

Campus COVID Response Calls For Character



Amy Edmonds, Coordinator of Campus Safety and Awareness

UD rises to the challenge of COVID-19 by creating good campus policies and calling one another to compassionate practices. Planning our response began early with the formation of a COVID-19 Response Task Force.

The 28-member task force and its head, Amy Edmonds, Coordinator of Campus Safety and Awareness, have worked to keep this campus safe. This wearing and time-consuming work requires constant vigilance on changing recommendations and policies. Making policy recommendations requires stepping out with vision, hope, and faith that they were operating with the latest and best knowledge.

All of that work contributes to UD's ability to carry on this year. Edmonds credits the campus community rather than her own work. "Last semester this campus kept the positivity rate for COVID-19 low," especially in comparison to the broader community or to other campuses, she notes. "This is attributed to the fact that the campus community lived our mantras" (see below).

But what about the spring semester? "We're tired!" notes Edmonds. We're tired of restrictions, of masks, of social distancing, and even washing our chapped hands so much. BUT, "it's more important than ever to stick with the restrictions," she pleads. Even when we're tired or it's difficult, don't give up. Challenges provide opportunities to cultivate our character. Adaptability, patience, and forgiveness are virtues that grow as we practice them. This semester, we can do it!

(continued on p. 4)

UD Mantra

No. 1: Practice common sense—good hygiene, physical distancing, and wear a face covering for yourself and for others.

No. 2: Adaptability, Patience, and Forgiveness.



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Coming up:

"What to do in Red Sea Moments"



David M. Bailey

Virtual Michael Lester Wendt Character Lecture—**Feb. 1, 6:00 p.m.**

David M. Bailey, public theologian and culture-maker focused on reconciliation, will share ways we can learn from others who have innovatively engaged in racial justice and healing through reconciling culture making.

Register to attend online at www.dbq.edu/wendt

Character in the Disciplines

Character in the Physician's Assistant Program

Character is so essential to certain programs and disciplines that they require a license in good character! The Physicians Assistant program is among those programs carrying a good character license.



by Natalie Weber
Director of Physician Assistant Program

Character is a fundamental attribute of a PA. Character, including ethical and professional behaviors, is critical to an effective educational model and are considered a core competency in the PA academic program and profession. Professional and ethical behavior include, but are not limited to, honesty and integrity, dedicated

desire to learn, respect for the academic process, concern for the welfare of patients and their families, a commitment to patient confidentiality, respect for the rights of others, emotional maturity, and self-discipline.

Professionalism as a PA involves prioritizing the interests of those being served and acknowledging professional and personal limitations. PAs must demonstrate a high level of responsibility, ethical practice, sensitivity to a diverse patient population, and adherence to legal and regulatory requirements.

During the didactic phase, students dedicate time to community service. The UD PA students have been recognized by the Iowa PA Society for volunteer hours. In 2020, the students dedicated the majority of their service time to the "Walk to End Alzheimer's" fundraiser, University of Dubuque food pantry, and Operation Christmas Child.

Like everything else, COVID has created a number of challenges for the PA program. We have become more innovative, found silver linings, and honed our adaptability and resilience. What a time to be educating future healthcare providers!

We strive to be life long learners, sacrificing our free time to better the care of those who seek us out. We strive for honesty, even when it breaks our own hearts. We strive for understanding, even when diagnoses may be elusive. We strive for the character that makes our patients feel heard, and their concerns felt. Ultimately for myself in the role of a Physician Assistant, character has the most important role, so that I can do everything possible for my future patients to make their lives better.

—Justin Hunn
UD Physician Assistant Class of 2022
Cohort President



Adapting to COVID-19

PAs require hands-on training and clinical experience. Here are ways the program adapted to the challenges presented by COVID-19:

- transitioned teaching to live remote lectures,
- hands-on training done in small groups with PPE,
- revised the Capstone Project to allow student research to continue while clinicals were on hiatus,
- when clinicals returned, students committed to an intense, shortened schedule with minimal time off to complete requirements.

The Class of 2021 started clinicals as scheduled Jan. 4th, and the Class of 2022 remains on campus for instruction.



Character is showing what we can give to the community, not what the community can give to

us. . . . The PA program has done this and more to respond to the adjustments we've had to make. We have not wavered in persevering, serving our students, and providing them with the education we promised them.

