Marching on

In a season of struggle, Wartburg mission continues to shine
Marvin Spencer ’88
SOCIAL WORK
Probation and Parole Supervisor, Iowa Department of Correctional Services

Why did you choose Wartburg?
Doug Mason ’75, an admissions counselor at the time, came to my high school a couple of times and brought me on campus. There were a couple of guys who were a year ahead of me in school who were already at Wartburg, so I decided to give it a try. Initially, I only planned on staying a couple of years and then transferring to a larger university, but I never left.

Why did you choose social work?
I took an introductory sociology class, and we had D.D. Starr, the head of the social work department, come in to talk to us one day. She told me I would be a great social worker and advocate for people. At the time I was a business major, but she steered me in this direction.

What have you been doing since graduation?
I have been an employee of the State of Iowa since 1988. My first job was with the Department of Human Services in Pottawattamie County, then I moved back to Waterloo because of an opening in the Department of Juvenile Court Services, which is where I did my senior practicum. After working there for 20 years, I’m now a supervisor for the Iowa Department of Correctional Services.

How have you stayed connected to the college?
I have supervised numerous Wartburg students during their senior practicums. I know there is no way I would have been able to have the experiences I’ve had or be where I am today if there weren’t people along the way to help me out. That’s why I choose to give back in that way. I also sit on the Social Work National Advisory Board.

SHARE YOUR WORTH IT STORY

All Wartburg alumni are invited to share their successes and #WartburgWorthIt stories with us. Please visit www.wartburg.edu/worth-it-stories-alumni to learn more about Marvin Spencer and share your story.
Marching On

Wartburg Magazine
Winter 2021 | Vol. 37 No. 1

President
DARREL D. COLSON, Ph. D.

Vice President for Advancement
SCOTT LEISINGER '87

Associate Director of Institutional Advancement
RENEE CLARK VOVES '04

Director of Marketing & Communication
CHRIS KNUDSON '01

Magazine Editor
EMILY CHRISTENSEN

Assistant Magazine Editor
STEPHANIE ROBBINS BOEDING '99

Magazine Art Director
JOSHUA PETERSMITH

Magazine Photographer
JULIE PAGEL DREWES '90

Print Production Manager
LORI GUHL POEHLER '75

Video Production Manager
ROLAND FERRIE '08

Contributors
KATIE HIRV '22
TRENT JACKSON
KATIE KREIS '19
KAYLIN MUGGLER '21

ON THE COVER:
The classic beauty of Old Main (photo by Roland Ferrie '08) after a new-fallen snow is a sight that brings many peace during these otherwise troubling times.

Wartburg Magazine is published twice a year by Wartburg College, 100 Wartburg Blvd., P.O. Box 1003, Waverly, IA 50677-0903.

If you have suggestions for Wartburg Magazine stories or comments about the content, contact Emily Christensen, magazine editor, at emily.christensen@wartburg.edu. Address corrections should be sent to the Alumni Office or submitted online at www.wartburg.edu/alumni.

TRANSCRIPTS:
To obtain an official college transcript, contact the Registrar's Office or complete an online request form at www.wartburg.edu/registrar. There is a $5 fee per transcript.

Requests must include maiden and all married names used, as well as birth date and/or Social Security number. Enclose return address and payment with the request.

features

Classroom Owls

Connecting the Dots

2-5 Wartburg in the News
6-8 Academic Updates
8-9 Athletic Recap
10-11 Well Read
18-19 AMP’d Up
22 Working Her Magic
23 From Inner-City Kid to Entrepreneur
24-25 Hall of Fame Inductees
26-29 Knights in the News
29-31 In Memoriam
32 Knights Help With Derecho Cleanup

more
Wartburg helps prospective, current students with pandemic response

Two new Wartburg programs were launched in 2020 to help both prospective and current students.

Last summer, the college announced that all students enrolled full-time during the 2020-21 school year are eligible for a fifth year at the college tuition free. Wartburg also moved to a test-optional admissions process for its upcoming recruitment cycle to help remove barriers from students impacted by the pandemic.

Last spring, the pandemic forced the cancellation of nearly all in-person test-taking for the ACT and SAT standardized tests, whose results still figure prominently in the admissions process at colleges and universities nationwide.

The fifth-year free tuition offer was extended to ensure all current students impacted by the changes necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic could get the full Wartburg experience, which extends beyond the academic programs to include co-curriculars like student government, student media, music ensembles, and intercollegiate athletics.

“At Wartburg, we take pride in our holistic approach to education; we offer a rigorous academic program with an emphasis on living one’s learning,” said Wartburg College President Darrel Colson. “Because the pandemic has interrupted so many of our normal activities, we want to ensure that our graduates receive the full benefit of a Wartburg education. Offering free tuition for a fifth year seems to fit the bill; students can return for another semester or year to complete any activity they feel as if they left unfinished.”

Three endowed faculty positions filled in fall 2020

Dr. Nana Quaicoe, assistant professor of economics, was appointed to the James A. Leach Chair in Banking and Monetary Economics, which calls its holder to embody the philosophy and values of Wartburg College, cultivate the intellectual and social lives of Wartburg students, enhance the academic character of the college, and demonstrate strong leadership in the teaching profession. He joined the Wartburg faculty in 2018 after completing his doctorate in economics at Southern Illinois University. The chair was established in 1994 with gifts from O. Jay and Patricia Tomson and Iowa community bankers.

Pamela Ohrt, associate professor of journalism and communication, was named the R.J. McElroy Chair in Communication. She has taught at Wartburg for 16 years and is the faculty adviser for the campus radio station and co-coordinator of the IS 101 program. Her background includes 27 years of media experience in radio and newspapers. The chair was established by the R.J. McElroy Trust upon the death of R.J. McElroy, founder of the Black Hawk Broadcasting Company.

Dr. Abbylynn Helgevold, assistant professor of religion, is the new Board of Regents Distinguished Professor in Ethics. She joined the Wartburg College faculty this year after teaching at the University of Northern Iowa since 2012. Helgevold earned a Bachelor of Arts in women’s studies from Iowa State University and a doctorate in religious studies from the University of Iowa. The Board of Regents Distinguished Professor in Ethics was established in 1989 through a gift from Harry and Polly Slife and contributions from other members of the Wartburg College Board of Regents.
**Board of Regents announces three new members**

**Felecia Boone ’93, from Minneapolis, Minn.; Jim Buchheim ’85, from De Forest, Wis.; and Greg Schmitz ’83, from New Hartford, were each elected to a three-year term.**

**Boone**, a consultant for the Hennepin County Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Division in Minnesota, supports the operations and public works lines of business and delivers training in continuous improvement, customer service, diversity and inclusion, employee engagement, and workforce development. She is the administrator of the county’s Diversity Leadership Mentoring Program. Outside of work, Boone is vice president of the Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA, a member of the ELCA Multicultural Leadership Event 2021 core team, and serves as the chair of the Crossroads Community Organization, a nonprofit that seeks to enhance the quality of life for children and adults in south Minneapolis.

As the community and social impact officer at American Family Insurance, **Buchheim** leads the American Family Institute for Corporate and Social Impact (The Institute) and the American Family Dreams Foundation. The Institute includes a $50 million venture capital fund that invests in startups focused on societal improvements in education, healthy youth development, and climate resilience. He serves on several local boards, including the Boys & Girls Club of Dane County, where he chairs the marketing committee and serves on the executive committee; the Wisconsin Education Business Roundtable; and Competitive Wisconsin, Inc. He and his wife, **Renae Schroeder ’87**, have two children, Jacob ’19 and Alex ’21.

**Schmitz** has served in administrative roles with the Waterloo school district, Hawkeye Community College, and VGM. After retiring, he launched Creating Value Together, which provides operational systems and services along with customized administrative support functions to senior care providers. He is currently treasurer for the Western Home Community Board and serves as past chair for the MercyOne Northeast Iowa Board of Directors. At Wartburg, Schmitz served on the national committee for the Transforming Tomorrow fundraising campaign and was chair of the President’s Advisory Council. He and his wife, **Lisa Koop ’85**, have five children: Michael ’06, Lindsay, Matthew, Daniel ’15, and Alexa ’18.

---

**Soccer field named for Salzwedels**

The Wartburg College Board of Regents recently approved the naming of Salzwedel Field to recognize Jack ’82 and Sarah Slife ’82 Salzwedel. Their three sons, Luke ’13, Tyler ’15, and Sam ’23, played soccer for the Knights.

“A few years ago, we attended a summer concert that was held on the soccer field, and at that time, we thought that the stadium could use an upgrade,” said Jack and Sarah. “Now, seeing the effort to improve many of the sports facilities, we can be proud of the practice fields, the soccer pitch, the baseball field, the softball diamond — all of these are worthy of the upgrades.”

The Salzwedels made the $750,000 challenge gift that spurred completion of the Outdoor Athletic Facilities project. Jack is the chair and CEO of American Family Insurance, and Sarah serves on various boards in the greater Madison, Wis., area. Salzwedel Field serves the men’s and women’s soccer teams. Upgraded in 2019, the field boasts permanent aluminum bleachers to seat up to 400 spectators with 100 of the spaces having seat backs and wheelchair accessibility. Fencing also was added around the field, and a new scoreboard was installed this fall.

“Jack and Sarah selflessly care for the world around them. In our current times, their support and leadership are priceless,” said Mike Madigan, head men’s soccer coach. “The Salzwedel Field seating enhancements have significantly improved the experience for fans, student-athletes, and coaches. The enhanced sight lines and additional comfort are great for spectators. For those of us on the field, the improved signage, added fencing, and full bleachers make for a more energized, enclosed game-day experience. We now have one of the best facilities in the North Region.”

---
Miller receives national scholarship to pursue medical career

Rebecca Miller ’20 was awarded a Dr. George and Emma J. Torrison Scholarship for students pursuing medical careers.

Miller, who is attending the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine, knew she wanted to be a doctor so she could help people like her younger brother William ’22.

“He was born with a congenital heart defect called transposition of the great arteries. His arteries were flipped around to where he wasn't getting oxygen in his blood. I’m very close with him, and I’ve gone to the hospital and made relationships with all of his health care team. They have given so much to help me and my family that I want to do that for other people,” said Miller.

