Adventurer
Ruth Storm

Skis to the poles, hikes the great mountain passes, and bikes through Alaska and Africa.

She isn’t done yet.
LAST MAY I WAS CONTEMPLATING
a drive to North Dakota to complete my “bucket-list” goal of visiting all 50 states, conjuring up my inner Buzz Lightyear with visions of “To Fargo and beyond.”

Then I received an Alumni Note email from Ruth Storm ’81, a London-based private equity executive turned business coach:

“I skied 900 km with an unsupported expedition from the edge of Antarctica to the South Pole, arriving after 39 days on 29 December 2011. I became the 14th woman ever to do so. (To put it in perspective!)

Well, for perspective’s sake that certainly diminished the grueling, still pending, seven-hour, 450-mile drive to Fargo to conclude my Tour de U.S.

So who was this person who burst my bucket-list bubble? Was she just a one-pole wonder?

TWO POLES AND MORE
In fact, Storm is a member of the elite, albeit nonexistent, Geographically Bipolar Club. Twenty months earlier, she had completed the “Last Degree” trek from 89° N to the North Pole. No landmass exists at the top of the world. Instead, she’d played hopscotch of sorts, skiing on ice floes, then substituting swimming in the Arctic Ocean for jumping.

Wait, there’s more. Storm is the very definition of “peripatetic” — constantly “moving or traveling from place to place”.

See Ruth run the London Marathon. Watch her do a Swiss ski marathon. Read Ruth’s blog as she bikes through much of eastern Africa.

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See Ruth run the London Marathon. Watch her do a Swiss ski marathon. Read Ruth’s blog as she bikes through much of eastern Africa. See pictures of her biking through southern Alaska. Look at Ruth climb Mount Kilimanjaro.

When I caught up with her, she had just returned from hiking across the high Himalayas passes with her two sons in April and was preparing for a leisurely July stroll along the 220-mile Swiss High Pass Alpine Route, which traverses 16 mountain passes.

During our phone conversation — when I presume she was stationary — I asked Ruth about her plans during retirement. Suffice it to say, her dream adventure does involve mostly sitting, but certainly not staying still. Read the story to find out more.

42 COUNTRIES AND COUNTING
Nataly Fletcher Kelly’s email about her new book, Found in Translation: How Language Shapes Our Lives and Transforms the World, piqued my interest. I am in awe of anyone who can conjugate verbs in a foreign tongue, let alone speak multiple languages. Kelly is conversant (if not totally fluent) in seven chief research officer for Boston-based Common Sense, a language think tank.

I watched a video of the keynote speech Kelly ’96 gave at the 2011 North American Summit for Interpreting in Washington D.C., and it was surprisingly funny and accessible. After reading her book, I’d describe it similarly with lots of humorous anecdotes and interesting insights.

Like Storm, who studied abroad extensively in Germany, Kelly was attracted to Wartburg because of its global outlook. That didn’t just mean time spent studying in Ecuador, but also lifelong friendships forged with international students.

When we began the interview process, she had visited 38 countries. Several months later when I did fact-checking with her on the story, she had been to 42. I suspect she’ll reach 50 before I make it to Fargo.

My colleague Linda Moeller ’66 traveled to Nebraska to visit with Dr. Duane Koenig ’53, who may have retired from his career as a family-practice physician and general surgeon in his hometown, but found renewed purpose as a medical volunteer in Tanzania. Seeing a critical need for doctors following a three-week safari in 2006, he determined, “This is where I need to be.”

Elsewhere in this issue, you’ll meet Tom Zirbel ’01 who has parlayed a cycling career into international travel; the Wartburg women’s golf team, which has made traveling to the NCAA Division III championships an annual event; Diana Rich ’07, who journeyed to St. Louis to see a ballgame and came back with a newborn; and you’ll learn about Wartburg’s increasing impact in Cedar Valley economic development.

CRANIAL CAPACITY GETS DOWNLOAD
Finally, there’s Aditi Patel, a second-year biochemistry major from Waverly who decided to attend the “Genetics of Addiction” conference in Bar Harbor, Maine, which was meant primarily for professionals, doctoral candidates, and graduate students. She not only held her own in that fast company, but became the social director for the group, leading them in word games and outdoor activities.

Aditi not only radiates hyper-energy, but has a fabulous curiosity quotient. She says earnestly, “My brain is like one megabyte loaded when it could have a capacity of 100 gigabytes.”

It’s a no-brainer that she’s going places.
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Wartburg teams with ELCA to eradicate malaria

A weekday chapel message inspired Kelsey Nulph ’14 to start the Wartburg Malaria Initiative. Nulph heard Jessica Nipp Hacker ’98, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Malaria Campaign manager, speak to students about the mission it undertook beginning in August 2011 to eradicate the mosquito-spread disease.

“I remember very clearly that Jessica shared that a child dies every 45 seconds of malaria. I was shocked to hear how malaria was claiming the lives of so many and yet was a preventable and treatable disease,” said Nulph, a religion major from Batavia, Ill. “I realized I wanted to get involved in the ELCA’s work to eradicate malaria.”

The ELCA is working with 12 countries in Africa to provide mosquito nets, medicine to treat malaria, training for healthcare providers, and education on how people can protect themselves from mosquitoes, recognize symptoms, and seek treatment.

The funds raised also provide preventive medication to protect pregnant women and their babies. The campaign works with governments to offer health care and education to those who live in malaria-affected areas.

Nulph enlisted various campus organizations and used social media and programming grants.

Besides an education component and raising money in painted glass jars on campus, the Wartburg Malaria Benefit Concert, planned for March 16 in Levick Arena, will feature alumni and student performers.

For more on the Wartburg Malaria Initiative, visit wartburg.edu/malaria.

Hawley, Tomsons honored with Wartburg Medals

Kent Hawley, a former Wartburg College administrator, and O. Jay and Patricia Tomson, longtime supporters of the college, received Wartburg Medals at the Opening Convocation.

During Hawley’s 16-year Wartburg career, he was instrumental in boosting international enrollment as vice president for student affairs, director of international programs and director of international admissions.

Hawley received the Distinguished Service Award of the Iowa Student Personnel Association in 1985 and serves on Wartburg’s National Diversity Advisory Board.

He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in political science and economics from the University of Wisconsin and a Master of Arts degree and Ed.D. in student personnel administration from Columbia University.

Jay Tomson, chair of First Citizen’s National Bank in Mason City, and Pat, a retired family therapist and active community volunteer, have given their time, talents and gifts to numerous Wartburg initiatives.

Jay served on the Wartburg Board of Regents, 1989-98, and the Commission Wartburg Task Force on Academic Programs in 1999. Pat was a member of Wartburg’s National Social Work Advisory Board, 2001-04. The Tomsons played a leadership role in establishing the James Leach Chair in Economics and Banking and an endowed professorship in social work. Their daughter, Sara Tomson-Hooper, is a 1989 Wartburg graduate and received an Alumni Citation from the college in 2010.

Wartburg enhances ties with Deutsche Welle

A Wartburg College contingent attended Deutsche Welle’s (DW) Global Media Forum in Bonn, June 25-27. The attendance was part of the college’s growing relationship with the German broadcast giant, which produces TV, radio, and online content in 30 languages to a worldwide audience of nearly 90 million.

President Darrel Colson, communication arts lecturer Travis Bockenstedt ’09, and Shelby Granath ’13, a communication arts major from Rockford, Ill., joined 1,500 international journalists, educators, and dignitaries for the conference on Culture/Education/Media: Shaping a Sustainable World.

Colson spoke on panels devoted to new media’s impact on education and its role in reconstruction in areas of unrest.

Erik Bettermann (left, shaking hands with Colson), DW director-general who received an honorary degree in literature and letters at Wartburg’s 2012 Commencement, and Colson signed a memorandum of understanding for increased cultural and academic cooperation between DW and Wartburg, especially in teaching and research. A Wartburg graduate annually would be able to participate in the International Media Studies master’s program at the DW Akademie.
Schwanz selected for science internship in Germany

Derek Schwanz '13, a chemistry major from Inver Grove Heights, Minn., was one of 300 applicants out of 1,800 from the U.S., Canada, and the United Kingdom selected to participate in the Research Internships in Science and Engineering summer internship program in Germany — matched with doctoral students who serve as mentors.

Wartburg finishes No. 18 in Director’s Cup standings

Wartburg College placed 18th in NCAA Division III in the final 2011-12 Director’s Cup standings for all sports with 576.75 points. The Knights won championships in women’s indoor and outdoor track and field and wrestling. In addition, the Knights tallied points in women’s cross country, No. 6; women’s golf, No. 17; men’s outdoor track and field, No. 20; and by making the NCAA tournament in women’s soccer.

Wartburg has finished in the Top 25 of the final standings 11 times in the past 12 years. It was the only Iowa Conference school to rank in this year’s Top 20.

Drumline debuts during Homecoming

Wartburg College boasts a new drumline, thanks to the efforts of Alexander Valentine ’14, who had 11 years of drumline experience and recruited members.

The drumline consists of four snare drums, four bass drums, and two sets of quads — the result of a donation procured two years earlier by Kate Glenney ’12 from her alma mater, Wilton High School.

Valentine said Wartburg would become the second school in the Iowa Conference and among the very few Division III schools with a drumline. The group debuted during Homecoming week at Kastle Kapers and expects to play during sports and area events.

Watch the Drumline’s debut

U-Knight Day of Service

U-Knight Day of Service is a chance to spend time with fellow Wartburg alumni while serving communities throughout the Midwest on Saturday, March 9.

Last year, 60 alumni and families participated in U-Knight Day service events from Waterloo to Kansas City. The service included volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, The Y, and Ronald McDonald House.

“We had really great turnout last year, and the participants were really excited about the service projects,” said Megan Nuehring ’13, Alumni Office intern in charge of organizing the service events. “This year we’re spreading the word a lot more and expect even more alumni and families to participate.”

If you are interested in helping organize a project in your area for the 2nd Annual U-Knight Day of Service, contact the Alumni Office by Wednesday, Dec. 12, via email at alumni@wartburg.edu or call 319-352-8491.

Responsibilities include choosing an organization to assist, inviting alumni, friends, and family to attend, and hosting the event.

Save the Date for Parent-Student Luncheon

Parents and family are invited to an afternoon luncheon Saturday, Feb. 9, which offers an opportunity to meet with their student as well as other parents and families.

Wartburg scores conference honors

Wartburg claimed the 2012 Iowa Conference’s Marjorie Giles Women’s All-Sports trophy for the ninth time in 11 years and a share of the All-Sports trophy for the second consecutive year. The Knights have either won or claimed a share of the All-Sports trophy since its inception in 2002-03.

Homecoming 2013 announces reunion years


Women’s track and field team recognized as top scholars

Not only did the Wartburg women sweep the NCAA Division III indoor and outdoor track and field titles, but their dominance extended into the classroom. The Knights were named Scholar Team of the Year, while Laura Sigmund ’12 and Alana Enabnit ’15 were named National Scholar Athletes of the Year for the indoor and outdoor seasons, respectively. Sigmund was the national indoor champion in the 5,000 meters. Enabnit swept the outdoor 5,000 and 10,000 meters, with Sigmund finishing second in both. They were among 12 Knights named All-Academic.

Sarah Hoffman ’12 of Epworth became the 34th Knight to win an NCAA postgraduate scholarship. Hoffman, winner in the discus at the Iowa Conference outdoor meet, had a 3.97 GPA in biology and is attending medical school at Des Moines University.

See how they run

The Wartburg women captured the Deb Vercauteren Division III Program of the Year award for track and field and cross country from the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association. The women won both the indoor and outdoor track and field championships and were No. 6 in cross country.

Newsom named top women’s track and field coach

Wartburg track and field head coach Marcus Newsom was named U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association’s Women’s Track and Field Coach of the Year for both the outdoor and indoor seasons. Newsom also received the award in 2009.

 Five members added to Alumni Board

The Wartburg Alumni Board welcomed five new members at its fall 2012 meeting.

New members include Jeffrey Arnold ’76, Belvidere, Ill.; Karen Petersen Berg ’83, Las Vegas; Gary T. Johnson ’86, Chicago; Kerrie Larson Liedtke ’98, Norwalk; and the Rev. Richard Mark ’77, San Jose, Calif.

Check out the full list of Alumni Board members as well as application information at www.wartburg.edu/alumni/board.aspx. The application deadline is March 1.
Dr. Mark Biermann has had a laser-like focus on his career — literally. Biermann became Wartburg College’s dean of the faculty and vice president of academic affairs in June. He succeeded Dr. Ferol Menzel, who retired a year earlier, and brings a background in optics — physics dealing with light.

“The essential nature of Wartburg is in keeping with some of the best experiences I’ve had in higher education,” Biermann said.

“Liberal arts with strong ties to professional and preprofessional programs, a strong sense of community engagement, a strong love for the arts, and an athletic program that complements the overall mission of the institution are pieces that I find very powerful as they come together.”

In fact, Wartburg fits him to a double “n.”

“I share a German-Lutheran background,” Biermann remarked, “and when I was in Germany to conduct research, it was pointed out that I spell my name in the proper German fashion — with two n’s.”

Biermann was born in Lethbridge, Alberta, the son of a Lutheran pastor who served a congregation in Milk River, not far from the U.S. border. He went to high school in Gladwin, Mich. (pop. 2,500), where he was involved in basketball and track. He also participated in theater and played trumpet in the wind ensemble, pep band, and marching band.

He had a singular fascination in academics.

“I really became interested in lasers and holography,” Biermann said. “The laser was only about 16 years old, and the hologram had been conceptually thought about way back in the Forties, but it wasn’t until the laser came along that there was an easy, practical way of making a hologram.”

He matriculated to the University of Rochester in upstate New York, which had the nation’s only undergraduate program in optics and housed the Institute of Optics because of strong interactions between the university and Kodak, Xerox, and Bausch and Lomb. Biermann had two Kodak internships, working on optical engineering projects.

He earned his bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees there. His doctoral work involved quantum optics — “studying really short laser pulses interacting with matter, especially semiconductors, which has a variety of applications for communications, lasers and other devices.”

His first taste of teaching came as a 19-year-old college junior.

“I had a chance to teach a couple of sections of recitation for mathematics — Calculus 2,” Biermann recalled. “I was teaching traditional-aged students, and students 40 or 50 years old, professionals getting some background needed for a degree in mathematics, science, or engineering. I found it difficult when people twice my age referred to me as ‘Mr. Biermann.’

“But they were all really good students,” he added, “and I fell in love with it.”

His career path, Biermann said, eventually came down to “deciding between opportunities in research or industry and what I was really enjoying — teaching.”

His journey took him to small private colleges (Whitworth, Buena Vista, and Taylor universities), a large state school (Eastern Kentucky University), and a federal institution (the U.S. Naval Academy).

“I personally hate moving, but when you look at my résumé it sure doesn’t look like that,” Biermann said. “Life happens. The downside is that I’ve relocated quite a few times. The upside is that I’ve had a tremendous opportunity to learn so much about higher education in so many different settings.”

