Wartburg’s Evolving German Connection
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Letter
FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of the Wartburg Magazine focuses on promising developments that could make Wartburg the pre-eminent German-American college.

You will read about some tantalizing opportunities, while other initiatives hold great promise if realized. The “if,” of course, is no small matter.

A closer relationship with Germany alone would be a mark of distinction now that it has become the driver in the European Union, providing economic stability in turbulent times.

At home, more than 15 percent of the U.S. population considers itself to be of German ancestry — the largest group of any descent in the nation, according to the German-American Heritage Museum in Washington, D.C.

“Given our cultural niche and our relationships with things German, we ought to be able to thrive where others are declining,” President Darrel Colson remarked.

The growing relationship is shedding the shackles of much of the 20th century — a time when, the Rev. Larry Trachte ’66 said, “You were fighting a war with your heritage, basically.”

“There’s not always been a fond relationship between Waverly and the college,” added the longtime college pastor, who retired in 2009. “During both World Wars there was a lot of anti-German feeling. The fact that it was called ‘Kraut Hill’ during both World War I and II said something about the understandable animosity.

“We did not have the privilege of the Norwegian, Swedish, or Finnish institutions in the Lutheran Church of being able to lay claim to a progressive, unbroken heritage.”

During the postwar years of a divided Germany, Wartburg revisited its roots in Neuendettelsau, Bavaria, from where Pastor Wilhelm Löhe had dispatched Pastor Georg Grossmann, a Lutheran missionary, and five students to Saginaw, Mich., in 1852 to found the teacher-training school that would become Wartburg.

However, overtures to Eisenach and The Wartburg (as the castle is known in Germany) often ran into a communist East Germany roadblock, although Dr. James Fritschel, the Wartburg Choir director (1968-84), took his students there on May Term tours prior to reunification.

“I’m told they would gather some place on the steps near the castle and sing,” said former President Robert Vogel ’56 (1980-98). “They would have Commencement for the seniors because it was often May Term, and they would miss it at home. Fritschel said he gave the shortest Commencement speech on record.”

Trachte began forays to the Castle in 1979 after inheriting the alumni heritage tours from history professor Dr. Gerhard Ottersberg. Vogel accompanied him in 1983 on visits to the “Luther sites” on the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther’s birth.

“Bob Vogel was just chomping at the bit to establish a relationship with Eisenach as soon as the Berlin Wall came down (November 1989),” Colson said. “He went to Eisenach (in 1990) and became friends with its first post-Cold War mayor, Dr. Hans-Peter Brodhun. We had this heritage that we valued, but were only able to put flesh on it after reunification.”

“The fact that the college carries the castle name made the decision to approach Eisenach and the castle obvious,” Vogel said.

Wartburg was rewarded for those efforts in 2007. Dr. Gerald Kleinfeld, professor emeritus at Arizona State University and founder of the German Studies Association, was seeking to bestow $1 million on a college honoring its German roots.

“Wartburg College was already growing and moving forward, dramatically so since the 1980s and, certainly, the 1990s,” Kleinfeld said. “All the components for utilizing and encompassing its German heritage were already there. My gift called attention to that and helped people see how the German heritage component could be a part of a dramatic forward movement.”

“His gift has been an inspiration,” Colson said.

But perhaps more than the money, Kleinfeld provided connections. The college’s roots now could become one of its signature attributes.

“Our heritage permeates the campus,” said Dr. Dan Walther, professor of history and Kleinfeld Distinguished Professor in German History. “We constantly invoke it. It’s part of our identity. But it’s not just an obligation to our past. We talk about being a citizen of the world. We’re living in a multipolar world, and one of the poles is the European Union. Germany is the center of it geographically and economically.”

I took pleasure in a recent comment about the Wartburg Magazine: “It’s interesting to read the excellent articles written by the students!”

Those talented students wrote most of this issue, while juggling numerous responsibilities:

- Kristin Canning ’14, Lisbon — NCAA Division III track All-American in the indoor 4x400-meter relay, Iowa Conference indoor 800-meter champ and news editor of the Trumpet.

- Kristine Milbrandt ’14, Buffalo Center — Trumpet staffer; PR part-time intern; and editor of the Castle, the campus literary magazine.

- Sarah Boraas ’14, Sherrard, Ill. — NCAA Division III track All-American in the indoor 60-meter hurdles; work study student in the Alumni and Parent Relations Office.

- Hannah Lilienthal ’15, Durant — Wartburg Choir member, formerly on the dance team.

Watching them grow as writers has been immensely gratifying. Selfishly, I rue the day they graduate.
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ON THE COVER:
Wartburg’s evolving German connection
Magazine art director Josh Peterson illustrates Wartburg’s closer ties with German officials, dignitaries, and institutions.

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Wartburg teams with KWWL to promote ‘Youth Vote’

Wartburg College and KWWL-TV gave students an interactive opportunity to learn more about election issues during “Youth Vote,” Oct. 30. The 90-minute program from the Wartburg Television studio was moderated by KWWL anchor Ron Steele and Wartburg Television’s Jacque Schutte ’14 of Luana.

The program was broadcast live on KWWL 7.3, a high-definition subchannel and The Circuit, Wartburg’s online media site. It could be accessed through UStream, Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter with an interactive chat integrated into the broadcast. Topics were education reform, the economy and the national debt; job creation; and gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender rights. Representatives from both political parties answered questions from the audience and viewers.

Grace retires after 17 years in administrative positions

Gary Grace retired Feb. 15 as Wartburg College vice president for administration after 17 years at the college.

He joined the cabinet in 2004 after eight years as director of athletics, a position he retained for another year while Rick Willis served in an interim capacity. As vice president for administration, Grace supervised business and finance, human resources, and the physical plant.

Wartburg President Darrel Colson said the college “owes Gary a huge debt of gratitude,” citing Grace’s accomplishments as director of athletics — increasing the number of students participating in intercollegiate sports, assembling the coaching staff, and the successes achieved.

“As vice president,” Colson added, “he masterfully presided over the development of The W from mere idea to a completed building that is a very tangible expression of the thriving partnership between Wartburg and Waverly that began in the 1930s. He also led partnerships with the Waverly Health Center to form the Noah Campus Health Clinic and with Waverly Light and Power to increase the use of wind-generated energy to power the campus. Gary guided our campus master planning and worked closely with Schneider Electric to retrofit many campus buildings to save energy.”

Grace and his wife, Janet, will continue to live in Waverly. He is a franchise owner with Jimmy John’s and recently opened a location near campus.

Before coming to Wartburg, Grace was associate director of athletics, associate professor of physical education, and head basketball coach at Cornell College. He is a graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in secondary education and a master of education degree in post-secondary athletic administration.

Sustainability effort finally visible

Five years after Wartburg College and Waverly Light & Power established a partnership to create a more sustainable community using wind energy, the turbine symbolizing that relationship finally became active during Fall 2012.

Wartburg partnered with WLP on its Green Power Choice program in 2007 — shortly after construction of the Saemann Student Center, the Science Center, and the Wartburg-Waverly Sports and Wellness Center — agreeing to provide $2 million ($100,000 annually over 20 years).

The utility determined the best option for sustainable energy would be wind energy. But in a construction mishap in February 2009, the wind turbine’s blades, hub, and generator assembly broke apart, leaving only the tower standing. It was replaced following a protracted legal settlement.

WLP gave the college a $1.8 million gift — $120,000 over 15 years — toward construction of The W in 2006.

Wartburg an ‘overperformer’ aiding low-income students

Wartburg College is one of the nation’s leading “overperformers” in graduation rates for students from low-income families.

Wartburg was No. 7 among 341 responding national universities and liberal arts colleges in a U.S. News and World Report study of graduation rates for Pell grant recipients and entire graduating classes during a six-year period.

The online magazine listed “overperformers” and “underperformers,” stating the study was important because “the proportion of students receiving Pell grants is considered a measure of economic diversity.” Pell grants provide federal aid to undergraduates from families with incomes up to $45,000, although most of the grants are for those under $20,000.

Wartburg had a 70 percent graduation rate for those students. Its overall graduation rate of 65 percent topped the 56 percent overall six-year rate for public universities, while equaling the overall rate for U.S. private colleges.

The college had 496 students with Pell Grants in 2011-12 — 27 percent of the enrollment.
The Circuit gets second Pacemaker Award

The Circuit — Wartburg College’s student online site — won its second national Pacemaker Award from the Associated Collegiate Press.

The Circuit was one of five online newspaper sites to receive the ACP’s highest honor for 2011-12 in a category for colleges with an enrollment of less than 5,000.

The Circuit is a “converged” site with stories, videos, and photo galleries contributed by student media on campus — the Trumpet, Wartburg Television, and KWAR. It integrates traditional and social media to deliver information in a timely manner much like professional media sites.

Cliff Brockman is the faculty adviser. The Circuit also won a Pacemaker Award in 2009 during its initial year of operation. Hannah Cox ’13, Epworth, was student manager. The staff was Danielle Miller ’13, Aplington; Kelsey Scherven ’13, Mound, Minn.; Payton Huinker ’13, Altoona; and Andrew Bridgewater ’12, Van Horne.

Wartburg named Iowa’s healthiest college

Wartburg was selected as the 2012 college/university recipient of the Healthy Iowa Award by the Wellness Council of Iowa.

The award program recognizes cities, schools, and leaders that promote health to their citizens, students, and staff.

The college has a formal health promotion program that actively engages students, faculty, and staff in wellness education and encourages participation. In addition, the Wartburg-Waverly Sports & Wellness Center offers wellness programs for faculty and staff, as well as learning opportunities, newsletters, health screenings, and feedback.

The Music Man

by Hannah Lilienthal ’15

W artburg Choir Director Dr. Lee Nelson, associate professor of music and Christmas with Wartburg artistic director, is always looking to commission new works for the college’s signature concert.

He saw the potential in Connor Koppin ’13, a music major from Mason City, so he gave him a text to work with. Koppin had been composing original music for two years, inspired by a commissioned work for Christmas with Wartburg by Stanford Schemen of St. Olaf College.

The result was “There is No Rose of Such Virtue,” which was among seven other world premiere pieces in the 64th annual production of Christmas with Wartburg, “The Winter Rose Blooms, Rejoice!”

“It was a gradual process, learning how to write for choir,” Koppin said, “but after writing eight to 10 contrasting pieces of music, I finally found my niche.”

Dr. Craig Hancock

Koppin searched for a new text to fit the concert theme.

He found it in a 15th century carol, which Nelson said had references to the many symbols of the rose in biblical text, including the Virgin Mary, as well as alluding to St. Elizabeth, who is known for the “Miracle of the Roses” at the Wartburg Castle in Germany.

“I looked into all sorts of texts revolving around the Christmas rose,” Koppin said. “When I read, ‘There is No Rose of Such Virtue,’ I discovered that it contained an element other texts did not, simplicity.”

Nelson guided Koppin in creating a new setting of “There is No Rose of Such Virtue” with the goal of specifically tailoring it to fit the Wartburg Choir.

