

Wendt



Character Initiative

UNIVERSITY of DUBUQUE

SPRING 2017

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Good News!

The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) surveys freshmen and seniors every four years. The new data shows that UD students score above the national mean on clarifying their values and ethics and on doing community service.

How much Impact Can \$5 Make?

The Wendt Character Scholars considered stewardship and the parable of the talents this semester. Each scholar was given \$5 in January and asked to report on their stewardship of it at the end of the semester.

Dubuque's *Telegraph Herald*, KCRG, and KWWL picked up on the story and shared the Wendt Character Scholars' good stewardship with the community.



One scholar used her \$5 to pay for orders for the next two cars in line behind her at Dunkin Donuts. Another bought flowers for a grieving family.

The 12 scholars in Professor Kathleen Saleh's group decided to aim for greater impact by pooling their money. After receiving a few extra donations, their fund grew to \$91. Inspired by Dr. Franklin Yartey's talk on microloans early in the semester, they decided to donate the money to World Vision, which used matching corporate donations to provide two soccer balls and \$900-worth in school supplies to children in need around the world. (Continued on page 3)

In this issue we highlight the impact our Wendt Character Scholars make as character leaders living out their commitment to integrity, justice, and compassion.



CHARACTER AND PLACE: HOW WE SHAPE HOME AND HOME SHAPES US

UNIVERSITY of DUBUQUE
THE DIAMOND UNIVERSITY

INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE ♦ MARCH 1-2, 2018 ♦ www.dbq.edu/Wendt/WendtConference

I N T E G R I T Y • J U S T I C E • C O M P A S S I O N

Character Scholars Impact UD



Joshua Merritt serves UD as **SGA President**, along with Marissa Joers, **Secretary**, and De'Shaun Madkins, **Junior Class Representative**.



Michael Semon, Trae Gesling, Daneel Gayle, and Kelsey Betthausser serve UD's residents on campus as **RAs**.



Elizabeth Swan and Abby Willis (not pictured) serve on UD's **Praise Band** and **Bible Study Group**.



Jessie Wehrle, Tara Wright, De'Shaun Madkins, Kelsey Betthausser, Breann Tjaarda, Claire Stoeffler assisted incoming students as **First Year Experience Mentors**.



De'Shaun Madkins, Marissa Joers, Michael Salazar (Wendt Scholar Alum), and Noah Hoskins participate in UD's **Mediation Team**.



Ian Turner, De'Shaun Madkins, Marissa Joers, and Jacob Alstadt (not pictured) write for UD's monthly newspaper, **The Belltower**.



John Klaes, Tyler Lewan, Michael Anderson, Easton Cook, Olivia Walter, Daneel Gayle, Jessie Wehrle, Brianna Finnegan, and Marissa Joers (not pictured) serve as **Spartan Ambassadors** for UD's visitors.



Our Wendt Scholars in **UD Seminary**, Samuel Felderman, Katrina Richardson, Maggie Lewis, and Keith Pitts assist the Wendt mentors and take active leadership roles in the Wendt program.



Wendt Scholars such as Aly Harner and Kyle Neisius present posters at **Apex**, UD's Celebration of Student Scholarship and Creativity.



as Campus Leaders

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\$5 Impact (Continued from p. 1)

Scholar Keith Pitts, a pastor at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Cedar Rapids, posed the \$5 Challenge to his church youth group; he put in his \$5 to get things started and asked them to help grow the fund in order to help a member of the church battling breast cancer. They were on their way to raising \$1,000 when another church member promised to match the first \$1,000.

I looked up ways to use the money creatively and a lot of organizations displayed that donations of \$75+ would make a great impact.

This experience reminded me to remain humble and grateful for all I have.

—Haley Shilts
Wendt Character Scholar

The funds will go toward cancer research through the Walk for Life. This isn't the end. Keith's youth group plans to seek out further ways to continue their efforts.



