

SPRING 2013 WENDT CENTER

The Wendt Center saw a lot of activity this year . . . Here's a sampling.

Fall 2012

Wendt Center Advisory Board formed

Dr. Annalee Ward began the Semester as the Director of the Wendt Center with 63 Wendt Scholars and 5 faculty/staff Mentors

September 7 Wendt Scholars Kick-Off Picnic at Eagle Point Park



24 Monday Night Wendt Scholar gatherings



October 22 Wendt Character Lecture: Mayor Dean Koldenhoven

Fall Book Discussion: *Shaping Character: Moral Education in the Christian College*

Fall Book Discussion: *Fabric of Faithfulness: Weaving Together Belief and Behavior*

December 3 Christmas Gathering at the President's Home

November 12-16 Gratitude Week



Spring Book Discussion: *Make your Job a Calling: How the Psychology of Vocation Can Change your Life at Work*

Spring 2013

March 11 Wendt Character Initiative Lecture: Dr. Brian Dik



March 14 DAYLC all-day character and leadership workshop



April 23 Honors Convocation First Wendt Character Athlete of the Year awards given



April 8 Wendt Character Lecture: Dr. Susan Emmerich

April 15 Wendt Funding Report Tea

May 5 Athletic Banquet Wendt Character Athlete Sport Awards

April 29 Wendt Scholars Banquet



Wendt Character Initiative Spring Lectures

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Dr. Susan Emmerich Film Festival

What is environmental conflict management? It's the kind of work Dr. Emmerich does whether its with the farmers around Chesapeake Bay, Tangier watermen, and environmentalists, or the coal mining communities of West Virginia.



In her lecture, *When Heaven Meets Earth: Creation Care as a Ministry of Justice, Reconciliation and Community Transformation*

Emmerich demonstrated deep concern for a responsible and engaged practice of Biblical care for the environment while navigating the need to earn a living from it.

She believes that our love for God, our neighbors and the wider creation, as well as our passion for justice, compel us to urgent, prophetic and practical ecological responsibility.

The short film, *When Heaven Meets Earth* about Emmerich's work preceded the lecture. A well-received longer version was shown at the Julien Dubuque International Film Festival.

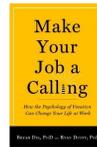


Dr. Brian Dik

There aren't many topics on which superheroes, Protestant Reformers, and cutting-edge psychological science converge, but "How can I discern and live out my calling?" is one.



In this March 11 lecture, "Web-Slinging and World-Changing: Career Guidance from Spider-Man, Martin Luther, and a Hospital Janitor, Dr. Brian Dik, co-author of *Make Your Job a Calling*, explored what a calling means, how to discern one's calling, and how to transform an uninspiring job into a pathway for purpose.



Dik's passion to help people find meaning in their work, whatever that work may be, illustrates the University of Dubuque's commitment to understanding work as vocation. We want our students to be able to approach their work with purpose and Dik's message reinforced that.

Dik, serves as associate professor of psychology at Colorado State University. He is cofounder and chief science officer of Career Analytics Network/ jobZology. His research targets calling, meaningful work, religion and workplace spirituality, vocational interests, and career development interventions.



DAYLC: Dubuque Area Youth Leadership Council



Over 100 high school juniors, class leaders selected from 11 high schools, arrived at the Stoltz Center early morning Thursday, March 14 for a day-long workshop in leadership and character hosted by the Wendt Center. Fourteen Wendt Scholars facilitated the discussions and exercises on leadership, character, and ethics.

Planning, developing, and running an event like this requires much help and campus cooperation. From University Relations to the Food Service, the Athletic Department to the Seminary, to Admissions, many people were consulted or tapped for assistance.

Danielle Kuboushek of Student Affairs led the group in a leadership styles exercise. Students uncovered their “color” of leadership and discussed ways to work with others who have differing styles.