Koppin said the easiest part was composing the melody.

“It was as if when I first looked at the text I could hear the music in my head. That is when you know you’ve found a good text. The music almost writes itself,” Koppin said.

The hardest part, he said, was tailoring the piece to fit the choir.

“Since I was able to hear the piece develop in the singers’ voices on a daily basis, I could determine which parts worked and which didn’t. I was continually making very small changes to better the overall sound of the piece. Sometimes it became a little arbitrary.”

Koppin called Nelson’s help “invaluable.”

“He gave me advice from a conductor’s standpoint. I was able to sort of ‘get inside the mind of a great conductor, see how he approaches a new piece of music, and discover what traits he finds desirable in a piece,’ Koppin said.

Koppin dedicated “There is No Rose of Such Virtue” to Nelson and the Wartburg Choir.

“The choir has been such an important and influential part of my life. Writing a piece of music for it is my way of paying homage,” Koppin said.

“Dr. Nelson has always been a role model of mine. I can’t put into words how grateful I am for his presence at this school.”

Koppin has no immediate plans to make composing a full-time job, but said it’s possible after he becomes a music educator.

Nelson said the piece surpassed his expectations.

“I could not be more proud of Connor’s work on this piece,” Nelson said. “As an educator, there is no greater gift than to watch your students succeed.”
W hen Kelli Miller ’14 helped Waverly fifth graders build a bridge from toothpicks, marshmallows, straws, tape, and Styrofoam cups, it wasn’t about arts and crafts or engineering. They were learning about leadership.

Each student was in charge of one item, learning why each was instrumental in creating the bridge. “I think some of our students discovered skills they possessed that can be helpful to many people,” Miller said.

Putting all the pieces together was part of the Leadership Theories and Practices course taught during Fall Term by Dr. Bill Soesbe, assistant professor of education. Wartburg students offered “Leadership 360” insights to 157 fifth graders in Waverly-Shell Rock and St. Paul’s Lutheran schools.

The activities, break-out sessions, and presentations helped students learn individual leadership skills, work on group leadership, and apply their skills to difficult situations requiring leadership — such as counteracting bullying.

Soesbe’s students also taught the fifth graders the importance of being trustworthy, group communication, teamwork, and identifying the special talents and skills each person possesses.

“We are responsible for our communities, and we wanted students to realize the significant contributions that they can make to society,” Soesbe said.

Kari Staack ’91, the W-SR Talented and Gifted director, became interested in developing a leadership conference for fifth graders, who are adjusting from an elementary setting and need more support to venture into adolescence.

She approached Amanda Sanderman ’96, Wartburg’s School Partnerships Coordinator, and Soesbe, who also teaches a course in the Community Builders program that brings together Wartburg students, Waverly-Shell Rock sixth graders, and local residents to discuss quality-of-life improvements.

As a former W-SR middle school teacher, Soesbe understood the need for fifth-grade students to develop leadership skills. “Fifth-grade students are at an important time period in their lives where they are starting to think on their own as opposed to displaying and voicing opinions of their parents and siblings,” Soesbe said. “In addition, friendships take on greater meaning.”

Sanderman said the goal was to make fifth graders leaders early on, focusing on the issue of bullying and asking them to step up if they witness an act of cruelty.

“The idea behind this program is to empower students to step out of a ‘bystander’ role and into a role of leadership,” Sanderman said. “Starting these skills at a young age is important. It allows students time to develop their leadership skills early.”

Staack told the fifth graders that bystanders are one of three groups, including bullies, “who use their power to hurt others,” and followers, “who support and get their identity from the bully.”

“Bystanders use their powerful leadership skills to help others and to work out a solution in a difficult situation,” Staack said. “This takes a lot of courage.”

If students “develop self-awareness, get out of their comfort zones, and work as a team,” Soesbe said, they will transition from bystanders to leaders who stand up for themselves and their peers.

Brent Matthias ’92, executive director of Waverly Area Economic Development, gave the keynote presentation, advising the students “to be happy, be the best you can be no matter what the task is, and to be a good leader. Sometimes you let others take over and support their efforts. It does not always mean being the boss.”

“He showed the kids an alternative answer to the question, ‘What do you want to be when you grow up?’” Miller said. “His answer was simply, ‘Be happy.’ Listening to so many fifth graders practically screaming that they just want to be happy when they grow up was really inspiring to me.”

Soesbe said the Wartburg students also expanded their knowledge, skills, and dispositions.

“It is refreshing to learn some of these basic life lessons again, including that every person matters and has something to give,” said Miller, who is from Mount Pleasant. “And the most important thing when looking to the future is to make sure you and the people around you are happy.”

“More students can stand tall for themselves, the easier it is to be courageous enough to help others in difficult or bullying situations,” Staack said.

Because Leadership 360 was so successful, Staack hopes to offer it annually in partnership with Soesbe’s Leadership Theories and Practices class and the Wartburg Institute for Leadership Education.
Ben Hoppenworth finds himself in the Fox den

by Kristin Canning ‘14

Ben Hoppenworth ‘13 always had an interest in politics. But he didn’t see himself running around Capitol Hill interviewing congressmen.

Hoppenworth was immersed in the political world for three months when he interned at the Fox News Washington Bureau this summer.

“After 40 hours a week for 12 weeks of doing nothing but politics, I really love politics a whole lot more than I did before,” Hoppenworth said.

The Wartburg Television news director applied for the D.C. internship online last school year. He was surprised when he got a phone interview. A few weeks later he was offered the job, “which kind of came as a complete shock.”

Hoppenworth trailed Fox’s lead Capitol Hill reporter and interviewed several congressmen and senators for the news station. He also had the opportunity to hear House Speaker John Boehner and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi.

“Getting to roam around the halls of the political capital of the world really reassured me that I want to be a journalist,” he said.

Hoppenworth was planning on living with family near the Capitol and commuting to work. His plans changed soon after he got there.

“I decided to bite the bullet and pay rent on Capitol Hill,” he said. “It was a fantastic experience that I wouldn’t trade for anything.”

Hoppenworth lived in an apartment a five-minute walk away from the Capitol Building.

“I just loved always having something to do. There was always a new restaurant to go to, a new museum to see, or a new part of town to explore;” he said “I definitely want to go back.”

Besides working with reporters, Hoppenworth researched topics for a weekly news program, pitched story ideas, wrote online content, and edited video for the newscasts.

Producing a weekly show for WTV prepared Hoppenworth for the Fox internship.

“Depending on the day or the week, work would either be really fast or really slow,” he said.

“The weekend of the theater shooting in Aurora (Colo.) was one of the busiest weekends I’d ever worked. The day that Mitt Romney announced Paul Ryan as his running mate was also a hectic time in the bureau.”

Working for Fox solidified Hoppenworth’s career path. He left the internship with several contacts he’ll be in touch with when he graduates this spring.

“It was a great experience just to see how a large cable news network operates. There’s just something about going out and chasing a story that really gets your adrenaline pumping.”

Granath reaps rewards of Wartburg’s Deutsche Welle partnership

by Sarah Boraas ’14

Shelby Granath ’13 was not sure what to expect during her internship at Deutsche Welle, the German international broadcaster, in Washington, D.C.

But the Rockford, Ill., native knew it would be an opportunity she couldn’t turn down.

As part of its new partnership with Wartburg College, Deutsche Welle invited her to be the first Wartburg intern at its Washington bureau last May Term.

“It’s exciting thinking about the possibilities for students with the new relationship forming between Wartburg and Deutsche Welle,” Granath said. “I learned so much during my experience and was glad to be a part of it, although I’m pretty disappointed I won’t be here to see it grow.”

Granath researched story topics, set up interviews throughout the country, and offered news ideas. She also was present at news shoots and wrote articles for the DW website.

Because most of her experience was in sports broadcasting, Granath said the news-oriented environment made her a more well-rounded journalist.

“I never realized how much work goes into a well-developed story and how important it is to find different angles and make connections;” Granath said.

Dr. Penni Pier, professor of communication arts who visited Granath in Washington, said she was impressed with how Granath performed out of her comfort zone and in an unfamiliar culture.

“This internship was a great experience for Shelby and really gave her a good taste of journalism,” Pier said. “Her passion is sports, but she learned about other aspects that will make her even better at sports.”

Granath also attended DW’s annual Global Media Forum in Bonn, Germany, in June with President Darrel Colson and Travis Bockenstedt, lecturer in communication arts. The forum attracted 1,500 journalists, educators, and dignitaries from all over the world to discuss media and education issues.

“It was a lot to take in and was so interesting speaking to people throughout the world who have the same passion as I do; Granath said. “It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.”

After graduation, Granath hopes to land a job in sports broadcasting, preferably as a sideline reporter. Pier believes the DW internship will enhance her opportunities.

“She was fearless and found the perfect way to stretch her wings,” Pier said. “Her experiences will only show her future employers she’s not afraid of taking chances.”
The first thing you should know about the national Small Steps, Big Wins Campus Challenge — designed to produce social and environmental change — is that competition between the 32 schools was “fierce.”

When it became evident that the University of Oregon, a football powerhouse, was a Small Steps also-ran, the hometown Eugene (Ore.) Register-Guard published this lament:

“The Ducks are getting stomped by the (University of Washington) Huskies — never mind Pistol Pete (Oklahoma State), Willie the Wildcat (Cal State Chico) and the Wartburg College Squirrel. In the fierce contest to see which campus can out-green the others, the University of Oregon is 11th.”

When the final tally was in, the fiercest of the fierce were those “Squirrels” — er, Knights — far outdistancing the field with 9,934 points. The University of Washington-Tacoma was runner-up with 2,679. (Oregon did rally for ninth place.)

The Small Steps Big Wins contest was sponsored by the San Francisco nonprofit sustainability group Net Impact, with financial help from the Alcoa Foundation and Microsoft. Net Impact, a global nonprofit organization with 30,000 members, emphasizes using business skills to tackle problems.

“While the world has a lot of problems, Small Steps believes the solution is one action at a time,” said Jessica Grant ’15 from Glenrock, Wyo. “The basic premise is that students will report actions, share their progress on Facebook or another social media site, and get others involved.”

Approximately 300 Wartburg students tracked and photographed activities such as drying clothes on a rack instead of using a dryer, walking instead of driving, voting, donating used clothing, and volunteering. Actions were rewarded with points based on difficulty, complexity, and level of influence.

“While these may seem like small things, if everyone did them the impact would be monumental. This is what Small Steps is about,” Grant said.

Madison Stumbo ’15, from Boone, led the effort after learning that Small Steps was a requirement to become a Net Impact gold-level chapter. She found connections between the competition and Wartburg’s sustainability campaign.

“I want students to realize that incorporating small things into their daily lives can add up to cause a positive impact,” said Stumbo. “We have a lot of driven individuals on this campus, and we understand the importance of trying to solve some of today’s toughest issues.”