“I’ve run the gamut,” he added, “but throughout I’ve loved teaching. I really enjoy undergraduates working with me when I do research.”

Biermann’s shift to administration followed a succession of academic leadership roles — program director, department chair, and heading major committees before becoming dean of the School of Natural and Applied Sciences at Taylor.

Faculty regard for Biermann may be best illustrated by an experience at Taylor, where he was responsible for six academic departments and two independent centers while helping shepherd development of the new Science Learning Center.

“Several of my colleagues were really kind. They actually contributed quite a bit to the Science Learning Center so that the school office suite furnishings were given in honor of my mom, Karen.”

As dean of the faculty, Biermann sees his role as “helping to

“A liberal arts education . . . not only makes you good in your particular field of study, but . . . a well-rounded student who wants to learn and be engaged in the community.”

— Mark Biermann

From Optics to AD min istration

Biermann brings diverse experiences and scientific background to dean’s office

by Saul Shapiro
facilitate faculty development and professional growth. I have developed a good understanding of academics and the many components that must come together to provide a formative educational experience."

He supports more technology in the classroom, but not with a "one-size-fits-all" approach.

"I've been comfortable using lots of technology and just plain old chalk," Biermann remarked. "The bottom line is you have to engage the student. If you do, you've won half the battle, because they're going to be paying attention and more teachable moments are possible. So the question becomes, what is the most effective approach for a given faculty member to engage her or his students?

Biermann is eager to work with faculty and staff to create a coherent, cohesive student development plan for each of our students so they get the full benefit of a whole-person, liberal arts, residential college experience with a rigorous academic core."

His background is in science, but Biermann values a liberal arts education.

"The better term for me would be 'liberal arts and sciences,'" he said. "If you go back to medieval times, mathematics and astronomy were part of the liberal arts. There's always been a strong basis for a liberal arts education — a broad-based education that not only makes you good in your particular field of study, but also makes you a well-rounded student who wants to learn and be engaged in the community.

"The best science students I've encountered have the ability to take a step back and say, 'I'm working on this within my field, but how does it fit into the bigger picture? How does it fit into society on a larger scale?' The liberal arts grounding allows them to do that."

Biermann takes over leadership of academic affairs at a crucial juncture.

"There are going to be some very challenging times for some educational institutions. The institutions that emerge will be even stronger than they were going in. I think Wartburg is going to be one that grows stronger than ever before."

Biermann and his wife, Lois, who also earned bachelor's and master's degrees in optics at the University of Rochester, have two daughters, Grace, 13, and Hope, 10."
Meet Aditi Patel ’15 of Waverly — preternaturally mature and energy personified, exuding precociously in the most positive sense of the word.

Indeed, you can’t help but smile when she says, “My brain is like one megabyte loaded when it could have a capacity of 100 gigabytes. I have a thirst for knowledge. Honestly, there’s so much to learn. Even if you live to 105, just think about how much knowledge you’re going to gain if you spend a few hours a day learning new things. And you still can’t learn everything, because so much that is new is coming out every single minute.”

Patel, a biochemistry major and Chemistry Club president, dreams of becoming a surgeon and/or earning an M.D./Ph.D. She has a big-time crush on research.

In pursuit of more mental megabytes, Patel applied to the “Short Course on the Genetics of Addiction,” a four-day conference in August sponsored by the National Institute on Drug Abuse and Jackson Laboratories in Bar Harbor, Maine, featuring a “Who’s Who” list of speakers from leading institutions.

The gathering was meant for professionals, doctoral candidates, and graduate students, but it piqued her insatiable curiosity. “My adviser, Dr. Shawn Ellerbroek, thought it would be a great opportunity to meet other people in the field and learn a ton about genetics. We knew the chances of making it into the course were very slim,” Patel said, “but (Pathways career services adviser) Derek Solheim helped me build a resumé and go over my personal statement.”

“She’s such a really good student. She came up with the idea and did something that’s really outside the box. I don’t think she realizes that maybe you’re not supposed to do it that young, but sometimes that works out the best,” Ellerbroek said.

She felt right at home. “People were really surprised I was only 19,” Patel said. “They were saying, ‘What? Hold on a second. What are you doing here?’ But I seemed to mesh really well. ‘There were a lot of very prominent people who spoke. I’d actually read some of their papers. Meeting them in person was like meeting a celebrity. But the content in the classes wasn’t hard to understand at all. That’s what I found really amazing. Even with so little background compared to everyone else there, with the education I’m getting at Wartburg I was just fine.”

She was enthralled with discussions about research — basics, human genetics, mouse genetics, how to do statistical analyses that bridge the mouse and human genetics.

“Research has so many different opportunities with this subject, so being exposed to it this early on gives me a leg up on the whole playing field,” Patel said. “I know what’s coming up now.”

Patel not only embraced the “learning” pillar of the Wartburg mission statement, but also “leadership.”

“I actually became the activity coordinator, figuring out what we would do in the evening,” she remarked. “We’d go on hikes to the beach and play (word games) like Catch Phrase and Scattergories, and we had a ping-pong tournament. At one point, I was thinking to myself, ‘Oh, my God, I’m playing Catch Phrase with Michael Neale!’” (Neale, a Virginia Commonwealth University genetics professor, is known for developing statistical methods for the analysis of genetically informative data.)

She came away from Bar Harbor with more than newfound knowledge. “I made a lot of new best friends there,” Patel said. “Some are from Brown, some from Yale — all these prestigious places — and Wartburg is up there with them now. It’s awesome.

“I also had people say, ‘Hey, if you ever need a letter or recommendation, I’ll write you one.’ That was really cool.”

Patel was among the 35 participants selected.

Among the topics were:
- Human intermediate phenotypes related to drug abuse
- Optical imaging for addiction research
- MicroRNA/Molecular mechanisms of addiction
- Overview of mouse genetics of alcoholism and addiction
- Making and using mutant mice

Only a sophomore, the ever-curious biochemistry major got a chance to hang out with leaders in genetics last summer

by Saul Shapiro
During his junior year at Aplington-Parkersburg High School, Ryan Harms ’13 experienced the EF-5 tornado that killed nine people and destroyed 200 buildings, including his high school.

After his graduation, government teacher and legendary A-P football coach Ed Thomas was shot and killed by former student Mark Becker. “I was so blindsided that it could happen in little Parkersburg, Iowa, to our hometown celebrity of sorts,” Harms said. “It was and still is something I am trying to wrap my mind around.”

As senior class president, Harms had worked closely with Thomas to schedule events and develop class projects. They connected through the importance of faith in their lives.

“We would have little conversations here and there about faith. I looked up to him as a man of great faith. He had a Bible verse posted outside of his door, a Bible at the front of his room, and prayed before every football game with the team,” Harms said.

Thomas’ death changed Harms’ outlook on life and faith.

“The shooting, the vigil that night, and the visitation and funeral are things I will never forget. I will never forget the outpouring of emotion at the vigil, the four-and-a-half hour wait at the visitation,” Harms said. “It made me more aware of God’s plan in life. After the shock and confusion had passed, it made me think about spending time with my family and friends, because something could happen just as easily to one of them. I don’t take them for granted.”

Harms has continued his faith journey at Wartburg. He studies engineering and is president of Festeburg, an a cappella octet; vice president of Ritterchor; secretary of the Wartburg Choir, and president of Hope Overflow, Wartburg’s Christian band. He is involved in service trips and plays guitar and sings in the worship band at Nazareth Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls.

“I express my faith through music. All of my choir groups are great outlets for me to dig into the text of the music and relate the words to my experiences, and then relate them to my faith,” he said.

Harms said college exposed him to different ideas about what faith means in the world.

“Wartburg classes and individuals have challenged my faith, but in the end those experiences developed my faith. I questioned my faith for awhile and took time to figure out what I truly believe,” he said.

Harms feels his faith is stronger now than ever before.

“My Wartburg friends are ones that I can openly talk about my faith with, especially those in Hope Overflow. It’s always a great experience when a friend and I can discuss faith and beliefs for hours on end,” he said.

Harms works at John Deere Product Engineering Center in Cedar Falls and would love to continue there after graduation in May. He is both nervous and excited about life’s next chapter.

“Wartburg has truly become a home to me, so I will embrace as much of it as I can this last year,” he said. “It will be weird not to have choir rehearsal every day or to go into the chapel to sing whenever I feel like it. I’m determined to make my senior year the best it can be.”

Thomas’ example will help guide him.

“He was a Christian man who lived by integrity, commitment, and hard work. He was someone who was not afraid to display his faith,” Harms said.

“God had a plan for Ed and continues to have a plan for Ed, just as God has a plan for me,” he said. “I may not know what it is, but it gives me hope that through the difficult times in life, God has a plan for each moment of it.”

Harms continues faith journey at Wartburg after Aplington-Parkersburg tragedies

by Kristin Canning ’14
Zirbel Traded Beakers for Biking

Chemistry major discovers success and challenges as a cyclist

by Kristine Milbrandt ’14

Professional cyclist Tom Zirbel ’01 lives life by a simple mantra: Enjoy the ride. “I try to not take myself or life too seriously,” Zirbel said. “You have to have fun with it. If you’re not having fun or aren’t happy, you’re missing the point.”

Zirbel took up cycling nine years ago. Although his career has taken him to countries on four continents, a personal highlight was his recent race through Boulder, Colo., his hometown of 11 years, in front of 25,000 fans during the USA Pro Challenge.

“I’ve learned to appreciate the fact that I’m making a living doing something I love and am passionate about,” said Zirbel, who currently races with Optum Pro Cycling presented by Kelly Benefit Strategies. “The way my cycling career has worked out — to be paying my bills by racing my bike around the world — is a gift I’m very grateful for.”

Originally from Clear Lake, Zirbel had no interest in cycling during his days at Wartburg. Instead, he focused on completing his chemistry degree and running. After graduation, he spent two years as a graduate student in inorganic chemistry at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

Zirbel entered his first bike race in 2003 after sustaining an injury while training for a marathon. He “caught the cycling bug, bad,” and dropped out of school to train full-time as a cyclist, delivering pizzas by night to pay his bills.

“One day, I had to deliver pizzas to the chemistry department at school,” he recalled. “That definitely gave me a gut-check as to whether I was confident and happy with the decision I made.”

Zirbel worked his way through the racing categories by building on the fitness he acquired from running and landed his first professional contract with Priority Health in 2006.

“This is a tough sport, and I’ve had my fair share of growing pains,” he said. “The biggest challenge has been getting my technical skills and tactical knowledge on par with my fitness level. I’ll let you know when I get there.”

During the February-to-September racing season, Zirbel estimates he participates in around 70 races with anywhere from 100 to more than 200 competitors.

“Professionally, getting fourth in the World Championship Time Trials back in 2009 was probably my best result ever,” he said. “Leading the last stage of the 2008 Tour of California in the freezing rain was a thrill as well.”

Zirbel’s greatest challenge occurred in December 2009, when he tested positive for the hormone DHEA after taking supplements from a then-sponsor of his team.

“Though it was a reputable company that ‘guaranteed’ there was no possibility of testing positive from taking their supplements, the most likely scenario is that one of the supplements was contaminated with small amounts of DHEA, and I tested positive as a result,” he explained.

The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, which has charged Lance Armstrong (and many of his teammates) with blood-doping, maintains a strict policy that athletes are responsible for everything that goes into their bodies. Zirbel received a two-year suspension from cycling, since the rules make no distinctions about intent or level of performance enhancement.

“It’s a nice rule in theory, but very impractical in real life, because it’s nearly impossible to know the exact composition of all that you’re consuming as an athlete,” said Zirbel, who immediately announced his retirement following voluntary acceptance of the suspension.

“The whole situation was so stressful and emotionally taxing that it was starting to take a toll on my relationships,” he said. “Plus, I just felt powerless throughout the ordeal and ‘quitting’ was a way to take back control of my own life.”

In March 2011, Zirbel’s suspension was reduced to 18 months, which had already been served, and he decided to resume his cycling career. In May 2011 he placed second in the U.S. Pro Time Trial Championship.

“When I came back, I was very thankful to be racing again but I was — and still am — very wary of the sport.”

Time away led him to re-evaluate his future, and he is considering a teaching career in high school math and science.

“I know that it can all end in a heartbeat, so I’m careful not to get too attached, if that makes sense,” Zirbel said. “I love racing my bike, and I’m grateful for the experiences I’ve had, people I’ve met, and places I’ve seen through racing professionally, but I won’t be crushed when the next chapter of my life begins.”

“To be paying my bills by racing my bike around the world is a gift I’m very grateful for.”

— Tom Zirbel ’01
Soon to retire, Jim Miller made Wartburg a wrestling powerhouse
by Craig Sesker ‘88

Only 16 wrestlers were on the team when Jim Miller became head wrestling coach at Wartburg College in 1991. Shortly after Miller’s first meeting with his new squad, it had dwindled to 10.

“We had six guys quit right away when I told them what the expectations were,” Miller said. “I wanted guys who were willing to make the sacrifice to develop a championship team.”

Nine Division III national championships and 20 Iowa Conference titles later, Miller’s message has definitely resonated with his athletes. The 58-year-old coach has become a legend while building a wrestling dynasty on the Waverly campus.

Miller is looking to go out with an amazing 10th NCAA Division III title before he steps down following the 2012-13 season. Eric Keller, co-head coach with Miller the past three seasons, will take over the program.

During the past two decades, Miller has built a powerhouse wrestling program at Wartburg despite coaching at a level that does not offer athletic scholarships. He has convinced elite kids, many of whom could have excelled at the Division I level, to wrestle at a school that has annually been in the mix to win national team titles in Division III.

Miller’s emphasis on building a well-rounded student-athlete is one of his most impressive qualities. He has coached 70 Academic All-Americans at Wartburg. Athletes who stay in the Wartburg program for four years will leave with a college degree.

When Miller walks into the living room of a prospective recruit, he immediately lets them know he is looking for a high-character young man who is committed to excelling in the classroom as well as on the wrestling mat.

Miller is an intense, driven, hard-nosed coach in the wrestling room, but at the same time he builds a close personal relationship with his athletes, evident in the large number of his wrestlers who have followed him into the coaching profession and continually seek his guidance.

In his final season at Wartburg, Miller has an opportunity to tie Augsburg’s Jeff Swenson by winning a record 10th NCAA Division III title.

“Sometimes we forget about the really good coaches who are not at the Division I level,” said fellow Waterloo native and former University of Iowa Coach Dan Gable, who led the Hawkeyes to a whopping 15 D1 wrestling titles. “Jim Miller has built something really special at Wartburg. He always wants to get better, and that’s what is really impressive about him.”

Miller had opportunities to move up to the NCAA Division I level as a head wrestling coach. He was even in the mix to take over the program at his alma mater, Northern Iowa, but chose to stay in Waverly. That says a great deal about his commitment to Wartburg College — and the close-knit family atmosphere he has developed.

Miller is one of the best coaches, at any level, in NCAA wrestling history. His record of success, on and off the mat, is definitely proof of that. He has made incredible contributions to Wartburg College and beyond.

You won’t find a better person in the sport. He is more than deserving of all the recognition and accolades that come his way.

