

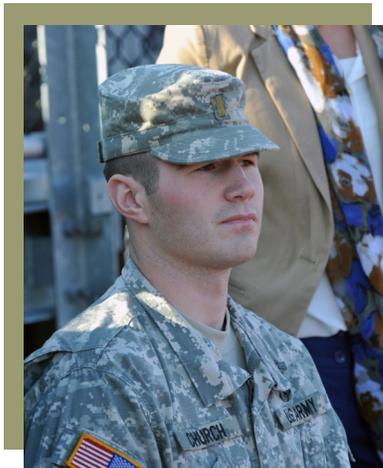


WENDT CHARACTER INITIATIVE
UNIVERSITY OF DUBUQUE

Inside this Issue

Fall Wendt Character Lecture	1
Alumni Survey	1, 5
Kickoff Picnic	2
Mentors & Staff	3
Gratitude Week	3
Worldview I	4
Research Guide	4
Work Exhibit	5
Library Collection	5
Character Sightings on Campus	6-7
Book Discussion	6
HLC Luncheon	7
Director's Note	8

Fall Wendt Character Lecture
Jason Church
“The Power of a Positive Attitude and Standing Up to Adversity”



The 2014 Fall Wendt Character Lecture will be given by Captain (ret.) Jason Church: recipient of the Purple Heart for his service in Afghanistan and the 2014 NCAA Inspiration Award.

Jason is a graduate of UW-La Crosse, where he played football with UD's very own Defensive Coordinator, Mike Schmidt.

“The sacrifice endured and the courage exhibited by Jason while serving our country is legendary heroism. The extraordinary faith he has placed in God is what breathes hope into mankind,” says Schmidt.

On August 23, 2012, Jason and nine members of his platoon were involved in an IED explosion. The blast resulted in the amputation of both of Jason's legs below the knee. He endured 21 surgeries before receiving prosthetics. He was promoted to Captain and medically retired from the Army on July 31, 2014.

Jason currently attends Georgetown University in pursuit of his Master of Arts in U.S. Security Policy, and he plans on attending law school next fall.

Jason's lecture will take place Monday, October 13 at 7:00 pm in John and Alice Butler Hall of the Heritage Center on the University of Dubuque Campus. Tickets are required for entry; complimentary tickets are available at Farber Box Office in the Heritage Center, or call 563-585-SHOW.

2014 Wendt Character Scholars Alumni Survey

Ten years! Yes, it's been ten years since the Wendt Character Initiative began at the University of Dubuque. One of the key programmatic elements of the Initiative, established in 2004 by Richard and Nancy Wendt, has been the Wendt Character Scholars program. This program has provided 50-60 freshmen through seminary students conditional scholarships for participation.

This summer we asked our Scholar Alumni to complete a survey about the impact of the Scholars program on their lives. The results and accompanying comments were encouraging. (cont. p. 5)

2014 Wendt Kickoff Picnic *by Scholar, Sharon Boer*

On September 4th, the Wendt Character Scholars launched the 2014 school year with their annual Kickoff Picnic at Eagle Point Park. The picnic allowed for a fun and relaxed atmosphere where students could meet fellow scholars and form new relationships.

Drs. Mark Ward and Bonnie Sue Lewis led devotions. Next, the students played a game to find their dinner partners and proceeded to eat with mixed groups of new and experienced scholars. After the meal, the mentors introduced themselves and small groups gathered at various picnic tables around the pavilion. After the groups had a chance to get to



know one another, several experienced scholars spoke to the entire group about time management, service hours, and the benefits of the program.

The night ended with the Wendt scholars discovering their similarities and forming a circle as a united group. The circle of Wendt Character Scholars, linked by common traits, demonstrates the University of Dubuque's motto, 'Many Gifts, One Spirit.'

The Wendt Kickoff Picnic is incredibly special to the mission of the Wendt Center for Character Education. The center strives to create a culture of excellent moral character throughout the university, and that begins with creating a culture of excellent moral character in a small community of scholars. Forming close relationships in small groups encourages honest reflection and intelligent discussion throughout the school year. As the Wendt Character Scholars better themselves, they improve their

impact on the rest of the university, and on the world.