For her leadership role, Stumbo received an all-expenses-paid trip to New York City to shadow Darrel Hammond, chief executive officer of KaBOOM! Playgrounds, a nonprofit dedicated to saving and building playgrounds.

In addition, Alexandria Coble-Frakes ’13 of Swisher had 1,616 points, the second-highest individual total, which earned her a free round-trip flight on Southwest Airlines to any U.S. destination. Her tally alone would have ranked eighth as a college.

Marketing and promotions chair Brittany Groe ’15, from Lake Mills, was not surprised by Wartburg’s overwhelming victory.

“Students love to be involved at Wartburg,” Groe said. “Small Steps is such an easy thing that students can be involved in. Wartburg is also a very sustainable campus to begin with. Small Steps is able to help students recognize that they are already doing many of the items that Small Steps is encouraging us to do.”

All the Wartburg students involved will receive free custom-made T-shirts. Grant, though, cited a bigger honor.

“All of us will win because we are making a difference,” she said.

Groe added, “Many times, as students, we get caught up in the rush of classes and stress that we don’t take time to realize how important it is to be a socially and environmentally aware person. I believe that the students involved in the Small Steps program truly care how they impact the environment and how they present themselves as a person.”

“I want students to realize that incorporating small things into their daily lives can add up to cause a positive impact.”

— Madison Stumbo ’15
Making a Change:
How Kelsey Nulph is helping Wartburg put the lid on malaria

by Kristin Canning ’14

Olutosin Adeyeye ’14 had malaria at least once a year while growing up in Nigeria.

She contracted the mosquito-spread disease so often that she recognized the symptoms right away: pressure in her head, a bitter taste in her throat, a feverish feeling, and weakness.

At one point, her mother and all but one of her five siblings were sick with malaria.

But the Wartburg international student was lucky. Both of her parents were pharmacists and knew to take their child to a doctor right away for anti-malaria tablets. Adeyeye quickly felt better and often didn’t even miss a day of school.

Adeyeye said this isn’t the case for many people who contract malaria in her country.

“What happens to you depends on the money you have and where you live. In rural areas, people don’t believe in medicine. They want to use traditional ways,” she said. “People with middle to high income go to the doctor right away.”

This is the issue with malaria. It is a completely preventable and treatable disease, but it kills one child every 60 seconds. The disease creates not only medical issues for the areas it plagues, but is linked to economic and social issues as well. A lack of prevention and treatment awareness, along with limited funds, cause the disease to be prevalent in many rural regions in Africa.

Inspired by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America’s Malaria Campaign, Wartburg students organized a three-tiered, yearlong fundraising campaign in partnership with the ELCA to raise awareness of malaria and help eradicate the disease. The ELCA is working with 12 countries in Africa to provide mosquito nets and malaria medication, including preventive medicines for pregnant women and their babies; train health-care providers; and offer education about protection, recognizing symptoms, and seeking treatment.

A March benefit concert put the Wartburg Malaria Initiative over its $35,000 goal, and organizers will continue raising funds through the end of the academic year. A matching grant will double all contributions.

“We are thrilled to announce that we have made our goal,” said Kelsey Nulph ’14, a religion major from Batavia, Ill., who has led the Wartburg effort.

CUNA Mutual Group and Veridian Credit Union supported the concert in Levick Arena, which featured four professional musicians, including three Wartburg alumni, along with 15 student groups.

“The concert was another opportunity to reach out into the community and to educate people on the importance of supporting efforts concentrated on the eradication of malaria,” Nulph said. Throughout the year, students painted glass jars to be sold and used as coin collectors at a variety of events.

Some of the Wartburg Malaria Initiative’s other efforts included:

• Receiving a portion of gate receipts from the Wartburg-Luther home basketball games. A short documentary was shown at halftime, and students passed out brochures.

• Sharing its message with students at Waverly Shell-Rock High School and St. Paul’s Elementary School.

• Reaching out to numerous congregations from Norway Grove Memorial Lutheran Church in DeForest, Wis., to those throughout the Waverly area.

• Giving a variety of presentations to on-campus audiences, including international students and the parent-student luncheon.

The college and community’s support for the initiative has inspired Nulph.

“To see people come together is an amazing testament to the love we have to offer others,” Nulph said.

“Adeyeye believes malaria can be eradicated with more awareness.

“The problem is people not wanting to accept new things,” she said. “Just sharing about malaria would go a long way. It only takes one person to convince the other people.”

Nulph has taken on this challenge with the Wartburg community at her side.

“I’ve learned that everyone has the ability to change the world,” Nulph said, “and I’ve been changed through experiencing how powerful community can be.”

One child dies from malaria every 60 seconds.

To learn more about the Wartburg Malaria Initiative and to make a donation, go to www.wartburg.edu/malaria.
His initial foray into radio didn’t bode well as a potential career for James Patrick May ’03.

“My father was working in radio in Waukon as a broadcaster in the 1970s. Apparently when I was a toddler, I pushed a certain button and shut down the entire radio station while he was on-the-air,” said Patrick, now the weekday morning “rock jock” at Rock 108 in Waterloo.

Patrick is among several KWAR alumni who pursued radio as a profession. At his 10-year reunion last October, Patrick celebrated that choice by teaming up on KWAR again with classmate Gretchen Bartlett, host of the Milwaukee-based Journal Broadcast Group’s The Lake morning show.

“It was just a lot of fun to reunite at such different points in our lives,” Bartlett said. “He has children, and I’ve been moving around doing radio. We’re all grown up! I wanted it to go on.”

Patrick felt like a Wartburg student again. “Once we turned on the microphones, it was like we never left,” said Patrick, whose campus presence has continued as public address announcer for Levick Arena sports events since 2007.

Like Patrick, Bartlett had an inauspicious introduction to radio when a high school friend invited her to check out Fort Madison’s KBKB one night.

“The station was in a trailer house set on a foundation. It was totally creepy,” she said. “But after watching my friend on the air, switching out the songs on CD and the commercials on carts, I was fascinated.”

Bartlett switched majors from English to communication arts, launching a career that has taken her to Cedar Rapids; Knoxville, Tenn.; and Omaha. She has been in Milwaukee for the past decade. Bartlett has met numerous celebrities — even receiving a wedding wish from comedienne Kathy Griffin — and has had her share of funny experiences. She fondly remembers judging a battle of the bands contest with the winner opening for Train.

“A contestant brought his parents and their friends to cheer him on,” Bartlett said. “When he didn’t win, the moms surrounded the judges’ table and totally went off on us. They all had to be escorted from the venue. These 40-50-somethings got kicked out for harassing us. It was hysterical.”

Patrick got his current job at Rock 108 in Waterloo after a referral by Kerry (Weldon) Feuling ’00. His first interview literally had “KWAR” written all over it.

“KWAR (then known as The One) had come up with a promotional idea to have a ‘One-Mobile,’” he recalled. “The plan was to spray-paint it orange with ‘KWAR’ and ‘The One.’ The initial thought was to get a beat-down car for a couple hundred bucks, but I chimed in and said, ‘Why don’t we just use my car?’ I had a 1988 blue Oldsmobile ‘beater.’ So late one winter’s night, we went crazy with our graffiti.”

Gretchen Bartlett ’02

I’m not sure I would have found radio as a career had I not attended Wartburg. The communication arts department is really top notch.
“I actually drove that car to my interview at KFMW. My future boss later told me when he saw me pull up, ‘I hope this isn’t who I’m interviewing.’”

Patrick was hired part-time on-air, then became the full-time promotions director. Two years later, he was hosting the station’s morning show with Jamie Larson ’00.

His favorite part of the job is the music and meeting listeners. His least favorite? Waking up at 3 a.m.

“Most people think I only work when they hear me,” Patrick said. “In reality, I have to do hours of preparation every morning, gathering news and sports stories, commercial production, and deciding or inventing a way to give away prizes. There is almost as much preparation as actually being on the air.”

Matt Ray ’09, a DJ at Waverly’s KWAY, intended to become a history teacher. After he volunteered on move-in day to broadcast basketball on KWAR, his direction changed.

“I was hooked but still thought of radio as a hobby. I broadcast as many games as I could, hosted a morning show, hosted a sports talk show, and ended up on KWAR’s staff for a few years,” Ray said.

“By my senior year,” he added, “I felt God was leading me away from teaching. I decided that a hobby would make a great career.”

Ray said his history degree helps when doing KWAY newscasts and talk shows.

“I interview authors a lot, so my ability to talk about a book I didn’t read helps,” Ray said with a nod to one of his former history professors. “Sorry, Dr. (Daniel) Waltho. That’s mostly mostly a joke.”

Austin Draude ’09 also was a KWAR sportscaster.

“I wanted to do something that I was good at. I enjoyed doing that, and sports have always been a passion of mine,” Draude said.

He got his job at KLMJ in Hampton due to a tape of a Wartburg volleyball game. “Without getting volleyball broadcasting going again at KWAR ... that opportunity is one I wouldn’t have been prepared to take,” Draude said.

He invited Drew Shradel ’12 to do play-by-play at a volleyball game.

Shradel enjoyed it so much that he switched from public relations to electronic media. He is now sports director at KCII in Washington.

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“Wartburg was the only school I seriously considered going to, mostly based on the strength of the communication arts program,” Gavin said. “I didn’t see any other schools that would give me the opportunities to gain more of that hands-on experience from the day I stepped onto campus.”

Jesse Gavin ’06 got into radio in high school after a speech coach told him he had a good voice.

He attended the Iowa Broadcast News Association Summer Broadcasting Workshop at Wartburg before his junior year of high school, which piqued his interest.

“Wartburg was the only school I seriously considered going to, mostly based on the strength of the communication arts program,” Gavin said. “I didn’t see any other schools that would give me the opportunities to gain more of that hands-on experience from the day I stepped onto campus.”

Gavin worked at 1650 The Fan in Cedar Falls part-time during college, announcing high school football games in late 2005. After a time away, he is now the station’s news and sport director.

“You have to have a passion for radio,” Gavin said. “You’re not going to get rich. The hours are not glamorous by any stretch of the imagination. ... There’s not a lot of instant feedback. At the end of the day, you’re sitting in a room talking to yourself.”

During the past two decades, Gavin said, radio has become more homogenized — relying on syndicated programming — and automated.

“A lot of music stations are basically an iPod set on shuffle,” Gavin said. “The odds that the person you hear on the radio is actually a live human being in your community are very, very small.”

Gavin is proud to work at a station that emphasizes its locality.

“Our owner lives less than a mile from the station,” Gavin said. “All of our programming decisions are made in Cedar Falls. We do our best to serve our community. I often have interview guests come in to promote local fundraisers from the Boy Scouts to the local Humane Society. When people tune in to our stations, we don’t want any doubt about where we are broadcasting from.”

Bartlett has this advice for anyone considering radio as a career.

“Offer yourself up for anything and everything,” Bartlett said. “Always say ‘yes’ when your boss asks you to do something. You have to be willing to work long hours for not a lot of pay. ... I found my success by doing everything I just mentioned. I always asked for another opportunity.”

