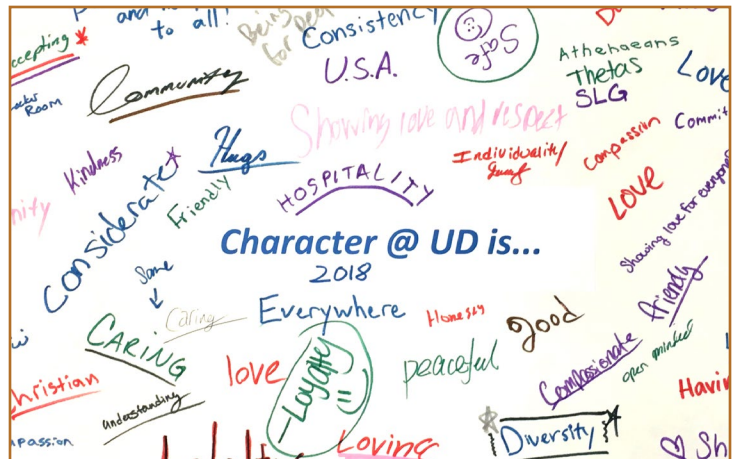


Heritage Center kitchen staff shared their donations with the Wendt Center. Together we contributed two boxes full of soap, shampoo, deodorant, washcloths, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and other hygiene items.

Social Media Impact

17 hourly postings

Facebook Reach: 4000 People

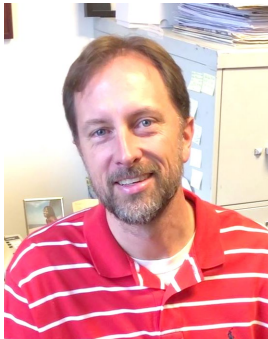


Visitors at the Wendt Scholars’ Character Day table defined character at UD and shared nominations for people who showed good character.



Character Day Online

We spoke with a few people of good character within the UD community, to hear their thoughts on character at UD and the world.



I see character represented on campus by the friendships developed here.

—Brian Hallstoos
Assistant Professor of History

Character is being the best version of yourself you can be.

—Christine Lurhuma
Student, Wendt Character Scholar



UD is really in good hands because of people who model and exercise integrity, justice and compassion and are faithful to God and this community.

—Bonnie Sue Lewis
Professor of Mission and World Christianity

My big thing is sportsmanship. Students and participants of intermurals show it everyday.

—Jose Reinoso
Coordinator of Intramural Sports



I see character represented on campus in each of the students, the staff members, the faculty faculty members, administrators.

—Marissa Joers
Student, Wendt Character Scholar



The world needs more "pleases" and "thank yous." Pleases show empathy, that you're thinking about others. Thank yous really represent gratitude.

—Adam Hoffman
Associate Professor of Environmental Chemistry



The world needs more compassion and love.

—April Elsbernd
Head Women's Volleyball Coach

The world just needs more kindness.

—Shauna Schmitt
Assistant Director of Admission



Character Day

Good Character at UD

In honor of International Character Day, the Wendt Character Scholar community nominated individuals that show excellent character on campus.



Professor Shook and Alyssa Klawitter

Alyssa Klawitter nominated [John Shook](#), Associate Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice.

Alyssa chose Professor Shook for his kindness.

Samuel Wu always seems to be in a good mood, and always put forth his best! If Sam were to have a bad day, he would still go out of his way to do good for others.

—Jenna Lauritzen
Wendt Character Scholar



Coach Brad Johnson

Roody Joinvil selected [Brad Johnson](#), head coach of the University of Dubuque Men's Soccer team, to be recognized for showing excellent Character on campus.

Roody praised Brad for his continuous encouragement to his players. He mentioned how Brad strives for his athletes to be good soccer players, but more importantly, good people.

Professor Shook really cares about his students and takes the time to make sure they understand what is going on in class. The way he integrates his learnings and understandings from his past experiences within the criminal justice system really rubs off on students, such as myself. I am very excited to take what I have learned from his class and to be able to use it in the field.

—Alyssa Klawitter
Wendt Character Scholar



Jenna Lauritzen and Samuel Wu

Jenna Lauritzen, Wendt Character Scholar, chose to recognize [Samuel Wu](#), another Wendt Character Scholar for showing character on campus.

Jenna chose to recognize Sam because he is always going out of his way to help others and make other people laugh.

Coach Justin Smith is always encouraging me on and off the basketball court. He is willing to do just about anything for anyone and the way he displays himself makes me want to be a better person. I would like to thank him for all he does for me and for showing me a different way to look at life.

—Josie Thomas
Wendt Character Scholar



Kay Smith and Joseph Schwenker
Joseph Schwenker selected [Kay Smith](#), the Administrative Assistant for the Academic Success Center and the TRIO Student Support Service Program.

Joseph selected her based on her excellent job of building community with students and staff from all different backgrounds. He also said that she is never afraid to stand up when she sees injustice in the workplace.



Josie Thomas and Coach Justin Smith
Josie Thomas nominated [Justin Smith](#), Assistant Women's Basketball Coach at UD.

Josie chose Justin because he displays excellent character and looks at life a little differently. She mentioned how he's always willing to help anyone in need, and can manage to turn a negative situation into a positive one.

Joey Ott lives out the values - faith, respect, and emphasis on others - that he claims to hold. He is also humble - he is a student that serves in a lot of ways, but he never seeks recognition or the spotlight.