“For me, Wartburg College wrestling became my dream job,” Miller said. “I found that there were no limits on what you could accomplish here, if you were willing to work hard at it and dedicate yourself to your dream, no matter how high that dream might be.”

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**NC A A Division III championship leaders**


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**Watch WTV anchor Shelby Granath’s coverage on Coach Miller’s retirement.**

Go to wartburg.edu/miller or scan the QR code with a smart phone.
Paving the Way

Wartburg graduates have key leadership positions promoting the Cedar Valley
by Kristine Milbrandt ’14

Four Wartburg College alumni are enjoying the benefits of alumni connections and creating opportunities for the next generation of Knights through their work in Cedar Valley economic development organizations.

Aaron Buzza ’01, Beth Neal Keeney ’05, and Jim Marlin ’01 work for the Waterloo Convention and Visitors Bureau. Brent Matthias ’92 is executive director of Waverly Area Economic Development.

Aaron and his wife, Crystal Heins Buzza ’03, settled in Waterloo immediately after graduation. He is now executive director of the Waterloo Convention and Visitors Bureau, and she works for the Waterloo Community School District as director of strategic partnerships.

“We liked the community, which we got to know, obviously, at Wartburg,” said Aaron, originally from Lanesboro, Minn. “We found really good jobs here. We enjoyed seeing progress, so we planted some roots in a community that we believe in.”

Anamosa native Marlin moved back to the Cedar Valley from Des Moines and is now executive director of the Cedar Valley Sports Commission, part of the Waterloo Convention and Visitors Bureau.

“With kids now, it’s a good place for them,” Marlin said. “We’re settled; we have lots of friends. From a Wartburg perspective, we have a massive alumni base, and it’s just made sense for us.”

Keeney, originally from Williamsburg, left the Cedar Valley after graduating from Wartburg. She and her husband, Zachary ’05, returned to the area when she became marketing and communications director at the Waterloo Convention and Visitors Bureau.
Matthias, who grew up in Denver, Iowa, lived in San Antonio; Sydney, Australia; and Branson, Mo., before returning to Waverly.

“It always came back to the people and the caring, supportive culture prevalent here,” said Matthias, a reporter at KWWL-TV and director of alumni and admissions at Wartburg, before taking the reins of Waverly Area Economic Development.

“You can go anywhere to live, work, and play, but the people in the Cedar Valley make it super."

Each alumnus shares a common goal: attracting others to the area.

“Part of selling the Cedar Valley is telling the story — what it’s like to experience it and inviting them to experience it as well,” Keeney said. “There are a lot of neat things unique to our area.”

Buzza noted recent additions in Waterloo, including the Isle Casino Hotel and Phelps Youth Pavilion, and is looking forward to the proposed John Deere Museum on the Cedar Valley TechWorks site.

“With interest being high already for the John Deere Museum, we have some new and exciting attractions,” Buzza said. “Word-of-mouth marketing has helped us a great deal as people share their experiences with others.”

Significant tourism growth has come from military reunions, due to interest in the five Sullivan brothers of Waterloo, who perished together when the Japanese sank the U.S.S. Juneau in November 1942, and now the Iowa Veterans Museum.

“Waterloo’s rich military history and the deep appreciation for the military has set us apart from other destinations,” Buzza said.

Marlin works to bring regional and national sporting events to the Cedar Valley.

WCVB is partnering with Upper Iowa University to host a 2013 Division II Wrestling Super-Regional tournament at Young Arena in Waterloo. (Wartburg hosted the 2001 Division III championships at Young Arena.)

Marlin also helped arrange an agreement with the Iowa Shriners to host the 2013 Iowa Shrine Bowl, a high school football all-star game, at the UNI-Dome.

“[There’s] so much growth and development going on,” Marlin said. “[I want to] be a part of where it’s going forward.”

Matthias said he recruits businesses to Waverly by selling its high quality of life.

“Businesses see the whole package of the workforce ethic, great education, and colleges in this area,” Matthias said.

In their leadership positions, these graduates understand the importance of Wartburg alumni connections.

“Kids have so many opportunities to get involved at Wartburg, and when they get out in the world, they can take those opportunities with them,” Keeney said.

“This is my fifth job since graduating from college,” Marlin said “Every one has been connected to Wartburg somehow.”

Keeney agreed. “Get involved in the Waverly community, the Cedar Falls community, the Waterloo community, because you never know what opportunity might come up or with whom you could be in contact,” she said.

Buzza said alumni connections make it easier “to send that email or make that phone call. You don’t have to formally introduce yourself. You just say, ‘Hey, how are you?’ It opens up a lot of doors professionally. If I’m calling someone from 1971 or someone from 2011 is calling me, we have that connection to establish a relationship.”

Dr. Kit Kleinhans is opening her May 2013 “Reformation Then and Now” course to alumni and friends.

Visit Martin Luther sites in Germany; see Prague, in the Czech Republic, where Jan Hus was an active reformer 100 years before Luther; and meet Lutherans in Slovakia, Hungary, and Romania, who continue the work of reformation in the aftermath of communism.

As a bonus, visit all three St. Elizabeth sites — Sarospatak, Hungary; Wartburg Castle; and Marburg.

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**CONTACT**

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Nataly Fletcher Kelly ’96, a Mason City, Ill., native, recalls a compliment while working in a Wartburg College computer lab. “The student next to me asked if he could borrow my pen. I said, ‘Sure, go ahead!’ He looked at me in awe, and said, ‘Your English ... it’s so good!’”

She said the confusion may have arisen because she had been speaking in Spanish with a Peruvian friend.

These days, Kelly, chief research officer at Common Sense Advisory, a Boston-based language-services think tank, is likely to receive praise for her knowledge of Spanish (court-certified interpreter) or French, Japanese, Italian, German, Irish Gaelic, and Arabic (“varying levels of proficiency”).

Kudos also may be prompted by her submissions in the New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, or Huffington Post, where she regularly blogs on language issues (a fellow blogger calls her “the inimitable Nataly Kelly”), or for her new book, Found in Translation: How Language Shapes Our Lives and Transforms the World (see related story).

“Wartburg definitely shaped who I am. Nearly everything I do today has roots in my experience at Wartburg.”
– Nataly Kelly ’96

Her ongoing ties to Ecuador include translating the poetry of María Clara Sharupi Jua from the Shuar community in the Ecuadorian Amazon.

“Wartburg spurred alumna’s love of languages and a globe-trotting career
by Saul Shapiro

She’s a prolific contributor to peer-reviewed journals and trade publications and editor of www.interprenaut.com with a complementary newsletter for 3,000 interpreters in 68 countries. She has given keynote speeches on the state of translation at the 2011 North American Summit for Interpreting, the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library, and before the European Commission. The latter involved something of a role reversal.

“For the first time, I wasn’t the one interpreting. I was the one being interpreted,” Kelly remarked. “I said some words in Irish Gaelic at the start, since Irish Gaelic is an official language of the European Union. However, I confused the interpreters, who didn’t realize I would repeat the words in English.”

Kelly grew up in a music-oriented family in a rural community of 2,000 in central Illinois. Languages began to intrigue her as a 3-year-old while taking piano lessons from a Korean woman, Helen Kim, who spoke Korean and English and sang in Italian, French, and German.

“When I took voice lessons, she taught me how to pronounce those languages. She was such a gift,” Kelly said. “I attribute my love of languages to her.”

She enrolled at Wartburg after learning about its language and study-abroad programs. It was a fortuitous decision.

“Wartburg definitely shaped who I am,” she said. “Nearly everything I do today has roots in my experience at Wartburg.”

Kelly initially pursued a double major in music composition and Spanish. She sang with the Castle Singers, studied piano with Dr. Suzanne Torkelson, and played in the Wartburg Community Symphony.

“I loved music, but it simply was not my true calling,” Kelly said.

“Dr. Torkelson recognized that and encouraged me to focus more on my language studies. That is an excellent example of a professor putting a student’s needs first. Had I split my attention, I’m not sure I would have ended up doing what I love.”

“She had obvious feelings of conflict, and her skill and prior experience in Spanish led me to encourage her to focus on that,” Torkelson recalled. “A career in composition would have meant complete dedication to that track, and a smaller number of possibilities for employment, forcing her to give up her Spanish studies.”

Kelly also found inspiration in the international student lounge.

“I felt those were the most interesting people on campus, because their backgrounds were so different from mine,” she remarked. “I had never encountered such diversity. I made friends with students from Tanzania, Pakistan, Peru, Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Japan, Kazakhstan, Norway, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, and many other places. I have stayed friends and corresponded with many of them.”

Even her time as a DJ at KWAR paid dividends.

“I was interested in jazz music and had a radio show with the horribly embarrassing name of ‘Nat the Jazz Cat,’ which might just go down as the least-listened-to radio show ever. I didn’t have that many jazz CDs, so I just played the same songs every week, but in a slightly different order.

“On the bright side,” she added, “that experience definitely came in handy when I was invited to record pieces for National Public Radio and Public Radio International.”

Kelly spent a May Term in Mexico and studied abroad for three semesters in Ecuador.

“I was studying Italian, German, Japanese, and French in a Spanish-speaking country, while taking an Arabic language correspondence course,” she said.

That created an overload. “In my Japanese class, I accidentally started speaking Italian,” she said, laughing.

Five years after graduation, she won a Fulbright Scholarship to study sociolinguistics in Ecuador, where she met her husband, Brian Kelly, an Irishman.

Her ongoing ties to Ecuador include translating the poetry of María Clara Sharupi Jua from the Shuar community in the Ecuadorian Amazon.

“The Shuar people have an amazing
Nataly and Brian Kelly in Ireland
knowledge of the rainforest,” Kelly said. “Their culture predates the Incas and has survived Spanish colonists, petroleum companies, and the pressures of globalization. Their language is beautiful and contains extensive knowledge of the natural world and the plants from which so many modern medicines are derived.”

Her first job out of college — with an assist from the Wartburg placement center — was with AT&T Language Line, interpreting telephone conversations in Spanish and English. She rose to senior language specialist managing a remote team of more than 30 interpreters.


Kelly later worked as a freelance interpreter, a consultant to government, educational and corporate clients, and a product development manager, before landing at Common Sense Advisory in 2008 and making a name for herself as a researcher.

“It’s an ideal job for me because I have a love of language, researching, writing, and speaking,” she said.


“The book discusses how organizations as diverse as the Department of State, Cirque du Soleil, Hallmark, Nestlé, Twitter, Google, and FIFA (international soccer) use translation,” Kelly said. “It also has a chapter on religion, and we discuss Martin Luther’s translation of the Bible into German.”

Co-author Jost Zetzsche is an expert in Bible translation history.

“This book is very important to me,” Kelly said, “because people will be able to truly understand how much translation matters in their lives and what an impact it makes.”

The book opens with a personal experience about interpreting for a 911 call.

“Maybe Wartburg students don’t realize how special it really is,” Kelly said. “I didn’t really appreciate until I left how Wartburg is different by encouraging students to go abroad. That is absolutely the best way to learn a language and to understand a culture.”

“Wartburg’s diverse student body with so many international students is a real asset, too. Since graduating, I haven’t met anyone who had the same experience I had with so many international students from so many different countries.

“I continually run into people with misconceptions. They’ll say something about Pakistan, and I’ll say that I went to college with a few students from Pakistan. I knew that my friends from Pakistan were always watching Bollywood films from India. I remember thinking, that’s weird. But Urdu and Hindi are mutually intelligible, so they can understand everything that’s said, although the written languages are different. I learned that at Wartburg.

“Even students who might not be able to leave campus have a common resource with all the international students. That’s part of the experience of learning to be part of a bigger world, interacting with people from other cultures.”

Kelly also would pass along “the best advice” she ever received — from a South African woman while on a flight to Ecuador to study Spanish.

“She said, ‘Every language you add is like another college degree.’ I remember thinking that makes so much sense because you’re accessing other worlds, other people, other experiences that you just can’t get any other way.

“So I believe to this day that every language you know is like getting another college degree.”

Kelly is chief research officer at Common Sense Advisory, a Boston-based language services thinktank.
Unlike actors applauded for giving voice to a playwright’s words, translators — also deciphering another’s words — seldom receive recognition, let alone acclaim.

However, an appreciation of their trade may be forthcoming thanks to *Found in Translation: How Language Transforms Our Lives and Shapes the World*, a new book co-authored by Nataly Fletcher Kelly ’91 and Jost Zetzsche.

Their overview of the industry is surprisingly accessible — well written and chock full of wonderful anecdotes about the people “behind the curtains” who help make the global Tower of Babel intelligible.

Kelly and Zetzsche provide examples of how translation (written word) and interpretation (spoken) make a difference in virtually all aspects of society:

- Exodus 34:29 describes the “radiance” of Moses’ head when descending from Mount Sinai. However, St. Jerome’s translation was based on a Hebrew text lacking accent marks, and “radiance” became “horns” — an anti-Semitic stereotype found on Michelangelo’s statue of Moses and a relief in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- Accurate interpretation in a hospital can mean the difference between life, death or, in one instance, a $71 million malpractice judgment.
- In 1956, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev banged his shoe on the U.N. podium and supposedly threatened Americans, “We will bury you!” Actually, he said, “We’ll be here when you’re dead and gone,” meaning that communism would outlast capitalism.
- On Sept. 10, 2001, U.S. intelligence intercepted messages from Al-Qaeda operatives, “Tomorrow is zero hour” and “The match is about to begin,” which were not translated until Sept. 12 because of a backlog. One-third of the CIA’s 46 million foreign-language files collected between 2006-08 were untouched due to a lack of translators.
- With an international cast, Cirque du Soleil employs 20 interpreters to help with training, work conditions, and immigration documents.
- The influx of international athletes in U.S. professional sports also has created a demand for interpreters.
- Increasingly, operas are being translated into the language of the audience, following the lead of movies dubbed or with subtitles for the global market.
- Movie titles undergo some interesting cultural transformations. Woody Allen’s *Annie Hall* became *Urban Neurotic* in Germany; *Knocked Up* was *Slightly Pregnant* in South America, but *Very Pregnant* in Italy; *American Pie* was *Hot Apple Cake* in Germany.
- “Here’s looking at you, kid” from *Casablanca* became “Look into my eyes, baby” in Germany.
- Mistranslations can plague a business. Financial services giant HSBC’s “Assume nothing” campaign became “Do nothing” in several countries. Ford launched a European car called “Kuga” — the “plague” in Croatia and Serbia. Mitsubishi’s “Pajero” was an offensive reference to a male organ in some Spanish-speaking countries, while Honda’s “Fitta” related to female genitals in the Nordic market. Clairol’s Mist Stick curling iron bombed in German-speaking countries where “mist” means “manure.”

Of note to Wartburgers, *Found in Translation* also sheds light on Martin Luther’s exhaustive translation of the Bible into German while taking refuge at the Wartburg Castle in Eisenach. (Zetzsche is an expert in Bible translation history.)

Luther translated 138,020 words in 10 weeks (2,500 per day), using terminology peasants would understand — a translation that profoundly changed history.