Gavin thinks that those who get into radio often dream of being a “national correspondent for a big news network,” or hosting “one of the national music countdown shows.” His key to success is to be satisfied with whatever you do.

“Some of the happiest people I know in this business work in the smallest markets,” Gavin said. “They probably had those big dreams, too, but at some point they were able to say, ‘This is where I am, and I’m OK with what I’m doing .... I’m going to do the very best I can for this community that I am working in.’”
The Anti-Bullying Alumna Heard Around the World
Jennifer Livingston '97 never imagined that taking a stand against one critical email would launch her into global stardom.

“I will never be able to fully explain what it is like to be at the center of a viral experience, especially when you are used to covering them,” Livingston said.

The morning anchor at WKBT News 8 in La Crosse, Wis., took to the air Oct. 2 in response to an email she received from a viewer criticizing her weight and ability to be a role model to young girls.

Within an hour of Livingston’s on-air “editorial,” the story had spread to larger Midwest cities. By noon, Livingston had received a call from The Today Show. That evening, a story aired on NBC Nightly News featuring Livingston.

“I am not exaggerating when I say our newsroom phones didn’t stop ringing for three days,” Livingston said. “Jen, Good Morning America is on the phone. ‘Jen, Australian television wants to speak with you.’ Jen, TMZ called again.”

Livingston’s roots in broadcasting trace back to Wartburg. She wanted to attend a small school with strong journalism and music programs. Wartburg, she said, was “a perfect fit.”

“I cherished every moment of my college career,” Livingston said. “I got to travel the world with the Castle Singers and the Wartburg Choir. I had some legends in the journalism field — (former KWWL news director) Grant Price and (former KWWL anchor) Liz Mathis — as professors guiding my career path.”

Livingston landed her job at News 8 following graduation. She married fellow anchor Mike Thompson. She said her days consist of waking up at 3:15 a.m. to be at the station by 4:30, working until 1 p.m., and spending her afternoons with her three daughters.

“I feel like I have the best of both worlds at the station,” Livingston said. “I get to anchor a show that, for the most part, is light and fun, while still providing the news you need to know. But I also get to spotlight the unique characters in my community throughout my reporting.”

Livingston receives occasional emails criticizing her stories, which she said is “fair game.” But she had never before received an email like the one that sparked her anti-bullying editorial.

The email prompted heated reactions from the station — especially from her husband.

“Mike was definitely more upset about it than I was,” Livingston said. “For me, it was more of a ‘is this guy for real?’ reaction. For Mike, it was more ‘how dare he?!’”

Livingston immediately wrote the viewer back, telling him that he was “out of line.” She believed it was “more important to instill kindness and acceptance” in her daughters.

The viewer continued to press the issue. Livingston prompted him with a request to post his letter on the station’s Facebook page to see what other viewers thought. He agreed.

“Throughout the whole weekend our Facebook page was getting flooded with support. Several radio stations were addressing it on air and during our local Oktoberfest celebration. People were handing me flowers and cards,” Livingston said.

When she was asked to give interviews to local radio stations, Livingston knew she had to address the email on her own station.

“You know nothing about me besides what you see on the outside, and I am much more than a number on a scale,” Livingston said in her Oct. 2 editorial.

Livingston called the experience “terrifying” — and that was when she thought only her community would see it. Almost immediately afterward, requests came in from all over the country and later the world asking for comments and interviews.

“It’s so glad I didn’t know ahead of time the impact it would have or I’m not sure I would have been able to get through it,” Livingston said. “I had never done anything like that before.”

Livingston’s four-minute-and-21 second video garnered more than 10 million views on YouTube.

She said juggling interview requests while taking care of her daughters was “extremely stressful.”

But she would never take it back.

“It really helped launch a very serious and important conversation, not only in this country but around the globe,” Livingston said. “We need to address this problem head on. Cruelty at any level should not be accepted... We all have to find our own voice.”

Though Livingston received a wave of support, she also received a negative backlash on social media sites with users calling her “a lot worse than the initial email I got.”

“I think whenever someone is getting a certain amount of attention, you are always going to have people try and bring that person down,” Livingston said. “But I chalk them up to ‘not getting it’ and move on. I can’t change everyone, but I can change some.”

Livingston has since been featured on Ellen DeGeneres and in People and Glamour. Her message has remained the same: “The cruel words of one are nothing compared to the shouts of many.”

“I think we have this idea in our head that to stand up to a bully or to someone that is just being a jerk, you have to be a jerk,” Livingston said. “That’s not true. We are already encouraging kids to speak up these days. … So we, as adults, need to lead by example.”

Livingston had only three people in mind when she spoke up to her bully.

“I did it for my girls,” Livingston said. “Because I don’t ever want them to allow someone to try to define who they are. That’s the beauty about self-worth. It’s yours. I hope that my girls grow up confident in who they are and proud of who they are.”

Livingston said that her 11-year-old daughter is aware of the situation and is “very proud of her mama,” but her two younger daughters, a 4-year-old and a 1-year-old, have not seen the editorial.

“I will play it for them someday,” Livingston said. “I don’t want them to ever be the same.”
German Connection

- Wartburg Builds on its German Heritage
- Klein Hans Taps Wartburg’s Roots and Finds Global Branches
- Six Degrees of Wartburg German Connections
- Wartburg’s Global Media Alliance
The first chapter in "Telling Our Wartburg Story" opened with Löhe of Neuendettelsau, Bavaria, sending Pastor Georg Grossmann, a Lutheran missionary, to Saginaw, Mich., with five students to found a teacher-training school in 1852 that would become Wartburg College.

The latest chapter finds Wartburg’s German connections expanding as the college enhances its heritage as a signature attribute. Thanks, in part, to the efforts of a prominent U.S. professor in German studies and his German colleague, seeds have been planted that could make Wartburg a player of some renown in German-American relations.

First, though, the college had to reclaim a heritage that had fallen victim to two world wars, while its namesake castle was largely cloaked by an Iron Curtain in communist East Germany.

When the Berlin Wall fell in November 1989 and the Iron Curtain was lifted the following year during German reunification, President Robert Vogel ’56 (1980-98) was a man on a mission, according to then Campus Pastor Larry Trachte ’66.

“He saw a new kind of relationship with the church — he was a Lutheran pastor. He brought back the language that Wartburg was a ‘college of the church.’ He started talking about our German heritage and then about Germany,” Trachte said.

“We knew about the castle and the name and where it came from,” Vogel said. “In 1983 I was on an alumni tour, and we visited the Luther sites. It was the 500th anniversary of Luther’s birth, and we visited the room where Martin Luther was hidden by his friends. We learned a lot about St. Elizabeth. Some of the things we did preceded the opening of the border.”

“In November 1989 the (Berlin) wall came down,” Trachte said. “I was going to do an alumni tour in 1990 for the (Oberammergau) passion play. Bob Vogel called me in and said, ‘You and I need to go to the castle.’ Wartburg Seminary always had a strong ties to Neuendettelsau, but Wartburg College never did.”

Vogel and Trachte led a Wartburg and Waverly delegation to Eisenach that established a rapport with the burgemeister (mayor), Dr. Hans-Peter Brodhun, who would become a Wartburg College regent, and laid the groundwork for the current relationship and Waverly-Eisenach Sister City program.

“Bob really worked hard at this,” Trachte said. “When the choir sang for the first time in the Great Hall, Hans-Peter said to me during the break, ‘I want you to announce at the end of the concert that every time the Wartburg Choir comes to Eisenach, they are invited to sing at the castle.’ That was a huge thing.”

That commitment to the college’s heritage grew and paid dividends in September 2007 when Dr. Gerald Kleinfeld, professor emeritus at Arizona State University and founder of the German Studies Association, donated $1 million to Wartburg.

“There are a lot of institutions founded by German immigrants,” said Dr. Daniel Walther, who holds the Gerald R. Kleinfeld Distinguished Professorship in German History, “but how many of them have an active relationship, programmatically, with Germany and still invoke it as an essential component of their identity? Gerry Kleinfeld picked us because we’re the one that still has an active relationship with Germany.”

The extent of that relationship may have been taken for granted.

“When Gerry came to visit, Dean (Ferol) Menzel (then vice president for academic affairs) and I invited faculty we knew had some connection with Germany, “ said Scott Leisinger, vice president for institutional advancement. “Brian Birgen had taken a math class to Germany, we had business faculty, foreign language people, Larry Trachte, and an athletic coach taking people to Germany, and the music tours as well.

“It was kind of an ‘aha moment.’ We really did have a lot of relevant connections. It opened the eyes of the college to the real potential to build on it. The Kleinfeld gift helped us better understand the synergy among various elements.”

Kleinfeld’s contacts also have proven valuable.

“Gerry Kleinfeld introduced us to Christine Lieberknecht, the minister president of Thuringia (the state where the Wartburg Castle is located),” President Darrel Colson said. “He also introduced us to (Joachim) Yogi Reppmann, a retired faculty member at St. Olaf, who introduced us to Erik Martin Luther

While in hiding at the Wartburg Castle in Eisenach, Germany, Luther translated the New Testament from Greek into the German vernacular. His work made the scriptures more accessible and is credited with helping unify the country through a common written language.
Bettermann (director general of Deutsche Welle, Germany’s international broadcaster), who has adopted the college. Through these people we’ve developed other networks.”

Lieberknecht brought an entourage of 21 persons to Waverly when she received an honorary degree at the 2011 Commencement. Bettermann received an honorary degree in 2012, has made three trips to Wartburg, hosted a college delegation in Bonn, and paved the way for academic exchanges.

“This expanding network presents some possible opportunities,” Colson added. “Yogi is very confident that there are people in Hamburg as well as in America who would be happy to contribute money to some activity that advances German-American relations or understanding. So we’ve raised the question internally, ‘How do we make that happen?’”

The various options, according to Dr. Mark Biermann, vice president for academic affairs, include more internships for Wartburg students in Germany, cooperative agreements with German educational institutions to increase study abroad opportunities and encourage German students to study at Wartburg, travel courses, cultural exchanges, and visiting lecturers.

An “institute” of sorts — sans bricks and mortar — could figure prominently.

“Right now we’re in the initial exploration stages of what possibly would be called a German Institute at Wartburg College or German-American Institute,” Biermann said. “The name is not fixed in stone, but it would be related to things German. It would be interdisciplinary. It wouldn’t try to dictate curriculum, but would try to raise the profile of our activities related to Germany, German-Americans, and German-American relations.

“It would be a point of contact for external bodies that want to do things German. It’s not an academic program, like a major or a minor, but it would involve faculty and would be overseen by a group of faculty from across campus.”

The institute concept will get a dry run Oct. 20-22 when Wartburg hosts a conference, “The Legacy of 1848: Transplanted Ideas and Values in America’s Past and Present,” reviewing the influence of German refugees who immigrated to the United States after a failed democratic uprising.

Reppmann has written extensively about the so-called “48ers,” many of whom adopted Iowa as home. He also has been actively recruiting prominent German, European, and American politicians, scholars, and dignitaries to participate.