Dr. Annalee Ward directed the students through two sessions of ethics case dilemmas. The 14 Wendt students worked with small groups to direct discussions and help the students ask questions like “what does it mean to be honest in this situation?” or how do we balance people’s rights when they conflict

with one another?.

The day wrapped up with student skits culminating in a spontaneous group dance. Then Coach Mike Schmidt concluded with a pep talk on being leaders of character.

I thought the student leaders were great positive role models for us!

I thought it was really fun and gained a lot of knowledge about the meaning of good character.

Great experience. I loved having people around me that wanted to engage in thought provoking conversation. I reflected on my values, and it was eye opening to see others’ views.

DAYLC High School Participants

All around, it was a great experience and a lot of fun. You feel very special when you have students at that age understand the meaning of ethics and character!

Vanessa Carlson, Wendt Scholar

The Wendt Center worked with DAYLC in September. Annalee Ward and Jim Winter, President of DAYLC interviewed student finalists to determine the top scholarship winners. Dr. Ward participated in the awards ceremony in the fall to give out awards from their day at UD and to congratulate the overall winners.

Wendt Scholars Spring Programming

With a spring theme of “Stewardship for Lives of Purpose,” the Wendt Scholars explored financial stewardship, vocational stewardship, and environmental stewardship. Guest speakers, Wendt Lecturers, and mentors challenged us to understand stewardship as applying to all of life.



Financial Stewardship

The Jamiesons began the semester for us framing our understanding of stewardship by reminding us that “You’re not the owner, and our character is influenced by the choices we make with what we’ve been entrusted.”

The challenge deepened the next week when they revealed that the best way to break the power of money is to give it away. Cultivating habits of generosity and care for others is critical to forming excellent character.

Students were given the \$5 challenge. “Take \$5 and be a good steward of it—come back in two weeks with an account of how you did that.” Some students pooled their money, some returned it and some found creative ways to multiple it including getting a store to allow the purchase of 5 coats for \$5 for a coat drive. (See page 6.)

Dave Birkett reminded us all of the power and need for personal budgeting and financial responsibility.



“You’re not the owner, and our character is influenced by the choices we make with what we’ve been entrusted.”



“What would you do if you won the lottery?” That’s the question Dr. Mark Ward, VP of Academic Affairs used to begin our reflections on vocation. Tracing the history of attitudes toward work from the ancient Greeks through medieval times, the renaissance, Marx, and Freud, he reminded us that work is a gift from God. Historic attitudes prioritize self over others, but there is a better way. “Serve God and others in love because we have been loved.”

Discussions of the meaning of vocation continued with our Wendt Character Initiative Lecturer, Dr Brian Dik. In his lecture he also encouraged us to find ways to connect our work to the bigger picture of what God is doing in the world. Not all jobs are personally fulfilling, but all jobs can be done to glorify God and to serve our neighbors.

Environmental Stewardship

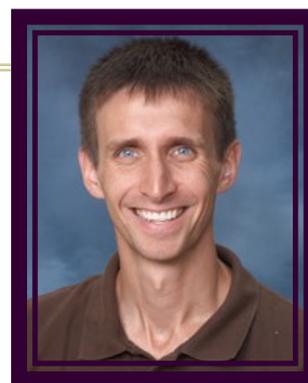
In the second half of the spring semester, the Wendt Scholars embarked on a journey to discover the meaning and application of Environmental Stewardship.

The first meeting saw mentor Dr. Adam Hoffman unpack the multitude of characteristics related to Environmental Stewardship. His capable sidekick, and five year old daughter, helped drive home the point that the earth does not belong to us, we’re only borrowing it from those who will come after us.

Dr. Susan Emmerich, Executive Producer of the film *When Heaven Meets Earth*, engaged a variety of folks on campus and in the community during her film festival showing, a luncheon with faculty, and a dinner with students. Dr. Emmerich’s well received stay culminated with her Wendt Lecture chronicling her outreach with the Tangier watermen’s and Pennsylvania and Maryland farmers in the upper part of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to be exposed to the topic of Creation Care.