Character Scholar Athletes

By Kahla Rosenfeld, Wendt Character Scholar

Regardless of the sport they play, Wendt Scholars participating in **UD Athletics** demonstrate the reality of what it means to have fearless integrity. From displaying acts of good sportsmanship to being a dependable member of a team, the overall concept of fearless integrity comes to life through our Wendt Scholar Athletes. The various sports that our Scholars participate in grant an opportunity for developing and defining their moral character. By doing this, our Wendt Scholar Athletes become the outstanding leaders that they are destined to be and bring positive changes into the lives of individuals around them.



Wendt Scholars Tyana Mumm and Abby Willis will receive Wendt Character Athlete awards for Cheer & Stunt and Outdoor Track and Field, respectively.

See p. 9 for Wendt Character Athletes of the Year.



UD athletes participating in the Wendt Character Scholars Program: (back) Easton Cook, Cody Kramschuster, Jacob Day, Keyshawn Carr, Mackenzie Helgemoe, (3rd row) Maddie Parker, Megan Ranney, Matthew Erickson, Trenton Grana-Curry, Michael Semon, Gabby Marchese, (2nd row) Jesus Rodriguez, Alora Esparza, Tyana Mumm, Breann Tjaarda, Ashlyn Ptasienski, Jessie Wehrle, Brianna Finnegan, (front) Kelsey Betthausen, Abby Willis, Tyler Lewan, Jacob Alstadt.

Wendt Character Scholars

Year-End Banquet



Completing Wendt Character Scholars. Third row: Logan Butson, Matthew Erickson, Torrey Bahr, Malcolm Stewart (alumnus); Second Row: Dr. Roseanne Wolf (mentor), Michael Semon, Justin Kluesner, Joshua Merritt, Samuel Felderman, Tyler Lewan, Daneshia Snitker, Ashlyn Ptasienski, Jacob Alstadt, De'Shaun Madkins, Kyle Neisius, Alora Esparza, Yanely Nordin, Daneel Gayle, Maggie Lewis, Alyson Harner, Tara Wright, Emily Meeker.



Professor Saleh's group



Dr. McCaw's group



Dr. Thomas's group



Dr. Barz's group



Dr. Wolf's group

Banquet Speaker — Malcolm Stewart

Malcolm Stewart, a first generation college student, overcame early adversity to graduate from UD. A Wendt Scholar 2011-2012, he spoke of the program's impact on his own life and his ongoing commitment to service. He challenged the students to live their lives by the Golden Rule, giving back to their community.

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

Luke 6:38





Senior and Third-Year Scholar Reflections

Being a Wendt Scholar taught me the importance of having stewardship and being a leader in my community. I will incorporate this in my future career and other environments.

—Alora Esparza



My biggest learning curve that I will take with me from Wendt is a new profound love for giving to others, whether it be my time, services, or monetary gift. It was as if that was a piece of my heart that I was missing and I gained it back through Wendt and this program showed me the importance of being humble and helping your community flourish.

—Joshua Merritt



Wendt teaches us that virtues are worth cultivating and give us a space to discuss and practice living out those virtues.

—Samuel Felderman

Wendt helped shape my character and who I am as a person. It has definitely made me a better person in all aspects of my life.

—Ashlyn Ptasienski



Completing Wendt Mentor

Dr. Roseanne Wolf served as a Wendt Mentor for three years. Her infectious smile and tender spirit have endeared her to us all. She models community service work both at her church and recently as the “poster child” for heart health. She noted that she’ll deeply miss the students and other faculty mentors. Dr. Wolf, you’ve brought heart of compassion as a mentor and we are grateful for your good work with us. Thank you for your caring and for sharing yourself with all of us. We will miss you!



My hands-down favorite memory was the Father Gregory Boyle event. I was moved by this man in a way that I don't believe I had ever been before.

—Torry Bahr



Character Scholar Meetings

Spring Semester — Integrity and Stewardship

This spring we delved deeper into our theme of “Fearless Integrity” to examine how a life of integrity also calls for stewardship—stewardship of others, the world around us, and our own bodies, minds, and spirits.