Seamless translation is often taken for granted, but Kelly and Zetzsche illustrate the critical role it plays in everyday life, particularly as the speed and frequency of global interactions accelerates. It’s a good read — a “must” for those interested in learning how adding a language can make a difference in their careers and lives.

*By far the most meaningful book on the subject of translation that I have ever seen.*

— Ghassan Haddad,
Director of Internationalization, Facebook
Ruth Storm has literally traveled to the ends of Earth in search of adventures
by Saul Shapiro

Ruth Storm’s idea of a “family vacation” may differ from yours. Storm ’81 took a three-week trek in April across high Himalayan passes to the Mount Everest Base Camp with sons Frederick, 21, and Harrison, 19.

Mom wanted to check out the planet’s highest peak for a possible climb. Why not?

“I’ve developed an interest in outdoor, extreme expedition-type adventures,” said the London-based private-equity executive turned business coach. “I enjoy long-distance cycling — Africa, Alaska, and Europe; skiing in extremes, and mountain climbing.”

Storm ’81 has literally gone to the ends of the Earth in pursuit of daunting challenges. On April 20, 2010, she completed the “Last Degree Expedition” — a five-day journey from 89°N that culminated 1° later at the North Pole, skiing across and occasionally “swimming” between ice floes where no land mass exists. Only 60 people have accomplished that feat.

Twenty months later, she upped the ante. On Dec. 29, 2011, Storm became the 14th woman — and 200th person — to complete an unsupported 560-mile journey on skis from the edge of Antarctica (sea level) to the South Pole (9,186 feet) over 39 days.

But she didn’t stop there, venturing to the ice-laden Ellsworth Mountains, with elevations surpassing the Rockies.

“I spent 10 days in the Ellsworth Range with a female guide. We climbed eight mountains total — four of which had never been climbed before. I found that thrilling. It was even more fun than skiing to the South Pole. It’s just mindblowing that you can stand somewhere on Earth where nobody’s ever been.”

She scratched Mount Everest from her to-do list. “Too crowded and too commercial,” she said, citing 548 people who reached the peak last spring.

Instead, she took a 19-day hike across the High Pass (Alpine) Route in Switzerland — 16 passes and 220 miles with the total climb equivalent to an ascent of 12.1 miles, far surpassing Everest.

During the past six years, Storm has:

• Bicycled across the southern reaches of Alaska, including from the Kenai Peninsula to Mount Elias along the Canadian border, and north to Denali National Park (Mount McKinley).
• Bicycled 1,500 miles on two sections of the Tour d’Afrique through Tanzania, Malawi, and Zambia (the entire tour is Cairo to Cape Town).
• Run the London Marathon.
• Climbed Mount Kilimanjaro with Harrison.

“I’ve always had an interest in these kinds of things,” Storm said. “I was always reading books about adventures. But it mainly manifested itself when I began meeting people who’d do them. Then I did a few things and started doing more. My kids were growing up and my career was winding down a bit — and it does take a bit of money and time.”

The biggest challenge, she said, has been mental.

“I’m not an athlete,” she said, “but I’m strong, and I’m fit to do these things — at my pace. When I ran the (London) marathon I didn’t have a particularly good time, but I had a lot of energy when I finished. I could have run it a lot faster, but I was just mentally prepared to finish.

“In any of these long-distance events, you have to have the mental endurance, stamina, and resilience to just keep going. In Antarctica or with anything else, when it’s scary, I live in the moment. You get through one moment, and then there’s the next moment and the next moment. Pretty soon there’s more behind you than in front.”

Storm’s adventures often have served as fundraisers. When she ran the London Marathon and skied to the North Pole, her supporters donated money to “b-eat,” an eating disorders charity. Her 2007 East African bike trek raised money for:

• Microfinance funding for the savings and credit society operated for members of the Kariakoo Lutheran Church in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, the sister church of St. Anne’s Lutheran in London.
• The Jatropha Project in Tanzania’s Mkuranga district, providing funding for women to set up small businesses to grow, harvest, and use jatropha, an eco-friendly cash crop for creating biodiesel, soap, and organic fertilizers.
• Africa Now’s support for farmers to grow, harvest, and sell chili, used as a barrier crop to ward off elephant damage to other crops.
Storm never participated in sports at Wartburg.

“I don’t like team sports,” she said. “I tried volleyball in my freshman year, but I didn’t like it. I’m not big on competition. I just enjoy doing these things for myself.

“I’ve always loved the outdoors. I grew up in northern Wisconsin (River Falls) and spent summers in Colorado’s mountains. I’ve done cross country, downhill, and ski touring since my youth. I learned to ski on freezing cold hills under the lights at night. It was awful! But that probably prepared me for the cold and the ice. I also liked walking and mountaineering.”

Storm majored in German and political science at Wartburg. Her grandparents were born in Germany, and she had been a high school exchange student there. Wartburg enabled her to maximize her time abroad.

“I was just keen to go back,” Storm said. “I found out about the German language program at Wartburg and realized that with May Term in Passau and the junior year abroad at the University of Bonn, it was the only program in the whole country with that much time abroad.”

Storm spent her senior-year May Term in Washington D.C., then stayed as a legal assistant to Rep. Neal Smith, the longtime Democratic congressman from Des Moines. She relocated to London after four years of “transatlantic dating” to marry an Englishman she had met at the University of Bonn. (They have since divorced.)

“Totally accidentally I got involved in working in venture capital without even knowing what it was, but sort of using the legal angle,” she said. “I got a job with Citicorp Venture Capital and was part of that team for about four years.”

Storm had earned her master’s degree in business administration at Cass Business School when she left Citibank with some colleagues to become partners in Phildrew Ventures, a private equity firm. It became a leader in Britain in mid-market buyouts. Swiss banking giant UBS Capital bought the firm, then got out of private equity and venture capital and sold it back.

“We did a management buyout and bought our business back, which was really cool. That’s typical of big banks. First, they want to be in a business, then they don’t. Anyway, we were quite opportunistic,” Storm said.

When her partners retired, Storm reinvented herself as an accredited business coach, helping senior leaders with everything from personal development to communication strategy.

“It’s a big market,” she said. “It’s even bigger than I can manage on my own. My business partner — one of my private equity partners — and I are the only ones who have a private-equity background coaching private-equity people in Europe. I have had Finnish, Spanish, German, Italian, and British clients. Once you start doing it, word travels and you get recommendations.”

Storm’s clientele can expect her to be unavailable for extended periods.

“I have clients who don’t mind if I’m occasionally away. So it’s a great work-life balance,” she said.

Storm has other endeavors on her bucket list, including mountain climbing in Alaska, where she has her eyes on Denali (Mount McKinley); Antarctica; Greenland; the Himalayas, and South America. She’d like to bicycle coast-to-coast in North America and across the ancient Silk Route that connected Europe with China.

But that isn’t all.

“My biggest adventure dream,” said Storm, a master yachtsman, “has to be to sail around the world.”
I had a friend who was doing the whole North Pole trip from Canada — something very few people have done. It’s very difficult, but I thought it sounded really fantastic. So I organized a shorter trip to the North Pole — the Last-Degree Trip — with a Norwegian guide, Bourge Ousland, a well-known polar explorer who was the first guy to cross the Arctic solo.

You fly from northern Norway (Svalbad) in a Russian cargo plane to an ice camp on an ice floe and land on an ice strip. The Russians set it up every April for about a month. They drop you in a helicopter at 89° and you ski to 90°. We did it quite quickly in five days.

It’s all on floating ice, which starts to break up in about April or May.

I had a Canadian guide, Richard Weber, who also was one of the first guides to go to the North Pole and has completed seven expeditions there.

Antarctica is very dry. It’s the world’s largest desert, which I hadn’t appreciated. If all the ice melted, the land underneath would be sand. It’s also about altitude. The South Pole is at nearly 10,000 feet. Skiing was totally uphill. As we got close to the pole, we got altitude sickness. You feel nauseous. You stop eating. You get headaches.

The expedition started with five, but finished with three. Two people had to be evacuated.

After the first evacuation, we moved into one four-person tent. We would ski for about 12 hours, then would be in our tent for 12 hours melting water, eating, and resting. We had quite a few days of rest.

There’s absolutely nothing to see. No wildlife. The penguins live on the edge.

I had three sets of clothing — one per two weeks. I wore wool, which may sound awful, but wool is warm, breathes, and is naturally antibacterial. Every few days we had a sponge bath.

We wore a facemask with little flaps over the mouth so we could eat. One day my flap was frozen up, and I had the worst burn on my lips. It was quite painful.

You can’t expose anything. It’s not just the cold, but the sun. All the time I had numb fingers. You have a whole range of gloves to try to get the right combination for whatever you’re doing, but it’s almost impossible. You end up taking your gloves off and either working with bare hands or liners, which aren’t adequate. You stop a lot to warm your hands.

You wear surprisingly little. You’re effectively cross-country skiing and pulling a big sled that weighs 60 or 70 kilos (132-154 pounds). So you have this dilemma: When you stop, you’re really cold, but when you get going again, you’re going to be boiling hot after 15 to 20 minutes.

There’s nothing to stop the wind, which forms ice formations called sastrugi. You’re often skiing around them, but mostly you’re skiing over them. They can be two feet to 10 feet high. I found myself side-stepping with the cross-country skis to get over this mini-block of ice. And you’re pulling the sled, and you slip and fall over, or you’re skiing down the other side and the sled runs into you. You learn techniques to minimize the sled running into you.

It’s quite common to have problems with your feet. Your boots might fit on Day One, but skiing for four weeks with the same boots and motion impacts your feet. I lost four toenails and now have some bone spurs on prominent bones.

I knew there were big dangers, but I tried to tell myself every day how amazing it was. And it was just incredible. There were times when I wavered between, “This is amazing and fantastic!” to “This is the biggest waste of time. What am I doing?” But the whole point is to go the distance because that’s the experience. I’m really glad I did it.
Monica Severson is a chemistry teacher of a different sort. Her lessons come on the golf course, where her Wartburg women’s golf team won its sixth consecutive Iowa Conference championship this fall.

The program has had 20 All-Conference players and two individual medalists and qualified for the NCAA Division III championships in each of the past five years — finishing as high as 10th in 2008, when the Knights hosted the tournament.

Team chemistry and developing personal relationships with the golfers embody Severson’s coaching philosophy. It was the focus, too, when she was head women’s basketball coach at Wartburg from 1988 to 2006, also winning five Iowa Conference titles.

“The biggest thing that I’ve learned coaching golf — just as when I coached basketball — is that team chemistry is such a key,” said Severson, who also serves as associate director of athletics and senior woman administrator.

“Sometimes I would recruit someone (for basketball) who may not have necessarily been the star of her high school team, but would fit well in Wartburg’s program,” she said. “When I started coaching golf, I didn’t realize that the team chemistry and coachability of your kids within an individual team sport is so important. That’s been a real advantage in our program.

“The team chemistry component was the biggest ‘ah ha’ moment I’ve had coaching golf.”

Former Knights golfer and now assistant coach Paige Klostermann saw this exemplified during her college career.

“The upperclassmen were so welcoming to the new players and demonstrated the program’s expectations, but also that success brings success,” she said.

Severson sees the fit with the school, talent in golf, and work ethic as priorities in recruiting.

“The first thing I look for is fit to Wartburg College,” she said. “I really believe that you have to have a young lady who wants to meet her goals academically.”

Her players have done just that. The Knights have had at least two golfers annually named as Academic All-American by the National Golf Coaches Association during the past five years.

One of the program’s most decorated golfers, Kate Thompson, who received both All-American and Academic All-American honors and went on to medical school, believes the success in the classroom was due to team members having goals outside of golf.

“We all had big aspirations after graduating from Wartburg and being involved in golf was a great asset, a good mental health break from our school work,” she said.

Severson doesn’t wander far and wide to find students who meet her criteria.

“I want the best golfers I can have in my program, and they have traditionally come from the state of Iowa,” Severson remarked. “I look at high school programs that have been successful and try to recruit players from those programs who have had success, which is similar to the recruiting strategies of other Knights athletic teams.

“It is also important that the student-athlete has a passion for golf and a good work ethic,” Severson said. “I believe that when they get into our program, focus on golf, and get around the current players...
that are working hard and working to get better, they see that and will feed off each other.”

Former golfer and Academic All-American Jordan Galles ’11, echoed Severson.

“We were striving for excellence in everything that we did (academically and golf), and we wanted to leave the program in a better place than when we arrived and wanted to see it succeed,” she said.

Galles agreed that a large part of the success was due to the sense of community. The team could sense that their coach cared about her players, regardless of their scoring average, and that ethic was instilled in her squad.

“We have been consistently successful due to the tremendous upper classmen leadership each season and that coach wanted each golfer to get the most out of their college golf experience,” Galles said.

Klostermann agreed. “Monica always focused on why we were there — to get a college education. Coach always looked for the best in us and went above and beyond for all of us.”

Galles had heard stories of Severson being a fiery person on the basketball sidelines and saw the competitive nature of the former basketball coach at times at golf competitions.

Severson believes the world of women’s Division III golf has changed during the past few years.

“The top golfers are practicing in the summer and playing in competitions, which is different than it was six or seven years ago when Division III golfers weren’t probably doing that as much. If you’re going to compete to even be in the Top 10 at Nationals, you better have golfers who can shoot in the 70s,” she said.

“It used to be that you could have players shoot in the 80s and still win conference championships and have a strong showing at nationals, but that isn’t true anymore.”

This May, the Knights will parlay their sixth consecutive IIAC trophy and the team’s eighth appearance at the national championships.

Born to be a Cardinals Fan

by Hannah Lilenthal ’15

Diana Rich ’07 of Washington, Iowa, received an unexpected souvenir on Opening Day last April 13 at Busch Stadium in St. Louis.

Never mind that the Cardinals lost to the Cubs, 9-5, that day. For Rich, the drama was not on the field, but in the stands, beginning in the eighth inning. Later that evening she gave birth to a son — six weeks and two days early.

Rich had planned a day trip to watch the Cardinals, her favorite baseball team, and to see her sister-in-law, Stephanie Rich. Her mother, Gina Mullins, accompanied her.

“The plan was to leave early that morning. I would drop my mom off at the mall to shop all day. Then after the game, I would pick her up, and we would head home,” Rich said.

Rich wasn’t feeling great most of the day, but she attributed her discomfort to general pregnancy aches and pains. Around the eighth inning, Rich knew something wasn’t quite right.

“Not knowing what to do, I immediately called my mom. She then called my dad, who called my doctor,” Rich said. Her doctor instructed her to get to an emergency room as soon as possible.

After enlisting the help of her sister-in-law, Rich hailed a cab and went to the nearest hospital. “They proceeded to tell me that the baby and I were at risk, and that I was having a placenta abruption, which is fairly uncommon,” Rich said.

Despite asking the doctors to wait the two hours it would take for her husband, Darin Rich, to arrive, she was taken into surgery for an emergency C-section.

Dalton Rich was born at 8:47 p.m., weighing in at 5 lbs., 12.6 ozs., and 18.75 inches long. Mullins was present for his birth. Darin Rich arrived a few hours later.

