

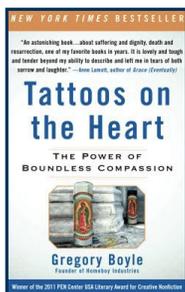
Fr. Boyle, S.J.'s "Fearless Integrity"

"Extraordinary person!" "Absolutely phenomenal speaker!" "The most touching, inspirational speaker I've ever heard!" "One of the best lectures I have ever attended!" "Incredible!"



Survey respondents gushed in their responses to Father Gregory Boyle's October 24 lecture on "Fearless Integrity." He masterfully wove humorous stories with the serious, moving us between laughter and tears, challenging us to grow in our compassion for others by seeing each person as family, as kin.

Father Boyle's *Tattoos on the Heart*, was discussed in the Wendt Book Club.



One respondent wrote, "I thought the lecture had some resemblance to the beauty and cadence of a concert or oratorio, starting with a reference to making a joyful noise for the Lord and ending with that. I had not heard his wonderful salient point that kinship should come before an emphasis on justice; and his point is convincing."

Outstanding lecture! Much to think about.

Excellent and compelling.

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Another person reflected, "I have been thinking about this lecture a lot. Imagine a world where "enemies" become friends. We try to serve people on the margins. We even like those we meet out there!" (Continued on page 6)



Father Boyle meets over breakfast with members of the UD community, including students, faculty, and staff.

Gratitude Week

Character Scholars Serve



This week really reminds you of how truly blessed you are, and is a little reminder to thank God for what He blessed you with.

—Olivia Walter
Wendt Character Scholar



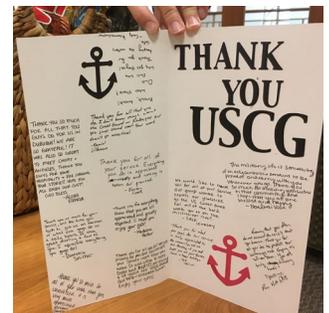
Gratitude week is my favorite week and I love that we have the opportunity to show our appreciation.

—Ashlyn Ptasienki
Wendt Character Scholar



SERVICE UPDATE

Wendt Character Scholars commit to 15 hours of community service each semester. This semester 1, 228 service hours have been logged thus far!





Gratitude Spreads On and Off Campus

Wendt Scholars celebrated Gratitude Week November 14-18 by honoring people on and off campus.

On Campus Projects

- Campus gratitude card for Heritage Center staff
- Lunch and mural for Advising and Career Center
- Sylvia's gift cards and thank you notes for UD grounds crew and shuttle driver Dale Thein
- Notes of gratitude and cupcakes for UD custodial staff
- Card, coffee, and donuts for UD Admissions
- Gratitude sticky note mural

Off-Campus Projects

- Gift basket for Coast Guard
- Gratitude card to Josh Jasper of Resources Unite!
- Thank you notes to Jule Drivers
- Cards and athletic event passes for UD's neighbors
- Pizza lunch and Christmas ornaments for the Wendt Regional Cancer Center at Finley Hospital

Remember as you go forward, it is who you are that matters. We surround ourselves with stuff, but it is not the stuff that matters, it is who we are that matters.

—Craig Marty
Associate Professor of Business

Sylvia's gave thanks with special prices on lattes and donuts on the last day of classes before Thanksgiving.



Prof. Craig Marty sends an annual letter of thanks to his students. He lists what he is grateful for and encourages them to meditate on their own gratitude.



Brian Beverly, UDTS graduate and former Wendt Character Scholar, brings Gratitude Week to the community of Hammond, Louisiana with his wife, Amanda.

Inspired by our time at UD and with the Wendt Center, Brian and I knew that we wanted to carry on the tradition of Gratitude Week here in Louisiana. This weekend our church served at the First Responders' Appreciation Picnic. It was in gratitude for all of those that serve our community.

—Amanda Beverly
UDTS Graduate and Former Wendt Character Scholar

*A grateful heart will find a score
Of blessings just outside the door...
Things we've taken for granted before.
This is a powerful revelation:
That our good comes from our expectation.
So practice this "Seeing" and you'll come to know
THANKSGIVING makes your blessings grow!*

Rob Gomoll, 2016
Adjunct Professor of English

Wendt Character Scholars

Christmas Banquet

A feast provided by Ameriserve and Christmas carols marked the Wendt Character Scholar Banquet on Monday night, November 30. What joy to be together and mark the beginning of Advent, a time when we anticipate celebrating Christ's birth and his return as King. With music provided by Samuel Felderman and several scholars leading the singing, we delighted in being together.

The Wendt Christmas Banquet has always been something I look forward to each Christmas season of my collegiate career. For me it has symbolized a season of gratitude and a focus on what Jesus came to this earth to accomplish.

—Logan Butson
Wendt Character Scholar

Kahla Rosenfeld reflected on the evening. "Besides the delicious meal and warm fellowship, the Wendt Christmas Banquet taught an important lesson through an unforgettable experience. While interacting with both new and familiar individuals, I developed a strong sense of belonging, and I was able to converse without fear of judgement. It suddenly became clear to me that without unconditional love and courageous compassion, we face a life full of uncertainty, fear, and loneliness."