She plans to specialize in family medicine and obstetrics, setting up a practice in a small Midwest community.

Uwanjye receives two national actuarial scholarships

Kelly Uwanjye ’22 was the recipient of scholarships from the International Association of Black Actuaries and The Actuarial Foundation.

Uwanjye, an actuarial science and accounting double major from Kigali, Rwanda, hopes to work at an insurance company as a life actuary and earn a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries designation following graduation. She also is a Davis United World College Scholar.

The Actuarial Diversity Scholarship offered by The Actuarial Foundation promotes diversity within the profession through an annual scholarship program for Black/African American, Hispanic, Native North American and Pacific Islander students. Additionally, the IABA provides scholarships at both the undergraduate and graduate levels to Black students who are interested in pursuing a career in the actuarial profession.

Reiners receives Gremmels Journalism Graduate Fellowship

Bethany McAtee Reiners ’14 was the 2020 recipient of the college’s Robert C. Gremmels Journalism Graduate Fellowship.

The $10,000 fellowship will be applied toward her graduate studies in journalism at the Harvard Extension School, a continuing education division of Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass. She currently lives in Waterloo and is a media support specialist at Impact Marketing.

The scholarship was made possible by the Robert C. Gremmels Endowment Fund, created by a $200,000 gift from Harold ’58 and Grace Jahn ’61 Kurtz. The fund honors Gremmels, a professor emeritus who served the college from 1960 to 1993. He also was the first Wartburg graduate to earn a master’s degree in journalism.
$1.2 million gift establishes Grant Price Endowed Archivist position

BY KATIE KREIS ’19 PHOTO S WARTBURG ARCHIVES AND SUBMITTED

A $1.2 million gift from David McCartney and James Petersen of Iowa City has created a new position at Wartburg College, the Grant Price Endowed Archivist.

“Every college needs an archivist to preserve and transmit the history of the institution; in our special case, Wartburg also enjoys the opportunity to preserve and transmit the history of Iowa broadcasting to future generations,” said Darrel Colson, Wartburg College president. “Now, thanks to David and James, Wartburg can fulfill the potential that Grant Price imagined when he began collecting the earliest pieces of the Archives of Iowa Broadcasting.”

The Grant Price Endowed Archivist position is named for the pioneering Iowa broadcast journalist and former chair of the college’s communication arts department. It is the college’s 21st endowed faculty or staff position and the eighth in the past decade. The college seeks to fill this role in 2021.

“Grant Price dreamed of this day,” said Colson. “I can’t help but think that he’s broadcasting this story, a story of a dream fulfilled by David and James, on heaven’s own network.”

In 1994, the Wartburg College library saw an expansion of the Wartburg Archives and addition of the Archives of Iowa Broadcasting (AIB), initiated by Price. After his death in 2008, Price gifted his estate to establish both a chair in communication arts at Wartburg College, now the Grant L. Price Chair in Journalism & Communication held by Dr. Penni Pier, and an endowment to support the AIB.

“Following Grant’s passing, we as a board worked with the development team at Wartburg College establishing the endowment funding that Grant had envisioned,” said McCartney, a founding member of the AIB advisory board in 2004 and its chair since 2012.

Other donors have made gifts to this fund that provides the AIB with modest support for its operational costs, but the lack of a full-time archivist remained a compelling need.

“James and I both felt that, in fulfilling Grant’s vision, this would be an appropriate way to help the long chapter that we have had in attempting to make this a lasting and permanent position,” said McCartney about the donation from him and his husband, a retired arts administrator and longtime musician.

The Wartburg Archives include photographs, diaries, and letters that tell the Wartburg College story, along with organized records that inform the college’s decisions today. The AIB collection contains an oral history project comprising hundreds of interviews that capture first-person experiences of Iowa’s broadcast pioneers, along with documentation from a variety of media outlets and vintage broadcasting equipment.

“I think Grant’s legacy in Iowa broadcast journalism is, without question, a very positive and lasting legacy that, long after Grant’s passing, we continue to recognize as really exemplary of what a good reporter does,” said McCartney, university archivist at the University of Iowa. “The values that Grant represented in terms of fairness and ethics are very important to remember. Our hope is that this endowed position will allow Wartburg and the larger community to continue to recognize that.”

Visit www.wartburg.edu/archives to learn more about Price and the new endowed position.
Owls taking classrooms to new heights

Special cameras allow for immersive hybrid classroom experiences

Though COVID-19 has forced Wartburg College professors and students to adapt to different classroom experiences, the new and unique circumstances have brought about creative solutions.

Last fall, Dr. Caryn Riswold, Mike and Marge McCoy Family Distinguished Chair in Lutheran Heritage and Mission, taught courses that were hybrid and synchronous with the help of Zoom, a popular cloud-based video communications software used by many Wartburg staff and faculty.

“For me, hybrid means that half of the students are assigned to be ‘in the room’ and half are assigned to be ‘in the Zoom’ every class session, with the two groups alternating. So a student is ‘in the room’ one class session and ‘in the Zoom’ the next class session,” she said.

When students are “in the Zoom,” Riswold and many other professors are relying on the Meeting Owl, a conferencing camera that captures audio and a 360-degree view of the room, to allow them to safely interact with and educate their students.

“With the 360-degree view, remote students can see the classroom, the people, and the space. When multiple students start talking or the instructor moves while speaking, the camera automatically follows and splits into up to three different panels on the bottom of the screen,” said Dr. Loni Abbas, assistant vice president for information technology services.

The camera technology, which is now installed in more than 55 classrooms on campus, pairs with all popular video conferencing platforms.

“I learned quickly how to get the camera to follow me. I tried whistling, but then learned that clapping was more effective,” said Dr. Zak Montgomery, Harry and Polly Slife Professor in Humanities, who is also teaching in a hybrid form this fall. “Then I realized that I could yell, ‘¡Oye, búho!’ (Hey, Owl!) in Spanish, and it would ‘spin its head’ and focus on me as I moved around. This is more fun anyway.”

Meeting Owls are used in all Wartburg classrooms to allow students learning remotely to engage with their class. For some professors, the Owls have allowed them to continue with the school year in a format that is as close to normal as possible.

“With the Meeting Owl, a live, in-the-classroom experience has been restored after the pandemic took it away from us all in March. The dynamic and embodied conversations that are a regular feature of how and why I teach can happen again, and they can include students who are physically and virtually present via the Meeting Owl,” said Riswold. “It enables me to accommodate any student who is in quarantine or ill but still able to attend class. It makes it possible for me to ensure students have equitable access to the classroom and our discussions.”

Visit www.wartburg.edu/magazine to read more about how Owls are used in the classroom.
Johnson-Ross joins Wartburg as VP for academic affairs

**A** HIGHER EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL with a passion for the liberal arts and a commitment to the development of global citizens is the next vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty at Wartburg College.

Dr. Debora Johnson-Ross, who began her work at the college in January, came to Wartburg from the Mayor’s Scholars Program at Baltimore City Community College where she was the director.

“Wartburg College represents the best of the liberal arts tradition. I attended a very similar institution for my baccalaureate degree and have spent most of my career at liberal arts institutions. I value the critical skills that students gain working with devoted faculty and staff members,” Johnson-Ross said. “I appreciate the traditions that are clearly evident and the college’s mission of ‘challenging and nurturing students for lives of leadership and service as a spirited expression of their faith and learning.’

“This position will allow me to draw on my background and strengths and work with the community in important ways.”

Wartburg President Darrel Colson is delighted that Johnson-Ross accepted the call to serve at Wartburg.

“She brings remarkably broad and deep experiences in international research and education; academic programming that enhances student success; academic leadership; student preparation and retention; and diversity, equity, and inclusion,” he said. “An alumna of Wofford College and a longtime professor and administrator at McDaniel College, she knows firsthand the value of the residential liberal arts education that we hold so dear.”

Prior to her work at BCCC, Johnson-Ross was the senior vice president of academic innovation at BridgeEdU, a company that was founded by anti-poverty advocate and author Wes Moore to increase college access and retention for underserved students. The company was acquired by Edquity in 2019.

“At her core, Dr. Johnson-Ross is a teacher, and those who know her return to a common refrain: She always does what’s best for students,” Colson said.

At McDaniel College in Maryland, Johnson-Ross started as a visiting scholar in 2001 and left in 2016 after serving five years as associate dean for academic affairs. During her time as associate dean, she served as interim dean of the faculty for the spring 2013 semester. As the associate dean, Johnson-Ross was responsible for comprehensive curricular assessment, faculty professional development, new faculty orientation, and training faculty to serve as academic advisers.

She has served as a board director of Common Ground on the Hill, an organization that promotes social justice through the arts, and as an advisory board member for the Bryant Educational Leadership Group, which equips leaders to transform themselves, their communities and the world.

Johnson-Ross grew up as a military dependent and lived all over the United States and Europe as a child. During her formative years she learned to love people, cultures, foods, and adventure. As an adult, she continued that tradition and added more states and a number of African countries to the places she has lived and visited, including teaching at the University of Buea in the southwest region of Cameroon as a Fulbright Scholar.

She returned to Cameroon on several occasions to conduct workshops for students and staff. Johnson-Ross also was in Cameroon for the October 2011 presidential election and returned regularly until the current political unrest began in 2018. She also helped establish McDaniel’s partnership with Africa University in Zimbabwe and led service-learning tours in both Cameroon and Zimbabwe.

Johnson-Ross earned a Bachelor of Arts in government from Wofford College, a Master of Science in contract and acquisition management from Florida Institute of Technology, and a Master of Arts and doctorate in international studies from the University of South Carolina-Columbia.

“We are living in the midst of a critical historical moment. Institutions of higher education have the opportunity to help students wrestle with issues from systemic inequities, environmental sustainability, and engaging in civil discourse while mastering the tools of a liberal arts education. I am excited to work with the students, faculty, staff, and President Colson as we engage in this important work,” she said.
Wartburg to offer online Master of Arts in leadership beginning summer 2021

Now more than ever, companies and organizations seek professionals who are called to lead and can navigate the complexity of change with grace and positive strength. Wartburg College is answering that call with the development of a new Master of Arts in leadership that will enroll its first cohort in the summer of 2021.