Rich said that doctors initially told her Dalton would have to stay in the hospital until his due date of May 27.

Fortunately he did really well, and we were able to head home after 10 days,” she said.

Five months later, both mother and baby were happy and healthy. At birth, Dalton was in the second percentile in weight and height, but is now in the 25th percentile for height and 50th percentile in weight.

“I went to St. Louis for the day and came back 10 days later with the most precious little boy. That wasn’t my plan for the day, but it was God’s plan,” Rich said.

The Riches both hail from Washington, Iowa. Diana graduated with a bachelor’s degree in communication arts. She is marketing communications manager with CIVCO Medical Solutions in Coralville. Darin works on his family farm in Crawfordsville.
Heeding the Call to Africa

by Linda Moeller ’66

The place God calls you to is where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet,” wrote theologian Frederick Buechner.

Dr. Duane Koenig ’53 has found that place in Tanzania. Koenig waited until age 70 to retire from a 38-year career as a family practice physician and general surgeon in Beatrice, Neb.

The former Wartburg music major, farmer, doctor, and pilot had plenty to occupy his time — mowing lawn and planting fruit trees on the expansive acreage where he and his wife, Vi, built a new home; overseeing the family farm he had operated before going to medical school; flying his own plane to visit his business enterprises in Kansas and Florida; and singing with the Beatrice Harmonizers men’s chorus.

Yet in the midst of all this activity, Koenig was plagued by the question, “Is this all there is?”

“I had all these years of medical training and experience, and I wasn’t using it or helping anyone,” he said.

During a three-week safari in Africa in 2006, Duane and Vi saw firsthand the critical need for physicians on a continent where the patient-to-doctor ratio in remote areas can be as high as 60,000 to 1.

After returning, Koenig, then in his mid-70s, explored volunteer opportunities in Tanzania. He inquired about working at an urban hospital in Arusha in northern Tanzania, but was turned down because of his age. That initial disappointment led him to the Foundation for African Medicine and Education (FAME) near Karatu, 70 miles west of Arusha on the way to the Serengeti National Park.

“God’s given me good genes,” observed the 79-year-old Koenig, who has spent four years as a FAME medical volunteer. “I’ve never run into anyone my age who’s done this. This is where I was meant to be.”

Koenig works at a medical facility established by Dr. Frank Artress, a California cardiac anesthesiologist who nearly died climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro in 2002. Artress decided during the ordeal that if he lived, he and his wife, Susan Gustafson, would return to make a difference for the people who saved him.

Their foundation has grown from an outpatient clinic that opened in 2008 to a complex that includes a laboratory and hospital, two volunteer cottages and two houses for resident Tanzanian doctors. A FAME mobile medical van travels to remote areas several times a month, taking along a local drama troupe to provide “edutainment”

“It’s more pressure than I experienced in practice. Almost every patient has two, three, or four major diseases.”

– Duane Koenig ’53
about malaria prevention, HIV/AIDS, and other health topics as patients wait for treatment or lab results.

Koenig's first six-month stay during 2009 required a crash course in tropical diseases, including malaria and brucellosis, which are the area's most prevalent illnesses. He also learned from experience about ailments never encountered in his Nebraska practice.

"There's always something new coming in," Koenig noted. "So much of it is critical. It's more pressure than I experienced in practice. Almost every patient has two, three, or four major diseases."

His background in surgery has been a lifesaver to many patients, and he finds himself constantly studying in the evening hours to determine diagnosis and treatment options. Instead of toting heavy medical books to Tanzania, Koenig now reads electronic versions on his recently acquired Nook. And thanks to the Internet, FAME doctors can communicate with physicians around the world about difficult cases, often helping advance medical knowledge of rarely seen conditions.

For Artress, the decision to accept an older volunteer reaped bountiful rewards.

"Dr. Duane has been a mentor, a teacher, a friend," Artress said. "His years of experience as a daily practitioner and general surgeon, coupled with his dedication to patients, passion for medicine, and amazing generosity of spirit, have enriched our lives here at FAME immeasurably."

Koenig took along a much-needed microscope on his first trip in 2009. Before leaving that year, he donated a new electrocautery machine to the clinic for minor surgical procedures and trained doctors in its use.

By the time he returned for another six-month stay in 2010, the cottage he funded for visiting doctors and nurses was ready for occupancy and, as an added benefit, offered spectacular views of the surrounding countryside.

While at FAME, Koenig is on duty seven days a week. His only day off during six months of service last year was Christmas, when the clinic was closed. Meals are provided, but his wife notes that he "always comes home skinny." He attributes the weight loss of about 15 pounds to a combination of hard work and food that, though nutritious, is light on meat and heavy on beans and rice.

"Toward the end of six months, it gets tiring," Koenig said of his schedule, "but the staff has been fantastic. They are so good to me, and when I arrive each year, they always hug me and say, 'Welcome back, Doc.'"

This year, with three new Tanzanian physicians on staff, Koenig expects to be doing more training and seeing fewer patients. He traveled to Tanzania in October but cut his usual six-month stay short when his wife underwent emergency surgery in Nebraska. They both hope he can return to Keratu toward the end of 2012 or early in 2013. Until then, he'll continue to reflect on how heeding the call to Africa is as beneficial to him as to the patients he serves.

"It means I'm still alive. I'm still worth something," he concluded. "I think I'm more of a Tanzanian doctor than a white doctor any more."
A glance at Davy King’s résumé is all you need to know that he’s driven to succeed.

King ’09 is back home in the Netherlands working for a lottery organization while pursuing his goal of a modeling and acting career. His appearances in multiple TV shows, commercials, and a Sears print and TV ad campaign are evidence that his drive is paying off.

“My plans haven’t changed. I have my heart and soul set on my one plan. It’s my dream to play in a movie with Will Smith,” King said. “Even though it might not ever happen, it’s still something that is keeping me focused and driven.”

Earlier this year, King hit the mother lode in his modeling career.

“The Sears shoot is definitely the biggest project I have worked on so far,” he said. “Unfortunately, we don’t have Sears here in the Netherlands, so I keep hearing from my friends in the U.S.A. that I’m in the catalog or online.”

King was flown to Prague in the Czech Republic for that shoot.

“The Sears shoot is definitely the biggest project I have worked on so far,” he said. “Unfortunately, we don’t have Sears here in the Netherlands, so I keep hearing from my friends in the U.S.A. that I’m in the catalog or online.”

King decided it was worth a shot. Since then, he has been part of several photo shoots and recently had a small role in the longest running Dutch TV soap opera, Goede Tijden, Slechte Tijden, or Good Times, Bad Times.

“That was a major breakthrough,” King said. “Not for the part, because it was a small role, but the fact that I had that kind of exposure.”

King also was featured as the only “real actor” on a children’s TV show with puppets.

“It was really fun to do, but also extremely difficult. My co-actors were lying on the ground while moving the puppets with their hands. Of course I saw the ‘voices’ lying on the ground, but I still had to act with the puppets,” he said.

King will be in a flower company campaign on big-screen TVs in railway stations in England, Germany, and France. King had his first “one-taker” during the shoot — the director thought his scene was perfect after one shot.

He also got a boost after attending an acting workshop in France last summer with a well-known TV agent and nine other Dutch semi-pro actors. The agent asked him to advance to a prestigious high-level class.

King’s decision to go to Wartburg started with a dream of traveling to the U.S.

“King hopes to make connections in the United States to export his dream stateside.”

When I had the opportunity to attend college, I grabbed it with both hands and didn’t let go,” he said. “I wanted to be at a school where there were other people like me; people with an international background. The final decision-maker was the fact that Wartburg also offered theater.”

King majored in communication studies with an emphasis on theater arts. He also played basketball. He is appreciative of the support he’s received from the Wartburg community.

“The reactions have been so loving. I feel so proud to have so many great friends at Wartburg,” he said.

Dr. Penni Pier, professor of communication arts and department chair, is one of those backers.

“What I remember most about Davy was that he was a gentleman,” she recalled. “I loved it when he would come by my office just to chat and say, ‘Hi,’ and talk about his dreams of acting and modeling. One of my fondest memories was a moving poetry recital he did in one of my classes. I am very happy for him and his success.”

King hopes to make connections in the United States to export his dream stateside.

“In order for me to be happy, I cannot quit on my dream. I’m hard on myself and won’t take no for an answer,” he said. “I have a crazy work ethic. I want more of it. Right now.”

Davy King hopes to parlay a modeling career into roles on the silver screen

by Kristin Canning ’14
1960 ROMAINE FOEGE Mount Vernon was appointed to the foundation board of directors for Lutheran Services in Iowa.

1961 Ron and EUNICE KELLER CHRISTENSEN, Westbrook, Minn., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Nov. 23. Their family hosted an open house celebration, July 21.

The Rev. REUBEN DREFS, Toledo, Ohio, published a 410-page family history, The Friedrich Drefs Family Saga.

1964 The Rev. DUANE KAMRAH Le Sueur, Minn., published a 40-page booklet, Wisdom About War and Nonviolence: Helping Lutheran Youth Make a Prayerful and Conscientious Choice about whether or not to serve in the military service. Geared to ages 13-16, the discussion book emphasizes the nonviolent life of Jesus and seeing the divine face in each enemy and friend.

1966 BOB BUNTING Mount Vernon, won his 1,000th girls’ softball game. He is the head softball coach at Lisbon Community Schools, Lisbon.

1969 GARY HEFFNER Rushville, Ohio, retired after 53 years teaching in the Columbus Public Schools. He now farms and publishes Legacy Quarterly Magazine.

1977 ANN BOTTELSON MORRIS Des Moines, published her second pair of children’s books, Flowers and Butterflies, in English and Spanish.

DIANE MILLER SCHWARTZ, Onawa, is a special education strategist for Northwest Area Education Agency, Sioux City.

LYLE SCHWARTZ, Onawa, is superintendent of schools in the West Monona Consolidated School District.

1978 KIRK KINNEAR, Greenwich, Conn., was appointed vice president of Oil Marketing Logistics, Oklahoma City, Okla.

1979 ALLAN AANONSON Urbandale, earned a Master of Science degree in Quality Management from Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Mich.

ALICE MERRICK BACHAND Clyde, Kan., retired after 32 years in education, the last 20 as librarian at Clay Center Community Middle School, Clay Center. She is a children’s services librarian at Frank Carlson Public Library, Concordia.

The Rev. CHARLES WOLFF Sioux City, retired from active ministry on Aug. 5.

1984 DR. MICHAEL ZACHARISEN Bozeman, Mont., recently relocated from Wisconsin to become physician/owner of Family Allergy and Asthma Care of Montana, PLLC.

1987 The Rev. DAVID BIGLEY and Tamara Fleener, Mount Carmel, Ill., were married June 16. David is the pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church and Adams Corner United Methodist Church.

1988 SUSAN GOSSE LEIBOLD Fort Atkinson, earned a master’s degree in education in May from the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, with a field specialization in early childhood special education. She is an elementary special education teacher in the Turkey Valley School District.

1990 MARK ADKINS North Manchester, Ind., is the sports information director at Manchester College.

1992 MATTHEW DUFFEE Mahtomedi, Minn., is in his 20th year of teaching. He is a chemistry teacher and cross country/track coach at Tartan High School, ISD 622, St. Paul.

1993 CARRIE WALSH DUFFEE Mahtomedi, Minn., began her 19th year of teaching with ISD 622, St. Paul. She is a teacher/music therapist in an at-risk/special education setting at Tartan High School.

DR. DANIEL MAHRAUN Fargo, N.D., is director of choral activities at Minnesota State University Moorhead, Moorhead, Minn.

JOEL STRAWN, Truro, is a senior network analyst with Iowa Student Loan, West Des Moines.

1994 DR. MICHAEL BECHTEL Onalaska, Wis., graduated May 20 with his Ed.D. in educational leadership, along with licensures for director of instruction, principal, and superintendent, from Edgewood College, Madison.

SCOTT GLASER Denver, Colo., is executive director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Colorado.

1995 STEPHANIE FRAME-DAY San Diego, Calif., received her Master of Arts degree in linguistics (TSL/App) from San Diego State University in May.

DR. ERIC KIMBALL Waterloo, is co-head wrestling coach at Columbus High School. He is a dentist with Kimball & Beecher, P.L.C.

DA N SCHRAN HORNST, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., is executive director of Bear Creek Camp (ELCA).

ERIC SHIPLEY San Tan Valley, Ariz., was promoted to partner of Ideal Physical Therapy, Chandler.

1996 PATRICIA CLANCY and Gregory Bergquist, Chicago, Ill., were married Sept. 10, 2011. Patricia completed her master’s degree in reading (reading specialist) in May 2011 from Concordia University, River Forest.

BOB DUDOLSKI Montgometry, Ala., is assistant dean of student affairs at Auburn University.

ERIC HANSON West Des Moines, won a national Edward R. Murrow Award for writing. He is a reporter for KCCI-TV.

AMY HIGGINS KIMBALL, Waterloo, is one of five Ph.D. students in the United States to receive a 2012-13 American Physical Therapy Association Foundation for Physical Therapy Promotion of Doctoral Scholarship. She is in her second year of doctoral studies at the Carver College of Medicine Department of Physical Therapy at the University of Iowa, Iowa City, and serves as an adjunct professor at Wartburg College.

1997 SHENA BLOMGREN and Garrett Collins, Westfield, Wis., were married March 17. Shena owns a custom painting business, Red Canary, and is pursuing a director position with Mary Kay Cosmetics.

ANNETTE EDGREN DAVIS Princeton, Ill., was one of 40 successful entrepreneurs to receive a Forty Under 40 award from the Illinois Small Business Development Center at Illinois Valley Community College. She owns A Hundred Acres Orchard and Market and The Cider Mill Banquet Facilities.

GABRIEL HURLEY Denver, Colo., publishes online satire in The Stapletonion (www.stapletonion.com), which was recently featured in The Denver Post (paper and online).


RICHARD Stapleton Denver, Colo., earned a doctorate in counselor education and supervision from Argosy University.

1998 CHARLOTTE COLEMAN Waterloo, is assistant principal at Expo Alternative Learning Center.

KARLA BAILEY LANDERS Polk City, is an elementary library associate with North Polk Community School District.

CATHERINE CLARK LAYTON Hayden Lake, Idaho, is chief financial officer with Treasure Valley Hospital, Boise.

JAY and TRACY DOP PORTER, Colo., announce the birth of Isaac James, May 6. He joins Jonas, 3.

TODD SORGE and ReneeBienemann, Waverly, were married June 9.

JENNY TATE and Mike Moore, Tipton, were married June 29.

CARRIE LAYTON YOUE and STEVEN YOUE ’00 Concord, Calif, announce the birth of Jocelyn Rene, June 21. She joins Allyson, 7½, and Sydney, 4.

1999 Mike and DAWN DIGMANN ARNOLD Van Horne, announce the birth of Elizabeth Grace, July 16.

Charlie and AMY GEERTSEMA BEACH Swisher, announce the birth of Thomas Robert, Jan. 29. He joins Grant, 9, and Ella, 7.