The Wendt Scholars then turned their focus back home, as they examined the Sustainable Dubuque program. The group enjoyed a virtual back and forth with the Dubuque Sustainable Community Coordinator, Cori Burbach, and the Mayor of Dubuque, our own Roy Buol.

The group also explored what is happening in their literal and figurative backyards along with ways they can get involved with relevant projects during an Earth Day visit from Paul Schultz (Resource Managements Supervisor for the City of Dubuque), Raki Giannakouros (Co-founder of Green Dubuque), Andy Buss (Construction Supervisor with Applied Ecological Services), and Eric Schmechel (Catfish Creek Watershed Coordinator) & Dean Mattoon (City of Dubuque Engineering Office).



Passing on the Gift



by Angela Christian

How far can five dollars take somebody? Whether it's saving the money for something more or spending it on several pencils that would help small African schoolhouses, money can produce a lot of good. Our group put our money together in order to help people in a long-lasting way. By contributing fifty dollars to the Heifer International's "Passing on the gift" plan, we are giving a gift that keeps on giving.

With our money, we purchased a flock of chicks, a flock of ducks, and a sheep. These animals are given to needy families that struggling in terms of hunger and basic living. While giving a family some chicks may seem too simple and not worthy to make much change, it surprisingly provides a family with life-sustaining eggs to their unhealthy diets, and the "protein in just one egg is a nutritious gift for a hungry child [...] and can make a life-saving difference" (Heifer). Besides providing protein, these animals can fertilize crops, be used as an economical resource (e.g., making wool), and can multiply to help these families even more.

While five dollars seems insignificant, it grows with patience and care. This idea of "passing on the gift" integrates one of Wendt's most significant values: the Golden Rule. Furthermore, this gift giving shows a commitment to a meaningful life—not only toward families' lives, but to the animals as well. As these animals are sent to impoverished families, they are even taught ways to efficiently raise and use the resources provided, e.g., keeping the animals within in fenced-in area in order to prevent any diseases. The plan's contributions to society are described in detail:

[...] it brings new opportunities for building schools, creating agricultural co-ops, and forming community savings and loan groups to help fund entrepreneurial start-ups. Newly formed women's groups help increase the communities' full potential, as neighbors who may have never interacted now come together to help the community prosper. (Heifer)

"Passing on the gift" goes beyond the mere fifty dollars we put together. This gift giving transcends money and supports stewardship of resources of all kinds—money and the environment alike.

I believe that my life reflects abundance. I do not have to worry about having enough food to eat or a place to live. . . .The ability to break the power of money depends a great deal on the individual. Some people make a conscious effort to support charities and organizations that help people in a variety of different ways. A number of the worlds most wealthy individuals have donated significant amounts of money to charities. This shows that the donors have recognized that their money can have a greater impact on other people's lives. -Owen Woodland, Wendt Scholar

131 applications

3.53 average GPA

63 females,

68 males

14 states

3 countries

12 different religious affiliations



Ashley Barwick,
Character Athlete of the Year



Trevor Runkle,
Character Athlete of the Year

Wendt Character Scholars Application Process

What makes a Wendt Scholar? That's what the 20 faculty and staff application readers had to determine this spring.

Using a standardized rubric addressing many factors, these people put in hours and hours of reading.

So what did they look for? They scored for each of the recommendations, for GPA, for overall completion of application, specifical-

ly for each essay question, and for involvement in various activities including community service.

We had two readers on each application. Scores were averaged. Once the scoring was complete, students were put in rank order as well as divided by class.

With 33 returning scholars, we only had open slots for 27 students.

What challenging

decisions! We have so many good students already at the University, and we do take a few current students to help balance the class and gender goals.

We are excited for the new scholars selected and look forward to a terrific 2013-2014!



Reggie Cole, Jr.,
new scholar

Athletics and Character

This year the Athletic department initiated Character Matters, a new program designed to help coaches focus on developing good character in their athletes.

