

UD Faculty Advance Excellent Moral Character!

We know that having caring, involved faculty impacts student success. Know that students see your good work, faculty. This year the Wendt Center invited students to nominate faculty who have advanced the Wendt virtues of excellent moral character in teaching, learning, or living. **Twenty distinct faculty** were nominated, sometimes multiple times. Incredible comments came in about these 20 UD faculty such as:

Has integrity in accountability in teaching and serving others, but also in pushing everyone to become the best version of themselves; is supportive and encouraging; compassionate; willing to help; involves us in volunteer work; selfless; honest; cares about students' well-being; great mentor; empathetic; fair; proof that living with integrity, justice, and compassion is possible; cares that you are a better person when you leave the class than when you started; kind; challenging in a good way; caring; helps me see different perspectives; positive; an advocate for truth; leads by example; accepting of all; and promotes diversity.

Congratulations to this year's Faculty Character Advancement Award winner, Dr. Kevin Cattani! As one student wrote, "he embodies and promotes everything the Wendt Character Initiative stands for."



Dr. Kevin Cattani

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Character Athletes of the Year

Congratulations to Jenna Heimark (Women's Outdoor Track & Field) and Ethan Cain (Wrestling), recipients of the 2018-19 Character Athletes of the Year Awards!



New Event! Character Scholars kicked off a new Service Week in April. See p. 10 for details.



2018-19 Highlights

August



Kick-off Picnic



International Character Day

September



Fall Book Groups

October



Fall Wendt Character Lecture, Claude Chester



New journal issue

November



Gratitude Week



December



Christmas Banquet



Spring Kick-off

January



February



Health Care Simulation

March



Spring Wendt Character Lecture, Sarah Theberge

April



Service Week



Wendt Tea



Spring Banquet



Character Lecture—Love Looks Around



Sarah Theborge, our Spring Wendt Character Lecturer, challenged us to reevaluate our own bounds and limits. She encouraged us to have confidence, compassion, and courage as we look around with love, see those in need, and serve.

Ms. Theborge also spoke with prospective PA students about her experiences practicing international medicine and shared conversation over lunch with faculty and staff who read *WELL*, her memoir about her time volunteering at a hospital in Togo, West Africa.

—a fantastic speaker with an incredible story

—a message of care, commitment and compassion

—Prof. John Shook



She spoke to me; I could see her stories spoke to those around me as well. I could see it in students' eyes.

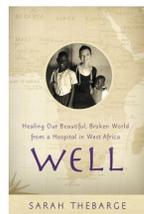
—Prof. Alan Garfield

LOVE LOOKS AROUND



I found her talk to be very inspiring, captivating, and heartfelt.

**—Anna Dunson
Wendt Character Scholar**



Character in the Disciplines

Natural and Applied Sciences

We may all agree that good character is essential to a purposeful life, but it's not always obvious how character relates to one's field of study or occupation.

Two recent Chlapaty Fellows in the Natural Sciences shared how character concerns impacted their 2018 summer research.



Gabby Marchese
2018 Chlapaty Fellow

Gabby Marchese studied the ingredients in bath bombs to improve consumer awareness of heavy metals or carcinogens they could contain. Gabby considers it a matter of character to make sure such products aren't harmful. "It's important that cosmetics being sold to consumers are actually safe and wouldn't have any negative long term health effects on them."

Brianna Finnegan aimed to improve future research on freshwater turtles of the Mississippi by identifying the most effective baiting methods. She connects character to her work ethic and commitment to her research. "Character comes into play in my research everyday when I have to get up and go out into the field to collect data. It requires perseverance and patience as sometimes your research does not always go the way you want it to go."



Brianna Finnegan
2018 Chlapaty Fellow



Character is important in all aspects of my life. I want each and every student to graduate from campus

to not just be an expert in their content area, but more importantly I want them to be good global citizens, possessing high moral character.

Thus, I strive to be a positive influence on my peers as well as my students as I continue to strengthen my character.

**—Dr. Adam Hoffman
Associate Professor of
Environmental Chemistry**



Dr. Dale Easley at a watering hole in Botswana.