The conference is being funded by the Kleinfeld Lecture/Event Series at Wartburg, Deutsche Welle, and a German-American resident of Iowa. “I think there are a lot of neat opportunities,” Biermann said. “One

Kleinhans Taps Wartburg’s Roots and Finds Global Branches

by Saul Shapiro

As Wartburg College builds on its German roots, the point person on its Lutheran heritage embraces its founder’s worldview.

Dr. Kathryn “Kit” Kleinhans’ latest tour — “Lutherland and Eastern Europe,” part of her The Reformation Then and Now course for May Term — will visit church-related historical sites in Germany and former Soviet bloc nations, where they’ll study the church under communism. Her Wartburg students will be joined by alumni and members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, now celebrating its 25th anniversary.

A signpost in Neuendettelsau, Bavaria, will be instructive, Kleinhans said.

That’s where Pastor William Löhe dispatched Pastor Georg Grossmann and five students in 1852 to Saginaw, Mich., to found a teacher-training school for German immigrants that would become Wartburg College. The signpost, though, shows the distances to other missionary destinations, including Fiji and Australia.

“You think of our ties to Neuendettelsau and the guys Löhe sent, but they were one little trickle,” Kleinhans said. “Löhe and the missions sent people all over the world. Some of it was to evangelize, and some of it was just because that’s where the immigrants were.”

Löhe and his spiritual descendants today can claim considerable success, Kleinhans said.

“The Lutheran Church has become a global phenomenon. There are more Lutherans in Africa and in Asia than in North America. For me, that’s really exciting. It says there is something about the Lutheran approach to the faith that is vital and is engaging people.”

Wartburg, she added, has retained “the DNA of our founders. Look at what we’re doing with the study-abroad program in Tanzania and the relatively new program in Senegal. We have ties to Lutheran missionaries there.

“It’s a very different understanding of what it means to be a college of the Lutheran Church than what Grossmann and his folks were thinking about when they got off the boat, but I think it’s a faithful extrapolation.”

Kleinhans is heavily invested in the Evangelical Church of Germany’s “Luther decade,” which began in 2008 and will culminate in 2017 with the 500th anniversary of the nailing of the Ninety-Five Theses on the door of the Catholic Church in Wittenberg on Oct. 31, 1517.

“Each year has a theme,” Kleinhans said. “This year the theme is Reformation and Tolerance. A couple of years ago, the theme was Reformation and Education. The Reformation didn’t affect just religion, but other areas of life, including music, education, and politics.”

The “Luther decade” has been a busy one for Kleinhans, including conferences last year in Germany, Finland, and France, as well as her duties with the Global Mission working group of the ELCA in Chicago and its Wittenberg Center advisory council in Germany.

In Strasbourg, France, last summer, the Lutheran World Federation conference asked...
of the key things that is going to make Wartburg even stronger in the future is focusing on our distinctives. This clearly has been part of our DNA since Grossmann founded the institution.”

The relationship with Bettermann and Deutsche Welle has led to discussions of an academic exchange program between Wartburg’s communication arts program and one at Bonn-Rhein-Seig University of Applied Sciences and a possible slot for a Wartburg graduate in the master’s program at Deutsche Welle Akademie.

Dr. Edith Waldstein, vice president for enrollment, is excited about enhancing the German connection.

“Germany is the leader in the European Union. It has the largest economy in Europe. There are all sorts of things you can do, but we have to make it relevant,” Waldstein said. “Deutsche Welle is part of it. Why not take one of our largest programs and internationalize it? It gives us an opportunity to broaden the spectrum of study in comm arts, and it gives us the connection with Germany and a major player in German media.”

She attended two recruitment fairs in Germany last summer, talking to nearly 250 students, and found prospective students receptive to possibly attending Wartburg.

“What made me optimistic was that they sought us out, they were prepared, they signed in and gave us their email addresses,” Waldstein said. “German universities are so overcapacity that even some of the best students can’t get into their fields, because each university has a limited number of seats that they can give out every year.”

Wäther is eager for Wartburg to better position itself on the German radar.

“We talk about being a citizen of the world, and Germany is a player,” he said. “We’re not in a bipolar world. We’re in a multipolar world. One of the poles is the European Union, and Germany is the center of it geographically and economically.”

“As I look around the country, I see German language studies and German culture programs disappearing,” Colson said. “Given our cultural niche and our relationships with things German, we ought to be able to thrive where others are declining.”

“Where to do about 2017? The ecumenical challenge of the anniversary.”

“It was fascinating because most of the speakers weren’t Lutheran,” Kleinhans said. “The main point is the Reformation isn’t just about Lutherans. It was a change of such world historical importance that everybody was affected by it. For me, the take-home point as far as Wartburg is concerned is that we keep saying we have these Lutheran roots, but we’re no longer a school that’s solely by Lutherans and for Lutherans. We actively seek diversity.”

At the International Congress for Luther Research in Helsinki, Finland, the conference focused on Luther — a Wittenberg professor of theology for 35 years — as a university reformer. Wartburg faculty get a sense of his impact when visiting Wittenberg.

“One of the streets, they have posted these plaques with the names of famous teachers and students at Wittenberg in every discipline, including scientists, chemists, and astronomers. The faculty realize, ‘You know, this is where Luther did what I’m doing.’

“It’s so cool when faculty who may not think of themselves as particularly religious get a sense of what it means that we’re a Lutheran college. This religious tradition was born in a mix where education was really, really important, and people were committed to it. Reforming the church went hand-in-hand with educating people who could serve society. One of the things that pleases me most is when I hear somebody say, ‘I can really buy into this. I’m not Lutheran, but I still get it.”

Wartburg, she added, is faithful to that heritage, upholding its pillars.

“We are really good at what we do,” Kleinhans said.
SIX DEGREES
of German Connections

by Saul Shapiro

Sometimes it’s all about whom you know and whom they know.

Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon is a Hollywood parlor game supposedly linking everyone of consequence in the film industry to the Footloose star.

Many of Wartburg’s newfound connections to Germany and things German can be traced to Dr. Gerald Kleinfeld, professor emeritus of history at Arizona State University and founder and former executive director of the German Studies Association, which annually hosts the world’s largest meeting on German and Austrian affairs, politics, and culture.

In September 2007, he donated $1 million to establish Wartburg’s Gerald R. Kleinfeld Distinguished Professorship in German History.

Dr. Daniel J. Walther, Wartburg professor of history and chair of the history department, holds that position and, indirectly, helped make the gift happen. As a young historian in the late 1990s, he submitted a paper to the German Studies Review, which Kleinfeld edited. “I was so impressed it ultimately led me to Wartburg,” Kleinfeld said.

But Kleinfeld also researched other U.S. colleges founded by German immigrants. “The number of German heritage institutions had grown smaller, and I wanted to leverage my gift into helping both a German studies program and the college grow,” Kleinfeld said. “Private colleges are a vital part of our American uniqueness and of our success in the future. Wartburg offered this opportunity.”

However, he added, “Wartburg was in danger of its German heritage receding into kitsch with German names for campus locations, but too many diverse and scattered ideas of where to go from there. I wanted to give the heritage its needed push into becoming something real, for a college.”

“The relationship with Gerald Kleinfeld opened up new possibilities — certainly for me — and helped get Wartburg’s name out,” Walther said.

In 2009, Walther attended the Fulbright German Studies seminar, Germany’s Future: New Parties, New Solutions, and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) invited him to be a federal election observer.

In Fall 2011, he was a visiting scholar at Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin and a Fulbright Research Fellow. “(Kleinfeld) also introduced people from the college to other people and got them thinking,” Walther said.

One of those “other people” is Dr. Joachim “Yogi” Reppmann, a native of the Schleswig-Holstein region in northern Germany and part-time resident of Northfield, Minn., where he taught at Carleton and St. Olaf colleges. Reppmann has written extensively on “the 1848ers” — German refugees who fled to the United States after a failed democratic revolution and profoundly influenced the direction of this nation.

Wartburg had intrigued Reppmann for some time. While driving home after a 1994 trip to Davenport — Scott County is home to many descendants of “the 1848ers” — his wife, Gitta, noticed a sign for the college, and the couple took a look.

“We were immediately impressed by the atmosphere of the campus,” Reppmann said, “and, of course, the stone inscription on the chapel, ‘Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott’ (‘A mighty fortress is our God’).”

At Kleinfeld’s behest, Reppmann has introduced the college to German politicians, dignitaries, and corporate officials, including Erik Bettermann, director general of Deutsche Welle, Germany’s international broadcaster. DW quickly solidified ties with the college and established a partnership with Wartburg’s communication arts department. Bettermann received a Wartburg honorary degree in 2012.

Reppmann’s contacts also are evident in the ever-growing list of notable speakers — German and American politicians and academicians — who will participate in a conference Wartburg will host in late October, “The Legacy of 1848: Transplanted Ideas and Values in America’s Past and Present.”

Reppmann champions “lighthouse projects,” such as the conference, that would embrace a modern approach to preserving German-American history, while stressing the importance of a close relationship and heightened cooperation between 21st century Germany and the United States.

In that vein, he also wants to “build bridges” to carry “a multi-faceted traffic, including trips for students, alumni, and business leaders; exchange programs; and conferences. With a dedicated and concerted effort, I see no reason why Wartburg couldn’t become a center for German-American friendship and a German-American think tank.”

Which could eventually make for a Six Degrees of Gerald Kleinfeld parlor game at Wartburg.

Reppman is working on it. “Since February 2012, I’ve been corresponding with German Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel, Joachim Gauck (Germany’s federal president), Phil Murphy (U.S. ambassador to Germany), and many others. All have expressed their interest in supporting us in our quest to develop Wartburg College as a German-American ‘Lighthouse Project.’”

Dr. Gerald Kleinfeld

Dr. Joachim “Yogi” Reppmann
A partnership between Wartburg College and a German broadcaster has encouraged the college’s communication arts department to think globally.

A memorandum of understanding between the college and Deutsche Welle includes a May Term internship at its Washington, D.C., bureau and a slot in the Deutsche Welle Akademie master’s program — for starters.

Created in 1953 as then West Germany’s ‘foreign affairs’ medium, DW is publicly funded, but operates independently of the government. It provides news online, by satellite TV, and on radio in 30 languages.

Dr. Joachim “Yogi” Reppman, a friend of the college, introduced Erik Bettermann, DW’s director general, to Wartburg in October 2011. Bettermann perceived a natural alliance with a U.S. college of German heritage.

“With this historic background and common understanding of values of society, there is a good chance for us to work closely together,” he said. “DW has training capacities for people around the world, and I want to do it together with Wartburg College students.”

The May Term internship was quickly established. Bettermann donated a satellite dish to Wartburg, and Wartburg Television has been running DW’s English-language programming on cable.

