

## International Character Day

### Nominated for good character



Claire Willenbring: "My character means being Christian-like, kind and caring for others, and finding the positive in any negative that occurs."



Sam Wu on good character: "it is what God created us to be. We are called to see the image of God in each other and treat each other with integrity, justice, and compassion."



Dr. Charles Barland: "Good character is derived from the Golden Rule and means putting the interests of others before that of yourself."



Emily Swanson: "I believe that good character is someone who exhibits loyalty, trustworthiness, respect, leadership, integrity, responsibility..."



Dr. Adam Smith: "Good character is 'doing what's right because that's what you like to do.'"

## Coming up



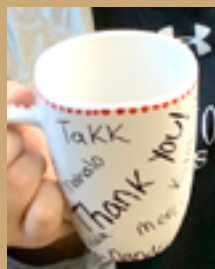
### Wendt Character Lecture Alex Kotlowitz

*Bearing Witness: Storytelling and Human Rights*

Monday, October 21, 7 p.m.  
John and Alice Butler Hall,  
Heritage Center

Alex Kotlowitz  
Photo credit: Kathy Richland

### Celebrate Gratitude Week November 11-15



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# Character in the Disciplines

## Character in Nursing



By Dr. Peg Kerr, Nursing Department Head and Professor

The professional trust placed in us by patients and families is a cornerstone of our profession and we take passing this on to our students very seriously. We do this in many ways such as:

- including nursing's written code of ethics in the curriculum,
- striving to role model integrity and compassion in our interactions, and
- demonstrating and coaching ethical behavior in the clinical setting with students.

Essential traits of nurses that exemplify sound character are integrity, compassion, and caring. However, what we emphasize here at UD Nursing is competence, because a nurse who is incompetent is neither compassionate or caring, and is certainly not practicing with integrity.

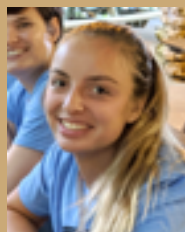
We set high standards in our curriculum and challenge students to meet them. This is in keeping with the UD Mission which emphasizes "excellence in academic inquiry and professional preparation," and with the Nursing Mission which speaks to educating nurses "to provide the highest quality of care." The moral practice of nursing is a practice based on state of the science evidence carried out with a high degree of skill.

Values and character have long been an integral part of the nursing profession. Florence Nightingale wrote about nurses, "One must be sure of oneself, of one's character, that it will stand any hour." Nightingale was the first to insist nurses received an education in the humanities to increase their understanding in ethics and morals in order to develop character.

Americans rated nurses highest for honesty and ethics for the 17th consecutive year in a row this year according to the annual poll conducted by Gallup.

***It was pretty clear as soon as I got into the nursing program that integrity is the number one thing a nurse has to have in order to be a good nurse.***

**—Brooke Goodman  
Nursing Student  
Wendt Character Scholar**



## A Student's Perspective

Nursing student Tyler Glenski shares the insights he gained during the course of his 2019 Chlapaty Fellowship, when he worked with Dr. Neil MacNaughton to study the local Micronesian population.

"Working with the Marshallese really opened my eyes to an ethnic group I had never worked with before. While I went into this project to learn about demographic and lifestyle research, I became touched by this group. Their respect for religion, reverence for family, and openness to me really made an impact."



Wendt Scholar Tyler Glenski and Associate Professor of Nursing Neil MacNaughton

We're proud of UD's nursing department and its support of students as they strive to be people of excellent character!



# UD Faculty and Character Work



## Character and . . . Discomfort

The UD campus has been experiencing its share of construction recently. It can cause some discomfort to have to constantly walk around rather than through, to see a large patch of dirt (or mud during the many rainy days we've had this summer and fall) filling formerly green spaces. But as our 2018-19 research team tells us, there is no growth without discomfort.



Our campus gives us the reminder of discomfort in a physical way, and our journal takes it on in terms of character.



If you want to think about this a little more, read our latest journal issue, *Character and . . . Discomfort*, at [www.digitalud.dbq.edu/ojs/character](http://www.digitalud.dbq.edu/ojs/character), featuring Dr. Beth McCaw, Dr. Adam Smith, Dr. Sean Benson, and a response by Dr. Roger Ebertz.

## Faculty Grants



Prof. Greg Wolf took students from the Drama Club to British Columbia to grow stewardship and compassion through exploring cities and nature as well as engaging with First Nation peoples.



Dr. Angie Brandel organized a screening of *We are Still Here: The Story of the Indomitable Xo'shga* and discussion with director Valerian Three Irons, to promote cultural understanding and compassion.