The longest study that was ever done about the quality of human life indicated one thing matters—the strength of our relationships. When we have healthy relationships, we even experience pain differently, not focusing on it so much. And in the classroom, we tend to learn more from people we care about, including our fellow students. To develop those relationships takes integrity, honesty, and attention to the Golden Rule, the very sort of emphasis that guides the Wendt Center.

**—Dr. Dale Easley
Professor of Geology**

Wendt Faculty Grants



UD students Evelin Ortiz and En-Yu (Sam) Wu report on the impact of the film *Within Every Woman* and its filmmaker's visit.



Dr. Jon Barz and Ms. Christina Stringer taught a J-term course that included a trip to New York and considered different cultures, diversity, and identity.



Dr. Franklin Yartey presented at a Conference in Sweden and led a thoughtful discussion of his paper with his students, challenging them to consider how to have integrity online.



Students brought mounds of clothing, shoes, medicines, food and spices, and books to donate to local families and children on the service learning trip to Cuba.

Each spring at the Wendt Tea, we celebrate the great character work that faculty are doing with students. Below are this year's faculty projects that received funding from the Wendt Center to explicitly help students learn about or grow in character.

- Service and Cultural Trip to Costa Rica—Women's Soccer
- Improving and Challenging Character through Service Learning: Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish Culture and Science Camp at Fort Berthold
- Courage for Justice and Screening: *Within Every Woman*
- Development of Character and Social Justice through Culturally Responsive Teaching
- Developing Professionals of Character who Act with Integrity, Justice, and Compassion
- Darryl Burton: Miracle of Innocence
- Class trip to Detroit—Power and Character
- Class trip to Detroit—Racism and Character
- Issues of Justice, Injustice, and Compassion through Blood Knot performance
- New York Insiders and Outsiders: Who Belongs?
- Service Learning Trip to Cuba
- Fostering Empathy: A Service-Learning Project
- DAYLC 2019—Character and Leadership Workshop
- Milkshake Duck: Non-Security Uses of Surveillance in the Digital Age—Character and Integrity Online
- Philosophers Against Anxiety and Depression (PhAD)



Wendt Tea attendees read the reports submitted by grant recipients.

Character Scholars

Alumni

We continue to joyfully receive updates from Wendt Character Scholar alumni and hear about the continued impact of the Wendt program on their lives.

My experience as a Wendt Character Scholar really help me discover how I enjoyed engaging in deeper and challenging discussions about how our character defines us.



—Adam Demers
WCS 2007-10



My experience as a Wendt Scholar helped me look at the way I and others viewed the world subjectively, while giving us a space to share our views in a social setting.

—Ernesto Cruz
WCS 2011-12

Being a Wendt Character Scholar pushed me outside of my comfort zone. It instilled in me the belief that giving my time to others was actually a gift for myself. We learn so much when we give.



—Hannah Thalacker
WCS 2009-11

I have a lifelong dedication to serve my students and community due to the experiences I've had through the Wendt program.



—Chelsea Zenner (Kemp)
WCS 2009-12

Farewell to Cassandra Berger

Cassandra Berger, Wendt G.A. for the past two years, is graduating with her MBA and moving to La Crosse, Wisconsin, to serve as head lacrosse coach at UW-La Crosse.

Cassandra developed our social media strategy and reconnected us to so many of our graduates. She has been a joy to work with and is full of positive energy and creative ideas. Her enthusiasm and kind spirit have been blessings to the program. We are excited for the many lives she will touch and can't wait to hear about her future adventures.



Scholar Curriculum

What a year it's been! Continuing with the theme of Boundless Compassion, this spring we heard from Josh Jasper of Resources Unite, engaged in Mary Bryant's health care simulation and follow-up with Beth Neyen, learned about hospice from Diane Fasselius, considered end of life issues with *The Giver*, were challenged by Sarah Theborge in her book and talk, and learned more about human trafficking from Kim Hilby and from Jon and Zach Barz and Seeds of Hope.



Scholars collaborated with Live Like Jack and Resources Unite to spread the message about available resources in Dubuque via "candy cane bombs."