To support this work and to further the Wendt Character Mission, we are now supporting several new awards.

Character Athlete Awards: for individual sports. Coaches nominate the one player who best exemplifies commitment to a life of purpose and excellent moral character, as well as good sportsmanship and virtues such as truthfulness, honesty, fairness, and the Golden Rule.

Character Athlete of the Year: for the overall man and woman who best exemplifies the Wendt Character. These two individuals are selected by the Athletic department from the individual sports nominees.

Intramural Sportsmanship Award: T-shirts for the intramural team player who best demonstrates good character in intramural team play.

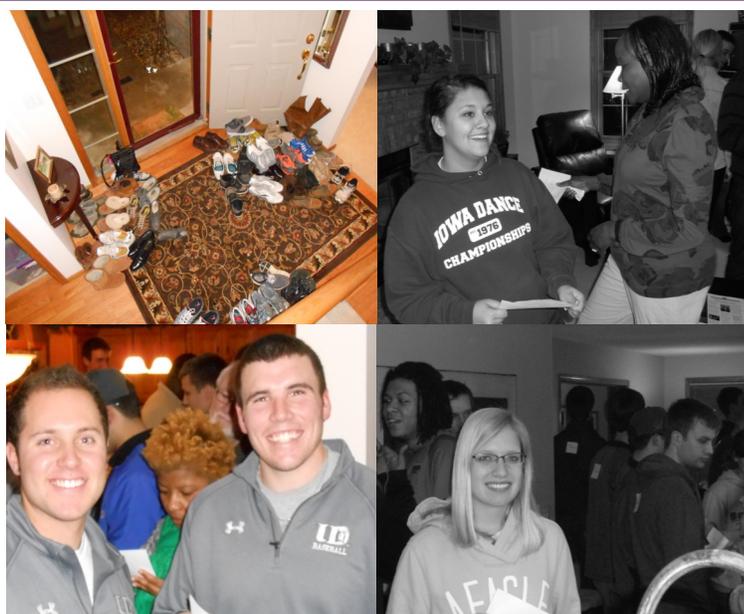
Spring Banquet

Steffens Hall saw the final Wendt Scholars Banquet April 29. Ameriserve provided a festive meal.



Our speaker, Library Director, Mary Anne Knefel, reminded us that ethical challenges are nothing new. The third President of UD, Karl Wettstone, faced his own challenges particularly with athletics.

Another highlight of the event was when our five Mentors honored our graduating seniors and those completing three years in the scholars program.



January Kickoff—Wendt Scholars

On a chilly January night 63 Wendt Scholars and their Mentors joined the Wards at their home for dinner and conversation. After being apart for the winter semester the students and mentors began the night with an ice breaker before pizza.

The groups then gathered to discuss the ethical challenges of Penn State linebacker Manti Te'o and his made up girlfriend.

Getting together not only contributes to community formation, but we have fun in the process.

My best Wendt related memory was perhaps our welcome back dinner in Dr. Ward's home at the beginning of spring semester. It was a great time in which we had food, were able to interact with all the Wendt Scholars not just our group, and talked with other peers. I take away knowing there are people who care and want you to excel in life. Wendt gave me the opportunity to make new friendships outside of school when volunteering and new friendships within the program.—Lionel Salazar



Wendt Center for Character Education Tea



FAC/STAFF FUNDING REPORTS

Wendt Character Initiative 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 April, the Wendt Center for Character Education held their first annual Wendt Tea to share the projects that faculty and staff completed with Wendt Funding.

To ensure fair and appropriate distribution of funding directly related to the Wendt Center's mission, an Advisory Board was formed with representatives from across campus. Throughout the Academic year they have read 25 applications and approved 19 for funding.

As part of a requirement when funds are approved, the Wendt Center asked that faculty and staff present for no more than 5 minutes on their project/conference or event and how it connects directly to the Wendt Center Mission. We also asked the presenters to bring items that were used with their projects. Here are three examples from the many terrific presentations..