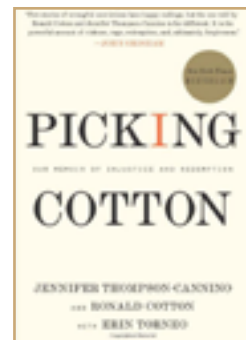
## Faculty/Staff Book Groups



Hear him speak Oct. 21, 7 p.m., Butler Hall



Fall 2019's book reads: *An American Summer* by Alex Kotlowitz and *Picking Cotton* by Jennifer Thompson-Cannino and Ronald Cotton, with Erin Torneo



Hear the authors Nov. 5, 7 p.m., at Five Flags

# Character Scholars

## Kick-off Picnic

On August 26 the Wendt Character Scholars started off the year meeting at Eagle Point Park. The scholars had a bite to eat, enjoyed time for fellowship, and participated in get-to-know-you games. Three scholars, Sam Wu, Evelin Ortiz, and Tyler Glenski, shared their thoughts on compassion, service, and building community.



***To show compassion one must understand it means being willing to “suffer with” individuals. To put oneself in uncomfortable situations in order to help others relieve their suffering, and going beyond your self-interests to walk with them. To do more than just care, to be willing to act.***

**—Evelin Ortiz  
Wendt Character Scholar**



***Community is built in a number of different ways, but that’s the key. Community has to be built. It doesn’t just happen, it takes work and effort. Community is built by respecting each other, listening to each other, and caring about each other.***

**—Tyler Glenski  
Wendt Character Scholar**





# Curriculum



Each week we look at news stories, both positive and negative, and highlight the intersection between integrity and each story.



Dr. McCaw had two key points about presence and commitment.

- Show up
- Be present



Dr. Adam Smith brought the question of “What is Integrity?” for us to consider. “Integrity is harmony between what you say and what you do, **and** between what you say and do and what is true.”



Mr. Kent Peterson encouraged us to avoid lying by remembering that

- Everyone is insecure about something and genuine is cool
- Don't be afraid to ask for help
- Know the power of unconditional apology

## New Mentors

Mentors agree to serve for the full three-year curriculum. They facilitate small groups, help lead, and are themselves formed by our study and service.

Welcome, Prof. Ben Bartels and Dr. Ken Turner, to the Wendt Character Scholars Program!



2019 Wendt Mentors: (from left) Dr. Jon Barz, Ms. Emily Entsminger, Dr. Ken Turner, Dr. Adam Smith, Prof. Ben Bartels

# Character Day



Donations collected for Camp Courageous and UD Food Pantry

Character Scholars led the UD campus in celebrating International Character Day on September 27 with interactive demonstrations, social media posts, bracelet giveaways, and they also collected donations for the UD Food Pantry and Camp Courageous.

We received 48 nominations to recognize good character in the UD community! Watch for upcoming posts on our Facebook page.



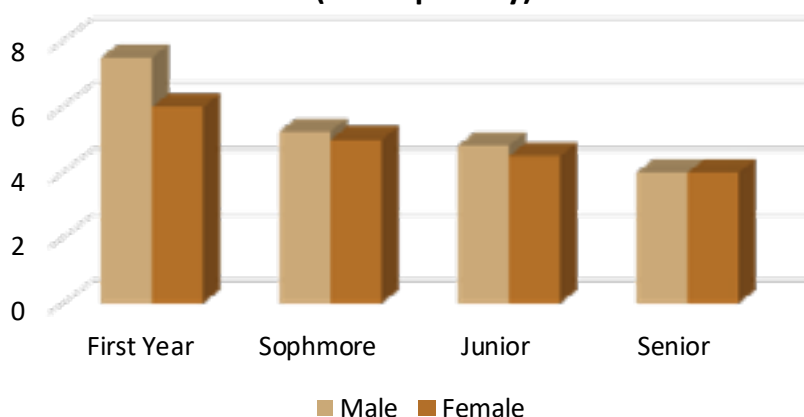
Wendt Character Scholars manage Character Day tables, lead activities



Do we express good character in our use of technology? Does time spent online affect our character? Next semester the scholars will try to answer those questions.

Wendt Character Scholar Mason Nebel conducted a small scale study to examine the average amount of time UD students report spending online.