The online master’s program is designed for working professionals and provides a deep foundation of problem-based learning about leadership from different perspectives.

Offered entirely online, the program includes two brief online intensive experiences (three days each) at the start and end of the first year of the two-year program. The Master of Arts can be applied to any field and is designed to help individuals explore how they are called to lead and navigate personal leadership challenges.

“Graduates will use their unique strengths and passions to improve their communities and places of business,” said Dr. Michael Gleason, director of Wartburg’s Institute for Leadership Education and the Irving R. Burling Distinguished Professor in Leadership. “Students will learn about how they can create more than just a ‘quick fix,’ but rather create deeper and longer-lasting change by considering the values and root causes of the problems they wish to explore.”

All participants will be mentored and will receive a high level of faculty support as they progress through the program. Graduates will have the opportunity to create leadership portfolios; implement (or further implement) a project within their business, organization, or community; and demonstrate learning through a written product that integrates knowledge with the course.

“This program is structured so that students have the opportunity to apply theory to practice. Throughout the program students will use concepts they are learning in classes to develop a leadership project to be implemented in their workplace or community. They will then reflect on how the project went and consider how to improve in the future,” Gleason said. “We are excited to have the opportunity to work with graduate students who want to learn how they can fully leverage their authentic leadership to make communities better. We know businesses, organizations, and communities also will benefit as these students apply what they are learning to create change in each of these settings.”

Wartburg alumni can take advantage of an Alumni Leadership Scholarship for a program tuition cost reduction of 10 percent. This offer is only available to the this summer’s cohort of master’s students. To learn more about the program, visit www.wartburg.edu/leadership-masters.

WOMEN’S TENNIS

The women’s tennis team opened its 2020 fall slate with eight consecutive victories and finished 7-1 during American Rivers Conference competition, securing second in the A-R-C standings, which marks the second-best conference finish in program history. At the A-R-C Individual Tournament, the doubles duo of Sydney Powers ’21 and Sydney Rottinghaus ’21 received medalist honors with a runner-up finish in the A-doubles bracket. Madison Overmann ’22, Olivia Phillips ’23, Powers, and Rottinghaus were named to the All-Conference team. Ambriel Jacobs ’22 earned an Honorable Mention nod.

MEN’S TENNIS

The men’s tennis team went 1-1 during a pair of non-conference matches during its fall season while claiming a pair of bronze medalists at the American Rivers Conference Individual Tournament. Cade Davis ’24 earned the bronze medal in the B-singles competition, while the doubles pair of Lucas Huffman ’23 and Jackson Eells ’24 took bronze in the A-doubles bracket.

MEN’S GOLF

During the non-conference portion of the men’s golf season, the Knights participated in four tournaments and averaged a team score of 319.8. The Knights took second at the Wartburg Fall Shootout and RedTail Shootout. Micah Harber ’22 led the Knights through five-and-a-half rounds with an average score of 78.9.
WOMEN’S GOLF
Throughout six fall tournaments, the women’s golf team finished in second place or better, including first-place finishes at the Buena Vista Invite and the Wartburg Triangular. For the second consecutive season, Wartburg took second at the American Rivers Conference Championships. The Knights led the conference with four All-Conference members. Jenna Krogulski ’23, Ashley DeLong ’23, Lauren Sease ’24, and Katie Choate ’21 each finished among the top 10 individuals at the conference tournament.

CLAY TARGET SPORTS
During the inaugural clay target sports season, the Knights took part in multiple events, including its first official home meet on Oct. 10 in Cedar Falls. Wartburg also took part in the Scholastic Clay Target Program virtual competition, supported by the Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation, and took second in the trap and skeet events, while Evan Guttormson ’24 won individual titles in both events.

CROSS COUNTRY
The Wartburg men’s and women’s cross country teams went undefeated in 2020 and capped off the season with the programs’ 17th conference title each at the American Rivers Conference Championships. The men won their third-straight title, led by Joe Freiburger’s ’21 second consecutive MVP first-place finish. Aubrie Fisher ’23 also earned an MVP finish to lead the women to their second conference victory in a row. Freiburger swept the A-R-C Runner of the Week awards as he notched an undefeated season and also was named the USTFCCCA Men’s Division III Athlete of the Week four times in 2020. Fisher twice received the USTFCCCA Athlete of the Week award and the A-R-C Runner of the Week.
Helping a young student with dyslexia benefits whole education department

Amber Pugh didn’t have any connection to Wartburg College when she picked up the phone more than five years ago and called the school’s education department. Her son, Kiefer, had just been diagnosed with dyslexia. Pugh had researched ways to help him learn to read and had landed on the Barton Reading & Spelling System. But she needed someone else to help teach him.

“We are just too much alike,” Pugh said of her son, who is now in seventh grade and in the talented and gifted program at Waverly-Shell Rock Middle School. “I knew we had to have some great resources at Wartburg, so I made the call.”

Dr. Kelly Faga, associate professor of education at Wartburg, answered. She wasn’t confident she could find a student staying in town through the summer months, but she knew she had one strong lead — her daughter, Maddy ’18, then a sophomore majoring in education. Maddy already was working a couple of jobs but agreed to take on another. Though she knew working with Kiefer would be beneficial as she transitioned from college to her own classroom, she had no idea just how important the work or her relationship with Kiefer would be.

“Kief is probably one of my favorite humans on the planet. I tutored him that whole summer, and then Amber was able to get it so I could work with him one hour every day during the school day at St. Paul’s Lutheran School,” she said. “He was always so capable of learning how to read, he just needed someone to teach him differently. He is such a hard worker.”

The Barton system uses the alphabetic principle to teach reading and spelling by teaching concepts from the simplest to the most complex. Each new skill builds on previous skills learned, and the systematic approach doesn’t leave any learning gaps.

“It’s very scripted and great for kids like Kief who are struggling to learn to read in the traditional way. The whole first box focused only on letter sounds. Then in the second box we finally got the letter tiles to
start building words,” she said. “The whole system is about being able to listen to the words, break up the words, and then spell the words. We got through the first book pretty quickly, so I figured it wouldn’t take us too long, but each book got bigger and bigger. I learned so much while I was teaching him. Even things like how vowels and consonants can be opened or closed. I don’t remember learning that in school.”

By the end, the two were learning about the influences of foreign languages on English and the Greek and Latin roots of words.

With each new box costing $300 or more, many families will sell one box (resale is always high) to help offset the cost of the next. Pugh, recognizing that the cost is a hardship for many families, opted instead to gift her Barton collection, valued at about $3,400, to Wartburg.

“I knew that would be the best thing for our community. I wanted to find a way to get these resources in the hands of students who had been identified, but otherwise wouldn’t have access to the tools they needed, since this isn’t used to teach reading in schools,” Pugh said.

The 10 boxes are available for Wartburg students to check out while they tutor a student. The college also is working with St. Paul’s Lutheran School in Waverly to identify students who may benefit from the additional intervention so they can be paired with a Wartburg student who can take them through the Barton system. Pugh also is a regular guest in one of Kelly Faga’s Wartburg classes, where she talks from personal experience about signs the pre-service teachers can watch for to let them know a student is struggling.

Maddy Faga said that even though she doesn’t use the entire Barton system in her class (she teaches fourth grade at Grant Ragan Elementary in Waukee), she has taken some tips and tricks from her tutoring days to help all readers better understand how to read and spell unknown words.

“Working with Kiefer added so much to my education. It was almost like another class for me,” she said. “If another student can get that gift because of Amber’s generosity, then that is amazing. And Kiefer taught me how to be a better teacher. He would get so frustrated when a word wasn’t following a rule, and we had to work through that together. Now I can use those techniques in my classroom.”

---

**BY THE NUMBERS**

70-80% of people with poor reading skills are likely dyslexic

1 in 5 students have a language-based learning disability

38% of all fourth graders read below basic reading skills

5% of all adults are non-literate

20-25% of all adults can only read at the lowest level

62% of non-readers dropped out of high school

30% of children with dyslexia also have at least a mild form of ADHD

Dyslexia Center of Utah
When Knights are tested in a year like no other, they shine like no other! COVID-19 has taken beloved experiences away — Homecoming & Family Weekend and many other annual events held on campus were canceled, overseas travel and music tours were put on hold, athletics seasons were cut short or moved, and some students have had to quarantine in their rooms. But even in a pandemic, Wartburg College continues to deliver on its mission. Faculty and staff still challenge and nurture students, but now wear masks, interact remotely, and implement creative new methods. We’ve seen students and alumni step into new roles of leadership and service, still guided by their faith and learning.

Wartburg traditions, at times limited by the virus, have made room for Knights to come together in new ways. Christmas with Wartburg was watched by thousands more people online than would be able to attend in person. Old friends are sharing memories in Zoom reunions. Fans and parents can watch athletic events safely from anywhere with Knight Vision. Even though conditions have kept us apart, we have discovered that our traditions and mission are strong enough to withstand change and hold us together, and we will celebrate that together — in person — when the virus has been defeated. As the photos on these pages show, we are still Wartburg!
I have been impressed by the resiliency I’ve seen from many students, but I know this isn’t easy.

– Dan Kittle, dean of students
In this most uncertain time, we want you to know that everyone who works at Wartburg cares about your children – and you. Parent-to-parent, I’d like to thank you for trusting us – for giving us the opportunity to begin a new academic year with extraordinary students who are, most definitely, worth it.

– Christy Colson
“

I continue to believe that if our whole community draws on that deposit of service-mindedness at the core of the college, that service-mindedness exemplified by St. Elizabeth and St. Francis, we will demonstrate the care for one another we’re calling ‘Knights Care.’

– President Darrel Colson

"
1 St. Elizabeth Week
2, 3 Student-athletes host trick or treating for Wartburg families
4, 5 Christmas with Wartburg
6, 7 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
We cannot let our guard down against this pandemic. I know it is wearing on each of you, but it is working. Continue to wash your hands frequently, cover your cough, and wear your mask. Be as vigilant as you can, even in your ‘home’ setting. Together, we can get through these coming weeks on campus!

