

Inside this issue

Who are the Mentors? 2

Faculty Book Discussions 3

Wendt Scholar Kickoff Picnic 3

Athletics and Character By Dan Runkle 4

New Faces 4

What's in a Name? The NFL and "Replacement Referees" By Kevin Cattani 5

A note from the Director 6

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WENDT CHARACTER INITIATIVE
 UNIVERSITY OF DUBUQUE

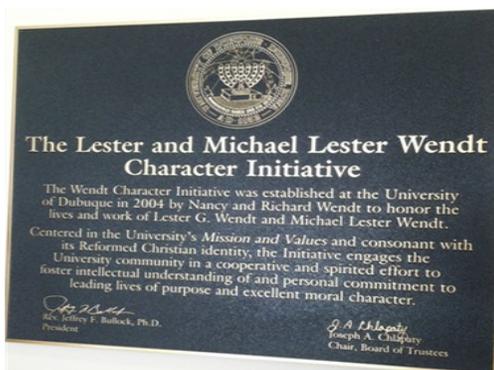
The Year Ahead for the Wendt Center by Annalee Ward, Director

The Wendt Center for Character Education administers the Lester G. Wendt and Michael Lester Wendt Character Initiative which was established in March of 2004. The plaque outside the office includes our mission:

Centered in the University's Mission and Values and consonant with its Reformed Christian identity, the Initiative engages the university community in a cooperative and spirited effort to foster intellectual understanding of and personal commitment to leading lives of

purpose and excellent moral character.

This Initiative opens opportunities for UD to be a distinctive moral



leader in higher education. To best develop that opportunity, We've quite the year ahead of us!

—A year of **learning** just how deeply character and ethics are em-

bedded into this University.

—A year of **supporting** the good work that's already been done, especially with the Wendt Scholars' Program, and the core and disciplinary curriculum.

—A year of **producing** the existing Scholars' program, Wendt Lecturers, and DAYLC—high school workshop.

—A year of **co-sponsoring** faculty and staff research, events, and programs which engage the Character Initiative.

—And a year of **dreaming** about how best to steward the Wendt Character Initiative.

Who Are Our Wendt Scholars?

Our Wendt Scholars represent the campus diversity and were chosen out of a competitive pool of 125 applications. The scholars commit to a full academic year learning what it means to have character and practicing that in our community.

We have 59 Wendt Scholars for the 2012-2013 school year with 49

scholars from Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa, 6 from other states, and 4 international students. The scholars are almost a 50-50 split of male and female, with ages ranging from 18-79.

Our pool of scholars include 22 returning UD students, 8 returning UDTs students, 14 new returning UD students, 10

new incoming UD students and 5 new UDTs students.

These scholars represent 14 majors, undergraduate and graduate, athletics, drama, and music. They are already taking leadership roles in student organizations and residential life. We look forward to learning from each other and becoming leaders of good character on and off campus.

"Whatever form the Wendt Scholars program takes from year to year, it remains such a powerful and important way that I, as a mentor, can build intentional relationships with students while challenging and encouraging growth in so many areas of their lives."

Lindsey Konken, Mentor

Who Are the Wendt Scholar Mentors?

This year the Wendt Scholars program has five mentors, Some are returning and a few are new. Our Scholars' Program is enriched by their wisdom and leadership.

"I am looking forward to exploring the nature of character and ethics with the students," says Dr. Roger Ebertz.



Our mentors are a great mix of faculty and staff. Dr. Roger Ebertz, Dr. Adam Hoffman, Student Activities Director Lindsey Konken, Professor Janet Jamieson, and Dr. Phil Jamieson have joined us this year to help foster community and provide leadership.

Dr. Adam Hoffman shares his enthusiasm for the program. "I'm very excited for the opportunity to interact with dedicated students outside the confines of conventional classes and to explore together what it takes to lead lives of purpose."



Each of the mentors are paired with 12 students who are a mixture of new freshmen, returning UD students and new and returning UDTS students.

Dr. Phil Jamieson from the Seminary brings his expertise to his group. "I am looking forward to the privilege of joining a discussion regarding character. Such conversations are too infrequent, so this is a real opportunity."

Whether faculty or staff, the mentors answered our question about what they were looking forward to positively.

"I am most looking forward to spending time with my small group, talking through real life issues,



where the rubber meets the road so to speak, of living a life of character," notes Director Lindsey Konken.