JAY and STEPHANIE ROBBINS BODING Ankeny, announce the birth of Leo, Sept. 6, 2011. He joins Xavier, 5.

TOM BOWMAN Bettendorf, received his M.B.A. degree in May from the University of Iowa, Iowa City.

Levin Conway and DIANA BUSCH Tacoma, Wash., announce the birth of Anna Katherine Busch-Conway, Feb. 20. She joins Elizabeth, 3.

Jeff and MARY WOLD LEIMER Sheldon, announce the birth of Violet Faith, May 27.

MICHAEL and HEATHER TUTTLE ’00 NEHRE St. Louis, Mo., announce the birth of Matthew Lawrence, May 27. He joins Andrew, 6. Heather is an adjunct professor of music history at Webster University.

MIKQUINLYN SPELLER Maple Grove, Minn., is an advertising account manager with Campus Media Group, Bloomington.

BJ and Carey Gehl SUPPLE Norwalk, announce the birth of Lucy Jane, Aug. 16. She joins Charlie, 2½.
2000  Tod and JAMIE HOMAN ANTHONY, Minneapolis, Minn., announce the birth of Elin Fiona, April 23. She joins Cullen, 2½.

BETH KALESTAD and Brandon Riley, St. Paul, Minn., announce the birth of Truman, March 30, joining sister, Scout, 2.

STEPHANIE LADIE MYERS, Liberty, Mo., teaches music at Hilltop Preschool and Parent’s Day Out.

HEATHER NAIL SCHMIDT, Ankeny, is Heart Ball director with the American Heart Association, Des Moines.


AMBER ILM COOK, Marion, is a music therapist at Tanner Place, Cedar Rapids. She is part of a team working with the Autism Spectrum Therapy Program, along with a behavior analyst, clinical psychologist, and nurse practitioner.

James and SARA KLIENDER COULTER, Woodbury, Minn., announce the birth of Ruth James, May 9. She joins Luella, 2½.

Dr BOLDEN and Emily HARRIS, Round Rock, Texas, announce the birth of Woodrow Bolden Harris IV, May 30. He joins Dominique, 10.

SARAH CHRISTOPHERSON PARSONS and TODD PARSONS ‘13, Cedar Falls, announce the birth of Elise Ruth, July 31.

CHRISTINA HANSEN RODRIGUEZ, Westchester, Ill., received her M.Ed. degree in educational leadership in June from DePaul University, Chicago. Andy and NATALIE WILSON VAUGHN, Peoria, Ill., announce the birth of Ella Nicole, May 31. She joins Carter, 2.

2002  NATHAN and Dr KARLA FYNN ‘03 ADAIR, North Liberty, announce the birth of Libby Patricia, Oct. 27, 2011. She joins Sam, 3½.

ODY ALESch, Graettinger, is a wrestling coach and housing director at Iowa Lakes Community College.

Duane and SARAH BRUCE BOUSKA, Mason City, announce the birth of Micah Jane, May 2. She joins Nevaeh, 6, and Korbis, 3½.

LISA BOEKL BOWERS, Dubuque, earned certification in May as a Professional in Human Resources.

GRETCHEN BARTLETT HELTERHOFF, Mequon, Wis., hosts The Morning Show on 94.5 The Lake Radio, part of the Journal Broadcast Group, Milwaukee.

Marvin and SARAH KASZINSKI JACKSON, Waukegan, announce the birth of Bryton Javier, Feb. 2. He joins Taryn, 7, Kiara, 6, Cayturn, 3.


2003  ANDY and Kristen ARTHUR, Humble, Texas, announce the birth of Hannah Grace, July 7. She joins Colton, ½. Andy is a physical therapist with St. Luke’s of the Woodlands, Houston.

BEN DIEHL, Cedar Rapids, is a supplier quality engineer with John Deere.

David and JAIME SCHMIDT DRINGENBURG, Waukesha, Wis., announce the birth of Bly Christina, May 27.

Matt and EMILY BLOCK KITTEL, Madison, Wis., announce the birth of Cora Jane, July 6. She joins Aidan, 5, and Maggie, 3.

JAMES and Leslie MAY, Waterloo, announce the birth of Justice Richard, June 12. He joins Jaylin, 6, and James Jr, 3. James is the morning radio host on KFMW – ROCK 108.


PATRICK and JAIME GARDES SMITH, Cedar Falls, announce the birth of Linden Rose, Feb. 16. She joins Seeri, 5, and Jaelyn, 3.

2004  Sean and LISA PERRY DOLAN, Minneapolis, Minn., announce the birth of Patrick Wesley, July 12.

BRIAN DOYLE and Sarah Schultz, Mount Vernon, were married July 20.

Nick and ERIN HEDDEN GRAHAM, Goodhue, Minn., announce the birth of Maxwell Ryan, May 30. He joins Haley, 3.

JESSICA MENNEN and Taylor Rettig, Johnston, were married July 28.


Dr DEREK and KRISTIN GRANHALEK ‘05 PAVELEC, Stratford, Wis., announce the birth of Annabel Kay, May 5.


ANDREW STAFFORD and ANNA CASTEE, Ankeny, announce the birth of Samantha Ann Stafford, Aug. 9, 2011.

2005  NATALIE ANDERSON, Davenport, is director of communications at the Community Foundation of the Great River Bend (CFGRB), Bettendorf.

Chris and CASSIE BYERS CALDWELL, Cedar Rapids, announce the birth of Kylie Paige, July 18.

NATE and Debra CARLSON, Columbus Junction, announce the birth of Dempsey, Jan. 5.

QUINCY CLAY, Chicago, Ill., is an associate director of undergraduate admission with DePaul University.

Brian and CHRISTINE SCARLETT FICUS, Minnetrista, Minn., announce the birth of Claire Elaine, June 11. She joins Anna Marie, 3.

MARK and AMANDA NELSON GIESMANN, Beaverton, Ore., announce the birth of Kaylen Abrie, July 17.

ASHLEY KNUTSON KIRCHHOFF, Austin, Minn., is manager of external communications at Hormel Foods.

Joey and JENNA KINTZLE LUECK, Sherrill, announce the birth of Levi, April 30. He joins Kierra, 2, and Clay, 2.

ERICA MANTERNACH and Steven Pickrell, Davenport, were married June 2.

LUCAS MEIER and JESSICA DAKER ‘08, Sigourney, were married June 2. Lucas is a loan officer at Keokuk County State Bank. Jessica is K-12 band director in the Sigourney Community School District.


JOSH MOEN, Eden Prairie, Minn., competed June 16 in the Grandma’s Marathon, Duluth. He was 19th with a time of 1:05:25.

Mark and WHITNEY BALDWIN RECH, Grimes, announce the birth of Ava Lucille, March 6.

Jonathan and EMILY LUBERDEN WHALLEY, Madison, Wis., announce the birth of Lydia Kathryn, May 30.


AMY ANDERSON and Cara Sorensen, Des Moines, were married June 16. Amy is a school counselor with Southeast Polk Schools.

L’BERA CHAMBERS, Bloomingston, Ill., is a graduate student in ethnic and multicultural studies at Minnesota State University.

CORY CONNELL, North Liberty, is a physical education teacher and head wrestling coach at Iowa City High School, Iowa City.

Dr ALEX FELDT, Norman, Okla., defended his dissertation, Climate Change and Human Rights: Creating Norms to Govern Earth’s Atmosphere, and received his Ph.D. in May from the University of Oklahoma.

JOSH and ALCYIA HENKEK ‘08 KARSJEN, North Liberty, announce the birth of Hadley, Feb. 9.

Kory and ANNIE DASSEN KUBIK, Urbandale, announce the birth of Grant James, June 8.

Dr BEN MILLER and Bobbi Hagist, Cedar Rapids, were married July 14.

BRETT MONNARD and JULIE SCHEIBEL ‘08, Davenport, were married July 20.

BREANNE PLEGGENKUHL, Carbondale, Ill., received her Ph.D. in criminology and criminal Justice in August from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. She is an assistant professor at Southern Illinois University.

MICHAEL and Lindsey SCHMITZ, West Des Moines, announce the birth of Hudson Matthew, Aug. 6. He joins Graham, 2.

BEN and KATY KUESTER ’07 THOMSEN, Van Horne, announce the birth of Beau Matthew, June 12. Katy is a learning and development specialist with Van Meter, Inc.

2007  Jason and CHRISTINA SCHIPPER AUSTIN, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, announce the birth of Amelia Lynne, June 27.

CASSIDY BAILEY and Ryan Benschoter, Waverly, were married June 30.

CALI COOK and Ryan Heese, Arvada, Colo., were married Oct. 8, 2011.

ROBERT and Jeni GAFFEE, North Liberty, announce the birth of Alexs, April 21.

HEIDI HESSE and CHRIS GOETZINGER ’09, North Liberty, were married Aug. 11. Chris is in his third year of medical school at the University of Iowa, Iowa City. Heidi is an admissions counselor at Mercy University, Cedar Rapids.

SCOTT and AMY KEOSTER KAUFFMAN, Grimes, announce the birth of Raegan Rose, May 29.

KATIE MEYER and Brandon Babcock, Des Moines, were married May 12.

WHITNEY MITVALSKY and John Joachim, Waverly, were married June 23.

RYAN NICOL, Aurora, Ill., was promoted to customer executive for the Supervela Midwest account with Grocery Products, Naperville.


MEGAN RYAN and Michael Gleason, Waverly, were married Aug. 25.

LINCOLN and Alyssa TAYLOR, Cedar Rapids, announce the birth of Maddox Hanson, July 23. He joins Merrick.

SHEENA TREANOR and Brett Mahan, West Des Moines, were married June 16.

ADA WALTON, Minneapolis, Minn., is a digital content editor and assistant editor with Meetings + Events Media Group, Tiger Oak Publications.

TREVIS YOUNG, Central, S.C., is the organist at Clemson United Methodist Church, Clemson.

2008  JUSTIN CROUSE, Ames, earned an M.B.A degree from Iowa State University. He is an assistant professor of accounting at Wartburg College.

Tyler and KACI HANSON DESOUSA, Jesup, announce the birth of Brady James, June 21.
EMILY FAIRCHILD, Northfield, Minn., received her M.S. degree in college student personnel in May from Western Illinois University, Macomb, Ill. She is an area coordinator in the Residence Life Office at St. Olaf College.

RANDAL FOWLER and CARLY NASS ’09, Omaha, Neb., were married June 2. Carly received her master’s degree in speech-language pathology in May from the University of Nebraska-Omaha. She is a speech-language pathologist with ESU 10.

WHITNEY FREE, Waverly, was part of a team that won a Silver Addy Award from the American Advertising Federation of the Cedar Valley for an Internet commercial. She is a writer and creative assistant with Mudd Advertising, Cedar Falls.

HEIDI GAULKE, Shoreview, Minn., is the collegiate life and recruitment coordinator at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

LAKE GILLIS, Cedar Rapids, is an assistant wrestling coach at the University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg.

SAM HUEY and DANA MANTERNACH ’09, West Des Moines, were married July 7.

KRISTYNA IRVIN, Dominican Republic, received her Master of Arts degree in international relations in May from St. Mary’s University, San Antonio, Texas. Her focus was on international development studies. She is a team leader for Outreach360.

CASEY and ABBY SHOWALTER JOHNSON, Ankeny, announce the birth of Peyton Lee, July 17.

Dr. CASS LONG, Des Moines, graduated in May from Des Moines University. He is a physician with Broadlawns Medical Center.

TYLER (TJ) MILLER and ALLISON FORD, New Orleans, La., were married June 1.

Kevin and BRITTANY SUITER RANDALL Urbandale, announce the birth of Kinley Jo, June 11.

The Rev. SCOTT ROSER, Dubuque, was ordained June 17 at Little Cedar Lutheran Church, Adams. He is pastor of Emanuel Lutheran Church, Strawberry Point.

TIM SCHWICKERATH and AMY NASS, Des Moines, were married Oct. 6.

JOSH SINRAM and Erin Ott, Waterloo, were married Sept. 1.

2009
DeEtia BOHLING, Ottawa, Kan., is communications manager with the Harrisman-Jewell Series at William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo.

THOMAS BIRTH, Lawrence, Kan., completed an M.A. degree in psychology in 2011 at the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls. He is pursuing a Ph.D. in social psychology at the University of Kansas.

JARED FAIRBANKS and Jennifer Mulder, Clear Lake, were married Aug. 11.

ELLEN HILGER, Decorah, teaches third grade special education in the Decorah Community School District.

STEPHANIE KING and Patrick Steffen, Tipton, were married June 2.

AARON LEWIS and COURTNEY BAIN, Des Moines, were married Aug. 25.

NGA NGUYEN, Chicago, Ill., received her M.A. degree in May from Purdue University. She is a quality analyst with Hinsda International.

JUSTIN PUTZ and AUDREY PARKER, Muscatine, were married July 7.

DUSTIN REVERTS and Bethany Benning, Plainfield, were married June 30.

ADAM RIES and MEGAN BABER, Davenport, were married June 23. Both are enrolled in the Doctor of Chiropractic program at Palmer College of Chiropractic.

JILL WIEBKE and Brett Rowland, Tulsa, Okla., were married Aug. 4.

2010
CASSANDRA BECKER and Kyle Benning, Ankeny, were married Aug. 18.

RACHEL CLAMAN and Mike Oppold, Chicago, Ill., were married Sept. 1.

ASHLEY EVANS, Marion, received her master’s degree in composition and rhetoric on June 8 from Ohio University, Athens, Ohio. She is pursuing a Ph.D. in English composition and rhetoric at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

HANNAH GUDAL and Alex Stadheim, Albert Lea, Minn., were married July 28.

KERRY HAAGE and AMANDA RIDdle Ames, were married May 19.

NGAIRE HONEY, New Orleans, La., completed an M.A. degree in Latin-American studies at Tulane University. She is pursuing a Ph.D. in international education policy at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn.

ERIC ISAACS, Charles City, is planner and project supervisor for the City of Charles City.

ANNA JAVELLANA, Inver Grove Heights, Minn., was promoted to assistant business manager for Pinnacle Management, Minneapolis. She was a 2012 nominee for the Multi-housing Achievement in Design, Advertising, and Community Support through the Minnesota Multi-Housing Association.

ANDREW KAHLER and KRISTIN MacDONALD, West Des Moines, were married June 2.

ABBI KOTKE and Garrett Raun, Fredericksburg, were married June 16.

HANNAH LADAGE and ANDY STRACHAN ’12, Portland, Ore., were married Aug. 25.

Ross and AMY OSEHEM LONG, Waverly, announce the birth of Bethenny, Feb. 8. Amy is medical staff and outreach manager at Waverly Health Center.

2011
MORGAN BERGMANN, Summer, is an assistant editor with Vanguard Publishing, L.L.C.

NICOLE LINK and Joshua Oberhoffer, Dubuque, were married June 23.

AARON MASTERSON and Deborah Huling, Waterloo, were married June 23.

CONNIE MCKEE, Monona, is high school choir director in the South Winneshiek Community School District, Calmar.