― Cassie Hales, director of residential life
As a high school student, Kellie Escovy ’21 never thought she would be able to follow her dream of someday leading a church congregation.

“After I graduated from high school, I knew that my finances wouldn't allow me to go straight to a four-year university, so I spent my first year working and taking community college classes. I felt called to some kind of ministry, but I didn’t think ordained ministry would be possible for me because I couldn’t afford eight years of school to get there,” she said.

According to 2017-18 data from the Association of Theological Schools, new pastors graduating with a Master of Divinity have student debt averaging $54,600, which means they would need to make more than $60,000 in their first year of service to meet monthly payoff guidelines. Clergy, on average, make just over $50,000, with brand-new pastors often earning markedly less.

Wartburg’s Accelerated Ministry Program (AMP), a partnership between the college and Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, streamlines the preparation for pastoral ministry in the ELCA for first-career ministerial students, reducing the number of years they spend in school and the amount they pay for that education.

Escovy, of Katy, Texas, was one of the first students admitted into the program and is one of three planning to complete their undergraduate degrees at the end of this academic year.

“I came to Wartburg College because of the Accelerated Ministry Program,” she said. “Not only does AMP streamline education and cut off two years of tuition costs, it has a three-year paid internship built in and provides amazing financial aid while I pursue my B.A.”

The program aims to reduce tuition for students so that, when they begin serving congregations, they are less burdened by educational debt incurred at the college or seminary. These scholarships are funded by a nearly $500,000 grant from the Kern Family Foundation and more than $500,000 in scholarship gifts to date, including $375,000 from supporters O. Jay and Pat Tomson of Mason City and more than $125,000 from alumni and friends of the two Wartburg institutions.

“There is an ever-present need for new pastors to fill the vacancies in our Lutheran parishes created by normal retirement of clergy,” said the Tomsons. “As the number of individuals graduating from our affiliated seminaries has continued downward, there has become an obvious need to reverse this trend. Tuition and living costs associated with seven to eight years of formal education are expenses that are very onerous for candidates for a Master of Divinity degree and most often require assuming a significant amount of related debt. It is very difficult to repay given the limited income that is earned by newly ordained pastors, even over an extended period of time.”
During their three years at Wartburg College, students in the program can choose from a variety of undergraduate majors in addition to religion, but will still build community within their cohort and pursue experiential learning on and off campus.

“The Accelerated Ministry Program walks with young servant-leaders through intentional discernment, spiritual growth, and leadership opportunities,” said Dr. Kristin Wendland ’00, assistant professor of religion and the AMP academic adviser. “Students who are already discerning a call to rostered ministry value these offerings along with the excellent academic programs for which both schools are known.”

Students spend the final three years of the program serving in a congregation while completing their master’s studies through Wartburg Seminary’s digital learning platform. Students completing the program earn both a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in six years instead of eight.

“I am so excited to start working in a church community next year,” said Escovy. “While I’ve been at Wartburg College in the Accelerated Ministry Program, one of our biggest goals has been to build intentional community with one another. So, as I move into my internship I will be bringing over theological education from my religion classes, and I will be able to continue the practice of building Christian community.”

Another benefit AMP provides is an individualized approach for each of the 15 students currently enrolled in the program through one-on-one mentoring. Escovy said that, in addition to the financial aid and intentional communities, her favorite part of AMP is the mentoring component.

“The overall hope for the program is to remove obstacles for young people who are discerning a call to ministry,” said Samantha Pfab ’20, Accelerated Ministry Program associate, who directs AMP student programming and serves as a resource to current and prospective students. “The church needs young, passionate leaders, and this program is a phenomenal way to assist students in their goals as future clergy.”

“There is an ever-present need for new pastors to fill the vacancies in our Lutheran parishes created by normal retirement of clergy.”

– O. Jay and Pat Tomson
**Inclusively Inviting and Intentionally Recognizing.** These five words, first shared with Rocio Ayard Ochoa ’08 by Dr. Jason Woods, who worked in the Wartburg Admissions Office while she was a student, now guide her in both her personal and professional life.

Born in Mexico, Ochoa moved to the United States when she was just 2 years old. She was the first in her family to graduate from high school, and with financial help from Wartburg’s McElroy Scholarship, she also was the first to graduate from college.

“At Wartburg, I got a beautiful experience through the lens of a first-generation student,” she said. “I still have plenty of great relationships with faculty and staff who are there and some who have retired. A fierce student advocate was Krystal Madlock, who displayed great kindness and empathy for every student she supported.”

As a student, Ochoa worked with Madlock, director of multicultural student services, on diversity issues and founded the student organization Mosaico Latino. She used those experiences as a starting point for her professional résumé, which includes stops at Cornell College as the assistant director for intercultural life and two years as a cultural ambassador for the Education Office of the Embassy of Spain while earning a master’s degree in estudios Latinoamericanos: cultura y gestión at the University of Granada. After returning stateside she served in student engagement roles at Ashford University and the University of Nevada, Reno. Today, she is the director of the Multicultural Center at Western Illinois University.

Since the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis on May 25, an estimated 21 million people around the world have participated in protests, and later riots, decrying police brutality and the killing of black men and women by officers of the law. Ochoa said these events “created a sense of urgency for a lot of people to do a double take.”

“These are pressing matters that need to be addressed at many levels. We have been doing the work in multicultural affairs, but now we seem to have the ability to have more open conversations about coming to terms with the
polarization that exists in this country,” she said. “We always knew it existed, but now it is a more shared experience.”

At Western Illinois, where about 20 percent of all students are Black and another 12 percent are Hispanic/Latino, this has meant creating sometimes uncomfortable “Brave Spaces,” where students, faculty, and staff can be vulnerable to understand each other.

“We can’t ensure these spaces are safe spaces, because we can’t guarantee that people won’t be uncomfortable, but that is the point,” she said. “Our end goal is that these opportunities will help make positive changes on our campus and in the community.”

The WIU Multicultural Center also is home to the Casa Latina Cultural Center, LGBT*QA Resource Center, Women’s Center, and Gwendolyn Brooks Cultural Center, which provides support services for Black-American, African-American, and Native-African students while honoring the contributions of people from the African diaspora.

In addition to her work with diversity issues on the Wartburg campus, Ochoa, who graduated with a degree in sociology, also gained experiences that she still relies on today through her study abroad opportunities. As a sophomore, she traveled to Brazil with the late Dr. Peter Nash, professor emeritus and the former Franklin I. and Irene Saemann Endowed Chair in World Communities.

“That course really set the tone for the rest of my study abroad opportunities. It taught us to get to know a country and the people through the lens of someone who was a visitor. We learned the role we played in bringing our knowledge to the communities we visited, but more importantly receiving knowledge,” she said. “It also was in that class that I started to learn more about social justice; it really expanded my world view. For me it was so exciting to connect what we were learning in the classroom and then be able to see it in practice and observe how it makes sense.”

She later traveled to Paris for an intense month of language and cultural education and then spent a “life-changing” term in Rome.

“This was when I decided what I wanted to do with my life. I knew I wanted to contribute to the learning of others. I had already had a lot of experiences working in admissions and as a resident assistant, and I realized there was a field out there that is student affairs,” she said.

In addition to her experiences with Nash, Ochoa also gained a deeper understanding of social justice and diversity, equity, and inclusion work under the tutelage of former community sociology professor Dr. Kathy Kremer.

“That was when I realized it was very easy to relay these messages to others and that I had the ability to get them very excited about this work and why it is very important to understand each other and to work with each other even if there might be some intercultural differences,” she said. “Student affairs lets me help create those spaces where people can understand each other. Because of the diversity of the students I work with every day, it’s like I am doing the work that I did while I was studying abroad, learning about others’ experiences and sharing mine, only in a domestic setting.”
Growing up, Lindsay Mickelson ’13 spent hours watching magicians. David Copperfield and Lance Burton on television.

“Magic has always intrigued me. I thought it was so cool and a different form of theater, which I also was very into,” Mickelson said. “I don’t think they are necessarily fooling people, but it’s a different way of looking at things, and it’s really mind bending as you grow older. You realize the things they say they are doing just aren’t physically possible.”

Though magic was never Mickelson’s passion, performing on stage was. At Wartburg, she was a member of St. Elizabeth Chorale and Castle Singers, which allowed her to travel through Sweden, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, and Paris during May Term. She also performed with the Wartburg Players.

Mickelson started her Wartburg journey as an education major, but after spending some time in a classroom realized it wasn’t the career for her and switched to music performance.

Now living in Des Moines, Mickelson is an administrative assistant in the real estate division at HyVee, a position that is flexible enough to allow her to follow her true passion on stage. As an actress with the Des Moines Playhouse and as an assistant for Ben Ulin, the magician who has provided entertainment at Adventureland in the Des Moines area since 1988. “Not many people can say they get cut in half and then put back together on stage to ensure they have the room they need to make each trick work,” she said.

Her work with Ulin introduced her to the bigger magic community and eventually led to gigs with magician and illusionist Keith West, who works with Entertainment Group. Her work with West, who often does larger illusions, took her to Las Vegas where she partnered with her childhood favorite Lance Burton, as well as Fielding West and Michael Goudeau, a juggler and ex-circus clown who graduated from the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Clown College.

“The last show we did before the pandemic was at a magic convention in Blackpool, England. We’ve also done shows in New Mexico, Arizona, California, and Colorado,” Mickelson said. “Magic has taken me all over the place. These experiences all just fell into my lap, and it’s been a blast ever since.”

During normal times, when she’s working with Ulin for more local shows and preparing for larger shows with Keith West, she will set aside at least a couple of hours each week to rehearse. On show days, the team is at it early, running through their set on the stage to ensure they have the room they need to make each trick or illusion work.

“There have been weird instances where we had to create our own dressing rooms or walk through other rooms or outside to get to the other side of the stage,” she said. “We have to make sure we can do everything safely, because accidents can happen. We don’t want anyone to get hurt, and we don’t want any of the magic or illusion to be exposed.”

