

Bearing Witness: Storytelling and Human Rights



Bestselling author and award-winning journalist Alex Kotlowitz visited UD as our Fall 2019 Michael Lester Wendt Character Lecturer to share his thoughts on empathetic journalism and emphasized the importance of integrity in reporting.

For more than three decades, Kotlowitz has brought an acute and empathetic lens to on-the-ground reporting in many forms of media and is recognized for his unflinching portrayals of race and poverty in America. His latest book, *An American Summer*, which was recently placed on the longlist for the 2020 Andrew Carnegie Medal of Excellence, offers a spellbinding collection of profiles of people touched by violence in Chicago.

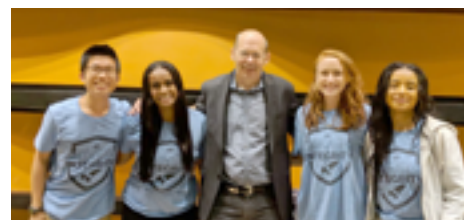
He challenged us to stop defining others by their circumstance, their politics, or by a moment in their lives—rather to come to know them for *who they are*.

People who before had no voice had a chance to share their story and have him retell it in a way that moves people to do the right thing.

**—Shabnam Schmidt
Wendt Character Scholar**



Kotlowitz met with faculty, staff, and students for informal conversation and sharing of ideas.



Looking Ahead

2020 Spring Character Lecture

Justin Skeesuck and Patrick Gray will share their story of enduring friendship, embarking on the Camino de Santiago together with one of them wheelchair-bound, and how their experiences have shaped their views of leadership, teamwork, relationship, and the power of the human collective.



Apply to be a Wendt Scholar

Online applications now open! www.dbq.edu/WendtApplication.

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Character in the Disciplines

Character in Digital Art and Design



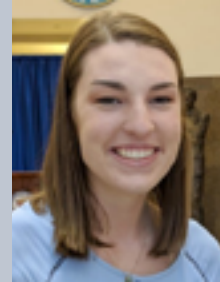
by Alan Garfield

Chair and Professor of Digital Art and Design
Director of the Bisignano Art Gallery

We live in a society that encourages us to think about how to have a great career, but it leaves many of us inarticulate about how to cultivate the inner life.

In the DART Department, we focus on creative communication via print and video and web and photography. But first, we must communicate with ourselves to be most effective in the market-place.

We must spend the time to develop and examine the depths of character that make all the difference to our sense of a meaningful life as much as our digital design.



God gave me the love for art, specifically graphic design, and I want to use it to the best of my ability.

God gave me something that I truly enjoy as well as use it as a way to spread his everlasting love.

**-Lydia Kleckner
Wendt Character Scholar**

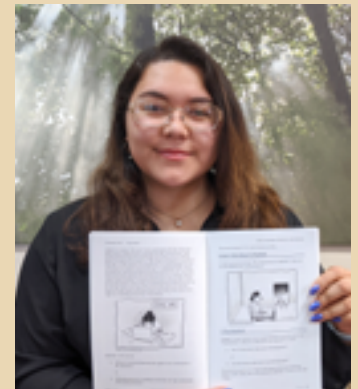
A Student's Perspective on Integrity and Design

by Evelin Ortiz

Design is all around us, so much so that we often times find ourselves drawing inspiration from what we see in our everyday routine. When it comes to design, everyone should be mindful of the difference between inspiration and imitation, making sure that we're not using someone else's work just to edit it slightly and pass it off as our own. It's giving credit to our inspiration and recognizing that designer's work, allowing it to influence our design versus copying it. Just because it's online doesn't mean it's free for one to use or copy.

Many in the art community have experienced having their work stolen, whether from a company, another artist, or some person selling cool T-shirts online. Character is being someone who doesn't contribute to that culture, gives credit where it's due, and when they see something like that happening, they alert the artist and help raise awareness of the situation.

For many people, their designs are like an extension of themselves, their voice and presence. It can represent their passions, interests, wonders, and visions. However, we also have to be mindful of what we design. While it has the power to represent, inform, persuade, and motivate, it also has the power to coerce, deceive, and damage audience members. But when integrity guides us, design can be a force for good. From advocating, promoting initiatives, engaging individuals, and enhancing missions, design can make a community and spark action.



Evelin Ortiz, Wendt Character Scholar, provided illustrations for the Wendt Center's fifth issue of its journal *Character and . . .*

Character in Athletics

With good leadership, athletics programs can cultivate good character in athletes. Here at UD, good character is a priority for our Athletics Department. Our coaches and teams seek out service opportunities and encourage good character on and off the court.



Josie Thomas, Wendt Character Scholar

Women's Basketball

UD Women's Basketball Players set a high standard on and off the court with how they interact with others through the skills they learn while being members of a team. Our players are continuously exhibiting what it takes to be a great people, but more importantly, great servant leaders.

—Mark Noll

Head Coach, Womens Basketball



Coach Noll



Coach McGovern

Wrestling with Homelessness

Wrestling Head Coach Jon McGovern is answering one of the world's needs with sports. "We have many wrestlers and military veterans with PTSD, and they need our support," he says. He has a plan to use athletics events to provide more help to the homeless and veterans suffering from PTSD in our community.

Recently, he invited homeless children to a wrestling tournament at UD. The event not only was a great experience for the children, but Coach McGovern also points out that it was a growth opportunity that "impacted the wrestlers in a positive way, letting them know they can be role models for the homeless kids," planting a seed of service in our future leaders.

Watch for more from Coach McGovern! He intends to "invite the kids back and educate the community through sports on homelessness and supporting our Military."



Men's Wrestling athletes with homeless children

Service

UD's 22 athletic teams participate in service projects throughout the year, including a Clean-a-thon, when each team adopts and cleans up one of the Dubuque community's public parks.



The Men's Lacrosse team's Clean-a-thon

Lacrosse doesn't just teach you how to play a game but shows you how to become a well rounded person through the life lessons learned through the game.

—Dominic Mulcahy
Wendt Character Scholar, Athlete

Gratitude Week



Scholars Brady McIntyre Bradley Buechel, Sasha Williams, and Zac Simanski with Athletic Trainers



Scholars Lauren Howe and Nathan Rauenbuehler with Registrar staff

On-campus Audiences

- Coaching staff
- Counseling
- Athletic Trainers
- Campus Ministry
- Registrar's Office
- Wendt Staff



Scholars Adam Steingraeber, Mson Nebel, Bailey Iverson, and Dominic Mulcahy prepare blankets for Counseling staff.



Scholars Bailey Iverson, Lauren Griffith, and Kaitlyn Wilder with Counseling staff



Scholars Natalie Dienstbach and Brooke Goodman with Coaches



Scholars Lauren Howe and Morgan Meerstein with Wendt Center staff

It was fun being creative while thinking of someone that we wanted to show our gratitude towards. It really brought a smile to my face getting to see the reactions of the individuals who received the gifts.

**—Emily Swanson
Wendt Character Scholar**



Scholars Shelby Hibbler, Sam Wu, Katelyn Howe, Andrew Newberry, Brooke Goodman, and Kate Meyrick with firefighters at Fire Station 5

One thing I look forward to every year is gratitude week. I love the meaning behind it and all the good we get to do for the community.

**—Elena Krasowski
Wendt Character Scholar**

Off-campus Audiences

- Fire Station 5
- Construction Workers
- Rescue Mission
- Prescott Teachers
- Washington Middle School Paraprofessionals and Instructional Assistants



Scholars Josie Thomas and Garrett Goeden with gift for Prescott teachers



Prescott teacher with goodie basket



Scholars Joshua Raby, Bradley Buechel, Brady McIntyre, Ireland Hill, Alyssa Klawitter with Rescue Mission staff

Serving in Style



Tyler Glenski, Emmie Skeen, Zac Simanski, Lauren Howe, Sam Wu, Destiny Wash, and Brandon Ramos got dolled up to volunteer at MercyOne's black-tie Gala.

Character Scholars' Programming

Shaun Boothe's Unauthorized Biography Series

We continued our exploration of Relentless Integrity with a performance by Shaun Boothe, who presented the lives of notable Americans with an eye to the character virtues they exhibited or lacked.

I really enjoyed Shaun Booth's Unauthorized Biographies because he revealed the connection of deep pain with triumphant results for those who model integrity.

**—Zach Bloom
Wendt Character Scholar**



Shaun Boothe with Wendt Scholars Isaiah Williams and Sasha Williams

Honors Lecture

At the Fall Honors Lecture, international photographer Joel Carillet challenged us to consider who we are and what it means to be a neighbor.



Joel Carillet

Joel Carillet really drove the point of just being human to one another. He does it by sharing stories and collecting photographs, but the message is that we can always lend an ear or a hand to one another.

**—Zach Elias
Wendt Character Scholar**

Christmas Banquet

We celebrated the Christmas season with fellowship and shared a delicious meal. Dr. Adam Smith, Scholars Kate Meyrick, Austin Butson, and Sam Wu, and Admin. Assistant Mary Bryant provided music and led a carol sing.



Scholars Brooke Goodman, Lauren Donaire, Alyssa Klawitter, Nicolette Evans



Dr. Adam Smith

Character on Campus

UD's faculty and staff collaborate to make campus a great place to visit, work, and attend class. Many go above and beyond to take it to the next level and make a positive difference in the community beyond. Thank you to all, whether you're behind the scenes or front and center.

Food Service



Rodney Giles works hard to plan nutritious, delicious, and affordable meals at the Heritage Center Cybercafe.

Education Department Service

Dr. Chad Biermeier worked with the East Dubuque Superintendent and UD Alumnus T.J. Potts to arrange visits for kindergarteners and junior high students, as well as student teaching opportunities for UD students and STEM nights in East Dubuque.

"Our Teacher Education students get another opportunity to interact with K-12 children and the East Dubuque students get the opportunity to get on a college campus to see what it looks like," Dr. Biermeier points out.

This great partnership benefits students both in UD's Teacher Education program and attending East Dubuque schools.



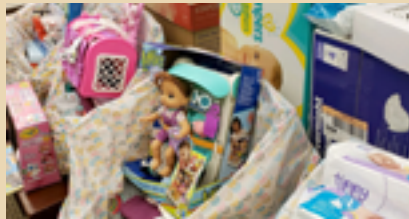
This may be the first time these students have seen a college campus and may be the first step in them pursuing a higher education degree that will help them positively influence communities they will live in as adults.

**—Chad Biermeier
Teacher Education Dept. Co-Chair**

Faculty/Staff Serving Together

One of the big pieces of feedback that we received from the fall teaching conference was the desire to have more opportunities to serve the community together . . . where we use our hands, ones where we give of resources, etc., recognizing that some people have time, some have funds, and some have physical strength.

**—Jennifer Pattee
Instructional Design Specialist**



Numerous faculty and staff donated items to families of young children who are behind on development.



UD volunteers helped build Convivium's new community garden.

Maintenance



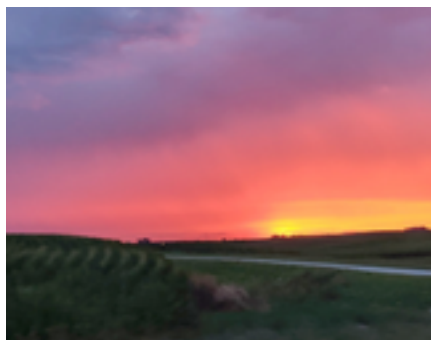
Joe Palen and Scott Estal keep UD's many furnaces running at peak condition all winter.

Director's Note

The Light Shines in the Darkness

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. Isaiah 9:2

We've entered the season of antithesis--darkness and light. Experiencing cloud-filled days interspersed with bursts of sunlight, we awaken to dark mornings and watch afternoon light disappear. The melancholy of winter settles in as the cold drives us into growing isolation. Yet the warmth of family and friends creates places of belonging. This dialectical dance makes for moody scenes!



The time on the calendar also dictates a yin and yang that speaks of great hope and great disappointment. Our culture tells us that Christmas is a time of busyness, of joyful present getting and giving, of picture-perfect decorations and cookies, families, and memory-making. But in reality, our struggles to live up to that image often leaving us feeling empty and somehow not quite good enough.

Moral character alone will not sustain us in the darkness or the light. While we seek to be people who live lives of integrity, practice justice, and connect with others compassionately, that character needs a telos, an anchor. Here at UD, we profess to be committed to the one true Light beyond ourselves that shows us who we truly are and empowers us to be more than we can be on our own.



This Christmas season, cast your eyes to the Light who knows the despair of darkness and whose presence makes "the night shine like the day." This true Light will not disappear when we make mistakes or fail to live up to standards. For the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it (John 1:14).

May God's light shine on us and through us illuminating the darkness within and around this Christmas season.

—Annalee

WENDT CENTER FOR CHARACTER EDUCATION



Dr. Annalee Ward
Director



Mary Bryant
Administrative Assistant



Icicle Freeland
Graduate Assistant



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