ASHLEY MCLAUGHLIN, Monona, teaches Pre-K-3 general music in the MFL MarMac Community School District.

KATE NIEMI, Cedar Falls, received her Master of Social Work degree in May from Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, Ill. She is a social worker at Manor Care Health Services, Waterloo.

DAVID NUETZMAN, Roseville, Minn., received his Certified Public Accountant certificate from the State of Minnesota.

JOSHUA OSBECK and KELLY HILDRETH, Sac City, were married Aug. 4.

KAILIE PARMAAN and Cole Meskim, Cedar Rapids, were married Sept. 1.

CHRISTOPHER ROBERTS and NOELLE TRIPOLINO ’12, Rochester, Minn., were married Aug. 18.

CASEY ROSER, Minneapolis, Minn., is a family support services advocate with People Serving People, a family homeless shelter in downtown Minneapolis.

SHANNA SEILER, Eagan, Minn., is an independent living services supervisor with Rudolph Community and Care, Shakopee.

ROSS TIMMERMANS and MEISSA McMURRAY, Minneapolis, Minn., were married July 28 in the Wartburg Chapel.

KRISTIN VALE and Lawrence Cudzewicz, Milton, Wis., were married June 16. Kristin teaches K-12 music teacher in the Argyle Schools, Argyle.

TRAVIS ZINNEL, Humboldt, teaches K-12 vocal music in the Cardinals Community School District, Eldon.

2012
EMMALEE ABLERS, Waverly, works in client services with Mudd Advertising, Cedar Falls.

MOLLY ANDERSON, Dodge Center, Minn., is a design specialist with the MGL Group, Rochester.

RENAE ANDERSON, Des Moines, teaches sixth and seventh grades at Hiatt Middle School.

ABIGAIL MARIE BAKER, Webster City, is a marketing services assistant with Green R-fl, a division of Charmless Technology, Inc., Blairsburg.

EMILY BAKULA, Fort Atkinson, teaches eighth grade at C.F.S. Catholic School, Calmar.

NICOLE BEER, Boone, teaches seventh grade health and co-teaches high school special education science in the Mason City Community Schools, Mason City.


BJORN BROMAN and KARIN SCHMIDT, Johnston, were married March 24.

DAVID BROOKS, Bettendorf, is a medical student at Creighton University School of Medicine, Omaha, Neb.

REXFORD DAVIDSON, Johnston, is in medical device sales with Lakes States Medical, Minneapolis, Minn.

KRISTEN DELANEY, Fort Dodge, is an Americorps VISTA volunteer with the Fort Dodge Community Foundation and United Way.

TREVOR DETTMANN and Natalie Phillips, Waverly, were married July 12. Trevor is a sales and leasing consultant with Roling Ford, Shell Rock.

ALICIA DILLON-BAILEY, Hampton, is enrolled in the healthcare management and policy program at Drake University, Des Moines, where she is pursuing a Master of Public Administration/Master of Business Administration dual degree.

ALICIA FAUST, Nashua, is a transitional housing caseworker with Cedar Valley Friends of the Family, Waverly.

TREVOR FINCHAMP, Altadena, Calif., is a grip, working in lighting with film and television productions in Los Angeles.

REBECCA FISHBONE, Rochester, Minn., is a program assistant with Fraser, Eden Prairie.

ERIC FONCK, Delhi, is store manager at Next Generation Wireless, Dubuque.

JARED FRIEHL, Ankeny, is a volt services employee with John Deere Des Moines Works.

NATALIE GEMBRELING, Lohrville, is an American Red Cross AmeriCorps Youth Preparedness member with the American Red Cross, St. Louis, Mo.

JESSICA GLENNING, Byron, Ill., is a psychiatric rehabilitation services coordinator with Fair View Nursing Plaza, Rockford.
KATE GLENNEY, Muscatine, is director of student ministries at Grand View University, Des Moines.

ELLEN GUSTAFSON, Houston, Minn., is pursuing a master’s degree in information with a concentration in school library media at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.

HALEY JO HANSON, Waverly, is an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer with the Northeast Iowa Food Bank, Waterloo.

LYNN HETIKAMP, Wapello, teaches high school English in the Wapello Community Schools, Wapello.

ANDREANNA HOTH, Monona, teaches mathematics in the Manson Northwest Webster Schools, Manson.

JESSICA HUMPFER, Atlantic, teaches high school mathematics in the Atlantic Community School District.

ZACH KLOSTERMANN, Dubuque, is an operations specialist with Western Dubuque Biodiesel, Farley.

SAMANTHA KOENIG, Castalia, teaches 7-9 special education in the Dunkerton Community Schools, Dunkerton.

JAMES KRAJEWSKI, Webster City, is a lifestyles/general reporter with The Daily Freeman-Journal.

EMILY KUENNEN, Nevada, is an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer with AmeriCorps, Kansas City, Kan.

DANIEL LAMP, Waverly, is a production engineer with John Deere, Cedar Falls.

TANNER LINDEN, Polk City, is a mortgage loan funder with Iowa Bankers Mortgage Corp., Johnston.

ERIN MARSHALL, Marion, teaches high school mathematics in the Central City Community Schools, Central City.

JOHN MATHIESSEN, Delano, Minn., is a graduate student in chemical engineering at Iowa State University, Ames.

STUART McCRAND, Blue Grass, is a laboratory technician, providing lab support on contract at Grain Processing Corp., Muscatine.

NICHOLAS MERCURIO, Spring Grove, Ill., is a technical services analyst with Epic Systems Corporation, Madison, Wis.

NEVADA MORRISON, Chicago, Ill., is a graduate student in criminal justice at Minot State University, Minot, N.D.

ADAMU MUHAMMAD, Ames, is a lab technician with Solum, Inc.

JEFFREY MURRAY, Waterloo, is a doc prep analyst with GMAC Mortgage.

WAI OOI, Waverly, is a doc prep analyst with GMAC Mortgage, Waterloo.

LANE RANCK, Mediapolis, teaches seventh grade science in the Washington Community Schools, Washington, Iowa.

TRENT RASMUSSEN and CHELSEA BACKER, Madison, Wis., were married June 2. Trent is an alternative education teacher in social work with DeForest Area School District, DeForest.

CHRIS RECK, West Des Moines, is a recruiter with Aerotek.

SARAH RITCHIE, Cedar Rapids, teaches high school science in the Central City Community Schools, Central City.

KATHLEEN LANE ROLLINS, Waterloo, is a special needs teacher in the Waterloo Community School District.

TYLER ROOT, Ankeny, is in the manager trainee program with Menards.

KYLIE ROTTINK, Waverly, teaches first grade in the Sumner-Fredericksburg Schools, Sumner.

CODY SIMPSON, Waverly, is a product engineer with John Deere, Waterloo.

BRANDON SOHL, Corwith, is employed at Hogan-Hansen, P.C., Mason City.

ZAK STEIB, West Union, is an admissions counselor at Upper Iowa University.

PAIGE STEPHENSON, Janesville, Wis., is a cross categorical special education K-1 teacher in the Madison Metropolitan School District, Madison.

MICHAEL STEVENSON and MORGAN FOLEY, Milwaukee, Wis., were married Aug. 11.

ANDY STRACHAN, Portland, Ore., is a sales associate with Portland Running Company.

ALEXANDER STRAIN, Owatonna, Minn., is a reporter with the Owatonna People’s Press.

CASEY STRUB, Indiannola, teaches K-12 physical education and health in the Seymour School District, Seymour.

SAMUEL STURTZ, Coralville, is a volunteer with AmeriCorps VISTA at the Community Corrections Improvement Association, Cedar Rapids.

EISHA SUCHY, Des Moines, teaches kindergarten at Howe Elementary School in Des Moines.

TATIANA THOMPSON, St. Paul, Minn., is an employment counselor with HIRED.

TAYLOR UMLAND and MALYNYA RYAN, Waterloo, were married Sept. 1. Taylor is a multimedia journalism student at the University of Kent, Chatham, United Kingdom.

BRIAN YACHTA, Cresco, is a graduate student in mathematics at South Dakota State University, Brookings, S.D.

ZHOU JIAO, Waverly, is the Waldermar A. Schmidt Art Gallery director and exhibition manager at Wartburg College.

TYLER WINKEY, Aplington, teaches instrumental music in the Aplington-Parkersburg School District.

SEAN ZAJICEK, Protivin, works in marketing with JSET Solutions, Inc., Cedar Rapids.

2012 ALUMNI CITATIONS

The Wartburg College Alumni Association presented Alumni Citations to five graduates during the annual Homecoming Luncheon on Oct. 21. The awards recognize vocational and professional achievement, contributions to the church and the community, and the college.

Joe ’71 and Julie James ’73 Breitbach, Waverly

The Breitbachs have been active in a variety of Wartburg initiatives. Joe served on the Parent Council, and the Alumni Board, and is a former Dance Team adviser and fitness class instructor. Joe, a member of the Athletic Advisory Board, is a past president of the Wartburg Athletic Booster Club and has served as PA announcer for Wartburg wrestling since 1985. Both have been involved with Wartburg strategic planning initiatives.

Joe spent 12 years as a Wartburg assistant wrestling coach and high school wrestling official. He owns the Knight Hawk sports bar and restaurant and was active in site selection and building of several Super 8 hotels. He is a member of the Waverly Chamber of Commerce, past president of the Waverly Golf and Country Club Board, and involved with Waverly-Shell Rock Booster and Wrestling clubs.

Julie, a former junior high English teacher, currently helps with reading and the school musical at St. Paul’s Lutheran School, where she served on the School Board and was president of the PTA. She also served on the Hospital Auxiliary Board and as a St. Paul’s Lutheran Church volunteer.

The Breitbachs have been active supporters of the college and the Wartburg wrestling program. They help organize Milboy’s Army, the Desert Duals Wrestling Tournament in Las Vegas and the summer wrestling golf outing. They also host frequent parent and team meals for high school and college athletic programs. All three of their children are Wartburg graduates.
Dr. Durwood Buchheim ’53, Morrisonville, Wis.

Buchheim spent his career as a pastor, church administrator, and seminary professor. He was a pastor of Trinity American Lutheran Church in Waterloo and St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Waverly before becoming executive assistant and then bishop of the Iowa District of the American Lutheran Church. He was a professor of preaching and church administration at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque from 1979 until his retirement in 1994.

In retirement, Buchheim spent two years as part-time director of continuing education at Wartburg Seminary. He has served as an interim pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Royal, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Dubuque, and Peace Lutheran Church in Rogers, Ark., and Norway Grove Memorial Lutheran Church in DeForest, Wis.

Buchheim organized and directed the Iowa District Lay Academy from 1969 to 1978. He has served on the Wartburg College and Wartburg Seminary Boards of Regents and was recognized with honorary degrees from both institutions. He is the author of two books, *The Power of Darkness* (1958) and *The Power to Change* (1993), both published by CSS Publishing House.

He and his wife, Dona, have five children, four of whom are Wartburg College graduates.

Christina (Tina) Elwood Gehrke ’93, Solon

Gehrke is a senior business systems analyst at Rockwell Collins in Cedar Rapids, where she has worked since 2007. She previously spent 11 years with McLeodUSA in Cedar Rapids.

Gehrke’s contributions as a community volunteer were recognized with a Top 40 Under 40 Award from the Corridor Business Journal in 2009. She began her involvement with Iowa Valley Resource Conservation and Development in 2007. As president of the IVRCD Board of Directors from 2009 to 2012, she increased volunteerism and board involvement by more than 120 percent.

Gehrke directs the English Handbell Choir at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Ely and serves as historian of the Iowa English Handbell Association. Active in the Twin Valley Lakes Improvement Association in Solon, she has served as the organization’s president, vice president, and secretary. She also has volunteered at Lakeville Elementary School in Solon and is a member of the Cedar Rapids Science Station.

An avid hunter and fisherperson, Gehrke shares those interests with her two sons, and has served as a personal guide for turkey hunters. She is a member of the Johnson County Chapter of the Wild Turkey Federation.

Carl Volkmann ’55, Springfield, Ill.

Volkmann retired in 1993 after a 23-year career with the Lincoln Library, where he was director from 1981 to 1993. He spent 10 years as a high school English teacher and librarian before joining the public library staff.

In 2004, Volkmann received the Studs Terkel Humanities Service Award from the Illinois Humanities Council. The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign established a scholarship in his name for graduate students in library and information science.

Volkmann is a former president of the Lincoln Library Foundation, Opera Theatre of Springfield, Sangamon County Historical Society, and Breakfast Optimist Club of Springfield. He has held offices with the Community Volunteer Center Advisory Committee, Grace Lutheran Church, Vachel Lindsay Association, Dana-Thomas House Foundation, Downtown Lincoln Events Committee, and Lincoln Memorial Garden Board.

A volunteer with Habitat for Humanity, Prairie Archives Bookstore, the National Museum of Surveying, and a local elementary school library, Volkmann also has performed with the Illinois Symphony Orchestra’s Symphony Chorus. He and his wife, Roberta, co-authored *Springfield’s Sculptures, Monuments and Plaques*, published in 2008 by Arcadia Publishing. A year later, the Illinois State Historical Society published his compilation, *Lincoln in Sculpture*.

TO SEE a listing of past recipients, or for more information on how to nominate an alumnus, please visit [www.wartburg.edu/alumni/alumnicitation.aspx](http://www.wartburg.edu/alumni/alumnicitation.aspx) or call the Alumni and Parent Relations Office at 319-352-8491.
1932
FRED W. AHERN HOLZ, Chino Valley, Ariz., died May 27 in Prescott, Ariz.

1936
DOROTHY WORTH CORNIS, Minneapolis, Minn., died Aug. 13, 2011.

1937
The Rev. ARTHUR H. NICKEL, Minneapolis, Minn., died July 11. A graduate of Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, he was ordained in 1940 and spent 39 years as a pastor in North Dakota and Minnesota. In retirement, he served as a visitation pastor for parishes in Colorado and Minnesota.

1939
MILLARD “JAKE” MUCHOW, Sioux Falls, S.D., died Oct. 9, 2011, at Bethany Lutheran Home. He retired in 1976 after farming for 34 years. He was a director and secretary of Hartford Farmers Elevator for 32 years and former treasurer of Wall Lake Township and Wall Lake School. In 1965 he was asked to join the South Dakota Agricultural Leaders Goodwill People-to-People Tour of Europe and the Soviet Union. An active church member, he was a former president of the Eastern South Dakota Laymen’s Conference of the American Lutheran Church.

1940
VIVIAN GLUCK BRESEMAN, Lakeland, Fla., died July 12. After her marriage, she helped manage her husband’s family’s cheese factory in Wisconsin and later served as acquisitions/cataloging librarian at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In retirement, she became a world traveler and visited 44 countries, including Antarctica.

1941
EILEEN SCHMIDT FAUST, Tonawanda, N.Y., died June 1. She was a member of the Kenmore Garden Club and the Audubon Society.