Despite her years as a magician’s assistant, or box jumper, as she’s sometimes called, Mickelson said she still gets nervous whenever they are set to do a new trick in front of a live audience. “You can never be sure how the audience will take it or if something will go wrong.”

And don’t bother asking Mickelson for any insider’s information on how the tricks or illusions are done because her lips are sealed. “Now that I know the trick, the wonder is kind of gone for me, but I love the idea of helping others believe the impossible is possible.”
ANTONIO HITCHCOCK ’98 MAY HAVE LAUGHED the day his on-campus student employment supervisor told him he would get two educations while at Wartburg. The first would come in the classroom where Hitchcock was studying social work. The second one would come behind the scenes, where Hitchcock would learn about HVAC, how to strip and wax floors, how to care for turf fields, and how to manage facilities for a multitude of events.

“He couldn’t even remember my name. He always called me Antone,” Hitchcock said. “But I coupled everything I learned from him with my business experience, and realized that I had found my niche.”

After more than 15 years as the director of athletics and facilities at Detroit’s Allen Academy, in 2015 Hitchcock opened Integrated Operations Services LLC, a full-service education facility operations management company that provides custodial, security, facility assessment, consulting, after-school program management, and faculty and staff training services for K-12 schools, colleges, and universities. Since the first year, when Hitchcock’s team landed a $1.7 million contract, the business has continued to grow its services and its territory, now serving institutions in Florida, Ohio, and Indiana in addition to Michigan.

Remembering his social work background and years playing and coaching basketball, Hitchcock’s business also partners with local nonprofits that help his community and the people living in it, including sponsoring youth basketball camps and adopting families in need during the holidays.

It’s a far cry from where Dr. Susan Vallem ’66, his Wartburg social work professor, thought he would be 20-plus years after graduation, but it’s right where Hitchcock knows he is needed the most.

“Susan always said she saw me as some big social policy person. She saw me working in D.C., because of my personality, I think,” he said. “But, I knew I needed to be back in Detroit. A lot of people with situations like mine feel a responsibility to go back to their community and do good for a while.”

Hitchcock, who grew up in one of the roughest neighborhoods in Detroit, remembers the story his friend told him about his hometown prior to the 1960s, when Black people weren’t allowed to live in the suburbs. Doctors lived next to janitors and lawyers next to line workers. The Black community supported each other. But when well-to-do Blacks were given the opportunity to leave, most took it, and took their support for the Black community with them.

Though Hitchcock, his wife, Jamii, and their three kids (Gabrielle, Jemal, and Mason) no longer live in the inner city, he spends plenty of time in the old neighborhood visiting family and friends and finding ways to re-invest in the community that raised him.

“Me and several family members have formed a coalition to help others start businesses in the neighborhood and hire local labor to staff them,” he said. “We have a responsibility, even if we don’t live there, to help them gain access to the resources they need to bring themselves out of poverty.”

For Hitchcock, that meant accepting an invitation from Head Coach Howard Gauthier to play basketball at Wartburg. It also meant accepting help from his on-campus mentors, like Jamie Hightower, then director of financial aid, and Assistant Athletic Director Marcus Newsom. It meant making friends with “farm boys,” like his roommate Matt Sherriff ’99, who hailed from the small town of Sheffield, Iowa.

“Matt’s family ‘adopted’ me. I spent so many weekends on the farm feeding the horses. If I couldn’t make it home for a holiday, I knew I always had a place to lay my head and a place that felt like home with Marcus and Jamie,” he said. “In the fast-paced environment I came from, making it to school every day was a challenge. At Wartburg, if I had the slightest issue, there were all these people there to help. They truly cared for my overall well-being.

“If I didn’t have my experiences at Wartburg, I wouldn’t be where I am now. I was just a JuCo transfer from the inner city. Wartburg likely saved my life.”
The following athletes were inducted into the Wartburg College Hall of Fame.

**Hannah Baker Bodmei ’10**
*Women’s Track & Field | Kalona, Iowa*

Hannah Bombei, a 12-time conference champion and a 13-time All-American, was a four-year member of the women’s track and field team. A member of three national championship squads, Bombei rounded out her career by anchoring Wartburg’s 1,600-meter relay to a national title. It was her fifth career national title, as she previously ran on championship-winning 1,600-meter relays at the 2007, 2008, and 2009 NCAA outdoor and 2009 NCAA indoor meets. She graduated as the conference record holder in the indoor 400-meter dash (56.63 seconds), outdoor 400-meter dash (54.56), and as a member of the indoor 4x200-meter relay (1:41.54). She also holds Wartburg school records in the indoor and outdoor 400-meter dash and as a member of five school-record relays. Bombei also was named the Most Valuable Performer at the 2008 conference Indoor Track & Field Championships and the 2008 USTFCCCA Regional Athlete of the Year. An accomplished student-athlete on and off the track, Bombei was an NCAA post-graduate scholar who graduated with a 3.98 grade-point average, was a three-time CoSIDA Academic All-America selection, and was the 2010 conference Scholar Female Athlete of the Year. Bombei is a genetic counselor at the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics. She and her husband, Taylor, have three sons.

**Dan Hammes ’07**
*Football | Marion, Iowa*

Dan Hammes was a four-year member of the Wartburg football team. A two-year team captain, Hammes was a Second-Team All-Conference honoree during his sophomore and junior seasons and ranks among the top 10 in the Knights’ record book in career rushing yards (2,961), rushing touchdowns (30), and total touchdowns scored (30). Hammes rushed for over 1,000 yards in a pair of seasons and capped off his career in 2006 with D3football.com Third-Team All-Region and First-Team All-Conference laurels after rushing for 117.3 yards per game, the seventh highest yardage per game in Wartburg football history. Hammes is the deputy commissioner of the American Rivers Conference. He and his wife, Jen, have a daughter, Ella.

**Andy Hodge ’08**
*Men’s Cross Country/Track & Field | Solon, Iowa*

Andy Hodge earned eight letters throughout his time as a cross country and track and field athlete at Wartburg. A seven-time All-Conference track and field honoree and three-time All-Conference and All-Region cross country student-athlete, Hodge garnered four All-American honors during his junior and senior years at Wartburg. In 2008, Hodge won the outdoor track and field 1,500-meter run national title, a record that he holds in the Wartburg track and field record book for his time of 3:46.89. An All-Academic member in 2008, Hodge ranks among the Wartburg track and field top 10 lists in a pair of relays along with the sixth best indoor mile time of 4:15.27, including his record 1,500 time. He helped guide the Knights to a conference cross country title in 2005, along with three conference titles for each indoor and outdoor championship from 2005 to 2008. Hodge, an account manager at United Beverage, lives with his wife, Stephanie, and his step-children, Maddi and Abe.
Katie Rapp Houston ’05
Women’s Soccer | Clive, Iowa

The Wartburg women’s soccer program’s career assists leader (33), Katie Rapp Houston starred for the Knights from 2001 to 2004 and totaled 73 points with 20 goals in 77 games played, guiding Wartburg to winning seasons in three of her four years. A three-time First-Team All-Conference member, Houston set Wartburg single-season records during her freshman season in 2001 with 13 assists in 19 games, averaging 0.68 per game and followed up with a career-best nine goals during her sophomore season in 2002. Starting in every one of her games played at Wartburg, Houston ranks among the top 10 career leaders in several statistical categories in the Wartburg record book. Houston, an in-home day care provider, and her husband, Verne Houston ’05, a fellow Hall of Fame member, have four children: Abi, Josie, Penny, and Sullivan.

Collin Lane ’05
Men’s Soccer | Grimes, Iowa

One of the top goalkeepers in Wartburg men’s soccer history, Collin Lane earned four letters from 2001 to 2004. The program’s all-time shutdown leader (20), Lane recorded a 42-15-4 career record between the pipes, has made the most starts in program history with 64, and twice tallied Wartburg single-season records with eight shutouts in a season (2002, 2004). With over 400 career saves, Lane was a three-year team captain and helped guide the Knights to a pair of conference tournament titles (2003, 2004) along with Wartburg’s first conference regular season crown and NCAA Tournament Elite 8 appearance during his senior year. Lane closed out his career with First-Team All-Conference, First-Team All-Region, and Third-Team All-America honors in 2004 while setting a school record with a 0.56 goals against average, allowing just 11 goals in 24 games played. Lane is the director of programs at Junior Achievement of Central Iowa and the head boys’ soccer coach at Dallas Center-Grimes High School. He and his wife, Jannae Holubar ’05, have two children, Addy and Cora.

Dusty Rhodes ’97
Wrestling | Mason City, Iowa

Dusty Rhodes wrestled for the Knights from 1994 to 1997, compiling a career record of 94-23 as a three-time All-American and two-time conference champion at the 134-pound weight class. During his senior season, Rhodes tallied a record of 39-5 with 12 major decisions, earned the conference MVP, and went on to win the national title at 134 pounds. Rhodes was a member of three consecutive Wartburg conference championship squads and was a vital piece of the Knights’ first national championship team in 1996, taking sixth place in his weight class. Rhodes is a guidance counselor and the head wrestling coach at Mason City High School. He and his wife, Molly, have two children, Jace and Hale.

Matt Scherbring ’06
Baseball | Anamosa, Iowa

Matt Scherbring was a standout starting pitcher for the Wartburg baseball team from 2004 to 2006, collecting a career record of 24-4 with 14 complete games, 139 strikeouts, and a 3.40 earned run average. A member of three consecutive conference championship teams, Scherbring had his best season in 2005 when the Knights won the conference tournament championship and a regional title to advance to the College World Series. Scherbring set numerous Wartburg single-season records in 2005, winning a school-record 12 games on the mound with nine complete games while pitching over 100 innings. He earned the conference MVP award and was named an ABCA Third-Team All-American. Scherbring and his wife, Kari, have two children, Grady and Kendra. He is an environmental, health, and safety manager at Cargill.

Ryan Sturm ’06
Wrestling | Smithville, Mo.