Professor Janet Jamieson reinforced the mentors hopes. "My hope is that our mentor group becomes a safe place to discuss both intellectual concepts about character and ethics as well as personal issues or challenges we may be facing."

We are privileged to have such fine leadership in this program and anticipate a good year together.



From Left to Right:
Dr. Adam Hoffman
Dr. Roger Ebertz
Ms. Lindsey Konken
Ms. Janet Jamieson
Dr. Phil Jamieson

Fall Faculty/Staff Book Discussion

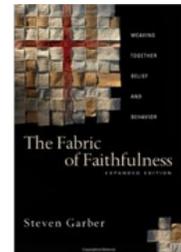
Our faculty and staff book discussion groups have peaked a lot of interest around campus. This fall, there are two books for faculty and staff to choose from.: Arthur Holmes' *Shaping Character: Moral Education in the Christian College* and *The Fabric of Faithfulness: Weaving Together Belief and Behavior* by Steven Garber.

The Wendt Center for Character Education's Director Dr. Annalee Ward chose *Shaping Character* because she believes "this book might generate some helpful conversation on ways to integrate character and ethics education, centered in the university's Mission and Values, into the class-

room."

The second book came from a collaboration with Dr. Roger Ebertz, Wendt Mentor and Chair of the Philosophy, Religion and History department. Dr. Ebertz chose this book because "its themes touch on ideas encountered in our Mission Statement, in our Core Curriculum, in Student Life, and in the Wendt Character Initiative.

Writing as a Christian educator, Garber draws on his experience to explore such topics as the purpose of higher education, the nature of worldviews, the need to weave one's beliefs into one's life, the importance of



community in living a life of character, and how all this is related to the critical college years.

All these topics are directly relevant to what we are trying to do at UD. This book promises to provide much food for thought and discussion for all of us at UD.

For information on the faculty/staff book discussion or to make a book suggestion contact wendt@dbq.edu.

Wendt Scholars' Kick off Picnic



Tom Berryman, 3rd year Wendt Scholar, addresses the scholars about what the program has meant to him



Wendt Scholars and Mentors link arms with commonalities in order to build community

Anyone driving by that September 6 evening might have wondered what those 65 people were doing. There they stood, arm in arm, linked in a chain that grew to encompass the whole patio and finally reconnected.

We were kicking off a new year of the Wendt Scholars' Program. With opening devotions from both the UD Chaplain, Rev. Jim Gunn, and the Seminary Chaplain, Rev. Beth McCaw, to a delicious meal of fried chicken and other goodies, to ice breakers as we met our new mentors and groups, the fellowship was sweet. Returning scholars spoke of their experiences in the program. Mentors introduced themselves. Our theme of *Shaping Character for Lives of Purpose* was introduced. And eventually, we all discovered something we had in common with other Wendt Scholars.

The Wendt Character Initiative is excited to be involved with campus departments and projects that promote character development inside and outside of the classroom.

We've asked Dan Runkle, Athletic Director, about Character Matters, a new program to help coaches develop a culture of character in their sport.

Character Matters and Athletics by Dan Runkle, Athletic Director



Character Matters is a program that goes beyond the teaching of technique and strategy of the sport and deals with the character of the student-athlete.

This program allows our coaches not only to deal with the size, speed and talent of an athlete but also the strength of their character, the integrity of their play, and how they respond in difficult situations.

I believe Wade Salem, President of Charac-

ter Matters, has hit a home run when he says "character is the difference maker not only to improve performance, attitude, and teamwork but also to produce quality people on and off the field or court."

After our first session with Wade our coaches expressed that this was really something that they thought could help them be more successful in working with our student-athletes at the University of Dubuque.

Each coach received a workbook that enables them to integrate coaching character and rewarding positive character results in their weekly preparation.

As Director of Athletics I am excited about

our involvement with Character Matters because I believe as Wade states that "your character determines how you play, and how you play demonstrates your character and who you are as a person."

I am excited that the athletic staff has become more involved in the lives of our student-athletes by coaching character.



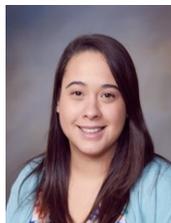
For more information on seeking funding support for character work in your class or program, please visit our website.

New Faces in Wendt Center Spaces

A new year, brings new faces around campus. The Wendt Center for Character Education welcomes a new administrative assistant and other colleagues who share our space.