—Kristie Arthofer
PA Program Coordinator

Character in PA

To earn a patient's trust, a healthcare provider needs to: 1) fundamentally respect the patient as a unique autonomous human being, 2) empathize, 3) work hard to stay current and knowledgeable in the medical field and recognize any limitations they have, 4) be honest and truthful, 5) follow through with care commitments.

I am proud to say at the UDPA program we are training trustworthy physician assistants! Handwork, integrity, accountability, communication, teamwork, compassion, and respect are emphasized in their training.

**—Regan Wolbers, MD
Clinical Education Director, PA Program**



I found that what I wanted to do for a living was make an impact on my community and help people as much as I possibly could. I have a passion for helping people which is one of the biggest reasons that I want to become a PA. I believe that character will have a huge role in the profession of being a PA.

**—Brady McIntyre
Wendt Character Scholar**

Character in Sports

Many sports saw their championship games canceled by COVID-19. The UD women's golf team, which won the American Rivers Conference for the second year in a row saw the cancellation of their National Tournament. Rather than letting it discourage them, they doubled down on their commitment to succeed with the new fall season. They came back strong, winning the regional championship in October for the second year in a row and earning their way to Nationals in 2021.



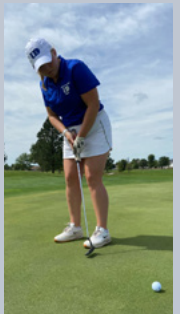
Wendt scholar Madison Bowers and coach Dustin Bierman

Coach Dustin Bierman attributes their success to a few factors: the leadership of Danielle Miranda and Madison Bowers (a 3rd-year Wendt Scholar) and their collective hard-work and dedication. He cites the old adage, "Character makes bad teams good and good teams great." He claims that the team's good work ethic made it easy for him to help them succeed. They plan to participate in nationals in May, barring any more unforeseen circumstances.

Madison Bowers, who placed 4th overall, says: "I believe that good character contributes to golf because your teammates and coaches need to trust you that you are going to be mentally into the game during the round and that you are going to put the work in. As a junior on this team, I need to step up and be a leader to some of the underclassman as well as to show good character when competing with other teams. One of my biggest goals as a golfer is to be remembered not only for being a hard worker, but also for the kind of person I was for the time that I was at UD."

Winning the conference championship really shows how all of the hours we have put into our game really pays off. Making sure you display good character on and off the course is important to make sure you are in the best mindset during your round and so that you are lifting up others as well.

**—Sydney Killeen
Wendt Character Scholar**



Character on Campus

COVID Response on Campus (Cont. from p. 1)

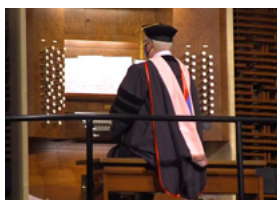
Graduation

December commencement looked different this year, but COVID did not stop it. Our ceremony took the form of a “walk through” commencement with ten-minute stops at four stations throughout Heritage Center. Graduates experienced the commencement in small groups with limited guests. On Dec. 16, 61 graduates walked across the stage. On Dec. 17, we welcomed back 14 May 2020 graduates who responded to our invitation to walk across the stage. Graduates and guests were very positive about the experience. Some claimed it was better than the normal commencement. You can see the major sections of the commencement ceremony at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=AsW9cAczajs

We sought to recognize and honor the academic accomplishments of our students, even during a pandemic. Our staff was challenged to find a way to meet safety guidelines in a creative way. The result was a “walk-through” commencement that was honoring for our graduates.

—Mark Ward

Vice President of Academic Affairs



Charles Barland playing on the new organ



Graduate Josephine Thomas



Graduate Sasha Williams and Sparty



President Jeffery F. Bullock, Vice President Mark Ward, and Dean Mike Durnin onstage for a socially distanced commencement with graduates



Student Life's COVID Response

Much of UD's COVID response strategy involves learning to work within constraints and thinking about others. The Student Life Office's essential work supported students at this critical time, as they worked to adapt to new norms and manage their studies.