Wendt Scholars helped **Josh Jasper** of Resources Unite prepare candy cane bombs — candies with gift cards and information on Resources Unite’s services — and delivered the treats to car windshields all over Dubuque, all in hopes of reaching out to someone who needs help. As the card said, “Kindness is Contagious!”



Wendt Mentor **Beth McCaw** reminded scholars that we all have been made rich and powerful. Our wealth is not made up of material things but of the gifts of Vision, Hearing, Strength, Time, and Heart.

Jim Romagna spoke on integrity and stewardship of body to the Wendt scholars, highlighting the importance of not only taking care of our physical bodies, but of tending to the wellness of our souls.



Contributors to Character and . . . Screen Life, the upcoming issue of the Wendt Center journal, joined the Wendt Scholars for topics dealing with binge-watching, online privacy, and microlending online.



Mary Boots of SASC, the Substance Abuse Services Center, discussed substance abuse and gambling addictions. She pointed out warning signs and symptoms and suggested ways for scholars to help others who are struggling.



Jenn Supple Bartels spoke about social media, pointing out the permanence of the internet and the true cost of posting online about other without their say.



Annalee Ward spoke to the students about stewardship of voice and broke down the seven principles of giving voice to values.



Sam Deaver spoke about financial stewardship, discussing the literal meaning of wealth and also encouraging scholars to consider wealth of spirit, integrity, and compassion.

Special thanks to Wendt Character Scholar Olivia Walter for contributions to this story.

Highlights from the Year

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Character and . . .

Courageous Compassion

Volume 2 / 2016

Introduction

ANNALEE R. WARD, *Courageous Compassion and the Other*

Articles

JONATHAN BARZ, *Outsiders and Insiders: Courageous
Compassion and the Immigration Crisis*

ROGER EBERTZ, *Courageous Compassion in a Time of Terror*
CHRISTINE DARR, *Courageous Compassion: Cultivating Virtue
in a Complicated World*

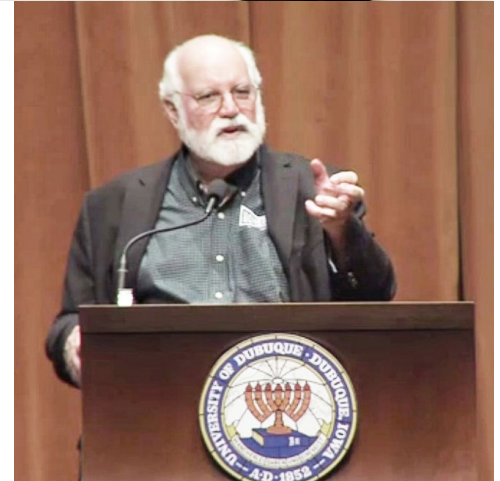
BONNIE SUE LEWIS, *Courageous Compassion and Interfaith
Friendship*

Response

L. RIPLEY SMITH, *Courageous Compassion: A Response to Barz,
Darr, Lewis, and Ebertz*



**August 29: Scholars' Kick-off Picnic
New Journal Issue Launch**



**Book Clubs: *The Road to Character*
and *Tattoos on the Heart***

**October 24: Fall Wendt Character
Lecture, Fr. Greg Boyle**

November 14-18: Gratitude Week

**November 28: Wendt Christmas
Banquet**

**January 23: Spring Kick-off Pizza
Party**

**Book Clubs: *Excellent Sheep* and
*An Essential Guide to Interpersonal
Communication***

**March 27: Spring Wendt Character
Lecture, Dr. Quentin Schultze**

April 17: Wendt Tea

**April 17: Scholars' Wrap-up and
Review**

April 24: Wendt Spring Banquet



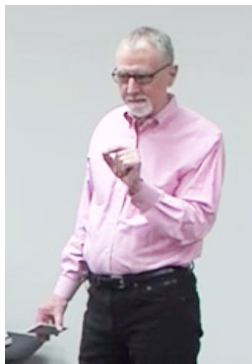
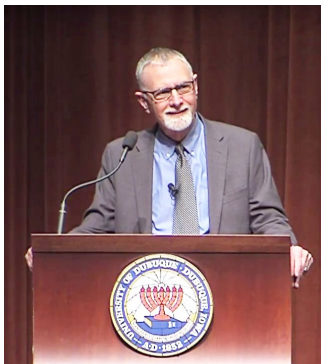
Character Lecture

Listen to Love

Humility, courage, gratitude. On March 27, Dr. Quentin Schultze, Professor of Communication, Emeritus, challenged us to inhabit these virtues in order to “Listen to Love.” Sharing personal stories, Schultze held our attention and gently encouraged us to be open to others, practicing hospitality even as we more deliberately listen to one another.

Dr. Schultze, an experienced and award-winning teacher, also led 32 UD faculty in a Pedagogy Workshop where he shared 10 teaching tips.

His wife Barbara, a hospice chaplain, accompanied him on his visit to UD and spoke with Seminary students in Dr. Beth McCaw’s Pastoral Care class. Between the two of them they touched many lives at UD and we are grateful for their visit.



Quentin Schultze in a breakfast open house with Faculty and staff who had read one of his books.

Dr. Warren Brown visits UD

In February we hosted Dr. Warren Brown, Director of the Lee Edward Travis Research Institute and Professor of Psychology at the Fuller Theological Seminary School of Psychology, for breakfast and interdisciplinary conversation with colleagues from UD, Loras, and Clark. Dr. Brown’s research on virtues and the brain has led him to define humanity by the qualities of “complexity, emergent properties, human development, linguistic abilities, relationality, and neurophysiological capacities.”



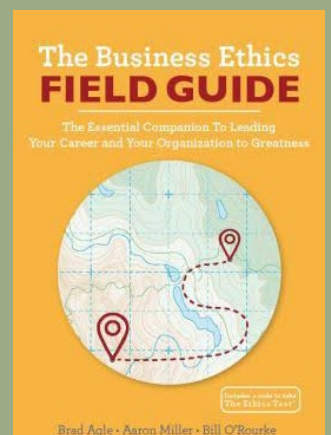
Virtue exists at the level of the whole person.

—Dr. Warren Brown

Fall 2017 Wendt Character Lecturer: Bill O’Rourke

Author and Retired Vice President of Alcoa

October 23, 2017, 7:00 p.m., John and Alice Butler Hall, Heritage Center



Character Off Campus

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Character and . . .

The Wendt Character Initiative's journal continues to attract online visitors from all over the world.

36 countries and **38 states** have accessed the journal since 2015 via Digital UD.

Read our first two issues at <http://digitalud.dbq.edu/ojs/index.php/character/index>



Wendt Character Scholar Alumni

Graduates of the Wendt Character Scholar Program continue to strive for lives of purpose and excellent moral character. We love receiving updates from all of our alumni!



Paul Both (WCS 2010-2014) speaks at Chapel during a visit to UD in 2016. Paul makes frequent mission trips to South Sudan.



Bridgett Boone (WCS 2006-2009) directs the Youth Choir at the Dream Center in Dubuque, assisted by current Wendt Scholar Liz Swan.



Anna Stoeffler (WCS 2010-2013) receives an award for arguing in front of the Iowa Supreme Court from Iowa Supreme Court Justice Waterman. Anna will graduate from law school at the University of Iowa this spring.



Earl Peterson (WCS 2014-2016) was recently promoted within UPS.



The four pictured above have all been Wendt Character Scholars! Alumna Anna Stoeffler coached the UD Mediation team at the International Law School Mediation Tournament in Scotland, leading De'Shaun Madkins, Marissa Joers, and Michael Salazar to 5th place in the team advocate/client category.

Character Sightings On Campus

Wendt Character Grants

The annual Wendt Tea on April 17 featured 16 presentations on projects that the Wendt Grants supported. Students, Faculty, and Staff spoke on a range of topics. Grants are determined by the Wendt Advisory Board who review grant applications on a rolling basis. Awards are given based on the following criteria:

- 1) Application engages the ethos of the Wendt Character Initiative;
- 2) is consistent with the Initiative's Mission;
- 3) identifies an outcome explicitly tied to character knowledge and/or formation; and
- 4) activities include an explicit reflection and/or discussion of how character is shaped by this experience or character knowledge is expanded.

Applications are available at www.dbq.edu/Wendt under "resources" or on campus forms.



History and Spanish students report on their trip to Chicago.



Marissa Joers reports on a project.



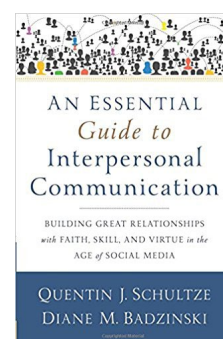
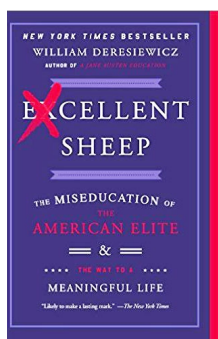
Wendt Character Grant Reports

Book Discussion Groups

Faculty and staff discussed *Excellent Sheep: the Miseducation of the American Elite and the Way to a Meaningful Life* by William Deresiewicz and *An Essential Guide to Interpersonal Communication* by Quentin Schultze and Diane Badzinski.

Deresiewicz argues, "Colleges do nothing...to challenge the values of a society that equates virtue, dignity, and happiness with material success" (71), and says, "You can't accessorize your way to moral courage" (115). Our lively discussions explored the nature of college, the importance of helping students pursue purposeful lives as they build selves committed to truth.

The Schultze book challenged us to consider attitude, effort, and purpose in interpersonal relationships. The gentle wisdom this book offers provided a foretaste of Dr. Schultze's Character Lecture.





Ann Kendell keeps the Academic Affairs Department on track.



James Konrardy and Stephan Funk work hard to keep UD's campus clean and beautiful.



Amy Gaffney is busy directing UD's LIFE program.



Mick Miyamoto, Dean of Student Life and Wendt Advisory Board member, enjoys a quick stroll between meetings.



A welcome visit from UD seminarians singing Epiphany carols.



Nathan Ripperger and Korissa Clark record an interview on campus.

Wendt Character Athletes of the Year

We are pleased to announce that Johnny Duarte and Abbey Meyer have been selected for the 2016-17 Wendt Character Athletes of the Year!



Johnny Duarte, Senior Criminal Justice Major

The University of Dubuque athletic program is excited to partner with the Wendt Character Initiative to honor our student athletes who exemplify the high standards of the program. The award winners were selected based on their contributions to their team while displaying leadership in the areas of truthfulness, honesty, respect for teammates and living by the Golden Rule.

—Dan Runkle
Director of Athletics



Abbey Meyer, Senior Elementary Education Major

A Note from the Director

Blooming Character

Who can resist springtime? The showy flowering trees, tulips, daffodils. In the words of one of my favorite poets, Gerard Manley Hopkins:

*The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil
Crushed.*

Another poet, e.e.cummings, put it this way:

*i thank You God for most this amazing
day:for the leaping greenly spirits of trees
and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything
which is natural which is infinite which is yes*



What began so small as a seed or a bulb explodes in a riotous delight of petal and leaf impacting our senses with fragrance and beauty. We delight in the results and know our world has been affected for the better.



In this issue of the Wendt Character Initiative newsletter we've tried to highlight the showy, the impactful fruit of the Wendt Character Scholars in particular. For example, we're at over 2,500 hours of community service this year. They've touched not only our campus, but beyond.

We hope you join us in celebrating the various ways this campus is blooming with character. But we also want to encourage you to remember that it takes hard work to get there and some bulbs have yet to flower. The stories mentioned here are only a fraction of the fruit of character work as some are late bloomers and some are year-round evergreens.

May you find joy in spring and be encouraged by the Wendt Character Scholars' example to continue your good work.

—Annalee



WENDT CENTER FOR CHARACTER EDUCATION



Dr. Annalee Ward
Director



Mary Bryant
Administrative Assistant



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