**UD Student Estimates of Time Spent Online (hours per day)**

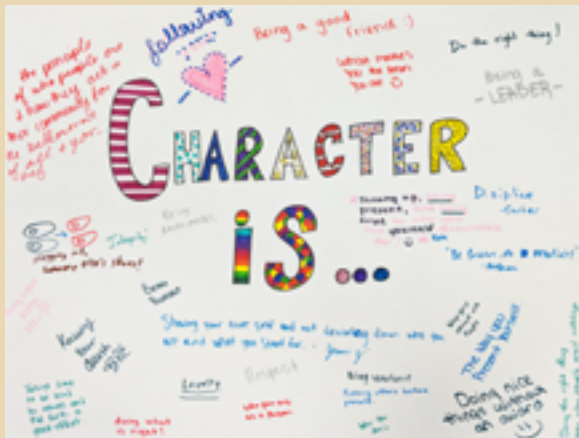






Character is doing nice things without an award

*Character is being a role model*



**Character is discipline**

**Character is integrity**

*Character is respect*

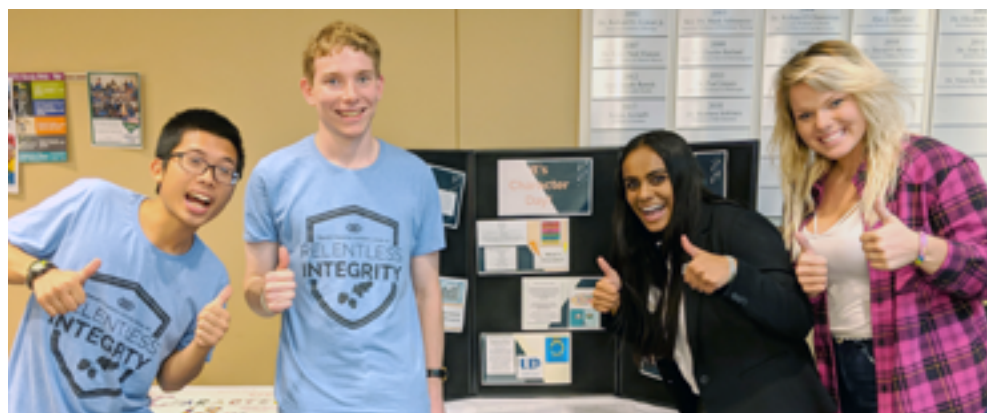
*Character is doing the right thing*

**Character is loyalty**

Character is stepping into someone else's shoes



Stop by the Wendt Office to get your color-changing bracelet



# Character for Life

## Service

Every fall the 50-60 Wendt Character Scholars spread out into the Dubuque and the community to find places and ways to serve. While the character scholars are required to do service, we hope it becomes a habit now that becomes a life long commitment.

Sam Wu, Wendt Character Scholar, shared his insights: "When the thought of service is no longer the 15-hour requirement, but instead, you are thinking of serving others in the world because you view every human being as a child of God and they are all made in the image of God, then I believe you are starting to get grasp of the true meaning of service."



***Volunteering gives me the sense of community and an experience I wouldn't have had otherwise.***

**—Will Kowalewski  
Wendt Character Scholar**

Students will serve in places such as the multicultural center, tutoring in schools, Mines of Spain, the Arboretum, Humane Society, hospitals, Hillcrest Family Services, to name a few.

Some of our Wendt Character Scholars extend their commitment to service beyond the school year. Over the summer months alone in 2019, scholars spent nearly 200 hours serving in a variety of ways: assisting with soccer classes, races, athletic camps and championships, at medical clinics and summer classes.

Our Graduate Assistant, Icicle Freeland, is a great example of someone who has embraced service for life. We learned recently that he is currently serving as an AmeriCorps volunteer, tutoring students at Lincoln Elementary School, even while being in school full-time and working two jobs.

***It's important to be involved in the community. Community service gets people invested in ways they wouldn't normally be.***

**—Icicle Freeland  
Wendt Graduate Assistant**

***Service has just become a life long habit because I enjoy helping people, so to me, it is not work at all.***

**—Shabnam Schmidt  
Wendt Character Scholar**





# Alumni Continue to Serve

Our Wendt Character Scholar Alumni are great examples of people who have made service a lifelong commitment. Some recent updates:

## **Mikelange Olbel (WCS 2006-2008)**

"I truly believe that the SECRET TO LIVING IS GIVING. Wendt assisted me in realizing that my purpose in this world is greater than me."

## **Dominique Anthony (WCS 2004-07)**

"It help to spur and evolve my volunteerism, my goal in life is to be able to eventually focus 100% on my volunteer and philanthropic work giving back in the main three areas of: Economic Empowerment, Poverty Alleviation, and Education."

## **Joshua Merritt (WCS 2016-17)**

"The Wendt program opened my eyes to the power of selfless service to others and drove that into my soul. It led me to donate blood regularly at the Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center. I also want to serve my community, state, and nation and am currently in the process of joining the Iowa Army National Guard to become an Officer in the Finance Corps. Although I was only a Wendt Scholar for one year, it greatly impacted who I am today."

## **Katey Austin (WCS 2009-11)**

"Being a Wendt Scholar isn't just something you're a part of for a few years in college. It's a standard you hold yourself to as you go out into the community. It teaches you how to show empathy and compassion to others as well as live a life full of integrity."

## **Teresa Bartlett (WCS 2006-09)**

"My college, seminary and Wendt experience helped me broaden my world view, it helped me be a better listener, to be more open to a variety of viewpoints and to ask better questions." (Teresa serves as the president of the area ministerial group and also serves on boards and committees of the Salvation Army and Community Response and is a member of the Wayne Lions Club.)

## **Gabby Marchese (WCS 2016-19)**

"Wendt has impacted me by ensuring that I continue to live a life of giving and loving my community.... Community service is something I now see as a priority and necessity in my everyday life."



Mikelange Olbel



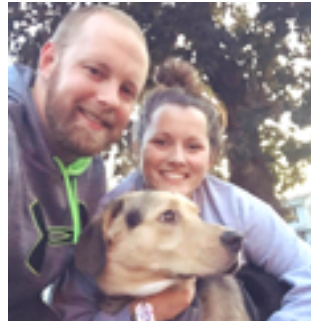
Teresa Bartlett



Dominique Anthony



Joshua Merritt



Katey Austin



Gabby Marchese

## Character on Campus



Rev. Dr. C. Howard Wallace faithfully lives out his calling and, with his wife, Nancy, served UD for over 60 years as faculty and administrator at the seminary.



UD Trustee and alum Joe Chlapaty and his wife Linda Chlapaty continue to support UD.

We're grateful for the new Wallace Commons and Belltower given by Joe and Linda Chlapaty in honor of Dr. Wallace.



JoAnne Trowbridge plays "Mimi" with gracious humor and creates an atmosphere of joy and appreciation for the President.



Our LIFE program in Tempe, Arizona, sponsors a 1 mile stretch of Highway 87 on the east side of Phoenix. Students, instructors, and staff clean up the roadside four times a year.





# New Faces in the Wendt Center



## Graduate Assistant

Icle Freeland, our new graduate assistant, is in the Masters of Management—Communication Management program. We asked Icle to introduce himself.

"After graduating from University of Dubuque, I spent time as a 2nd grade teacher at KIPP Columbus in Columbus, Ohio. I then went on to work as an AmeriCorps NCCC service member and a disaster response team leader, where I muck and gutted and reconstructed homes in the aftermath of Hurricanes Harvey, Michael, and Irma. I have returned home to UD to further my education and serve as a graduate assistant in the Wendt Center, an assistant lacrosse coach at UD, and an AmeriCorps academic tutor at Lincoln Elementary."



Watch for updates on our social media platforms, which Icle is managing! Of special note: our Instagram account is back in operation after several years' hiatus.

## Young Adult Ministry



Seminary student Shayla Butler is carrying out a Young Adult Ministry practicum with us, assisting in research and communication projects.

## Work Study Students



Emily Swanson  
Elementary Education  
major



Kyrah Jernigan  
Communication major



Tyler Glenski  
Nursing major

## Research Team

The 2019-2020 Wendt research team is looking at the intersection of character and identity.



From left: Becky Cannovan, Annalee Ward, Joe Sabin, Tim Slemmons, Lindsey Ward

# Director's Note

## Relentless Integrity

*Integrity, the choice between what's convenient and what's right.*

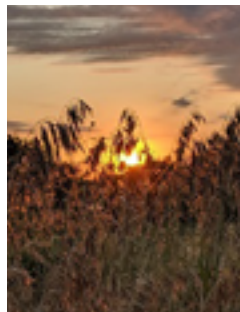
—Tony Dungy *Uncommon*

*A person is not given integrity. It results from the relentless pursuit of honesty at all times.*

—Anon

Some Bahaman survivors of Hurricane Dorian describe the “relentless wind and rain.” Some survivors of the Syrian war describe the bombing as “relentless.” Clearly, a sense constancy, of not letting up is often associated with painful experiences.

On the positive side, many athletes are encouraged to be relentless in their pursuit of excellence in their sport. Or consider the relentlessness of time—the sun rises on a new day, day after day. We can't stop it.



This year the Wendt Character Scholars hope to color that term with positive connotations as their theme is “Relentless Integrity.”

Character is built out of practices. The more we choose to be compassionate and seek justice, the more we live by the golden rule in service of others, the more these practices etch into our being. They become good habits—habits that build good character.

Imagine people in a community who live out of a relentless drive to be the best versions of themselves, committed to integrity, truth, honesty. Imagine people who practice stewardship of all that is entrusted to them, be it the earth, finances, relationships, talents, or even their own voice.



As the Scholars explore what this means for them, may we all be reminded to diligently pursue the excellence that God created in each of us. May we build a community of relentless integrity that speaks to all whom we encounter, creating a legacy for ourselves and for UD, a legacy of people of excellent moral character who make a positive difference in the world.

—Annalee

## WENDT CENTER FOR CHARACTER EDUCATION



**Dr. Annalee Ward**  
Director



**Mary Bryant**  
Administrative Assistant



**Idle Freeland**  
Graduate Assistant



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We're back on  
Instagram!

[instagram.com/wendtcenrerud](https://www.instagram.com/wendtcenrerud)

#WendtCharacterInitiative  
#WendtScholars