Bettermann was awarded an honorary degree at Commencement 2012. He invited President Darrel Colson; Travis Bockenstedt ’09, lecturer in communication arts; and Shelby Granath ’13, of Rockford, Ill., the May Term intern, to DW’s annual Global Media Forum in Bonn in June. The forum, Culture/Education/Media: Shaping a Sustainable World, attracted 1,500 journalists, educators, and dignitaries.

Bettermann provided the college with a exhibit hall booth, included Colson on two panels, and lauded the partnership in an announcement.

“The Global Media Forum was a huge deal,” Bockenstedt said. “We were front and center. Germans were very interested — and so were people from other countries — about the way we do education, that you can have curricular activities where you’re learning practical skills and theory.

“We saw that, in developing countries, media is exploding and so is English. They want English-speaking journalists. For us, the ‘light bulb moment’ was thinking about preparing students to work overseas.”

“Deutsche Welle has bureaus all over the world,” Colson said. “I think it would be cool to have interns in a bureau in Lima or in Turkey or anywhere else.”

The forum’s educational emphasis reflected Bettermann’s outlook that media play a central educational role, and that education is the key to progress throughout the world.

“Deutsche Welle is not only about making programs,” Bettermann said. “We have a mission — not just to present news about Germany, the culture and the economy — but about the future of the world.”

DW’s educational arm — Deutsche Welle Akademie — has a four-semester master’s degree program, now with a slot for a Wartburg graduate meeting enrollment requirements.

“The program is in German and English and is designed for students from developing and transition countries with previous media experience,” Colson said. “It offers an unparalleled mix of research, lectures, and practical experience.”

Dr. Mark Biermann, Wartburg’s vice president for academic affairs; Dr. Penni Pier, professor of communication arts and department chair; Bockenstedt; and Kelsey Bemus ’15 from Dunlap, the next DW May Term intern, will attend the Global Media Forum in June.

Pier and Bockenstedt will present and moderate a panel on Sustaining Rural Journalism: Why preserving small-town newspapers, radio, and television matters in a rural economy.

“Our students have an incredible contribution to make beyond our own borders, and this partnership recognizes that,” Pier said. “Stepping onto a world stage where we can exchange ideas and experiences builds phenomenal opportunities.”

An exchange program will be discussed between Wartburg and Bonn-Rhein-Seig University of Applied Sciences (HBRS), which has close ties to DW.

“We plan to teach a communication arts course in Bonn in May 2014 with Wartburg and HBRS students,” Biermann said. “In summer 2015, a course would be offered here for both HBRS and Wartburg students. Our current plan is to offer the courses on an rotating basis.”

Bockenstedt would teach the May Term course at HBRS in Advanced Broadcast Production, emphasizing international media studies.

“The students would create a television program featuring all the packages they put together,” he said. “This would be a unique opportunity for our students to collaborate with other international students.”

Bockenstedt is excited about extending Wartburg’s brand.

“A door has been opened for us,” he said. “Traditionally, we’ve prepared students to work in local news. There’s nothing wrong with that. There’s also nothing wrong with getting students into the international press corps. We now have a direct outlet to do that. Deutsche Welle is very excited about it, because it knows the quality of work our students produce.”

Travis Bockenstedt
MARSHALLING THEIR FORCES

by Hannah Lilienthal ’15


Their Cedar Rapids Washington High School’s “Slice of Jazz” choir was selected as one of only two high school ensembles to sing at the prestigious American Choral Directors Association National Conference in Chicago in 2011.

Current Wartburg Choir members Jeremy Corbett ’13 and Wes Carlson ’15 were part of the jazz choir that sang at the conference.

“Slice of Jazz” also was a three-time winner of the Iowa Jazz Choir Championships under the couple’s direction.

The Armst...
learn and grow.” Matthew said.

“W e've had a long time to dream about this project,” Matthew said.

“We saved enough money, contacted some of the best arrangers and producers in the industry, and were excited to be back in the studio again,” Shelly said. “We always hope each project is better than the last as we learn and grow.”

Hallelujah! includes fresh new vocal arrangements of nostalgic classics spanning more than a century of American music.

“We find the best way for us to continue to improve as musicians, and even as teachers, is in the recording studio,” Shelly said.

As teachers, they were creating something special as well. The American Choral Directors Association took notice of “Slice of Jazz,” inviting the group to sing at its national conference, which primarily featured outstanding college choirs.

“The others were fabulous schools like Western Michigan and Cal State Long Beach. It was a huge honor to share the stage with those groups, but it was also a lot of pressure,” Matthew said.

“I give credit to Matthew for the countless hours of planning and organization. I got to enjoy the fun of helping the music come together,” Shelly said.

Both attribute much of their success as musicians to their experiences as members of the Warburg Choir under the direction of Dr. Paul Torkelson.

Torkelson, who directed the Warburg Choir from 1984 to 2009, is now director of choral activities at the University of Nevada/Reno. “They were both superb musicians, but also really focused musicians, who never settled for anything other than their best,” Torkelson said.

“My time in the choir was very influential to me as a vocal music teacher,” Shelly said. “I will always admire Dr. Torkelson’s passion for choral music and his gift for creating expressive, musical moments throughout every program.”

Matthew echoed his wife’s comments. “After rehearsals with our own groups, Shelly and I frequently discuss ‘what Tork would have done’ in the rehearsal.”

One central mission remains for the Marshalls — “singing His praises, sharing His word, making a difference.”

“I hope our greatest accomplishment since we began singing together 10 years ago is that we have effectively followed God’s call in our ministry to bring people closer to Him,” Shelly said.

From left to right: Peggy Gaard, Jack and Sarah Salzwedel, John and Polly McDonald, and Dr. Susan Vallem ’66

The Tomsons have actively supported experiential learning in the social work department for nearly two decades.

“I think they do a good job of selecting what’s important in our society,” Pat Tomson said. “They serve our communities well. Their students are equipped to attend some of the best graduate schools in social work around and get advance standings.”

The Tomson Professorship in Social Work was established in 1995. Their $500,000 gift — combined with resources from the former professorship — increased the endowed fund to $1.5 million. The college will seek additional gifts to enable the distinguished chair to reach $2 million.

“Our gift is really just a start of that chair,” Pat said. “We wanted to challenge others to contribute to a very meaningful program at Warburg.”

The Tomsons also played a leadership role in establishing the James Leach Chair in Banking and Monetary Economics at Warburg. O. Jay Tomson was a member of the Commission Warburg Task Force on Academic Programs in 1999.
A bag of coffee can make a difference in the world.

Jaren Vande Kieft ‘92 and Chris Williams are owners of Narrow Road Coffee in Rochester, Minn., which offers Guatemalan-, Colombian-, Kenyan-, and Brazilian-style coffees distributed out of Minneapolis or bought online. Twenty-five percent of their revenues go toward Christian missionary efforts.

Narrow Road Coffee works primarily with Next Chapter Ministries, which assists former convicts exiting the prison system. The Rochester-based nonprofit organization has grown to encompass three residential after-care homes, support for prisoner families, a youth center for high-risk teenagers, and an outreach for children.

“We chose to work with this ministry because we’re both focused on the same things,” Vande Kieft said. “We’re both local and trying to make a difference in the community and world around us.”

Vande Kieft and Williams met while pursuing master’s degrees in business administration at Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee and found a common interest.

“We both had the passion of starting a business, and the coffee idea just felt right,” Vande Kieft said. “It just clicked.”

They did the research, bought a coffee roaster, and developed high-quality products. Their plan also focused on Christian outreach.

“We wanted to help others reach God and support those already doing it,” Vande Kieft said.

Vande Kieft and his partner looked for a smaller ministry without extensive support from other organizations. He appreciated the way Next Chapter Ministries works on building lasting relationships with those involved with crime and restoring them to God and the community.

Vande Kieft credits his Wartburg education for helping instill a passion to create something of his own.

“It’s broadened my mind and helped me discover the person I am today,” he said.

Dr. Tim Ewest, associate professor of business administration, noted that the mission of Wartburg’s business administration and economics department is to challenge and inspire engaged learners to become business stewards who positively impact the world.

“We integrate service activities into learning and encourage our students to truly make a difference,” Ewest said.

The department also prides itself on preparing students for the real world through developing social skills, business management ability, and experience.

“Wartburg does a great job at instilling and nurturing values of community stewardship and servant leadership,” Ewest said. “A liberal arts education provides the basis for creative thinking, ethical decision making, and principle-centered leadership.”

Vande Kieft said Wartburg’s smaller size and emphasis on involvement were influential in his education and, eventually, his career. He was involved in football, marketing club, student senate, and cheerleading — activities he credits with making him well-rounded.

“I also learned to network and work with others, which is key in the business world,” he said.

Ewest believes involvement in campus activities can help students discover their passions.

“The engaged students are motivated to create change and find personal meaning in their work,” he said.

Vande Kieft and his wife, Dr. Sara Sabin Vande Kieft ’92, a podiatrist, have four children.

“It’s a lot of work balancing the business, work, and family,” he said, “but it’s what I believe I should be doing.”
Wartburg College Spanish majors and minors took Waterloo sixth graders on an ambitious journey to pursue their "Sueño Americano" — "American Dream" — during Fall Term.

The 22 Wartburg students in Professor Zak Montgomery's service-learning course, "Latinos in the United States," were paired with George Washington Carver Academy students, including many Latino English Language Learners, as they documented their individual "American Dreams" in text and photos.

Carver teacher Mirsa Rudic called it "an eye-opener" for her students. "I believe many of them didn't have dreams, given the nature of their backgrounds," she said. "Hopefully, this will give them some ideas to figure out their goals."

Rudic said the course was a multidisciplinary revelation for her students, including learning about the visual arts, dance (Ballet Folklórico de México), photography, literature and poetry, and academic vocabulary and syntax.

"The students' gain was not just academic," Rudic added. "It is rather life-changing. They had exposure to new knowledge, explored new ways of thinking, and found creativity in themselves. It is likely that the pleasure success and recognition brings to them may turn into internal motivation."

The dreams of the middle school students and their mentors were displayed on side-by-side posters at exhibits in the Carver cafeteria and the Hall of Champions in the Wartburg-Waverly Sports & Wellness Center. Each poster featured a photo symbolizing a dream and an essay with the details.

Carver student Samantha Walters' photo showed her mother, a nurse, and the high school diploma of her brother and sister. "I would like to be called 'Dr. Walters," she said. "My mama helps people, and I want to help people." Her mentor, Alexandra Ciota '13, of Albert Lea, Minn., wants to emulate her father, a doctor. "I identify with that," Alexandra said, "so it was fun to talk about her dreams. It reminded me of when I was dreaming about what I wanted to do with my life."

Many posters had similar themes — love of family, longing for security, and a desire to travel. The Carver students dream of careers as doctors, nurses, writers, fashion designers, teachers, and models, and as college athletes.

They also realized that education is the key to realizing their dreams. "One of the students who had not done well academically was told by her Wartburg partner that to become a fashion designer she had to stay in school, get good grades, and go to college," said Lucy Evans, Carver assistant principal and a 1999 Wartburg graduate. "This midterm her grades were better."