Ryan Sturm was a four-year member of the Wartburg wrestling team from 2001 to 2004, earning three letters as part of conference championship teams from 2002 to 2004. Competing in both the 165- and 184-pound weight classes throughout this career, Sturm took fourth at the national meet at 165 pounds to earn All-America honors in 2003 and was the 2004 national champion at 184 pounds. Sturm was a key factor as the Knights won national team championships in 2003 and 2004, compiling record-setting point totals. With a career record of 31-13, Sturm was also a two-time NWCA Scholar All-American. He and his wife, Kristina, have two daughters, Kailee and Myla. Sturm is an emergency room physician at Mosaic Hospital in St. Joseph, Mo.

Bob Wachholz ’64
Men’s Track & Field/Football | Oswego, Ill.

Bob Wachholz earned eight letters as a football and track and field student-athlete for the Knights. A wide receiver on the football team, he earned All-Conference and NAIA All-District honors in 1962 after hauling in 27 receptions for 325 yards with three touchdowns. He also earned All-Conference and All-District awards the following season and was named Wartburg’s Athlete of the Month in November of 1963. His track and field career was headlined by a third-place javelin throw at the 1964 national meet, setting a school record at the time with a throw of 206-feet, six-inches. A retired investment baker, Wachholz and his late wife, Barbara, have eight children.
1952  
HERBERT HILDEBRANDT, Ann Arbor, Mich., published an article, “Media Should Stay Positive When it Comes to Seniors,” in McKnight’s Long-term Care News.

1964  
ROBERT WACHHOLZ, Oswego, Ill., is retired from corporate finance after 42 years.

1969  
JERRY and Patricia FOX, Rockford, Ill, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary May 9.

1972  
KENT RADDAutz, Stevens Point, Wis., authored the book The Boy Who Dreamed.

1975  
JERRY LINDAMAN, Sarasota, Fla., retired as director of corporate accounts from Alcon Laboratories and now owns and operates First Montessori Academy.

1976  
DIANNE STAR, Minneapolis, Minn., retired after 28 years working with data from the historical U.S. Censuses at the Minnesota Population Center, University of Minnesota.

1977  
THE REV. MICHAEL BURK, Edina, Minn., completed 12 years of service as bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod-ELCA.

1979  
DR. MARK BUCHHEIM, Tulsa, Okla., is chair of the Department of Biological Science at the University of Tulsa.

1980  
JIM DREWIS, Cresco, has retired. He and his wife are traveling the country.

1981  
DR. FREDERICK BURRACK, Manhattan, Kan., is a distinguished graduate faculty member at Kansas State University. He collaboratively developed the Model Cornerstone Assessment for the revised National Standards for Music and co-published Developing and Applying Assessments in the Music Classroom.

1987  
PAUL WENGER, Moravia, completed his 20th year as an elementary principal and is president-elect of the National Association of Elementary School Principals.

1988  
KELLY SCHIERS MORRISON, Windsor, Colo., is executive director for the Area Agency on Aging and division head for the Weld County Department of Human Services.

1989  
DR. ARTHUR SUNLEAF, Dubuque, vice president of student development at Loras College, was recognized as a “Digital Leader to Follow” for starting The Other Dean’s List, a digital weekly recognition of student achievements.

1994  

1995  
JENNIFER BLOCK, West Des Moines, is a senior attorney on the public finance team at Dorsey & Whitney LLP.

1997  
Michael Meyer and DR. ELISABETH ERICKSON, Kirkwood, Mo., announce the birth of Margot, Nov. 7, 2019. Elisabeth earned tenure and is an associate professor of sport management at McKendree University.

1998  
JAMIE DAVIS CUMMINS, Cedar Rapids, was named the Iowa High School Counselor of the Year 2020 by the Iowa School Counselor Association.

2000  
THE REV. LE ANNE CLAUSEN DE MONTEs, Mason City, created the Iowa Faith Leadership Network and is writing the curriculum for a global interfaith network of progressive and inclusive parenting. She continues to work on North Iowa CARES, a coalition for nonprofits.

2001  
CHRIs Knudson, Waverly, director of marketing and communication at Wartburg College, is co-chair of the first international district virtual conference for the Council for Advancement & Support of Education (CASE). The conference, which will be held in mid-February, brings together all eight districts of CASE in the U.S. and Canada.

2003  
DANA ISAACSON, Strawberry Point, is program director at Ewalu Camp and Retreat Center.

2004  
KEVIN BERG, Memphis, Tenn., earned a master’s degree in sports commerce from the University of Memphis.

2005  
QUINTON CLAY, Aurora, Ill., is vice president for enrollment management, marketing and communications at Fontbonne University, St. Louis, Mo.

2007  
ERIN MANSON KIRCHHOFF, Grand Rapids, Mich., was nominated for Spectrum Health’s Medical Education Awards for Leadership in Medicine.

2019  
TASHI SHII-MA-SHIIMI, Avis Windhoek, Namibia, managing director of TaTe Diamonds, was featured in the diamond industry magazine Rough & Polished Diamonds.
PHILIP SCHROETTER, Hiawatha, is a vocal director at Xavier High School, Cedar Rapids.

2008
Mike and JENNA MINER COUCH, Austin, Minn., announce the birth of Kayleigh, born June 18, 2018. Jenna is associate pastor at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church.

Josue Morales and KRYSTINA IRVIN, San Antonio, Texas, announce the birth of Emily, May 27. She joins William, 2.

2009
DR. BLYTHE POLITO ANDERSON, Amherst, N.Y., earned a Ph.D. in curriculum, instruction, and teacher education and is an assistant professor of literacy education in the Graduate School of Education at the University at Buffalo.

Brett and DR. JILL WIEBKE ROWLAND, Columbia, Md., announce the birth of Hannah, Nov. 9, 2019. She joins Maggie, 2.

2010
VICTORIA BRESHEARS, Bentonville, Ark., is manager of fraud strategy at Walmart eCommerce.

RUSSELL HARRIS, Pontiac, Mich., founded Thee Journey, an education consulting firm that works with nonprofit organizations.

JUSTIN and MEGHANN BAUMANN KROGMANN ’11, Marion, announce the birth of Clayton Edward, May 27. He joins Landon, 3.

Harold and KAT BELL MOYER, Readlyn, announce the birth of Samuel, May 4. He joins Kaylee, 4, and Abigail, 2.

Travis Messmer and KATIE SCHARES, Verona, Wis., were married Sept. 1, 2019. Katie is a project manager at Epic and is implementing software for the Singapore Ministry of Health, Singapore.

THE REV. DR. ANTHONY SCOTT, Centennial, Colo., earned a doctorate in ministry from the United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio.

2011
TREVOR and DR. ALEXANDRA CIOTA ’13 CAROLAN, Phoenix, Ariz., announce the birth of Juliana Maria, April 26.

Brandon and MEGAN STEEPLETON GRIMM, Cedar Falls, announce the birth of Colin Lee, Sept. 22.

SARA LEHRKE, Woodbury, is a student in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing – Second Degree Accelerated Program at Rasmussen College, Bloomington, Minn.

Christopher and HEATHER HACKMAN PEIFFER, Waterloo, announce the birth of Everly, Jan. 24, 2020. Heather is the lead grief counselor at Cedar Valley Hospice.

Zachary Dunn and SARAH VAN ELSEN, Springfield, Mo., were married Oct. 3.

2012
KYLE FLEMMING and Maghan Moslander, Champaign, Ill., were married Feb. 29, 2020.

Schuyler and JORDAN KANE RADKE, Aurelia, announce the birth of Emerson Jaye, July 23.

D.J. Chatelaine and CARRIE SMISEK, Faribault, Minn., were married May 29.

2013
ADAM ’14 and JENA DAUBENBERGER BEST, West Des Moines, announce the birth of Lochlan, July 2.


REED and MEGAN NUEHRING PEDERSEN, Andover, Ill., announce the birth of Ezekiel Lee, Aug. 1.

2015
Jacob Duben and BRITTANY GROE, Waverly, were married June 27.

MEGAN JORGENSEN, Riverside, is a naturalist with Washington County Conservation.

2017
RACHELLE MARKOWITZ, Cary, N.C., is the marketing coordinator at the Local Government Federal Credit Union, Raleigh.

ZACH MARPE and Greysi del Socorro Martinez Saballo, Northwood, were married Dec. 27, 2019. Zach welcomes step-daughter Ana Dinarys, 7. He is a graduate assistant and Coverdell Fellow in the Master of Liberal Arts and Sciences community development and planning program at Western Illinois University.

2018
ZACHARY VANNES’19 and HALEY MELZ, West Des Moines, were married Oct. 3.

2019
BLAKE KOZAK, St. Charles, is pursuing a Juris Doctor at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

CONNOR NEUROTH, Dike, is a sixth-grade teacher at AGWSR Community School District, Wellsburg.

KIMBERLY SCHLESINGER, Cambridge, Mass., is a music therapist at Roman Music Therapy Services, Wakefield.

SARAH WALKER, Waverly, is a kindergarten teacher at Oelwein Community School District.
NICHOLAS WALL, Miles, is a physical education and health teacher at Northeast Middle and High School, Goose Lake.

2020

MICHELLE ANKRUM, Marshalltown, is a third-grade teacher at Newton Community Schools.

GARRETT ARENSDORF, Buffalo Center, is a band director for grades 5-12 at North Iowa Community School District.

JACQUELYN BATZ, Sac City, is an elementary school music teacher at St. Edmond Catholic School, Fort Dodge.

JOSEPH BAUMANN, Prescott, Wis., works at Three Square Market, River Falls.

BAYLOR BEDARD, Raymond, is a settlement auditor at John Deere Financial, Johnston.

AUBRY BIENEMANN, Cedar Falls, is a registered nurse at UnityPoint Health, Waterloo.

EMILY BINGHAM, Waverly, is an English teaching assistant with Fulbright Germany.

MITCHELL BOXWELL, Solon, works for Area Ambulance Service, Cedar Rapids.

DALTON BUNNELL, Beacon, is a program assistant at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp, Hillside, Colo.

JEZEL CABRERA, Goodyear, Ariz., is a scribe at Jasser Center for Comprehensive Care.

HANNAH CALEASE FOX, Waukee, is a marketing associate at Mapcon Technologies Inc., Johnston.