The past year has presented numerous challenges and opportunities for everyone within Student Life and, especially, Residence Life. The Residence Hall Directors and our student Resident Assistants were willing to give of themselves daily to the front lines while providing a welcoming service to our on-campus students. Everyone has grown from the appreciation of and application of qualities of adaptability, patience, and forgiveness. The lessons learned during this pandemic will stay with all of them throughout their personal and personal lives.

—Mike Durnin

Dean of Student Formation

In the mist of this pandemic, there may be moment where you find yourself feeling sad, alone, and afraid. However, during this time is when you see the abundance of support that is around you. Pay attention to the support that is offered to you and don't be afraid to utilize it.

—Brigette Kyei Nimakoh

Interim Director of Student Conduct

Adapting to COVID on Campus

COVID's Extra Demands on Facilities



Kari Grutz, Housekeeping, is on top of the extra cleaning required.



Mark LeGrand, Maintenance, goes above and beyond (to the roof), keeping facilities in dorms and office buildings running efficiently.

Campus character sightings are common at UD, but in the days of COVID, we must highlight the Custodial Staff. "It would be easy to get complacent when it comes to wiping and sanitizing things one more time," says Alan Bahl, Assistant Facilities Director, "but the Custodial Staff go above and beyond. They have carried the majority of the responsibility for carrying out safety procedures in regards to cleaning, and they haven't given up." COVID has meant added work for all of the facilities staff in terms of pursuing and purchasing the latest and best cleaning products, distributing and maintaining adequate supplies, and refilling them regularly. But as Bahl reminds us, "We're all in this together."

If you have ever visited the University Science Center, you've probably met Sandy Dremmel, the building's custodian. She takes her job seriously, caring not only for the building, but also for all who use it. She leaves notes of encouragement to students taking exams, brings home-cooked food to share, and greets everyone with a friendly word.

Sandy has gotten to know many of us, including students, is always positive, and has an easy laugh.

**—Dale Easley
Professor of Geology**

Sandy loves to cook and to share her food because "food brings people together." And she just likes to be nice! Having had few educational resources growing up in Vietnam, she sees it as part of her job to motivate students to seize the many learning opportunities she sees here in the U.S and UD's campus.

When you see opportunity, you need to grab it and make it work.

**—Sandy Dremmel
Housekeeping**



Creative responses to COVID

Across campus, we are all finding creative ways to continue our programs and activities while maintaining precautions in the effort to keep everyone safe.



Choirs sang, masked and distanced, for UD's online Advent service.

We're created to be in community with each other and UD has adapted in a way that reflects that.

**—Kira Finifrock
Wendt Scholar and UD RA**



In lieu of Christmas concerts, music ensembles posted twelve brief virtual concerts.



President Bullock provided the benediction for the online Advent service.

We are committed to adapting programming to outdoor events, virtual events, hybrid events, grab and go events, and electronic submission events that will allow our students opportunities to be entertained, to learn, to teach, and to be present as we live out our Mission. The byproduct of these interactions has been laughing, dancing, elbow bumps, and an affirmation of the importance of us coming together and staying together during these trying times.

**—Nelson Edmonds
Dean of Student Engagement and Services**

Gratitude Week

Each fall, Wendt Character Scholars celebrate Gratitude Week by choosing two groups of people—one from the University of Dubuque campus and one from the Dubuque community—to recognize and thank for their hard work and dedication. The scholars work together in their mentor groups to create cards, put together gift baskets, and deliver gifts of gratitude to these groups throughout the week.



It was great to see everyone in my small group come together to make cards and baskets for the “Health Care Heroes.”

**—Christian Molosz
Wendt Character Scholar**



On-campus

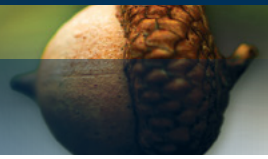
- Gratitude baskets for the Student Health Center
- Goody bags and encouraging post-it notes for the UD COVID-19 Response Team
- Gift bags and handwritten notes for Aitchison Custodial Staff
- Cookies and posters for the Peter’s Commons Staff
- Coffee and donuts for the UD Grounds Crew



A highlight from the Wendt Character Scholar Program would be writing a note to someone we were grateful for during Gratitude Week... because it allowed me to take time and give thanks to someone who has been so helpful in my life and actually voice to them why they have been influential to my life.

**—Sammi Tolnai
Wendt Character Scholar**





I loved giving back to the people who least expected it. Making the card for the Student Health Center made me realize that we really do not appreciate a lot of people who do so much for us. It showed me that good character and giving back really do relate to each other in many ways.