**Wendt Scholar Fun Facts**

- 30 1st-year scholars, 18 2nd-year scholars, 12 3rd-year scholars
- 14 Freshmen, 11 Sophomores, 15 Juniors, 13 Seniors, 6 UDTs Seminarrians
- 30 Females, 30 Males
- 19 Different Majors (14 undecided)
- Represent 9 different states, and 6 are from Dubuque
- 1 citizen of Mexico, 1 citizen of Sri Lanka
- Enrolled in Football, Track, Soccer, Cross Country, Baseball, Cheer, Lacrosse, Softball, Volleyball, Wrestling, Basketball, & Tennis
- Made up of Catholics, Christians, Presbyterians, Lutherans, Baptists, United Church of Christ, PCUSA, Methodists, Non-Denominational, Buddhists, and others who claim no religious affiliation
- Musicians, theatre performers, artists, dancers, writers, and public speakers
- All have been involved in service to their communities

Wendt Mentors and Staff for 2014-15

Dr. Franklin Yartey,
Communication



Mentors facilitate conversation at group meetings, organize group service projects, and coach scholars throughout the year.

Dr. Brian Hallstoos,
History



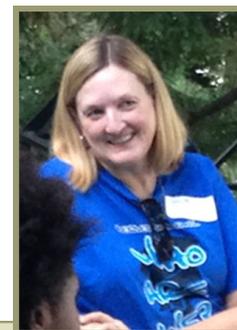
From left to right: Dr. Roseanne Wolf, Mathematics, Dr. Adam Hoffman, Environmental Chemistry, and Dr. Tim Slemmons, Homiletics and Worship (UDTS).



Mrs. Patience McCarty,
Administrative Assistant

Dr. Ward oversees the Character Initiative, including developing curriculum, organizing Scholar meetings, and promoting campus-wide character.

Mrs. McCarty organizes events, interacts with scholars, and handles administrative duties.



Dr. Annalee Ward,
Director

Gratitude Week 2014

GratITUDE Week 2014 is November 10-14! What is Gratitude Week? It's a time to focus on individuals and departments that make a difference around campus, and to show sincere appreciation for their dedication, hard work, and positive examples.

Each fall semester, Wendt Character Scholars gather to discuss gratitude week. Each group of scholars chooses where to focus their gratitude, and they make a plan of action to show their sincere appreciation during Gratitude Week. Last year, scholars thanked the security staff, the Academic Success Center, food service workers, maintenance, custodial, and ground workers, international students, and Mrs. Wendt herself.

What will the scholars come up with this year? It has yet to be seen! In the meantime, think of ways YOU can express your appreciation during gratitude week.

“Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.” — William Arthur Ward



Last year's note of gratitude to the UD Café staff

Worldview I and Strength of Character

By using one's strengths, a person is empowered to pursue a vocation and to work in God's world with joy. This year, our freshmen are learning to choose a pathway of purpose in their lives that builds on strengths they already possess. The Worldview I class is using a tool called StrengthsQuest, part of the Gallup Education Practice, to help them identify their strengths.

Lindsey Ward, Director of the First Year Experience says, "Studies show that top achievers recognize, build on, and apply their greatest talents and strengths to create success. StrengthsQuest provides our students with a practical tool to help them develop a strengths perspective and achieve great things as students and beyond."

In addition, the students are learning what it means to develop those strengths here at UD, in the context of our mission and reformed Christian identity.

The Wendt Center for Character Education has collaborated in this endeavor by bringing a focus on integrity to the class. Character strengths fuel the employment of our personal gifts, enabling our work to be done excellently with integrity. We want to encourage students to be people who "do the right thing."

In class, students will explore the adequacy of Stephen Carter's definition in his book, *Integrity*, which argues for three steps: "discerning what is right and what is wrong; acting on what you have discerned, even at personal cost, and saying openly that you are acting on your understanding of right from wrong" (7). Other sessions will have students seek out stories from families and friends of tough decisions made with integrity. Truth-telling and honesty are key parts of integrity and will also be a focus. Finally, we'll be spending time on academic integrity.

"A personal strengths focus," notes Lindsey Ward, "especially when paired with character traits such as integrity, provides students practical and consistent means to positive successes as students, future professionals, and human beings."

If you have freshmen in your classes, be sure to encourage them to build from their strengths, living out lives of integrity.

A personal strengths focus, especially when paired with character traits such as integrity, provides students practical and consistent means to positive successes as students, future professionals, and human beings.

Lindsey Ward

Research Guide

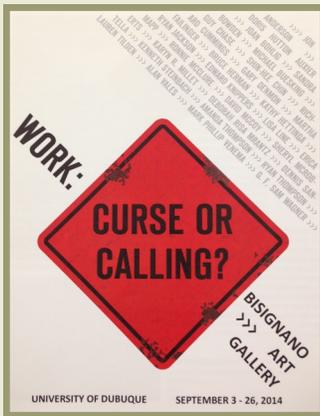
In encouragement of integrity in academics, the Charles C. Myers Library has added a research guide focused on academic integrity. The guide includes information for students on the importance of academic integrity, how to avoid plagiarism and academic dishonesty, examples of academic dishonesty, how academic integrity affects one's career, information about academic integrity in the news, and more. For faculty, the guide provides "Tips for Encouraging Integrity," discussion ideas, and further resources, including a list of selected books and films available at the library.