SHAY CAROLAN, Charles City, is a registered nurse at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn.

MASON CARTER, Marion, is a sales associate at McGrath Westdale Used Car Superstore, Cedar Rapids.

CONNOR CLEVELAND, New Hampton, is a media account executive at Arvig Media, Rochester, Minn.

EMILY COOK, Alexandria, Minn., is a first-grade teacher at Battle Lake Public Schools.

IAN COON, Washington, D.C., is a communications associate at Savi Solutions PBC.

CEDRIC DOBBINS, Monroe, is a production supervisor at Hormel Foods, Knoxville.

BRIELLE DOWNING, Land O’ Lakes, Fla., is a behavior technician at Balance Autism and is a medical imaging student at Allen College.

ANNELISE ENDER, Lake City, Minn., is a registered nurse at UnityPoint Health – Meriter, Madison, Wis.

JACQUELINE BEBENSEE FALCONER, Waterloo, is marketing director and program coordinator of the Cedar Valley Monarch Zones Project at the Cedar Valley Arboretum and Botanic Gardens.

JASON FISHER, Nashua, is a grain originator at FiveStar Cooperative, New Hampton.

MADDIE FLETCHER, Waverly, is a marketing manager at Rock River Pet Resort.

BRETT GUY, Ankeny, is a loan servicing specialist at Wells Fargo, West Des Moines.

MICHELLE HAHN, Iowa City, is a graduate student in anatomy at Des Moines University.

WILLIAM HASKEN, Miles, is a doctoral student in medicine at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville.

NICKOLAS HOGAN, Walford, is a physical education teacher at Pekin Community School District, Packwood.

NATHANIEL HUFF, Grimes, is a substitute teacher.

MADELYNE IVERSO, Allen, Texas, is a care specialist/pharmacy technician II at Alto Pharmacy, Plano.

MATTHEW JACOBSON, Carroll, is a third-grade teacher at Coon Rapids Bayard Community School District.

CAYL JAMESON, Mankato, Minn., is a reading tutor with AmeriCorps.

Take the next step in your career today!

Master of Arts in Leadership—100% online!

The master of arts in leadership can be applied to any field and is designed for working professionals. The program provides a deep foundation of problem-based learning about leadership from many different perspectives. Participants can expect to finish in two years entirely online. Federal financial aid is available for master’s programs. A one-year graduate leadership certificate is also available.

Wartburg alumni can take advantage of the Alumni Leadership Scholarship for a program tuition cost reduction of 10%. This offer is available only to this summer’s first cohort of master’s students.

Learn more at wartburg.edu/leadership-masters.
IN MEMORIAM

1941
Arlene Zummak Thiele, Oelwein, died Oct. 20, 2018. She earned a degree at Upper Iowa University and was a teacher.

1942
Helen Dettmann Schlueter, San Antonio, Texas, died July 25. She worked in the library at Iowa State Teachers College, now the University of Northern Iowa, and later served many roles in ministry with her husband. She also was a school secretary for many years. She is survived by her husband, the Rev. Arnold Schlueter ’43.

1943
Gerhard Diemer, Fredericksburg, Texas, died Sept. 2. He was a research chemist. Consider a memorial gift to the Gerhard and Joan Diemer Endowed Scholarship in his honor.

1947
The Rev. Wilbert Doerr, Seguin, Texas, died July 16. He earned an Associate of Arts degree from Texas Lutheran College and went on to earn a degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and was ordained in 1951. He served congregations in Texas. He is survived by his wife, Jeanette Zemke Doerr ’48.

The Rev. Dennis Schlossin, Waseca, Minn., died May 27. He earned a degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and served congregations in Iowa and Minnesota.

Marianne Schreitmueller Skovly, Sioux Falls, S.D., died June 15. She was a high school teacher.

1948
Carol Lofts Guetzlaff, Waverly, died in July 2018.

Theodore Guetzlaff, Waverly, died June 11.
Marilyn Schultz Sheahan, Sheffield, died May 8. She was an elementary teacher and later became a bookkeeper for Sheahan Chevrolet.

1949
Veryl Sorensen Hansen, Cedar Rapids, died May 6. She graduated from St. Mary’s School of Nursing, Rochester, Minn., and was a nurse in Cedar Rapids for many years.

1950
Ernest Dohmeier, Albert Lea, Minn., died May 11. A U.S. Navy World II veteran, he attended Dunwoody School for Electronics and owned and operated Dohmeier TV Shop and later was a rural mail carrier for the U.S. Postal Service.
1951
Helen Remmers Kintner, Sioux Falls, S.D., died in September 1919.

1952
Dorothy Brinkman Eissinger, Hazen, N.D., died June 9. She and her husband owned and operated a clothing and variety store.

Herbert Freese, North Liberty, died June 23. He was a grain and dairy farmer.

Dean Gahre, Fontana, Calif., died in March. A U.S. Army Korean War veteran, he earned a master's degree from California State-Los Angeles and continued his education toward a doctorate at the University of Southern California. He was a teacher and a principal. He is survived by his wife, Wera Baderschneider Gahre ’53.

Darlene Grau Hotopp, Des Moines, died Oct. 26. She earned a bachelor's degree in education from Drake University. She was a teacher and also worked in the banking industry.

Verna Behrens Sohl, Tulsa, Okla., died May 28. She was a teacher.

Cornelius Weber, Georgetown, Texas, died April 16. A U.S. Air Force veteran, he earned bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Northern Iowa and went on to earn a doctorate. He was a research biologist with the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

1953
Beatrice Kolberg Long, McFarland, Wis., died Oct. 7. She worked for Rural Mutual Insurance Company for 40 years.

Darlene Dickman Suchomel, Urbana, died May 13. She earned a teaching certificate from Iowa State Teachers College, Cedar Falls. She was a teacher and later went on to work at the Urbana Savings Bank.

Robert Wumkes, Hudson, died July 23. He was a farmer and worked at Rath's, Peterson/Andorf Plumbing, and United Concrete and was a school bus driver.

1954
Ellen Bartels Behrens, Blair, Neb., died Aug. 27. She was a teacher.

Norma Totsch Mueller, Paso Robles, Calif., died April 9. She earned a bachelor's degree in social work from San Diego University. She served various organizations in California as a social worker before retiring in 1994. In 1984, she and her husband, the late Russell Mueller ’53, were presented awards by the Wartburg Alumni Association for their involvement in community activities and refugee work.

Viola Wolken Strom, Thomasboro, Ill., died Sept. 3. She earned a degree from the University of Illinois and was a teacher.

1955
Maureen Amman Fellig, Buffalo, Minn., died Feb. 7, 2020. She was a media specialist at Blake Schools for more than 20 years.

Rita Knuth McGowan, Redding, Calif., died July 23. She earned a master's degree in ethics and philosophy from Columbia University and a master's degree in European history from the University of California, Davis. She was a teacher and went on to be a financial planner.

David Osterfund, Prairie du Sac, Wis., died July 13. He was a master plumber and worked in the family hardware, heating, and plumbing business. He later went on to be a hospital maintenance supervisor.

Donald Smith, Lynnwood, Wash., died April 8. He is survived by his wife, Ruth Adix Smith ’55.

Kenneth Wesenberg, Schaumberg, Ill., died Aug. 17. He earned a degree in landscape architecture at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He was a landscape architect, park director, and park superintendent and operated an auto parts distributorship.

1956
Kermit Jorgensen, Wild Rose, Wis., died Oct. 21. A Korean War veteran, he was a teacher.

Darlene Foelske Knief, Waverly, died May 10. She was a teacher and later farmed with her husband.

The Rev. Ervin Langholz, Sun City, Ariz., died July 8. He earned a degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and was ordained in 1960. He served congregations in Nebraska, Illinois, and Arizona for more than 50 years.

1957
Dolores Dehn Dirks, Huntley, Ill., died Aug. 31. She was a teacher. She is survived by her husband, the Rev. Robert Dirks ’54.

Lawrence Schoening, DeWitt, died Jan. 14, 2020. He served in the National Guard and was a farmer.

1958
The Rev. August Borchardt, Sioux Falls, S.D., died July 29. He earned a degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and was ordained in 1962. He served congregations in Montana and South Dakota. He also served as a chaplain at care facilities. He is survived by his wife, Frances Luebke Borchardt ’56.

The Rev. Carolann “Carol” Alden Stumme, Minneapolis, Minn., died July 10. She earned a degree in art education from Concordia College, Moorhead, and went on to earn a Master of Divinity from Luther Seminary, St. Paul. She was ordained in 1985 and served congregations in Ohio and Minnesota. She is survived by her husband, the Rev. Wayne Stumme ’51.

1959
Verland Brown, North Aurora, Ill., died June 18. A U.S. Army WWII veteran, he was a teacher and went on to serve as an elementary principal for 26 years.

The Rev. Don Klepzig, Altamont, Ill., died Feb. 26, 2020. He earned a Master of Divinity from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and was a pastor for 35 years serving congregations in California, Nevada, and Illinois. He was also a hospital chaplain and served as a chaplain for the Civil Air Patrol.


1960

Wilbur Flachman, Westminster, Colo., died Sept. 16. He worked in newspapering, commercial printing, and publishing for more than 50 years. He was honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award from Wartburg College in 1972. He is survived by his wife, Dr. Marilyn Flachman ’60. Consider a memorial gift to the Wilbur and Marilyn Flachman Journalism Scholarship in his honor.

Florence DeBower Vieker, Allison, died June 25. She worked at a bank, taught music lessons, and was a church secretary.

1961
Ralph Meewes, Melbourne, Fla., died July 31. He earned a degree from the University of Northern Iowa and worked at Collins Radio in Cedar Rapids and Florida for 32 years.

Donald Poppen, West Des Moines, died June 7. A U.S. Army veteran, he was a banker.

Tom Van Wyngarden, Austin, Texas, died July 27. He had a career in business beginning with IBM, owned and operated three Command Performance shops, and went on to work in travel and insurance. He is survived by his wife, Janet Rueber Van Wyngarden ’61. Consider a memorial gift to the Tom and Jan Van Wyngarden Scholarship in his honor.
Band for 35 years. She is survived by her husband, choir and led the flute section in the Concord Mass., died May 15. She directed the church flute and later a high school principal.