Dan Runkle (Character Matters)

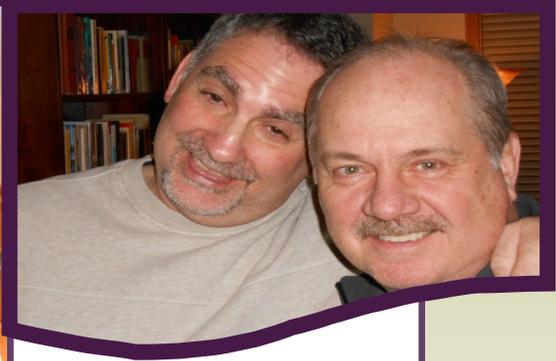
Through this program our coaches received exceptional training on the significance of character and establishing a culture in which it matters.

Tabitha Bartelme (Abuse Awareness Week)

Educating students on the issues of partner violence, sexual assault and relationship abuse are directly related to the development of good moral and ethical character. The Wendt key virtue of "the golden rule" is particularly applicable here in teaching students to treat others as they would like to be treated and to advocate against abuse in all forms.

Jonathan Barz and Brian Hallstoos (Trip to African American Museum)

Two of the primary prerequisites for living a life of high moral character are the development of empathy and the willingness to act with courage on one's convictions. The African American Museum of Iowa helps students develop empathy by putting "flesh and blood" on issues of equity and racial injustice which they also explore through historical and literary texts.



Scholars return in the Spring to a Welcome Back Dinner Meeting at Dr. Annalee Ward's home.



BEFORE: Wendt Scholars Kick Off Picnic at Eagle Point Park. Scholars and Mentors were connecting to find common connections.



University Librarian, Mary Anne Knefel —
"Stewardship of an Institution. "



Dr. Bullock joins us for a second time this year in leading us in prayer and sharing some words of wisdom



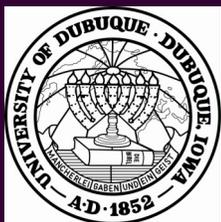
AFTER: Wendt Scholar Banquet-Reading the Wendt Scholars Pledge.

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A Note from the Director

Reflecting on this full year at the Wendt Center, I am grateful and humbled by the vision that the President and the Wendts had for this Character Initiative. The gift of having a Center that focuses across campus on helping to promote purpose-driven lives and excellent character grows more valuable as we graduate more and more students who have been challenged to rise to higher standards. Our students can make a difference in this world!



It's been a year of discovery . . . and many events to plan. Maria-Victoria Perez has been an integral part of all we've done, and while I am happy for her graduate assistantship award at the University of Iowa, I will miss her good work.

One discovery is of all the good work that has been done before me. I've tried to maintain and build on the strengths of that work. The Wendt Character Scholars, for example, is a stellar program. Students testify to positive changes in their lives because of the community built, the knowledge of character gained, and the opportunities for service.

Joey Kilsdonk writes: "Wendt has helped me better understand the meaning of life, and how I can help others while taking care of myself as well. It has taught me to look at the big picture and appreciate everything God has created for us. "



"The most important thing I will take from the Wendt program is that of a life-long commitment to helping others in some fashion that I can make a difference in their lives," said Nick Ellis.



From multiple speakers to multiple book discussion groups, funding requests to DAYLC, the Wendt Scholars' program to the library Wendt collection, Student Life, to Athletics to faculty candidate interviews, the Wendt Character Initiative is at work.

I conclude with one scholar's comments that speak to the goals of this Initiative. "From Wendt," notes Anna Stoeffler, "I will take a greater sense of gratitude. I will also take with me a greater sense of responsibility, as I know that my actions can have a large impact on those around me, and I want this impact to be positive. "



What a terrific year! And I too am grateful.



WENDT CHARACTER INITIATIVE

UNIVERSITY OF DUBUQUE