The research guide on academic integrity can be found with all the other research guides on the library's website, both under "Wendt Character Initiative" and "World View." You can also find it at <http://libguides.dbq.edu/c.php?g=117200>.

Wendt Character Initiative Library Collection

Work: Curse or Calling?

This Fall, the Wendt Center for Character Education helped sponsor the program for UD's art exhibit, *Work: Curse or Calling?* The exhibit, which focused on the significance of work and how human work reflects God's own work in Creation, was sponsored by Christians in the Visual Arts (CIVA).



Charles C. Myers Library

Housed in the Charles C. Myers Library, the Wendt Character Initiative Library Collection consists of over 2,200 titles on the theme of character and ethics in all disciplines. It contains scholarly and popular works, some fiction, feature films, and educational films.

Library Director and Wendt Advisory Board Member Mary Anne Knefel said of the collection, "I am so grateful to the Wendt Center for funding the Wendt Collection. For the UD community to have meaningful conversations, we have to have access to both contemporary and historical books and films about issues of character from multiple points of view and from all disciplines. We also need fiction and feature films to depict people struggling with character issues in 'real life.'"

Each physical item in the Wendt Character Initiative Library Collection is designated "Wendt" in the library catalog. To find the items included in the collection, simply go to www.dbq.edu/library, and search "Wendt" as your keyword in the "Find Books and Media" box.

Our collection of titles on character formation, values, and ethics empowers faculty, staff, and students to engage the Initiative in significant ways.

Dr. Annalee Ward

"Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are." — John Wooden

Alumni Survey (cont.)

Overall, a significant majority of respondents said the program had a positive impact on their commitments to character and on their understanding of character and a life of purpose, on their experience at UD, and on their involvement in their communities after graduation.

Many wrote comments of appreciation and included reflections on the program: "The Wendt program helped me establish a foundation of integrity and helped open my eyes to finding my true vocation." Another wrote, "At every job interview I have had since I graduated, everyone has asked me what a Wendt Character Scholarship is and what it means and how I am living by it now."

Impact both during the college years and after graduation is a goal of the Wendt Character Scholarship program. It is gratifying to see the high scores and to read the many comments indicating it has made a difference.

* * *

To become a Wendt Character Scholar, students submit an application (online from December 1 until January 31), essays, and letters of recommendation. A team of faculty and staff readers scores the applications, and participants are selected from that ranked list. If you know of someone who should be a part of the program, encourage them to apply!

Hospitality at the University of Dubuque

By Phyllis Garfield, Director of International Studies

Hospitality is a virtue in most faith traditions. In many, including Christianity, Islam, and Judaism, it is an obligation (a *mitzvah* in Hebrew). We are commanded to welcome the stranger, because we know how it feels to be the newcomer: "...for you were strangers in Egypt" (Deuteronomy 10:19, Leviticus 19:34, etc.). At the University of Dubuque, we are particularly blessed this year with opportunities to practice hospitality, as we welcome a record number of international students to our campus.



It is encouraging to see the enthusiasm for hospitality on our campus at all levels. Students welcome their classmates into student organizations (such as the International Friendship Club—see photo). Faculty spend extra time

with students struggling to learn a new topic in a new language. Security provides directions and even extra transportation to international students who need to attend ESL courses off campus. Administration introduced a "College Success" course just for international students.

Welcoming newcomers into our community in true hospitality benefits everyone. We have opportunities to make new friends, to learn about other places and cultures, and to reflect on ourselves as others see us. As the Director of International Studies, I've kept in touch with many of our international students over the years, and the main memory of their time at UD has always been the welcome they received. "Everyone was friendly. . . . My teachers were so kind. . . . I always felt I belonged. . . ."

Yet, no picture can be that rosy all the time. Hospitality is a skill: putting oneself "out there" to extend a welcome requires some courage and some practice. There have been a few (just a few) stories about thoughtless words on our campus that are not at all welcoming. Making this campus a community of hospitality is a job (a *mitzvah*!) for all of us.

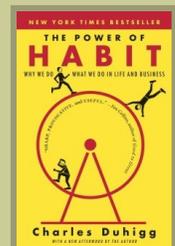


Students welcome their classmates to their display for Saudi National Day (Sept. 23)



FALL WENDT BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

This year's Fall Wendt Book Discussion Group focuses on *The Power of Habit: Why We Do What We Do in Life and Business* by Charles Duhigg. Every two weeks, 34 members of UD's faculty and staff gather to discuss the book and the power of habits on our lives, both personally and professionally.