The Wartburg students also got a new perspective. "Having my students do this kind of service-learning gives them real-life applications for the theoretical concepts we talk about," Montgomery said.

"What impressed me most," Evans said, "was the college students' willingness to step out of their comfort zones and build relationships with students who are culturally, ethnically, and probably economically different from themselves.

"The (Carver) students felt a sense of pride to talk about themselves and listen to the college students express their American dreams and the steps they are taking to accomplish them. I believe some of the students' dreams were an extension of what they heard from the college students."

The mentoring and bonding were frequently evident.

Kelsey Church '14 from Grimes was paired with Miracle Amani Myles. Their photos contrasted — a skeleton for Kelsey, an aspiring physical therapist; fully clothed mannequins for Miracle, a future fashion designer. But they had an easy rapport.

"Miracle and I both like to sing," Kelsey said. "That got our conversation going and made her a little more open to me. She had a lot of dreams, so we had to pinpoint one."

"I want to play volleyball. I want to be a fashion designer, and I want to marry a rich man," Miracle said.

"But you can make money, too," Kelsey interjected.

"I know," Miracle replied.

Bella Wilson, a would-be writer, taped Wartburg student Chelsea Brown's mouth shut in her photo, but they were of like mind. "I know what it feels like not to be able to stand up for yourself," Bella said. "I don't want anyone else to feel like that. My American dream is to stand up for everybody who is neglected and suppressed. Because I can say what I want to say, I put tape on Chelsea's mouth."

Chelsea '14, of Vinton, echoed those sentiments in her essay. "When one understands that inequality and diversity exist, it is possible to become an advocate, a teammate, a friend, a volunteer, and an example."

"The American Dream" project was a joint effort sponsored by Wartburg College's Center for Community Engagement, the University of Northern Iowa's Reaching for Higher Ground Initiative, and the Carver Academy Parent Involvement Committee to promote improved literacy among Carver's English Language Learner students.

Zak Montgomery's wife, Sarah, and Sarah Vander Zanden, both on the University of Northern Iowa education faculty, and UNI field experience coordinator Ashley Jorgensen were project researchers with Rudic on what they hope is a groundbreaking effort.

"We're collecting data so we can share these photographs and this data with researchers, teachers, and others around the nation," Zak Montgomery said. "We hope to show the results of doing these projects, the research about diversity strategies and teaching culture, and how to create real dialogues about these issues."
The last name “Sieck” appears in just about every category on the all-time career and single-season leader lists in the Wartburg volleyball record book.

Senior Britlyn, an outside hitter who just ended her four-year career, is the all-time leader in matches played (146) and holds the second spot in kills with 1,828. She was named first-team All-Iowa Conference all four years.

Younger sister Ramey, a junior, who has been the team’s primary setter, currently ranks third in assists (3,055) and ninth in service aces (113) with one season remaining. She is a three-time All-Iowa Conference selection — first team the past two years.

Rather than a sibling rivalry, the Fayette sisters have a certain single-mindedness, which includes their decision to attend Wartburg. Britlyn had offers from division II, but liked the Wartburg coaches and “homey” atmosphere. Ramey attended her sister’s volleyball matches at Wartburg and was hooked. She didn’t look elsewhere.

Ramey had been Britlyn’s setter at different levels — club, high school, and now college — so she never hesitated to direct the ball to her on the outside.

Britlyn estimates that most of her kills come courtesy of her sister’s sets.

If she got in a jam, Ramey said she sent the ball her sister’s way, because “Britlyn’s competitive, and I know her mental capacity in tough situations.”

Ramey, who was named the conference’s Most Valuable Player this past season, was a dual threat. She ran the offense as a setter but also was one of the squad’s top hitters with 264 kills.

The sister combo helped lead the Knights to two NCAA tournament appearances and two Iowa Conference tournament titles during the last three years. This past season, the Knights won the IIAC regular-season title outright, finishing 7-0 in conference play.

“That is my favorite volleyball memory,” Britlyn said. “We hadn’t won the regular-season title since 2002, and it happened on my birthday.”

“Both sisters are a big part of why we won (the conference title),” head coach Jennifer Walker said.
The 2012 Knights also set a school single-season record for wins with a 32-6 mark en route to a No. 15 national ranking.

The pair hauled in an array of post-season honors beyond conference laurels. Both were named All-Region by the American Volleyball Coaches Association and were the only two players from the Iowa Conference to be named Capital One/CoSIDA (College Sports Information Directors of America) first-team Academic All-District.

Ramey also became the program’s third AVCA All-American and first since 2007, while receiving second-team honors.

“This award means a lot because I wasn’t expecting it,” she said. “Receiving it makes me want to work harder because I feel I have to prove that I deserved it.”

Britlyn also has earned three All-American awards as a member of the national championship women’s indoor and outdoor track and field teams in the shot put (indoor and outdoor) and discus (outdoor).

Not only is Britlyn a dual-sport athlete, but she may be competing longer than any other Knight athlete. Volleyball starts in mid-August and track concludes Memorial Day weekend with the national championships.

“I like to compete a lot,” Britlyn said. “I have two weeks off in December. When I didn’t go out for the indoor season my freshmen year, I was so bored. I felt that I needed something else rather than just going to school outside of the volleyball season.”

The sisters make balancing rigorous academics and athletic schedules a priority.

“I like to get things done ahead of time,” said Ramey, a biology major. “I work with my professors to plan ahead, especially in instances of traveling for weekend tournaments.”

Britlyn, a psychology major, echoed her sister. “I hate the feeling that I know I have something due next week, so I’ll just finish the assignment this week.”

Wartburg volleyball has complemented Ramey’s studies and personal growth.

“With volleyball, I have gotten to know myself so much as a person. I also have learned many things that apply to my life outside of volleyball,” she said. “I have found my strengths and weaknesses and learned to use both in a way that helps me accomplish my goals in the classroom and on the court. “I have become more of a leader than I ever thought I could be, through my teammates and coaches pushing me and teaching me the meaning of being a team player and the sacrifices you have to make.”

And she added, “One other important thing I will take away from Wartburg and volleyball is the great relationships I have with my teammates, which are constantly growing stronger and many of which I will have for the rest of my life.”

You can still see the sisters in action. The track season is underway for Britlyn, and Ramey returns for her senior volleyball season in the fall.
1953  Dorothy Bredow Bowen, Anaheim, Calif., received the Living Loehe Award from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, on May 13, 2012. The award recognizes individuals who have given distinguished service to and through the church. Bowen also was featured in an NBC Nightly News segment exploring the benefits of brain-training programs: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/3032619/vp/50078890#50078890

1958 – CLASS REUNION OCT. 10-13  Sharon Jacobsen Britzman, Cedar Falls, retired after 40 years of directing the handbell ministry at Nazareth Lutheran Church.

1960  Ronald and Eunice Keller Christensen, Westbrook, Minn., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Nov. 23. They have lived on the Christensen Century Farm near Westbrook all 50 years.

1962  Patricia Olson Bush, N. Myrtle Beach, S.C., is a dyslexia tutor and dyslexia screening specialist with the Horry County Literacy Council.

1963 – 50th REUNION MAY 23-26

1967  Roger Andersen, Treynor, retired April 4. He was a computer programmer at several companies, including Enron, First Data Corp, American Agrisurance, and Fidelity Insurance Services.

1968 – CLASS REUNION OCT. 10-13  Rich Gaard, Decorah, was named Class 3A Boys’ Golf Coach of the Year by the Iowa Golf Coaches Association after his Decorah High School team won the school’s first state title since 1968. Gaard, who has coached boys’ golf in Decorah for 41 years, also won 3A Coach-of-the-Year honors in 2010 and was named National Coach of the Year in 2007 by the National Federation of High Schools Coaches Association. During his tenure, the boys’ golf team has competed in 16 state tournaments and won 14 conference, 20 sectional, and 11 district titles.

1970  Kari Fretham, Venice, Calif., was named Culver City Teacher of the Year. The 34-year teaching veteran subsequently became one of 16 educators chosen from a field of 71 to receive the Los Angeles County Teacher of the Year award. She teaches language arts and English learning development at Culver City Middle School.

1974  Jay Harms, Oskaloosa, head softball coach at Oskaloosa High School for the past 27 years, was selected by his peers as Iowa’s 2013 nominee for National Softball Coach of the Year. He has more than 700 career victories, is an Iowa High School Coaches’ Association Hall of Fame inductee, and has led his Oskaloosa softball teams to eight conference championships. He served on the Iowa Girls’ High School Athletic Union Advisory Board and is an adviser for the Iowa Girls’ Softball Coaches’ Association.

1975  Nella von Doheren Spurlin, Temple, Texas, received the Outstanding Secondary German Educator award from the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) in November 2011.

1976  Randall Winkey, Arlington, retired June 30 as a teacher and band director. He is doing volunteer support work with the Arlington-Parkersburg and Ackley-Geneva-Wellsburg-Stearnboat Rock bands. He plans to do substitute teaching and part-time work in the Arlington-Parkersburg Schools and assist with area instrumental music programs.

1978 – CLASS REUNION OCT. 10-13  Terry Manning and Kim Bell, Hampton, were married Oct. 6.

1979  Ruth Burrack Carter, Carroll, retired from teaching after 33 years in music education, including 25 years in the Carroll Community School District. She now works as a footwear lead at Kmart.

1980  Jim Drews, Zumbrota, Minn., retired from the Zumbrota-Mazepa School District and now does substitute teaching in several districts.


1991  Lance Schoening, Runnells, is director – product management with Principal Financial Group, Des Moines.


Douglas Hall, Shawnee, Kan., was named assistant men’s basketball coach at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, where he spent the previous three seasons as director of basketball operations.

Wendy Sherer, London, England, is pursuing a master’s degree in broadcast journalism at the University of Westminster, Harrow.


1995  The Rev. Reid Mathias, Gatton, Queensland, Australia, is pastor for the Lockyer Valley Parish. He works half-time with the parish and half-time at Faith Lutheran College, a Lutheran high school, and writes a monthly column, “Little Church on the Prairie,” for the national Lutheran magazine.

Brent Robins, West Des Moines, is director of the Safe School Certification Program, which helps schools throughout Iowa implement a state anti-bullying/anti-harassment law passed in 2007.

Cynthia Billhorn Schmucker, Wichita, Kan., was named the Leukemia Lymphoma Society’s 2011 Woman of the Year, was a 2012 40 Under 40 Honoree, and was one of four Junior League of Wichita members selected to join the Leadership Wichita 2012 Class. She also was promoted to commercial sales manager with Cox Business.

1996  Jennifer Peck Bloker, Denver, is a communications and public information manager with Waverly Light and Power, Waverly.

2013
The Rev. JAY GRAVE, Lake of the Ozarks, Mo., has left the parish ministry to pursue his dream of professional tournament bass fishing. He will be fishing the FLW EverStart Battery Series Central Division and the Circuit of the Walmart Bass Fishing League. He has also opened a fishing guide business, www.gravefishing.com.