1944
GLADYS BAHR DERRGANZ, Maquoketa, died April 2 at the Westchester Care Center, Tempe, Ariz. Prior to her first marriage, she taught in rural schools. After her husband’s death she moved to Tempe, Ariz., where she bought and managed Sunset Vista Apartments for 10 years. She returned to Iowa in 1971 and assisted her second husband with Derganz Electric and Refrigeration until his death. She was active in the Jackson County Volunteer program and, during winter months in Arizona, the Westchester Care Center.

1946
The Rev. ROLAND F. HANSEL MANN, Lincoln, Neb., died July 18. He graduated from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and was ordained into the ministry on July 2, 1950. He served congregations in Nebraska and Missouri until 1985, when he became director of development at the Martin Luther Home in Beatrice, Neb. Following retirement, he served as an interim pastor and in the pastoral care department of Tabitha Home, where he developed Beside the Still Waters, a video series that still airs weekly on Lincoln cable access Channel 13.

1949
MARY ANN LEHMAN WAGNER, Grand Rapids, Minn., died July 9 at Evergreen Terrace. She was a former teacher, 4-H leader, Cub Scout leader, and Home Extension member and was active in parent-teacher organizations. Alumni survivors include her husband, Robert A. Wagner ’48.

1950
The Rev. HAROLD G. KRUGER, Geneseo, N.Y., died July 22 at home. After earning a master’s degree in Biblical studies from Princeton University, he served Lutheran churches in Mason City and Fairfield, Iowa, from 1954 to 1962. He was a professor of theology at Carthage College, Kenosha, Wis., from 1962 until his retirement in 1989.

1951
DONALD H. MORASCH, Riceville, died Oct. 27, 2011, at the Grand Meadow Healthcare Center, Grand Meadow, Minn. He enrolled at Wartburg after spending two years in the U.S. Navy. He was a business education teacher in Fertile from 1951 to 1954, then moved to Riceville, where he taught high school business courses and adult education. He received a graduate scholarship to State College of Iowa (now University of Northern Iowa) and after completing a degree in guidance counseling, he was a teacher-counselor until his retirement in 1988.

1952
Dr. LOTUS M. KNIEF, Richmond, Va., died May 23. She completed her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in educational psychology at the University of Iowa, Iowa City, and became a board-certified psychologist in 1966. She spent 20 years as a professor of educational psychology at the University of Arizona, receiving the 1983 Outstanding Educator Award and retiring that same year as a Professor Emerita. She wrote extensively in her field and was recognized as a pioneer in computer-based instruction, introducing the use of computers in statistics and systemic design of instruction. She was elected president of the Arizona Association for Educational Data Systems in 1978 and received an Educator Award from the national organization that same year.

Dr. GILBERT “GIB” D. NAAS, Ashford, Conn., died Aug. 7. He earned a Ph. D. in sociology from the University of Iowa, Iowa City, then taught sociology at Presbyterian-St. Luke’s Hospital, West Chicago, Ill., and at Western Illinois University. In 1965, he joined the faculty of the University of Connecticut Department of Human Development and Family Relations and retired as an associate professor in 1989. He authored four books on marriage, family dynamics and sexuality, published numerous articles, and enjoyed mentoring dedicated students.

1953
ANNA “HELEN” MUECH HAVERKAMP, Independence, died July 30 West Village Care Center. She taught school before her marriage, then worked in several retail positions and helped on the family farm.

The Rev. HENRY G. STOLZ, Lees Summit, Mo., died May 9. A graduate of Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, he was ordained in 1957. He spent 37 years in active ministry, serving congregations in Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Iowa and as administrator-chaplain at nursing homes in Wisconsin and Nebraska. He was active in Rotary and worked with chemically dependent individuals for 11 years. In retirement he spent 16 years working at Wal-Mart.

The Rev. HILLARD J. WEISS, Santa Ana, Calif., died Jan. 3. An ordained minister, he served Calvary Lutheran Church in Santa Ana for more than 50 years.

1954
MAVIS KEITNER PINT, Warrensburg, Mo., died Aug. 12 at home.
1955
WALTER S. ENGELBRECHT, Des Moines, died May 28. He worked as a physical therapist at Iowa Methodist Medical Center before his retirement.

1956
The Rev. LOWELL “BUD” HOHENSEE, DeWitt, died May 12 at home of cancer. He graduated from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, in 1960 and served parishes in Iowa and Wisconsin. He observed his 50th ordination anniversary in 2010. At the time of his death, he was an interim pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Trippoli, where he had served for 10 of the last 13 years. Alumni survivors include his wife, Norma Peters Hohensee ’56.

1957
GARY G. ALLENSPACH, Lake Geneva, Wis., died Dec. 6 at home. He earned a master’s degree in science from Drake University, Des Moines, served in the U.S. Army, and taught for 30 years at Badger High School before retiring in 1990.

ARDITH SCHUTTER BURFORD, Danbury, Conn., died June 19. In 1978, she began a 20-year career with Duracell and was honored by her peers as Employee of the Year in 1987.

The Rev. ROGER HOPPENWORTH, Charles City, died July 11 at Muse Norris Hospice, Mason City. A graduate of Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, he was ordained in 1961 and served four parishes in Iowa over the course of his career.

1958
CONRAD H. BRACKELIN, Sunnyvale, Calif., died July 2 of congestive heart failure. He served in the Air Force from 1950 to 1954 and earned a master’s degree in mathematics from the University of Iowa, Iowa City. He spent his career as a computer programmer.

1959
BETTY ANN BASCHE SCHNEIDER, Waukee, died June 24 of a brain tumor. She was an active member of Immanuel Lutheran Church.

1961
GERALD SCHULTZ, Washington, Ill., died June 20 at home. He retired from James River Corp. in Neenah, Wis., where he was a lab technician, and later worked in the production of custom inlaid floor medallions at Historic Floors of Oshkosh. He was active in the Washington RC Flyers Club and the Winnebago County RC Flyers.

1963
CARMELA “CARMY” PETERS ANTHONY, Lincoln, Neb., died July 31.

1965
The Rev. WILLIAM R. MANTEI, Littleton, Colo., died June 19. He retired in 2009 after serving Centennial Lutheran Church, Englewood, for 35 years. He previously served two congregations in Nebraska. Alumni survivors include his wife, Karen Rehwinkel Mantei ’66.

1965
The Rev. ROBERT REIMER, Belgrade, Neb., died May 24 at his farm as the result of a four-wheeler accident. A graduate of Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, he served Peace, rural Belgrade, and St. John’s, Cedar Rapids, Neb., for 25 years. He was pastor of Our Redeemer, Wahoo, at the time of his death. He also farmed and raised cattle at the farm he purchased in 1988.

1967
ROSEMARY BLOESSER BLONG, Cresco, died Aug. 23 at home. She began her career as a high school teacher in Harmony, Minn., and Cresco. After she and her husband bought a farm in 1969, she was active in the farming operation and also worked as a cook, bartender, cake decorator, Avon salesperson, self-employed business woman, and substitute teacher.

MICHAEL F. KING, Aplington, died Aug. 2 at Allen Hospital, Waterloo. He had retired in 2004 after a 32-year teaching and coaching career in the Aplington-Parkersburg Schools. He began teaching in Coon Rapids and completed graduate work at the University of Northern Iowa before moving to Aplington High School in 1972. After a school district consolidation, he taught at Aplington-Parkersburg Middle School and coached high school football, girls basketball, and middle school girls track.

LARRY L. KUSSATZ, Urbandale, died July 2. He taught vocal music at Forest City High School and Central High School in Waterloo. In the late 1970s, he purchased Carver’s Restaurant in Waverly, where he established a singing wait staff of Wartburg students. In 1990 he joined Sysco Food Services of Iowa as a marketing associate and was later promoted to district sales manager. He continued as brand manager until his retirement in September 2008. He shared his musical talents with many churches as organist, director of music, and most recently, as director of vocal music at West Kirk Presbyterian Church.

1968
JOHN C. BITNER, Melvin, Ill., died Nov. 13, 2010, in the emergency room of the Carie Foundation Hospital, Urbana. He taught in the Urbana and Thomasboro school districts, where he also coached basketball and track and sponsored Student Council activities. He worked for Gibson Federal Savings and Loan in Gibson City, Mahomet, and Hoopeston, then owned and operated the TV Scan TB listings magazine in Hoopeston for 10 years and worked for Food Machinery Corp. He was a member of the Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce and Jaycees and was active as a pageant judge in Illinois and around the country. He was a downstate road representative for NBD Bank and most recently for Harris Bank of Chicago.

1974
JEFFREY P. PREGLER, Dubuque, died June 30 at Ennoble Skilled Nursing and Rehab. He was employed at Hill Crest Family Services.

1985
OLADIPO OLAJIDE “LADI” SHOGBAMIMU, Leawood, Kan., died July 11 at Aga Khan Hospital in Nairobi, Kenya. He was a patent and trademark attorney in private practice.

1988
JAMES W. LYNES, Keokuk, died Aug. 24 of cardiac arrest. He earned a master’s degree in history from the University of Iowa, Iowa City, and spent his career in college admissions work. He was an admissions counselor at Buena Vista College, Storm Lake; transfer counselor and later director of admissions at Iowa Wesleyan College, Mt. Pleasant; dean of enrollment management at Dana College, Blair, Neb.; and director of admissions at Culver-Stockton College, Canton, Mo. Alumni survivors include his wife, Dawn Rodenburg Lynes ’82 and daughter Jennifer ’14.

FORMER FACULTY/STAFF
JUNE STANGE PRIES, Muscatine, died May 29 at Trinity Hospital. She worked at Wartburg from 1940 to 1946 as secretary to the college treasurer. Her past employers also included The Lutheran Homes and U.S. Button Company in Muscatine; the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls; and Area Education Agency, Clear Lake. Following her retirement in 1984, she moved back to her hometown of Muscatine and volunteered with Trinity Hospital Auxiliary and the Muscatine Art Center, and was active in Zion Lutheran Church.

Yesterday is a memory, tomorrow is a mystery, and today is a gift, which is why it is called the present.

What the caterpillar perceives is the end; to the butterfly is just the beginning.

Everything that has a beginning has an ending.

Make your peace with that and all will be well.

– Anonymous
There are many things that unite everyone who is connected with Wartburg — whether they are students, alumni, employees, or fans of the college — like Outfly, the loyalty song, and an appreciation of squirrels and the color orange.

Among these things that connect us is the mission of the college, and this will not be the last time you’ll hear it discussed. In the mission statement, Wartburg promises to challenge and nurture us at the same time. It’s an interesting concept and something that the college does surprisingly well.

The new students in the room have been continually challenged to operate outside their comfort zones over the past week. You’ve been challenged to meet new people and embrace a lifestyle that is far different from the one you’ve known for so long. The returning students in the room have faced the challenge of demanding courses and professors.

While we’re working hard to earn good grades and meet the high expectations that have been established for us, it’s too easy to forget that we’re being nurtured at the same time. It’s too easy to walk across campus without noticing its beauty or to sit in a room full of friends and forget that they love you. We get accustomed to our lives as busy students until something jolts us into the reality of the world.

About seven months ago, a few days after I won the election for student body president, I found out that my dad had had surgery to remove stage 1 cancer. He hadn’t told me because he knew I was busy with the campaign, and he didn’t want to “ruin my fun.” I was told that everything would be fine, so I went on with my responsibilities on campus and mentioned the situation to very few people.

Although he was cancer-free, the doctors recommended a round of chemo just in case. The chemo did not at all agree with my dad’s body, which is very rare, and the extremely shortened version of this story is that he spent several weeks in the hospital in Des Moines and passed away during finals week.

Sometimes a person is forced to encounter a challenge that is far worse than the sum of every challenge that person has ever been given. My point in sharing this story with you is to try to convey the overwhelming feeling I got upon my return to campus that I was being nurtured.

You may think that you wouldn’t want to return to classes after an experience this awful, but driving back to Wartburg meant coming back to an overwhelmingly powerful support system. When you take the time to analyze your perspective, you’ll find that things like taking college exams are not that challenging at all. This year, when a professor gives you a challenge, remember that they never give you more than they know you can handle. Wartburg wants to see you succeed and grow as a student and as an individual.

We all face similar challenges as students, so take the time to nurture your peers and to love your friends. Hope that you won’t face a struggle as devastating as I did during your time here, but know that if you were to face something so difficult, your Wartburg family would be there.

I’ve experienced the strength of our community firsthand, and if I tried to begin listing the students, faculty, and staff who went far out of their way to nurture and care for me exactly when I needed support, this would begin to sound like an Oscar acceptance speech. So I’ll skip that part.

My dad was a writer, and if I could ask him to edit this speech, he would likely tell me that I used the word “challenge” too many times and that I should think of some other words to avoid sounding so redundant.

But here it is one more time.

I challenge everyone in this room, whether you’re a student, professor, or staff member, to face the obstacles of the upcoming year head-on and to never forget that you’re being nurtured by everyone around you.

Remember that we’re all here to support each other and that no matter what struggles you may face, you will always have your Wartburg family when you need a couple thousand people to lean on.

Hollis Hanson-Pollock ‘13, the Wartburg College student body president and an accounting major from Mingo, gave this talk at the Opening Convocation, Sept. 4.

“I’ve experienced the strength of our community firsthand, and if I tried to begin listing the students, faculty, and staff who went far out of their way to nurture and care for me exactly when I needed support, this would begin to sound like an Oscar acceptance speech.” – Hollis Hanson Pollock
• Be sure to review the status of any fall or post-election federal legislation regarding charitable gifts and estate taxes, including IRA assets and rollover gifts. Double check with your tax advisor or accountant for any recent changes. Significant 2013 changes are scheduled to automatically occur unless Congress intervenes.

• Avoid capital gains taxes and preserve cash by donating appreciated stocks directly to the College.

• Explore a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA). With CD and other rates of return remaining quite low, a CGA might be a great way to make a special gift to Wartburg while receiving a lifetime income stream back along with a nice year-end charitable deduction. Low dividend yielding and highly appreciated gifts of securities are assets often used to fund CGAs. (Additional info below)

• Include in your holiday giving to friends and family members charitable gifts to Wartburg and other organizations that are special to you and them.

• Thank you for your faithful support of Wartburg. May you have safe and enjoyable holiday seasons.

Contact Mark Piel, Director of Gift Planning, for more information:
319-352-8666, 866-219-9115
mark.piel@wartburg.edu
or visit www.wartburg.edu

Turn the “setting” of 2012 into a warm and vibrant Wartburg Orange. Double check these tips as you plan your end-of-year giving to the College.

SAVE THE DATES

Dec. 9
Wartburg Community Symphony and Wartburg Players
A Christmas Carol
Neumann Auditorium, 3 p.m.

Jan 29
Artist Series
Ain’t Misbehavin’
Neumann Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

March 14
Artist Series
Albert Einstein: The Practical Bohemian
Neumann Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

March 19
Convocation
Happy Johnson, social entrepreneur, humanitarian
Neumann Auditorium, 11:30 a.m.

April 4
Artist Series
The Duttons
Neumann Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

April 11
RICE Day
Recognition of student achievement
Campuswide, all day
Thanks to all who helped make this year’s Homecoming a success!

Visit www.wartburg.edu/homecoming to browse photos and go to www.wartburg.edu/galleries.html to order your own prints.