**—Emily Entsminger
Wendt Character Scholar Mentor**



Professor Bartels and Marissa Joers

Marissa Joers chose to recognize [Professor Ben Bartels](#) for demonstrating excellent character on campus. Marissa stated, "Professor Bartels does not hesitate to go out of his way to help others in any capacity he can. . . and brings out the best in everyone around him."

One of Marissa's favorite characteristics of Professor Bartels is that he inspires all of his students to be selfless.



Emily Entsminger and Joey Ott
Emily Entsminger nominated [Joey Ott](#), sophomore majoring in Economics, commenting that he inspires her to be a better person.

Professor Bartels believes without a doubt that every person has a chance to be successful and deserves that chance, and he wants everyone to find their vocation. He also inspires me to work as hard as I can to make the world a better place, and to never back down from a challenge. He truly is a model of good character, compassion, justice and empathy that everyone should aspire to reflect.

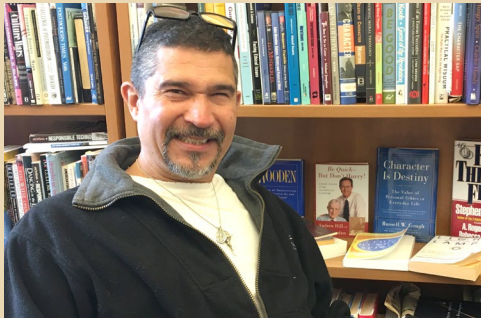
**—Marissa Joers
Wendt Character Scholar**

Character on Campus

New Faces in the Wendt Center

Welcome to everyone who has joined us in the Wendt Center this fall! We are grateful to have each new colleague with us and look forward to growing and learning together in the year to come.

Young Adult Ministry Grad Student



Darren Schach, a Master of Divinity Seminary student, is completing a Young Adult Ministry (YAM) Practicum in the Wendt Center. Darren works with Wendt Scholars to identify character connections in their disciplines.

Student Workers



Destiny Wash and Lauren Howe, both freshmen and first-year Wendt Character Scholars, are completing work-study in the Wendt Center this year.

Wendt Scholar Mentor

Meet [Emily Entsminger!](#)

Emily is a new Wendt Scholar mentor this year. Emily graduated from Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa, where she studied Christian Education and Missions. Prior to attending UD, she served as a minister to youth and young adults in Northwest, Iowa and in Uganda.



Emily is currently working as the Ministry Coordinator in the Campus Ministry Department at the University of Dubuque. She started this position in March of this year and is absolutely loving it. She is also working on her Masters of Divinity with a Specialization in Spiritual Formation through Portland Seminary in Portland, Oregon.

Research Team

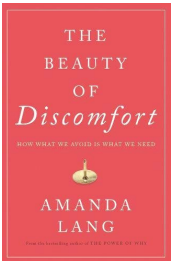
Our 2018-19 research team will work with Dr. Annalee Ward to tackle the issue of discomfort, specifically considering its connection to character.

- Beth McCaw, Seminary Pastor to Students and Associate Professor of Ministry
- Adam Smith, Assistant Professor of Political Philosophy
- Sean Benson, Professor of English





Book Discussion Groups



With our focus on Boundless Compassion this year, the call to leave one's comfort zone to reach others in need has our book discussion groups turning to topics of discomfort. We read *The Beauty of Discomfort* by Amanda Lang and considered how being uncomfortable can be a catalyst for growth and positive change.



Summer Faculty Grants

The Wendt Center continues to fund important projects focused on character growth and development. Several faculty members engaged in projects this summer.



Dr. Julie Phillips presented at a conference on special education and services in Cape Town, South Africa. Her talk focused on the development of character and social justice through culturally responsive teaching in an inclusive environment.

She also brought many needed items donated by people at UD and in Dubuque to a school for students with significant disabilities in Cape Town. She is pictured above with the school's marimba band.



Dr. Angie Brandel took a group of students on a service-learning trip to serve as counselors at the Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish (Three Affiliated Tribes) culture and science camp at the Fort Berthold reservation in New Town, North Dakota.



Coach Jason Berna and the UD Women's Soccer team went to Costa Rica this summer and visited the Roblealto Child Care Association, a non-profit that cares for children in critical situations. The team spent a morning playing with the children there and donated 60 pounds of much-needed clothing, shoes, and toys to the facility.

A Note from the Director

Boundless Compassion

Compassion can change a heart, change a life, change the world.
—Joyce Rupp

The persistent power of water to erode barriers of seemingly impermeable rock amazes me. Captivated by unusual formations, I can't help but be amazed. Canyons and caves, arches and hoodoos—all touched and formed by water. Utah's National Parks are a wonder!



The Wendt Center's theme for the year is Boundless Compassion. Now, I realize comparing boundless compassion to the force of water is a flawed metaphor. But consider this comparison. Anger, pride, greed, and self-centeredness build walls. Compassion erodes walls. Boundless compassion seeps through hardened pores and cracks, leaving its mark of care and revealing beauty.



Imagine how our world might look if more of us aspired to live with boundless compassion. When we seek to look beyond our circle of comfort and let the compassion flow, differences between human beings break down, and the need to be right diminishes in the face of connectedness. This year, let's work to make our campus and beyond a model of breaking down barriers with a compassion that knows no boundaries.

—Annalee



WENDT CENTER FOR CHARACTER EDUCATION



Dr. Annalee Ward
Director



Mary Bryant
Administrative Assistant



Cassandra Berger
Graduate Assistant



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