PETE KORB, Burlington, earned first place in Top Sales and Top Route Sales for fiscal year 2012 with the Chicago Group of Aramark, qualifying him for a trip to the Lake of the Ozarks, Mo. He is an account manager with Aramark Corp.

DAVE and Jaime LEONHARD, Denver, announce the birth of Maci Ruthie Irene, Dr. Tessa, 5, and Aubree, 3.

TINA NADEMAN STEIF, Farley, is the JK 2nd grade elementary school counselor for Lambert Elementary in the West Delaware County School District, Manchester.

1997
ANNETTE DAVIS EDGREN, Princeton, Ill., and her husband, Spencer, were honored in October as Business Owners of the Year by the Illinois Small Business Development Center at Illinois Valley Community College. They own A Hundred Acres Orchard and Market and The Cider Mill, which offers banquet and wedding facilities.

KIM JASS-ARAMirez, Marion, is branch executive director with the Marion YMCA.

Chris and LISA FAHSENDER LANDSTROM, Bloomington, Ill., announce the birth of Kristin Jane, Oct. 25. She joins Julianne, 3.


Gary and Dr. SACHA RIDDEL LUNDGREN, Madison, Wis., announce the birth of Elliot James, Sept. 2. He joins Tessa, 5, and Aubree, 3.

Dr. AMY MCELHINNEY, Alliance, Ohio, completed her Ph.D. in molecular, cellular, and developmental biology from Indiana University in June 2011. She is in her second year as a tenure-track faculty member in the University of Mount Union biology department.

1998 - CLASS REUNION OCT. 10-13

KYLE and CORRIE MAKS' 99 KNUDSON, Saint Paul Minn., announce the birth of Finn Kyle James, Oct. 30. He joins Maja, 6.

DAVE and Karla MAX, Oslo, Norway, announce the birth of William David, Sept. 26. He joins John, 2. Dave is a student at the Norwegian Defence Command and Staff College.

1999
GABE and Jenni BARK, Marion, announce the birth of Wyatt David, Aug. 25.

Matthew and MABY KLEUNDRE HELLAND, Emmons, Minn., announce the birth of Emily Anita, Sept. 5. She joins Eric, 11, Carrie, 8, and James, 3.

Joseph and Erika BOETTCHER LEE, Sun Prairie, Wis., announce the birth of Zoe, July 16. She joins Adrian Whalley, 8.

JOSH and Jennifer NUNI, Cedar Falls, announce the birth of Veronica Mabel, Oct. 3. She joins Viviane, 6, Valentina, 4, and Victor, 2.

ASHA RHINEHART, Aurora, Colo., is senior accountant with Community Reach Center, Thornton, a mental healthcare facility.

2000
JILL BENSON EASTMAN, Fort Worth, Texas, is director of marketing for Hartman Leito & Boit (HLB), leading the firm’s integrated communication efforts.

ERIC NUSS, Oconomowoc, Wis., earned an M.B.A. degree from the University of Iowa, Iowa City. He is director of consulting with Henry Schein Dental.

RYAN and ALYSSA PIKER RAMSURNEN, Waverly, announce the birth of Landry Noelle, Aug. 4.

David and Dr. SHAHA TEDI TELZER, Shawnee, Kan., announce the birth of Hannah Renee, May 29.

KRISTIN WOLVERTON WOLF and Dr. DAN WOLF 01, Cedar Rapids, announce the birth of Tyler Christopher, Oct. 21. He joins JD, 21.

2001
AARON and MARIAH NOAH 02 COLLMANN, West Des Moines, announce the birth of Parker Keith, Oct. 10.

Bret and KAY BURMEISTER-DAHLQUIST, Ashburn, Va., announce the birth of Callen Jacob, Nov. 19. He joins Braden, 3.

DAVE and Jenelle DEVINE, Shawnee, Kan., announce the birth of McKinley, Nov. 5. She joins Brooklyn, 5, and Addison, 3.

KYLE and Tracy DIRKS, Clive, announce the birth of Logan Paul, Aug. 13. He joins Peyton, 3.

KRISTOPHER FASSLER, Amana, co-founded and serves as chief financial officer for Caijon. The social media company, which began operation in February 2012, uses mobile and web technologies to measure a person’s real life influence.

THERESA FRUBLING, Marion, completed her master’s degree in forensic psychology from Argosy University.

And and ERIN HETRICK-HOHENNER, Navato, Calif., announce the birth of Mare Marie Ann Hetrick-Hohnenner, Dec. 29.

TIM and Lor KASPERK, Iowa City, announce the birth of Bailey Mae, Sept. 24.

BEN LECLAIR, Oldenburg, Germany, is a soloist with the Oldenburg Staatsoper. He will sing in seven operas this season with a total of approximately 100 performances.


BENJAMIN and JANNA SWEDIN THOMPSON, Waterloo, announce the birth of Rocco Allen, Sept. 7. He joins Oliver, 6, and Tripp, 21/2.

2002
LISA BONORDEN and the Rev. Nathan Anerson, Altona, were married Oct. 1, 2011. Lisa is a therapist and assistant clinical director with Afterwards We Care, Des Moines.

AMANDA FRAUEN-HOLZ BROWN, West Branch, is completing a master’s degree in teacher education.

ALYSSA CONNELL and Dr. Cary Rose, Cedar Falls, were married Dec. 12.

DAN and SARAH TUTTLE ‘04 COOPER, Denver, announce the birth of Samson, Feb. 6, 2012. He joins Lily, 6, and Jackson, 3.

Chad and SHANNON PEARSON GEISGNER, Grinnell, announce the birth of Natalie Grayce, Dec. 13. She joins Leah, 3. Shannon completed her Master of Science in adult learning and organizational performance in August 2012 from Drake University, Des Moines.

TOURIDE M’HIR, Tunisia, is the co-founder and human resources director of Xismat Consulting. The company launched Selfstir.com, a free online self-assessment and 360-degree feedback tool targeted to university students and staff members. The social development tool also allows users/students to connect with mentors/coaches.

JAMIE HORTIN and MOLLY UBBER ‘12, Ankeny, were married Sept. 15.

Jeremy and RACHEL SCHWIE PAGE TIPOLI, announce the birth of Odessa Mary Kimm Rose, Oct. 11. She joins Noralie, 15, Austin, 12, Houston, 7, Dallas, 5, and Ableine, 4.

NIKKI RUDJ and Jared Kiser, Rochester, N.Y., were married Nov. 10. Nikki is a morning show anchor at News10 NBC Today.

Daren and JULIE DENNER WESTENDORF, Shell Rock, announce the birth of Beckett Crox Tate, Nov. 23. He joins Braxten, 6, Maddox and Cayson, 4, and Kambree, 2.

HEATHER WHITE, Little Chute, Wis., is a PK–12 literacy coordinator in the Ashwaubenon School District, Ashwaubenon.

2003 – CLASS REUNION OCT. 10-13
Matt and ALENA LUST BAUMAN, Anderson, Ind., announce the birth of Micah Joseph, April 27. He joins Aaron, 8, Nicholas, 7, Grant, 5, and Hannah, 2.

NATHAN and TARA PENA EBERLINE, Shawnee, Kan., announce the birth of Grace Elizabeth, Sept. 13. She joins Lydia, 2. Tara is a partner with Foulston Siefkin law firm, Overland Park.

JILL GERDE, San Diego, Calif., earned her doctorate in clinical psychology in June 2012 from Washington State University following completion of a residency at the University of California—San Diego/ San Diego VA Hospital.

AMY HAMMOND and Luke Looby, Nashua, were married Sept. 22.

Blake and JORDAN DRACKLEY HANSEN, Hudson, announce the birth of Beckett Jay, May 21. He joins Reese, 3.

ANNA JOHNSON and Roland Bedard, Lindstrom, Minn., were married Oct. 5.

Charles and KIMBERLY BACCOCK MASHEK, Waverly, announce the birth of Theodore James, June 20.

MARC and Meredith STOLLE, Pasadena, Md., announce the birth of Adriana Donna, Sept. 1.

Dr. JOEL TUTTLE and Berina Woods, Dallas, Ore., were married Dec. 23, 2011. Prior to their marriage, Joel spent five years as an optometrist with a Lasik surgery center. He ran in the Boston Marathon in 2009, and in 2011 held the one-mile USA Indoor Track and Field Championship title in the Masters 30-34 division.


2004
Dr. KEVIN and Natalie FURNISH, Des Moines, announce the birth of Karsten James, April 5. Kevin graduated in May from AT Still University’s Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Dean and LAURA LENZ LOCHNER, New Ulm, Minn., announce the birth of Reagan Rose, Aug. 31. She joins Logan, 2.

Scott and ANGELA SCHUT SCHAEFFER, Elkhart, announce the birth of Lydia Peacemaker, Oct. 31. She joins Phoebe, 4, and Tobias, 2.

Adam and AMANDA HOER SCHOEN, Issaquah, Wash., announce the birth of Genevieve Jean, March 5, 2012.

JEFF and Holly SINKLER, Johnston, announce the birth of Jackson Joseph, Oct. 23.
CAREY and CARI KINZENBAW PAULI. Cedar Rapids, announce the birth of Chloe Luree, Dec. 10.

JILL ROBERTSON and Kyle Stein, Iowa City, were married Oct. 13. Andy and LINDSAY STEVENSON SCHAAPVELD, Waverly, announce the birth of twins, Charlie Amos and Nora Elaine, Sept. 19. Lindsay teaches sixth grade in the Waverly-Shell Rock Community Schools.

KARA TREBEL, Mount Vernon, was selected by the Corridor Business Journal as one of 40 leaders under 40 who have made a significant impact in their business or community. She was featured in the Oct. 22 issue and honored at an Oct. 23 awards dinner. Kara is director of civic engagement at Cornell College.

BUD WINTER and ASHLEY ROGERS ’08, West Union, were married Nov. 17. Paul and JACQUELYN NOVAK ZILLMAN, announce the birth of Aiden Paul, July 24.

2007


KIRA ELLIOTT and Kristopher Day, Seattle, Wash., were married.

DAN HAMMES, Iowa City, is assistant strength and conditioning coach and director of speed and agility with University of Iowa Olympic sports.

BETHANY HEITER, Cedar Falls, is director of annual giving at the University of Northern Iowa.

JOSEPH HOSKINS and Megan Howell, Waterloo, were married Oct. 6.


DANIEL MCGONEGLE and HEATHER GLASS ’10, Highlands Ranch, Colo., were married Oct. 6. Daniel works for the Federal Reserve. Heather is a pursuing a master’s degree in recreation therapy and management from the University of Illinois.

ERIN MORAN, Windsor Heights, is events and marketing coordinator at the Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines.

JENNA NEUMAN and Heath Weiland, Ellsworth, were married Oct. 13.

LISAAMIE NIELSEN ODEEN, Mason City, is marketing director of North Iowa Community Credit Union.

RYAN and SARAH ARENDASEN ’09 OLESEN, