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Bill O'Rourke will deliver the Fall Wendt Character Lecture on October 23 (see p.4).

Character Day 2017

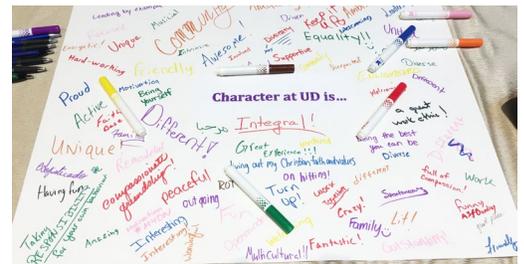
On September 13th, millions of people around the world celebrated the 4th annual International Character Day – a global movement about the importance of developing and improving character.

The University of Dubuque Wendt Character Scholars collected \$240 in donations on Character Day to give to the Iowa Conference of the United Methodist Church to purchase materials for clean-up buckets and hygiene kits. The kits were sent to hurricane victims in Texas and Florida.

Check out the Wendt Character Initiative's Facebook page for Character Day videos featuring people from the UD community talking about how good character is lived out here at UD.



Wendt Character Scholars Logan Ellis and Trevor Oetting worked with Wendt Center G.A. Cassandra Berger to gather donations.



UD students, faculty, and staff shared their thoughts on character at UD.

New Journal Issue: *Character and . . . Screen Life*

Be sure to congratulate Dr. Susan Forshey, Prof. Rafic Sinno, Sarah Slaughter, and Dr. Franklin Yartey on the release of the Wendt Character Initiative's latest journal issue, *Character and . . . Screen Life*. The authors persevered through a tough semester and beyond to write thoughtful and engaging reflections on a timely topic. From binge-watching to Pokémon Go, security agreements to on-line giving, these scholars thoughtfully challenge us to reflect on our own use of screen technology. The new issue also includes an insightful response article by Dr. Quentin Schultze, who visited in March to give our Spring 2017 Wendt Character Lecture.

Read the whole issue at digitalud.dbq.edu/ojs/.



Wendt Character Scholars

Kick-off Picnic

In August we kicked off the year with community and fellowship, welcoming 22 new and 36 returning Wendt Character Scholars with a picnic at Eagle Point Park.



Scholars Joshua Nsenga, Keith Pitts, Breann Tjaarda, Haley Shilts



Scholars Madeline Parker, Megan Ranney, Nick Rubiano Blanco, Konstantine Batonisashvili, Jessie Wehrle, Nick Kaufman, Stacia Burke, Tyler Glenski, Jillian Hunt, Kenzie Helgemoe



Scholars Olivia Walter, Mia Bruty, Evelin Ortiz



Wendt Mentor Dr. Jon Barz led the pre-picnic devotions.



We ended the evening with our traditional circle game, learning more about each other and what we have in common.

Character Scholars Curriculum



Our five seminarian Wendt Character Scholars led a thoughtful conversation on the importance of service.

The Wendt Character Scholars have begun exploring this year's theme of *Justice in Place*. According to our mission, we strive to be people of justice who treat all people fairly, respect diversity, and practice Christian love. How does our place or context affect the development of our character, and particularly our sense of justice? What is privilege and how does it relate to justice? How does one practice justice and Christian love? We will look at questions such as these in the year to come.



The scholars visited the Bisignano Art Gallery exhibit *3 Worldviews* and attended *The Kite Runner*, a one-man show based on the book by Khaled Hosseini.



Dr. Adam Smith spoke on character, justice, and Christian love, challenging the scholars to consider justice even with small things.



Dr. Adam Hoffman discussed privilege and fairness and led the group in a Privilege Circle exercise.

New Faces in the Wendt Center



Prof. Peg Kerr,
Wendt Advisory
Board Member

You may be seeing some new faces around the Wendt Center this year.

Last spring Prof. Peg Kerr, Nursing Department Head, and Mike Willis, Director of Media Services, joined the Wendt Advisory Board. Dr. Adam Smith, Assistant Professor of Political Philosophy, is our newest mentor for the Wendt Character Scholars Program.

We have two students you'll regularly come across in the Wendt Center as well. Logan Ellis, an M.Div. candidate and Wendt Character Scholar, is completing practicum hours in the Wendt Center arranging group service projects. Cassandra Berger, an MBA graduate student and former Wendt Character Scholar, has joined the Wendt Center as our new graduate assistant.



Mike Willis, Wendt
Advisory Board
Member



Logan Ellis, Wendt
Practicum Student

Our new research team has also begun meeting and is gearing up to write the fourth issue of the Wendt Center's annual journal, *Character and . . . Place*.

We're so pleased to welcome everyone to our team and hope for a great year of character growth and development for everyone at UD.



Cassandra Berger, Wendt
Center Graduate Assistant



Dr. Adam Smith,
Wendt Character
Scholar Mentor



Pam Fields, Peg Kerr, Andrew Jones, and Adam Hoffman (not pictured) make up the research team with Annalee Ward on the new journal issue.

I feel honored that I had the opportunity to be in the Wendt Character Scholar Program for 3 years, and now I'm able to see it from the other end of the spectrum.

**—Cassandra Berger
Wendt Center Graduate Assistant**

Wendt Faculty Grants - Summer 2017



Dr. Jessica Schreyer completed the training required to become a Leopold Education Project Educator and Facilitator. Dr. Schreyer learned methods to help students engage in questions of ethics and justice regarding the natural world.



Dr. Angie Brandel and Dr. Alice Oleson took students to the Fort Berthold Reservation in North Dakota to develop self-awareness of character and cultural competence through service learning.

This trip has strengthened my character and has taught me that all people, despite many differences, should be treated as one of God's own.

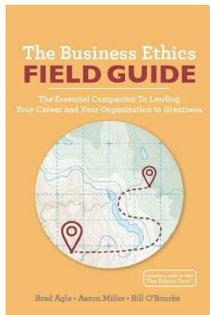
**—UD Student on the
Fort Berthold trip**

Coming Up . . .

Leading with Justice and Integrity

Bill O'Rourke, JD, will deliver the Michael Lester Wendt Character Lecture on Monday, Oct. 23, at 7:00 p.m. in John and Alice Butler Hall in the Heritage Center. Tickets are free and available at Farber Box Office at (563) 585-SHOW.

A former president of Alcoa-Russia, Alcoa executive, and attorney, Mr. O'Rourke served as an officer in the U.S. Army Transportation Corps and is currently a business ethics advisor to various boards and universities. Mr. O'Rourke has strived to live out good ethics in every aspect of his business life and is now committed to teaching others.



This fall, the Wendt book groups discussed *The Business Ethics Field Guide*, which was co-authored by Mr. O'Rourke, and considered ethical dilemmas often faced in and out of the workplace.

We look forward to Bill O'Rourke's talk here at UD, when he will consider the role of moral values in leadership and business and discuss best ethical practices in the workplace.

WENDT CENTER FOR CHARACTER EDUCATION



Dr. Annalee Ward
Director



Mary Bryant
Administrative Assistant



Cassandra Berger
Graduate Assistant



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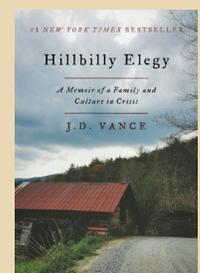
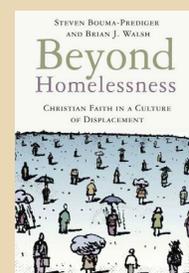
www.Facebook.com/WendtScholars



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#WendtScholars

Wendt book groups are now reading *Beyond Homelessness*, co-authored by Rev. Dr. Brian Walsh. In the spring, we will read and discuss J.D. Vance's book *Hillbilly Elegy*.



2018 Wendt Conference

Moral formation takes place in a specific context. How do those contexts shape us, affect us? We're interested in exploring through different lenses—different disciplines—things like the diversity of that formation, the ways specifics shape the kind of formation, and the ways that we can create contexts to better foster character that models integrity, justice, and compassion.

On March 1 and 2, 2018, The Wendt Character Initiative at the University of Dubuque will host an interdisciplinary conference to explore the interplay between home and the development of character, especially as it relates to justice, integrity, and compassion.

The conference will feature two keynote speeches by J.D. Vance and Scholar-in-Residence Rev. Dr. Brian Walsh.

Visit dbq.edu/Wendt for registration information or contact the Wendt Center at wendt@dbq.edu with questions.



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

INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE • MARCH 1-2, 2018

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