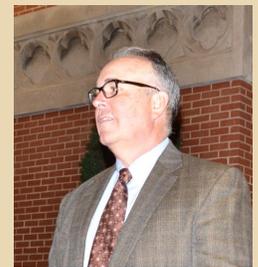
UDTS Scholar Keith Pitts summarized his experience. "The Wendt Christmas Banquet was a wonderful time of food, fellowship, and praise. It provided a respite from the business and stress of classes and workloads. We are truly blessed to be part of a program that that is committed not only to integrity, compassion, and justice, but also to loving meaningful relationships built on a foundation of Jesus Christ. Last night's event was a wonderful time of loving expression between a diverse group of people. To God be the glory!"



Liz Swan, Abby Willis, Annber Breimon, Joshua Merritt, and Michael Semon lead the group in carols, with Samuel Felderman accompanying on piano.



Kahla Rosenfeld



President Bullock delivers the meal blessing.



Dr. Mark Ward, Daneel Gayle, Jesus Rodriguez, Nelly Nordin, and Janella Ceballos

WENDT SCHOLAR APPLICATIONS

Students interested in being considered for the Wendt Character Scholar Program for the 2017-18 school year may apply online now through January 31st, 2017.



Undergraduate and seminary full-time students are eligible. Applicants must submit a complete application, including essays questions, and have two references complete an online recommendation form. Complete guidelines, applications, and recommendation forms are available at www.dbq.edu/Wendt/CharacterScholars/Applications.

Research Team Update

WINTER 2016

Worldwide Access to Journal

What do these countries have in common? People from these 27 countries (among others) are accessing the Wendt journal online!

Algeria
Argentina
Australia
Canada
China
Ecuador
England
France
Germany
India
Indonesia
Ireland
Japan
Kenya

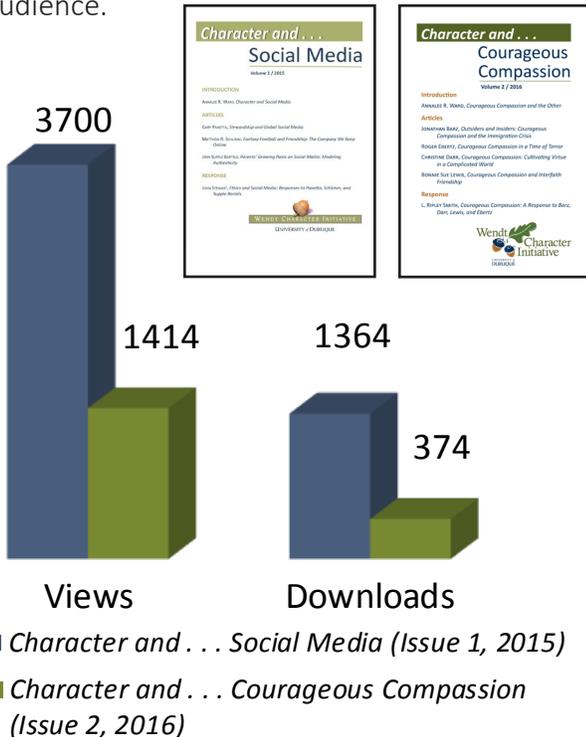
Libya
Luxembourg
Malaysia
Netherlands
Philippines
Romania
Russia
Scotland
Singapore
South Africa
Turkey
United States
Ukraine



A snapshot of some of the countries where people have found the Wendt journal online.

Views and downloads of our two issues of *Character and . . .*

Issue 2, just released in October 2016, already finds an audience.



New Research Team Hard at Work in Fall 2016



Professor Sinno demonstrates Pokémon Go as part of his work on character and augmented reality.



Professor Rafic Sinno, Dr. Franklin Yartey, Dr. Annalee Ward, Sarah Slaughter, and Dr. Susan Forshey.

Wendt Character Lecture

Fr. Boyle, S.J. (Cont.)

Father Boyle lives his commitment to love and serve others and models integrity. "It was a rare privilege to be in the presence of and learn from someone who exemplifies learning from, communing with, and helping heal and empower the most hurt and needy," shared another audience member.

Father Gregory Boyle's presentation inspired me to be mindful of receiving people rather than reaching people. His call to obliterate the illusion of us and them was spot on!

—Katrina Richardson,
Wendt Character Scholar,
UDTS Student

Working with gang members, loving them, teaching them, burying them, Father Boyle brings hope to his community and to those of us who hear him speak. May we all learn from his example and continue to live lives that embrace the kinship of all people.

If you missed the lecture and would like to see it, visit the Wendt web page, past character lectures, and you'll find a link to the video of it. <http://www.dbq.edu/Wendt/CharacterLectures/PastLectures/>



Father Boyle and his fifth grade teacher, Sister Mary Agnes O'Connor, who lives in Dubuque.

Boyle Book Signings and Breakfasts

After presenting to a large audience of over 400 people, Father Boyle signed books and chatted with audience members from both the UD Community and the greater Dubuque area.