—Emma Powell
Wendt Character Scholar



Off-campus

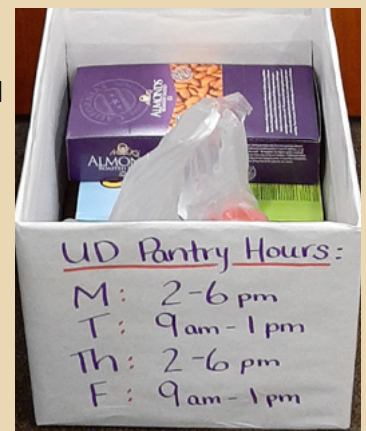
- Coffee and donuts for the Finley Cardiology Staff
- Cards and cookies for the Mercy Hospital ICU Staff
- Gift bags and handwritten notes for the Finley 4th Floor Nurses
- Goody bags for the Riverview Center Staff
- Gratitude baskets for the Finley Hospital Volunteers



Food Drive

Gratitude Week coincided with the UD Food Pantry Food Drive. The Wendt Center hosted a donation box, which filled a few times!

Thank you to all who donated food to the UD Food Pantry!



Character Scholars' Programming

Fall Curriculum Highlights

- "Loving Justice" with Dr. Adam Smith
- "Privilege" with Dr. Adam Hoffman
- "Privilege Historically" with Dr. Brian Halstoos
- Screening of *Just Mercy*, based on the book by Bryan Stevenson
- "Church Forsaken: Practicing Presence in Neglected Neighborhoods" with Dr. Jonathan Brooks, "Pastah J"
- "Criminal Justice System" with Prof. Ben Bartels



Scholars review the semester with their peers.

I want to remember that I have privilege. That doesn't mean that I'm wrong or bad. I want to help others that have less privilege to be a voice for others and to help them succeed.

– Austin Butson

The story of Bryan Stevenson was really inspiring to me as he was a person of integrity.

—Luke Hilliard



Jonathan Brooks -- "Pastah J"

I want to remember the fun we got to have being together in person again. I also want to remember what Dr. Hoffman talked about in terms of privilege and how that shapes who we are as individuals now.

– Andrew Newberry



Ben Bartels, Asst. Prof. of Criminal Justice

I really enjoyed listening to the Chicago native, Dr. Jonathan E.L. Brooks, and how he has impacted his community and continues to help it grow.

—Esmeralda Patino

I also really enjoyed the Pastor J evening session. What he did for his community is something that I would like to do in my hometown at some point in my life, and listening to him helped me realize that I can start to make an impact now.

—Bradley Buechel

The lecture that I felt I obtained the most about our subject matter for the semester was Dr. Smith's lecture on what is loving justice. While he didn't give us an answer, I believe he set forward a path or a type of thinking that will help us obtain a grasp around the concept as it presents itself in the future.

– Zach Elias

Prof. Bartels' presentation nearly brought me to tears to hear of how much grace he extends to his clients and how much he sees their humanity. The privilege presentations helped me to identify my own privilege and how I can guide that into a more positive outcome for everyone. Prof. Smith's presentation on Loving Justice was also so wonderful, he does such a good job at digging into our humanity/conscious to reveal what's going on under the surface. The evening sessions have expanded my mind and stretched my understanding, as well as contributed to my future career as a social worker.

—Kira Finifrock

Scholar Community

Christmas Celebration

Our Christmas activities were limited to a walk-through of Hillcrest Family Service's lights display in Murphy Park followed by a soup dinner. We enjoyed the time for reflection and community.

Wendt has taught me so much about myself and my ever-changing worldview and to have some time at the end of the semester to walk through the beautiful lights and reflect on the great experience I had was truly amazing.

—Maddy Huschitt

Walking through the lights with a whole group of friends that I don't get to see often was great. . . . The food was fantastic, but what was better was the conversations that we all had together, reflecting on the year and everything that we did.

—Bradley Buechel



Character Scholars walked through the lights display in two groups according to distancing rules.



Spring Kick-off

Resources Unite, a Dubuque non-profit that supports people in need, continues to serve in many capacities during a time when needs are diverse and widespread. Our Character Scholars partnered with them again for our spring kick-off this year to assemble candy cane "bombs," designed to help spread the word about Resources Unite's support services and opportunities to volunteer and donate.

Scholars tied information cards about Resources Unite to candy canes, along with some coupons to local businesses, and delivered them to car windshields around the Dubuque area. For people in need of extra support right now, we hope this information brings them one step closer to the help they need.

And for people who have time and resources to give, these notes let them know about a great opportunity to donate or volunteer to support the community.



Character Scholar Olivia Miller



Character Scholars Lauren Donaie, Brooke Goodman, and Nicolette Evans



Character Scholars assemble candy cane "bombs."

Character Scholars' Service

With social distancing and quarantines, one might presume that Wendt Character Scholars would not be able to do community service. Scholars proved that assumption wrong. The Scholars averaged over 20 hours of service per person. Some of the things they did include:

- DuRide Driver
- Salvation Army Bell Ringer
- Dubuque Humane Society
- Convivium—Community Meals
- On-line Elementary Tutoring
- Spartan Start
- UD Food Pantry
- UD Tutoring
- Mississippi River Museum
- Dubuque Arboretum
- Parks and Roadway Clean-Ups
- Various Church Work
- Senior Living Centers
- International Friendship—English Conversation

Scholar Elena Krasowski suffered repeated set-backs when her service plans were canceled, but she found new service opportunities and sought out the positives:



The one thing I have had to keep reminding myself in this whirlwind of a year is that the only constant is change. I had many service

opportunities that I love doing and some new opportunities get canceled last minute.

While all my service opportunities were set back, I also heard that my soccer season was going to be pushed back and look very different. With so much being taken away and so many things being moved around, I believe it has allowed me to reflect on everything I do have. I still get to represent my school on the soccer field in some respects. I still get to see my peers every Monday night at Wendt meetings. Going into my final semester as a Wendt scholar, I am striving to make the most of every moment and I am grateful to be completing three years in such an outstanding program.

I did a lot of bell ringing for the Salvation Army this holiday season and I'm going to be honest, I started off by just doing it to fill hours but . . . it showed me the bigger picture. I wasn't working for Wendt to get volunteer hours, I was working for the people who aren't as fortunate as my family. It touched my heart to see my new Dubuque community come together and raise money for such an important cause.

—Miguel Vega

Hunger is a universal problem, and I was happy to be a part of something that fought against it.

—Logan Loitz



I spent a lot of time creating a Human Trafficking Supply Drive. . . . We were able to gather hundreds of donations and it nearly brought me to tears thinking of how much the community got together to share love.

—Kira Finifrock



I did most of my service by talking on the phone with a man who goes by Martin who is studying at Divine Word College. He is learning how to speak better English and learning about American culture. He has told me he is happy to be my friend and grateful for the knowledge and practice I give him on the phone. I have learned a lot from him as well.

—Luke Weber

Wendt Character Initiative

New Journal Issue

The sixth annual issue of our journal, *Character and . . . Identity*, focused on character and identity formation through the lenses of sharing failure stories, sports participation, and scripture reading.

Lindsey Ward, Joseph Sabin, and Timothy Slemmons contributed thoughtful articles on ways to think and act to encourage healthy identity development and character formation, Wally Metts of Spring Arbor University wrote the response. Visit <https://digitalud.dbq.edu/ojs/character> to read the issue!

Character and . . . Identity

Volume 6 / 2020

ANNALEE R. WARD

Introduction: Character and Identity

Articles

LINDSEY M. WARD

On Becoming a Better Failure: How Failure Stories Can Shape Our Identities

JOSEPH SABIN

Shifting Our Mindset: Sports, Character, and Identity

TIMOTHY MATTHEW SLEMMONS

Co-Authoring Your Story in Light of God's Epic: Human Identity and the Divine Word