A Cloud of Character

By Dr. Adam Hoffman, Associate Professor of Environmental Chemistry, Wendt Mentor, and Wendt Advisory Board Member



Zach Marotta

One of my favorite characters from Charles M. Schultz's comic strip *Peanuts* was not Charlie Brown, nor was it Snoopy. Rather, it was Pigpen: the child who was followed around by a perpetual cloud of dust and was, according to Schultz, "very comfortable in his own skin." There is a young man on campus—Zach Marotta—who reminds me a lot of Pigpen, all the way down to the cloud that follows him. But what follows Zach is not a cloud of dust, but a cloud of good character. Whatever, or whoever, crosses Zach's path is transformed by his quest to be the best person he can be.

I've heard character described as what one does when no one else is looking. That reminds me of the time I saw Zach walking across the quad by himself with no one around. He saw some garbage on the ground, stopped in his tracks, bent over, picked it up, and kept on walking. I know Zach didn't see me, nor anyone else—he just did what he knew was right.

My first introduction to Zach was on the first day of general chemistry class, and Zach sat in the 4th row, somewhere toward the middle. However, he soon moved himself and his fellow football players down to front-and-center of the classroom. He worked hard, he was perpetually engaged, and he made everyone around him—myself included—better. His compassion for those needing more time to understand a concept or problem in class made it a no-brainer for me to recommend him as a tutor for chemistry this academic year.

However, what amazed me most is how Zach took the time and energy to get to know the rest of his classmates and to celebrate all of their accomplishments. A classmate answering a question correctly might get a high five or pat on the back, a good finish at a bass fishing tournament might get a class wide shout-out, and a birthday was sure not to go unnoticed on Zach's watch. Zach's sense of justice in treating all of his peers as equals is something for all to strive to attain.

Thinking it might just be chemistry that inspires Zach's excellence, I checked with Mike Schmidt, one of Zach's football coaches. Turns out it's not just chemistry, as according to Coach Schmidt, "Zach is a shining beacon of character on our campus. His integrity is impeccable and his fortitude undeniable. He's the kind of guy you hope your son grows up to be."

Next time you see Zach wandering about campus, make sure you smile at him and his ever-present cloud of good character.



Dr. Hoffman and Zach goofing around

Scholars Lunch with HLC Visitors

On September 23, five Wendt Character Scholars attended a luncheon with visitors from the Higher Learning Commission—the University of Dubuque's accrediting body. The visit from HLC was part of UD's reaccreditation process. During the luncheon, Wendt Character Scholars addressed the impact the Wendt Character Initiative makes on UD's campus. *Wendt Character Scholars, from left to right: Sharon Boer, Brenda Nava, Tyler Dobratz, Megan Loes, and Vanessa Carlson.*



Fall 2014

Wendt Center for Character Education



Dr. Annalee Ward
Director
Wendt Center for
Character Education



WENDT CHARACTER INITIATIVE
UNIVERSITY OF DUBUQUE

2000 University Avenue
Dubuque, IA 52001

Phone: 563-589-3440

Fax: 563-589-3243

E-mail: wendt@dbq.edu



**Like us on
Facebook!**

www.Facebook.com/WendtScholars



**Follow us on
Twitter!**

@WendtCenterUD

#WendtCharacterInitiative

#WendtScholars

A Note from the Director

What does Charles Duhigg of the *New York Times*' best seller, *The Power of Habit: Why We Do What We Do in Life and Business*, have to do with Aristotle and the Wendt Character Initiative?

Both argue for the significance of actively working at, yes, even practicing, good habits. For it is habits that soon turn into virtues and vices. Habits, notes Duhigg, power at least 40% of what we do every day. When we mindlessly walk past a desk with candy, do we automatically take a piece? When we get in our cars, do we sometimes find ourselves at home without remembering much of the drive?

That sort of mindlessness can fuel our responses to people and situations. When I'm tired or upset, if something doesn't go my way, my knee-jerk reaction might not be very pleasant. And the more I allow myself to let the first reaction guide my behavior, the easier it is to fall into that pattern. It can become a habit, and a habit can define the kind of person I am.

Duhigg's book helps us unpack the elements that make up a habit. Aristotle helps us begin to understand what makes a virtue. The Wendt Character Initiative seeks to promote a campus culture of excellent moral character—people with character strengths—and virtues, like: integrity, characterized by honesty and truthfulness; justice, characterized by treating others fairly; and compassion, characterized by treating others as we would want to be treated.

Let's work together to make the community of the University of Dubuque a place where our habits build each other up, and where they reflect people of integrity, justice, and compassion.

Join us in celebrating
GRATITUDE WEEK
November 10–14

*Let's express and encourage
a spirit of gratitude at UD*