In the morning, Father Boyle met over two breakfasts with members of the Wendt Book Discussion Groups as well Wendt Character Scholars and other students who had read his book.

Father Boyle's words continue to resonate across campus, with a special chapel service that reflected on his message of God's unconditional love for every person.



Father Boyle with Wendt Character Scholars at the book signing



Breakfast with Father Boyle



Chapel service on the theme of compassion for the marginalized

Spring Wendt Character Lecturer: Quentin Schultze



Mark your calendars for March 27, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. when Dr. Quentin Schultze speaks on "How to Listen, Love, and Laugh in a World Gone Mad."

We live in a time of fear, anxiety, depression, addiction, and anger. How can we rediscover peace and joy? One answer is re-learning how to use the remarkable gift of human communication to listen, love, and laugh together even in the midst of cultural and ideological conflicts.

Dr. Quentin Schultze is a communication professor, author, speaker, mentor, and master teacher who proclaims the good news that virtuous communication can overcome many of our personal and social problems.

Character on Campus

WINTER 2016



Faculty Grants at Work

Wendt Faculty Grants support faculty in their efforts to promote the qualities of integrity, justice, and compassion as they reflect on good character and relate it to the events at hand.



• Dr. Kelly Grussendorf and students visited the Kansas City Body Worlds exhibit to consider compassionate treatment in healthcare.

• Dr. Liza Johnson took six students to the Iowa Women Lead Change Conference in Iowa City to learn the importance of character in leaders.

• Dr. Brian Hallstoos and Dr. Jeannine Pitas took Oral History students to Chicago to engage with Latin@ culture and build understanding and compassion in preparation for interviewing Latina/o alumni.



• Dr. Angie Brandel and Dr. Brian Hallstoos invited Dr. Chris Mato Nunpa and Mary Beth Faimon to UD to converse with students about power and the preservation of Indigenous integrity.

Honors Events Programmed for Character

Dr. Christine Darr, Assistant Professor of Christian Ethics, promotes character through campus guest speakers and events for the Honors program.

- Dr. Abbylynn Helgevold of UNI gave the Fall Honors Lecture, "Getting to the Heart of Integrity: Nurturing Vulnerability and Courage."
- Sara Williams, doctoral candidate in Religion at Emory University, spoke on "Processing in Public: Facebook as a Site of Ethical Reflection."
- Dr. Darr's Christian Ethics class hosted UD students and community members in a Community Action Poverty Simulation, followed by a homelessness immersion.

Thank you, Dr. Darr, for your work including character in your classes and providing new opportunities for the UD community to consider and develop character and virtues of compassion, integrity, and justice!

While this experience is obviously not identical to what millions of homeless men, women, and children live on a daily basis, students expressed their heightened awareness of issues they had never thought about.

—Dr. Christine Darr on homelessness immersion

"All For Allison" brought this campus together to support not only one of the best professors at this University, but one incredible human being.

—Tyler Lewan,
Wendt Character
Scholar, Member of
ENACTUS

ENACTUS Supports Sinno Family

UD's ENACTUS chapter raised over \$2,000 this fall for Prof. Rafic Sinno's daughter Allison, who was recently diagnosed with cancer.

Business student Olivia Iwasaki set up the fundraiser when she learned of Allison's illness. "My hope is that our fundraiser will help put Allison back on the healthy track so that she can finish her senior year at Dubuque Senior High and carry on to become/join the strong Spartan warrior/family she is/has," says Iwasaki.

Prof. Sinno reports the outpouring of love from the community has helped Allison and the whole family stay positive.



Prof. Rafic Sinno and Olivia Iwasaki

A Note from the Director

Imperfect Bells

The Liberty Bell and Leonard Cohen—both speak of cracks and imperfection.

In the Wendt Center, we talk of our aspiration to become people of integrity, justice, and compassion. These virtues, in short supply in the campaign rhetoric we've lived through, hopefully mark UD students, faculty, and staff members.

But sometimes they don't. Sometimes each one of us misses the mark and lives in such a way that people might call us hypocrites. That's not a helpful term.



Missing perfection doesn't mean we give up. We can, by God's grace, make a difference for good.

If we are committed to living lives that point toward God, that demonstrate these virtues and yet fall short, I think we're talking about the human condition—flawed people. People who, in theological terms, sin. But missing perfection doesn't mean we give up. We can, by God's grace, make a difference for good.

Leonard Cohen's chorus of "Anthem" reminds us not to give up or quit trying:

*Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in.*



As we enter the season of Advent anticipating a celebration of Christmas, remember the powerful symbol of the bells—the cracked bells let light in. Ringing bells speak of hope and joy. Let the light of God shine through your cracks as you bring your imperfect offerings to a world in need of joyful light.

—Annalee

Imperfection is the prerequisite for grace. Light only gets in through the cracks.

—Philip Yancey

WENDT CENTER FOR CHARACTER EDUCATION



Dr. Annalee Ward
Director



Mary Bryant
Administrative Assistant



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