Diane Fasselius, Hospice of Dubuque, spoke about compassion and the mission of hospice.



Mary Bryant designed a health care simulation to help scholars grow in compassion for everyone involved in the U.S.'s complicated healthcare system.



Prof. Beth Neyen led a debriefing to unpack the issues presented in the healthcare simulation.



Prof. Kim Hilby shared information on the disturbing amount of human trafficking in Iowa and the Midwest.

The health care simulation opened my eyes to all of the processes and struggles people can go through. That information I learned there will also majorly affect how I go about my business within the healthcare world so I am thankful for that lasting impact this seemingly simple simulation made.

—Hannah Sawyer
Wendt Character Scholar



Dr. Jon Barz led a video call with Zach Barz and Ethan and Amanda Hutton, who shared their work at Seeds of Hope to help prevent child trafficking in Costa Rica.



Scholar Marissa Joers moderated a panel of scholars on the international student experience. Participants were Sam Wu, Nick Rubiano Blanco, Konstantine Batonisashvili, Joshua Nsenga, Bogdan Ganea, Dan Bacskai, Zac Simanski, and Roody Joinvil.

Spring Banquet



We celebrated completing scholars and mentors. Pictured: (4th Row) Easton Cook, Konstantine Batonasashvili, Jacob Day, Mackenzie Helgemoe, Hope Enck, Joseph Schwenker; (3rd Row) Kelsey Betthausen, Christine Lurhuma, Keyshawn Carr, Olivia Walter, Bogdan Ganea, Jillian Hunt, Gabby Marchese, Dr. Adam Smith; (2nd Row) Dr. Beth McCaw, Hannah Sawyer, Anna Dunson, Taylor Hamilton, Nick Rubiano Blanco, Marissa Joers, Jenna Lauritzen, Brianna Finnegan; (1st Row) Tyler Bolsinger, Keith Pitts, Dr. Josh Thomas.



Community and good food



Reading the Wendt Character Scholar Pledge



Celebration of friendships



Dr. Jon Barz's mentor group



Dr. Adam Smith's mentor group



Dr. Beth McCaw's mentor group



Ms. Emily Entsminger's mentor group



Dr. Josh Thomas's mentor group

Scholarship and Service Awards

Congratulations to Jenna Lauritzen, Jacob Day, and Zac Simanski, our Character Scholars of the Year. Jenna, Jacob, and Zac lived out their commitments to timely and full completion of assignments and service and faithfully attended every meeting.

Be faithful and diligent in serving others, you will be blessed even more than those you serve.

—Keith Pitts
Service Award Recipient

I listened to these stories of compassion, in hopes that I can show others compassion in such a way as our speakers did.

—Jenna Lauritzen
Scholar of the Year

We also congratulate Keith Pitts, recipient of our Service Award. Keith completed over 205 hours of service this year!

Honorable Mentions for the Service Award are scholars who completed 100 or more hours of service: Shabnam Schmidt, Darren Schach, Jenna Lauritzen, Evelin Ortiz, and Jillian Hunt.



Service Award Recipient



Character Scholars of the Year

Serving others to simply help and because it's the right thing to do is the true reward.

—Jacob Day
Scholar of the Year

Representing this commitment and working with all the fantastic people in Wendt every week is such an honor.

—Zac Simanski
Scholar of the Year

Banquet Speaker Ashley Stackis



Ashley Stackis (WCS '11-14) spoke about finding her calling. She encouraged scholars to utilize their gifts to the fullest to make a difference in the world, even in the face of disappointment and opposition.

There are good days and bad days, but at the end of the day, when you look deep in your heart, if you've made a positive impact on the world, you push on.

—Ashley Stackis
WCS Alumna (2011-14)

Wendt Mentors



Wendt Mentors Dr. Beth McCaw and Dr. Josh Thomas completed their three-year commitment to the Wendt Scholars program.

Thank you for three years of service!

Service

Service Week

Wendt Character Scholars initiated a Service Week this spring. The mentor groups devised service projects to do together.

