

Loving Justice: Healing with History

Wendt Scholar and Butler Fellow Savannah Jones spent the summer researching the lynching of Nathaniel Morgan in Dubuque in 1840. She, together with the Nathaniel Morgan Memorial Committee, organized a memorial service for him in September. She explains, "My hopes for this project are to shed light on the lynching that took place in Dubuque, Iowa, and to bring forth honest dialogue upon the events that took place while finding room for healing and reflection."

On Saturday, October 17 at Washington Park, Iowa's members of the Meskwaki, Miami, and Potawatomi Nations shared their history and culture. The Dubuque community enjoyed traditional singing, dancing, drumming, and food. Thanks in part to the work of groups like the Dubuque Indigenous Peoples' Day Committee, communities in Iowa now celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day instead of Columbus Day.

UD faculty and member of the committee, Angie Brandel says, "This first annual event is an exciting opportunity to learn more about our history and honor Native and Indigenous Peoples. The history most of us learned excludes Native Peoples' contributions, culture, and the historical truth regarding the systemic genocidal actions that took place here in the U.S."



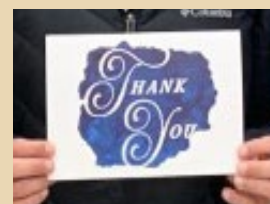
Savannah Jones introduces a speaker at the Nathaniel Morgan memorial service on September 6, 2020.

Coming up

Wendt Journal
Character and...Identity



Celebrate Gratitude Week
November 16-20



What does it mean to "love justice"? What does it mean for justice to be loving? While the pandemic caused many lives to grind to a halt, it also laid bare incredible injustices that have been a reality for years in economic, racial, and social spheres.

UD student Jakyra Bryant organized a Black Lives Matter peaceful protest at Jackson Park in June. Members of the UD community—students, faculty, and staff—participated in the protest by standing up, by speaking out, by loving justice.

IN THIS ISSUE

Character in Aviation	2
Faculty Character Work	3
Character Scholars	4-5
Character Day	6
Character on Campus	7
Director's Note	8

Character in the Disciplines

Character in Aviation

FALL 2020

UD Faculty Character Work



Character and ethics are integral to all processes in the Aviation department. As one of the largest departments on campus, it values and instills character and ethics by integrating them into the curriculum.



By Chaminda Prelis
Chair of Aviation Programs, Associate Professor of Aviation

Conducting oneself with a high level of integrity and professionalism is a critical requisite for any aviation professional. At UD, we strive to provide our students with an understanding of why character, justice, and ethical behavior are essential. The aviation system is built on trust and individual responsibility. Therefore, for it to function safely, everyone needs to step up and exhibit the characteristics and behaviors embedded in the UD aviation culture and the Wendt Initiative.

A Student's Perspective

by Andrew Newberry
Wendt Character Scholar, Flight Operations and Aviation Management Major



Wendt Scholar Andrew Newberry poses with a UD plane after passing his instrument check flight.

Aviation is all about integrity. For pilots it is a major responsibility and it takes integrity to commit to [making] the right decisions at the appropriate times. Sometimes it may be difficult to make the right decision because a passenger or you yourself really want to get going and the right decision is either a delay or cancellation. In that instance integrity is tested because it takes strength to say, "I'm going to delay or cancel my flight."

Something my professor said in Private Pilot Ground School: It's better to be on the ground wishing you were in the air, than in the air wishing you were on the ground. Often, I feel that phrase has helped me make the decision that led to the best outcome and kept everyone including myself safe even if it was disappointing at the initial moment.

The entire system from medical to maintenance, from Air Traffic Control to Pilot demands integrity, honesty and accountability...in other words Persons of Character.



—Sara Ellert-Beck
Safety & Ethics in Aviation Instructor



Character matters in aviation, particularly in safety decisions and feeling empathy for crew and passengers. Don't treat anyone as lesser.

—Brenda Nava
Wendt Scholar Alumna
UD Aviation Instructor
Former Airline Pilot

ENCOUR Fellow



Congratulations to Adam Kleinschmit, associate professor of biology, who was named an Ethics Network for Course-based Opportunities in Undergraduate Research (ENCOUR) Fellow! Over the summer, he created teaching materials related to instructing and evaluating ethical and responsible research practices in the sciences.