University of Virginia. He was a teacher, a coach, and held various security positions with the U.S. Department of Energy. He went on to earn a master's degree at the University of Iowa and was elected the first bishop of the Western Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Gayle “Dean” Newlon, Ames, died Sept. 21. He earned a master's degree in school administration from the University of Northern Colorado and later a specialist degree from Iowa State University. He was a teacher, coach, principal, and athletic director. He is survived by his wife, Kathy Platte Newlon ’66.

Joel Schardt, Bloomington, Minn., died July 26. He went on to study at Princeton and the University of Cincinnati. He served in various positions in psychological counseling, probation, and social research; was a planner in the healthcare system; and later went on to own and operate a computer business.

Barbara Peterson Weiblen, Marlborough, Mass., died May 15. She directed the church flute choir and led the flute section in the Concord Band for 35 years. She is survived by her husband, William Weiblen ’67.

Dale Honeck, Park City, Kan., died July 20. He went on to earn a master's degree at the University of Virginia. He was a teacher, a coach, and later a high school principal.

The Rev. Joel Flugstad, Oklahoma City, Okla., died Oct. 15. He earned a degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and was ordained in 1973. He served parishes in the United States and Brazil. He went on to earn a Doctor of Ministry from Luther Seminary, St. Paul, and authored several daily devotional books and a memoir about his missionary work in Brazil.

James Keifer, Richmond, Ind., died June 21. He worked as an industrial engineer and in real estate. He was also a referee and radio broadcaster for high school basketball games.

Barry Krause, Knoxville, Tenn., died July 20. He went to the FBI Academy, worked as a special agent in the FBI, and later held various security positions with the U.S. Department of Energy.

Jane Lardahl, Chippewa Falls, Wis., died June 24. She worked in a dental office and later for Chippewa County.

The Rev. Lloyd Mart, Roseville, Minn., died Aug. 19. A U.S. Army veteran, he earned a master's degree and Doctor of Theology from Luther Seminary, St. Paul. He served as a chaplain and director of spiritual care.

The Rev. Curtis Miller, Eau Claire, Wis., died Sept. 15. He earned a Master of Divinity from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and was ordained in 1973. He served churches in Iowa and Minnesota and was elected the first bishop of the Western Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Betty Thomas Porter, Denver, died May 24. She was a junior high school teacher in the Waverly-Shell Rock School District.

Verla Zander Hinrichs, Waverly, died Nov. 8. She worked for Maytag and the Osceola Country Club and was a teacher and basketball coach for Humboldt Community Schools. She is survived by her husband, Darrel Hinrichs ’69.

Ronald Wartick, Asbury, died Oct. 24. He was a controller, including 24 years with Operation New View, and sold insurance. In 2019 he was knighted into the Wartburg College President’s Roundtable. He is survived by his wife, Nancy Nelson Wartick ’70.

Marjorie Merfeld Barth, Charles City, died Aug. 27. She earned a master's degree from the University of Northern Iowa. She was a special education resource room teacher at Charles City High School for 22 years.

Mark Will, Whittier, Calif., died July 20. He earned a master's degree in science statistics from Iowa State University, Ames. He worked for Trans America Corporation.

Cheryl Etchen, Mason City, died Sept. 13. She earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa and worked for Shell Oil Company, World Auto Parts and Target.

Karel Johnson, West Des Moines, died Nov. 3. She earned an associate's degree from Waldorf College and was a register senior client associate with Merrill Lynch.

Loretta Powers, Waterloo, died June 21. She was a daycare worker, telemarketer, and a senior companion.

Karen Streng, Colorado Springs, Colo., died July 25. She was a teacher.

Paula Harris Anderson, Waterloo, died Oct. 27. She was a homemaker.

Joseph Morgan, Urbandale, died Sept. 16. He was a police officer on the Des Moines police force where he earned the rank of sergeant.

Mark Kahley, Spencer, died July 31. He worked in retail sales and as a department manager with Menards.

Kathryn Larson, Rock Falls, Wis., died Sept. 4. She earned a Master of Divinity at Augsburg Seminary, Minneapolis. She served congregations in Iowa and Wisconsin and was a hospital and hospice chaplain. She later worked at Mayo Clinic.

Travis Bouska, Iowa City, died June 19. He earned a degree in criminal justice from Hamilton College and later a degree in mortuary science from Worsham College of Mortuary Science, Chicago. He worked at several funeral homes in Iowa.

Dr. Ronald Alexander, Waverly, died Aug. 3. He earned a degree from Midland Lutheran College, Fremont, Neb., and went on to earn a Master of Arts in philosophy at Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill, a Ph.D. in sacred theology at the Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago, and a Ph.D. in philosophy at the University of Iowa. He was a professor in the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Wartburg from 1966 until his retirement in 2014. Consider a memorial gift to the Virginia Alexander Endowed Scholarship in his honor.

Dr. David Hampton, Waverly, died Oct. 6. He earned an Associate of Arts degree from Mason City Junior College, now NIACC, and a bachelor's degree in chemistry from St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn. He went on to earn a Master of Science in chemistry at the University of North Dakota and a doctorate in chemistry from Purdue University. He was a chemistry professor at Wartburg from 1961 until his retirement in 2008, when he was granted emeritus status. He served as chair of the Department of Chemistry for 30 years. Consider a memorial gift to the David and Carolyn Hampton Endowed Scholarship in his honor.
In a typical year, student leaders with Wartburg College Service Trips would be planning weeklong adventures to help in communities across the United States during the college’s breaks. But 2020 was far from typical.

Knowing that cross-country trips wouldn’t be an option last fall, the organization’s leadership team set out to find new ways to help closer to home. An August derecho that hit a wide swath of central and eastern Iowa provided the perfect opportunity for the student-led organization to engage students with communities through service, reflection, and learning.

Throughout September and October, teams of student volunteers traveled to the Cedar Rapids area multiple times to help with cleanup efforts. The students also included those who live in The Residence, Wartburg’s service-learning residence hall where students are required to complete a community service project with a community partner. Some of those partnerships were severed last-minute because of the pandemic.

“These trips made it possible for two of our signature service initiatives to continue providing opportunities for students,” said Kristin Teig Torres, director of community engagement. “I am so proud of Wartburg students and their adaptability during these uncertain times.”

Bergan Blommers ’21, the student marketing coordinator for Service Trips, said one of the first groups to visit Cedar Rapids helped on an acreage that had a lot of downed trees and debris.

“The man who owned the land with his wife had just gotten home from heart surgery the day before the storm hit. He wasn’t able to do much lifting so we helped the couple and other volunteers with cleaning the grounds. We raked, pulled debris out of the tree lines, then hauled wood and debris to the side of the road,” said Blommers. Jean Erickson, of Cedar Rapids, connected with the Wartburg Service Trips team through a Facebook group that pairs volunteers with those impacted by the derecho.

“This group came to Cedar Rapids and helped clean our six acres of woods destroyed by the derecho. They did a fantastic job and are a wonderful group to represent your college. We were lucky to get this group and appreciated all their help. They were great workers!” she said in a Facebook message.

Rachelle Karstens ’92, president of Briar Cliff University in Sioux City, joined her son, Grant Johnson ’21, as a chaperone for one of the derecho cleanup opportunities.

“I think it’s wonderful that Wartburg provides these opportunities. There’s so much students can learn outside the classroom, and with the world we’re living in right now, there’s a lot of fear, uncertainty, sadness, and loss. I’ve always found that volunteer service helps the giver far more than the recipient,” Karstens said.
Estate Planning Helps Build a World You Wish to See

Estate Planning Consists of at Least Three Key Documents
Your will formalizes your wishes on how and to whom you want your assets to be distributed upon your passing. Your powers of attorney allow you to nominate an agent who will speak on your behalf if you are incapacitated. A living will or advanced directive formalizes your wishes regarding medical care in the event you are terminally ill.

Estate Planning Means Setting Up Your Beneficiary Designations
Assets such as life insurance or retirement plans pass outside of an individual’s will via a beneficiary designation. It’s important to review them so they mesh with your overall estate plan.

Estate Planning Is Flexible
Your will, along with beneficiary designations can be changed at any time.

Estate Planning Assures Your Assets Are Distributed as You Intend
Without an estate plan, the state will decide how your assets are distributed. It is critical to formalize a plan for your assets.

To learn more about how your estate plan can provide advantages for you and your loved ones through charitable estate planning, please contact Don Meyer, Senior Gift Planner at 319-352-8487 or donald.meyer@wartburg.edu.

Alumni Referral Award
You can help high school students take a journey of discovery similar to your own. This award will have your name on it as a testament to the importance of your involvement in the lives of our future alumni.

There’s no limit to the number of students you can qualify for an award. You don’t have to wait until they’re seniors, either — refer a freshman to give them lots of time to think about becoming a Knight.

The deadline to refer a student graduating from high school in the Class of 2022 is Nov. 1, 2021. Find out more at www.wartburg.edu/refer.

Online Book Club
All are welcome to join Wartburg’s online book club to discuss a new book every month. Sign up for free at www.wartburg.edu/book-club to receive advance notice about the next month’s book and details about joining our special Facebook group. Each month will feature a different book, online discussion, and some form of “meeting” online.

Books selected so far:
October: How To Be an Antiracist, by Ibram X. Kendi
November: The Family Upstairs, by Lisa Jewell
December: Anxious People, by Fredrik Backman
January: IRL by Chris Stedman
February: Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi
March: Know My Name by Chanel Miller

THANKS TO OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS!
Gold Level
Hawkeye Stages
Taylor Physical Therapy
Silver Level
Coca-Cola
Bronze Level
First Maxfield Mutual Insurance

www.wartburg.edu/refer
We’re social!
Wartburg College
Wartburg Knights
Wartburg Knight Vision
@WartburgCollege
@WartburgKnights
Wartburg College
Wartburg Knights
Wartburg College
#WartburgWorthIt

Update your information online:
WWW.WARTBURG.EDU/ALUMNI

congratulations, WINTER GRADUATES!