Response

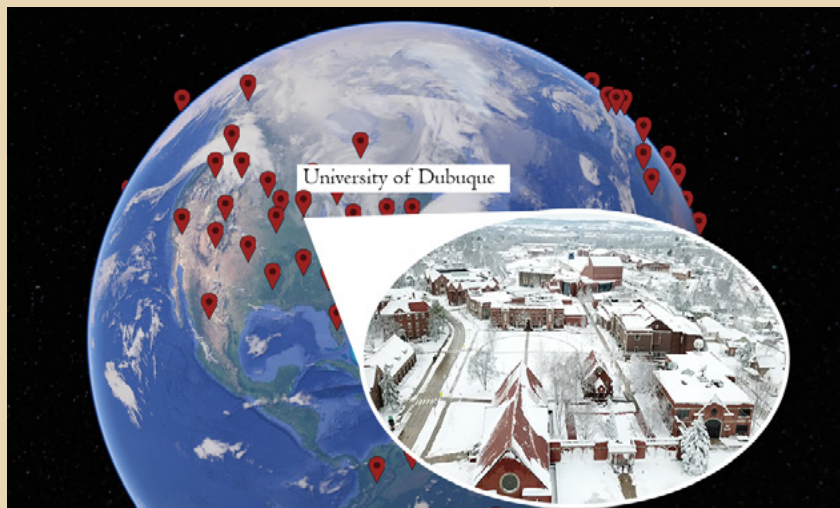
WALLY METTS

Humility and Story: Connecting Identity and Character



Character and . . . Global Reach

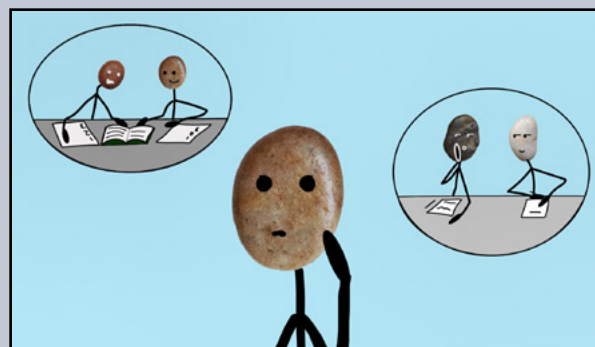
Our online readership continues to expand! While the majority of readers are in the United States, people all over the world are engaging with each of our research teams' work. Since June of this year, people from 65 countries and 44 states have viewed all six of our issues.



New Resources

Academic Integrity—we know what it is, but don't always know how to talk about it. Three new short videos look at why people are sometimes dishonest, why we want to be honest, and what UD's policies regarding academic integrity and dishonesty are. Created and produced by Mary Bryant, these wonderful resources can be used in any classroom. Join us in getting the word out to our students that academic integrity matters!

- Why Cheat? Alternatives?—<https://youtu.be/2ohvRPTXBJQ>
- Academic Integrity Matters—<https://youtu.be/yK4tqfjprzs>
- UD Definitions—<https://youtu.be/PuYDIPsqKqg>



Screenshot from new video, "Academic Integrity Matters"

Director's Note

Activated Hope

We know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. Romans 5:3

We look back and we look forward in this issue. What a semester it's been! COVID-19 impacted everything and everyone, bringing so much suffering. COVID also called us to creative problem solving, to changing the way we did things, to mindfulness about our habits and hygiene, and to gratitude for things like health and education. But now it's 2021. We stand at the starting line of a new semester, a new year, radiating hopefulness. Anything (we hope!) is possible. New beginnings mean new opportunities. We hope a vaccine will come to us soon. We hope for good health. We hope for a "normal" life. We hope for peaceful politics. We hope for a successful semester. We hope for a promising future. We hope to be better people. We hope.

What does it take to enter this year's race in a way that activates hope? We may be assured that a vaccine is coming, but unless we continue mask-wearing, hand-washing, distancing, and then—when they're available—actually getting the shots, our hope for good health could easily disappear. We can hope for good grades, but unless we put in the work with good study and attendance habits, that hope is meaningless. We can make New Year's resolutions and mentally agree that we should "be the change we want to see in the world," but unless we take action and make the sacrifices it may take, hope dissipates.



We are reminded in the Bible that hope, faith, character, and action interwine. Of course the texts are referring to faith in the person of Jesus Christ, followed by actions that demonstrate one is a Christ-follower. Here at UD, character that is rooted in Jesus is character that continues to grow in integrity and practices justice and compassion. The sun has set on 2020. May all of us this new year of 2021 be people who confidently live out their hope in ways that impact their spheres of influence, their circles of friends, family, and acquaintances. May we work hard to activate our hope.

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1

Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. James 2:17

—Annalee

Wendt Center for Character Education



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