Maria-Victoria Perez-Fisher

I just moved to the Dubuque area with my husband who teaches at Clarke University. I'm looking forward to learning and growing with the Director, the Wendt Character Mentors and the Wendt Character Scholars.



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Tom Robbins

Special Assistant to the President; Executive Director, Performing Arts and Campus Center has a temporary office in the Wendt Center.

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What's in a name? The NFL and "Replacement Referees"

By Kevin Cattani, Assistant Professor of Sports Marketing

As an academic, I stress to my students that word choice is a great power that we as American citizens wield, and improper use of that responsibility can derail issues long before they receive the proper attention they deserve.

Patrick Rothfuss, author of *The Name of the Wind*, said, "Words are pale shadows of forgotten names. As names have power, words have power. Words can light fires in the minds of men. Words can wring tears from the hardest hearts."

Think for a moment about Rothfuss's quote, "Words can light fires in the minds of men." Have we, as leaders and instructors of young people, chosen words we knew to be ill-mannered or socially charged just to make a point? Have we taken the time to consider the impact these words might have had on others in the audience other than the intended target? Natsuki Takaya said, "...even the smallest of words can be the ones to hurt you, or save you."

What prompted this reflection was the recent issue between the NFL, those officials who had been locked out due to a contract dispute and those that had taken up the call to provide an often thankless but necessary service to the game of football. I found it disheartening that the league continued to call these professionals "replacement referees" because I feel quite strongly that if these men were not qualified to be on the field, they would not have been assigned to work the games. In using the term "replacement," the NFL was telling its fans and other key stakeholders that the total product on the field was substandard.

While error is part of the human condition, these men were placed in similar situations that the officials under lock-out would have been placed in, and I find it imprudent to assume that the locked-out officials would have handled these situations perfectly each time. While this is a very minor example of the power of diction, I feel that it speaks volumes about a league who attempted to absolve themselves of the actions of these men by putting the onus of responsibility squarely on their shoulders. I know I am guilty of using words to deflect attention off of me and on to another and each time I catch myself, I reflect on the words of Proverbs 15:2, "The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the mouths of fools pour out folly."

Take our roles as leaders and instructors of content and compound that with our responsibility as leaders and instructors of character formation and moral soundness. When viewed in this context, must we not be ever more vigilant in our diction? Proverbs 13:3 says, "Whoever guards his mouth preserves his life; he who opens wide his lips comes to ruin." The free will God has blessed us with provides many freedoms, but carries with it much responsibility. I offer these words as a challenge to all of us to be mindful of our diction and remember that our students mirror our actions very closely, whether we are aware of it or not. Let us be sure to set a meaningful example that displays our true character and call to be stewards of God's word by both choosing appropriate words and insisting that our students do the same.

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UNIVERSITY OF
DUBUQUE

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A Note from the Director

What is a good life? Money, success, career, family, house, car, vacation?
Following God's call, living faithfully?

This fall over 440 freshman were asked to answer that question. During their years at UD, and during your years here, I hope that the answer grows to encompass concepts like living with integrity, serving God wholeheartedly, practicing truthfulness, honesty, fairness, and the golden rule.

Hopefully, by the time they're seniors, these students will have changed the question to "What is a meaningful, purposeful life?"

What a privilege to be a part of this unique Wendt Character Initiative and engaging with this question. I am humbled by the scope of the Initiative and hopeful that I can contribute to this good work.

Allow me to share a few words about my background so you can understand how excited I am by this.

Over the last 30 years I've worked as a Communication professor, chairing a department and developing curriculum. I've taught communication ethics for a long time, and my research interests lie at the intersection of media, ethics, rhetoric, and Christianity which generally means I'm asking questions about presuppositions, values, and worldviews.

The Wendt Character Initiative is a place where my administrative background, teaching experience, and interests come together.

I look forward to partnering with the University community in our quest for growing significant lives of excellent moral character.



WENDT CHARACTER INITIATIVE

UNIVERSITY OF DUBUQUE



Wendt Character Initiative
Fall 2012 Lecturer

Profiles in
Courage Award
Winner

Mayor
Dean
Koldenhoven

Join us for a story of a man
who stood up to religious
intolerance.

For more information contact
the Wendt Center for Character
Education
563-589-3440



Monday
October 22
7:00 p.m.
McCormick Gym

Event is free and open to the public

Photo courtesy of 20library.org

Like us on Facebook!

Save the Date
October 22
7:00 p.m.
McCormick Gym
Dean Koldenhoven