Research Team

The 2020-2021 Wendt research team is busy reading, talking, and writing together. The liminality of COVID-19 and ongoing protests against systemic racism have inspired us to discuss transitions, change, and inbetweenness.



Left to right: Annalee Ward, Jim Romagna, Jeff Haverland, Ann Mauss, & Mary Emily Duba

Faculty/Staff Book Discussion

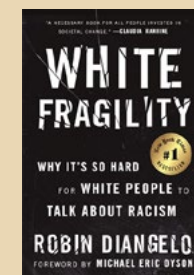
With the issue of racial injustice a topic of serious and immediate concern, we read *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo and discussed challenging and sensitive topics around white privilege and systemic racism. The book stimulated respectful, thoughtful discourse and helped us open our eyes to how to better listen with respect to diverse voices. We recognized that white people need to get comfortable with discomfort. The discussions moved online to Teams, allowing better participation.



A snapshot of a few of the participants.

Discussing "White Fragility" by Robin DiAngelo with my colleagues has been a valuable learning experience. Hearing their viewpoints helped me to better self-reflect and understand the role of race in our daily work at UD. I look forward to another Wendt Book Discussion and the opportunity to grow.

—Nolan Hauta
Assistant Professor
of Instrumental Music



Character Scholars

Kick-off Picnic

On August 31st, the Wendt Scholars kicked off the year at Eagle Point Park. They enjoyed good food, new friendships, and fun icebreakers, all at a safe distance. Dan Bacskai, Shabnam Schmidt, and Andrew Newberry, third-year scholars, offered advice to their fellow scholars about integrity, service, and community.

“I’ve already had several of my major [service] projects get cancelled because of COVID[-19] restrictions but I’m taking it as a challenge to find something different that I might not have done in other years and try something new.”

—Andrew Newberry

Several Wendt scholars arrived early in order to help set up. Accommodating new social-distancing and safety guidelines was tricky but made easier with so much eager help. Thank you, scholars!

New protocols meant that we needed an alternative to our usual self-service dinner line. The faculty mentors were happy to step in and serve food to the hungry scholars.

After dinner, scholars took time to get to know one another or to reconnect after the summer. We enjoyed being together, even six feet apart!



From left to right, volunteers Andrew Newberry, Alyssa Sommerfeld, Shabnam Schmidt, Bryce Walter, and Katelyn Howe.



Above: Scholars engage in group discussion with their faculty mentor.

Right: faculty mentors (left to right) Katie Boyer, Emily Entsminger, Ken Turner, Mary Emily Duba, and Ben Bartels serve food to the scholars.

“This year we are studying Loving Justice and...I can’t think of a more appropriate time to become more educated on such a topic. I’ve heard a lot of professors say this week that we’re the generation of change and I truly believe that, so I challenge everyone this year to take the initiative to learn from our lectures, grow from our lectures.”

—Dan Bacskai

FALL 2020

Curriculum

New Mentors

Welcome Katie Boyer, Assistant Professor of Education and Mary Emily Duba, Chair of the Theology department, to the Wendt Character Scholars Program!



This semester, Wendt scholars are exploring our theme of Loving Justice. Lectures on learning to recognize injustice, the history of institutionalized racism, and unjust practices in the American judicial system have given the scholars new tools and information to help them recognize, combat, and change patterns and behaviors they might encounter in their own lives.

Loving Justice

Dr. Adam Smith helped Character Scholars see that our responses to dilemmas of justice should not be based entirely on abstract theory or knee-jerk reactions. Rather, in order to practice justice and love more fully, we must pay close attention to others carefully and listen responsively.



Loving Justice, Acknowledging Privilege

Presentation to Wendt Scholars
September 28, 2020
Dr. Brian Hallstoos

Privilege Historically

Dr. Brian Hallstoos continued the conversation by looking at privilege through a historical lens, highlighting ways in which his own family interacted with racist policies.

Just Mercy

Scholars watched the film *Just Mercy* and discussed Bryan Stevenson’s journey from law student to public interest attorney, as he worked to defend Walter McMillian, a black man wrongly accused of the murder of a white woman and sentenced to death. Through cases such as this, Stevenson discovered his calling to defend the poor and minorities—people who struggle most to receive fair treatment within the criminal justice system.



Privilege

Scholars participated in a privilege circle, led by Dr. Adam Hoffman. Dr. Hoffman emphasized that privilege:

- Is beyond our control, not something to feel guilty about;
- Doesn’t mean you didn’t work hard to get here;
- Exists in many forms (we all have privilege in some ways and not in others);
- Is important to acknowledge in order to level the playing field.



Character for Life

Character Day, October 1

Icle Freeland, Wendt Graduate Assistant, organized a celebration via social media here at UD! With regular social media posts throughout the day, he encouraged us all to practice good character. Wendt scholars promoted good character on campus by making posters and writing thoughtful messages on the sidewalks around campus.



Our Wendt group...wanted a way for others on campus to get involved and to see that it is not hard to have good character. We made the tips flyer to show others that by doing a few simple things every day, we can all live a life of good character and embrace it!

—Samantha Tolnai
Wendt Scholar



Brian Hallstoos Nominated for Good Character

[Dr. Hallstoos] continues to advocate for justice by examining history to show how deep injustice runs. He traces how that affects us today and willingly examines his own life and family through that lens.



Brian Hallstoos,
Associate Professor
of History



A Wendt Character scholar chawks the sidewalk outside of MTAC.

FALL 2020

Character on Campus



Bisignano Art Gallery Opening

The Wendt Character Scholars' first assignment was to visit the Bisignano Art Gallery and relate the art from the exhibit "Art During the Pandemic" to the theme of loving justice. Here are a few of their insights:



"These art pieces remind viewers of their love for justice by showing recent injustices and displaying the world as a sad, lonely place without justice."

— Luke Weber

"These relate to loving justice because when the call for justice is needed, beautiful and very interpretive pieces of art are created. It shows our humanity and our will to grow as a society."

— Noah Forcier

To see the exhibit yourself, visit the digital gallery at <http://gallery.dbq.edu/sept20/index.html>.

New Buildings Dedicated

Faithful Stewardly Giving



Barb and Jack Smeltzer



The new Smeltzer-Kelly Student Health Center

Lifetimes of Dedicated Service Honored



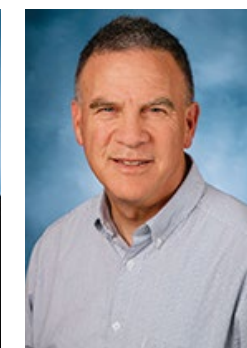
Peter & Susan Smith Welcome Center



Peter Smith

New Advisory Board Members

Welcome to our new members: Beth McCaw and Jonathan Barz. Beth McCaw has a long history with Wendt, having helped shape it in its beginning in 2004. She has served as a faculty mentor to the Wendt Character Scholars for multiple years and written for the journal. Jon Barz finished four years as a faculty mentor and was also on the research team, writing an essay for the journal. Best wishes to retiring advisory board member Bonnie Sue Lewis, Professor Emerita of Mission & World Christianity!



Director's Note

Loving Justice

"It's not fair," exclaimed my 9-year-old daughter. How often she said that when teachers didn't treat students the same, when consequences for poor action were meted out differently, or when her turn got skipped. We've all felt the sting of injustice at some time. Now imagine living through experiences of injustice as an adult with consequences that affect your life, your family, your community. Where do we turn when we feel injustice? Call the authorities, bring in the police, or go to the courts? But what if all of those people ignore your cries for justice? Who offers you recourse against injustice if institutions and authorities don't?

I had the opportunity to visit the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in Atlanta and was struck by how long it's been since the Civil Rights Movement . . . and how devastating it is to still need to be at this work—work that is hard, requires careful attention, and the urgency of now.

Loving justice, whether taken as a description or as an existential call of being, demands we end our complacency. We are at a time when conversation, growth, action, and change must happen. But it won't happen if we don't pay attention and listen to one another. And it's not a one and done action. It takes steady commitment.

Justice is one of the Wendt Character Initiative's core virtues and something UD values highly. We talk about being people of justice who treat people fairly, respect diversity, and practice Christian love. Love and justice together? Absolutely. It enables us to treat all people of varying opinions and perspectives with respect and kindness as image bearers of God. It also enables us to stand knowing the very character of God calls us to this work. *I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the LORD (Jeremiah 9:24).*

This year as you listen to one another, learn from diverse voices, and seek to take action in your spheres of influence, may you grow from uncomfortable conversations. May you discover the delights of new friendships. May injustice make you uncomfortable enough to stand against it. And may you find encouragement along the way that you are not in this work alone.

—Annalee

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, Inc., Atlanta



"But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" Amos 5:24

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