- Cleaning up the Dubuque Arboretum and Botanical Gardens for spring
- Planting 100 trees
- Making and delivering cards to nursing home residents
- Picking up trash and clearing fallen branches and sticks at Allison Henderson Park



Service matters. The smallest things can make a big difference, especially in a world full of cynicism.

**—Tyler Glenski
Wendt Character Scholar**



Participating in service week is not only a great way to help organizations or good causes, but it provides a great opportunity to meet new people.

**—Dan Bacskai
Wendt Character Scholar**



Athletics



I want to be a role model for young athletes and help them become the best they can be.

**—Destiny Wash
Athlete and Wendt Character
Scholar**

UD Athletics participate in numerous service projects year round. This year, the tennis, softball, cross country, track, wrestling, and other teams served the Dubuque community and UD campus. Among their activities:

- cleaning local parks
- running meets and tournaments for high schoolers,
- helping with UD athletic events' security and parking,
- setting up Christmas trees on campus.

Thank you, UD athletes, for your continued commitment to service!



Being a part of a team requires you to be selfless. Service for the community is an irreplaceable example.

**—Dishon Deering
UD Head Tennis
Coach**

The UD Women's and Men's Tennis Teams cleaned up McAleece Park and recreation complex, along with the skate park and veterans memorial.

I want my wrestlers to develop leadership skills that lead them into a life of service, into whatever their passion, talents, and gifts are calling them into—coaching, teaching, law enforcement, pastoral work, military, parenting, etc., and make a great impact on the world.

**—Jon McGovern
UD Head Wrestling Coach**



The UD Wrestling Team served at football games, assisting with security, cleanup, and parking. They also cleaned up campus and local parks and volunteered at the Dubuque Wrestling Tournament, which hosted over 1,000 wrestlers at Five Flags Center.

Director's Note

Cascading Compassion

A year-long focus on boundless compassion juxtaposed against world events once again reminds me of water. Water can be so destructive and literally create opportunities for us to reach out to neighbors in compassion:

- Flooding has devastated so many of our Midwest communities. Broken levees and rough economics create despair. Farmers feel hopeless. Small towns are abandoned.
- Teardrops. *Since August* horrific terrorist attacks have occurred all over the world—3813 events and counting, and 221 mass shootings in the U.S. these last 8 months. And more teardrops.

But water also grows life, quenches thirst. Compassion, too, quenches the longing to be cared about, grows life. Even as we mourn destruction and loss, Easter's promise of new life is active right here on this campus! Be encouraged, be hopeful—life-giving compassion is at work. A cataract waterfall of compassion spills on our community.

- We have a food bank staffed by students for students.
- Students, faculty, and staff all are active in community service. Wendt Scholars alone have done over 2600 hours of service this year!
- Fraternities and sororities, athletes, Worldview 2 students, along with most of our 60 student organizations have hosted events or service opportunities for all of campus.
- SGA actively seeks ways to serve by contracting with the Jule bus service, providing tablets in study rooms, hosting Friendsgiving, participating in Diversity Week, registering people to vote and hosting early voting, to name a few.
- Special events encourage us all—from the Convocation celebrating cultures to the human trafficking Color Run, to the St. Baldrick's fund raiser, to the Athletes' parks cleanup, to the Earth Day celebration and more.
- Speakers and films challenge our understanding of compassion whether it's in prison (Claude Chester, warden), or suffering unjustly (Darryl Burton), fighting addiction (Eric Donoho), bringing medical health to a third world country (Sarah Thebarger), or calling for compassionate justice for the comfort women of WWII (Tiffany Hsiung, *Within Every Woman*).
- 15 Faculty Wendt projects encouraged students through travel learning, deep study, service, films, and speakers touching audiences not only on campus, but across the world.

As you reflect on this academic year, may you remember that compassion and kindness still matter. Jump in. Keep the waterfall flowing.

—Annalee

WENDT CENTER FOR CHARACTER EDUCATION



Dr. Annalee Ward
Director



Mary Bryant
Administrative Assistant



Cassandra Berger
Graduate Assistant



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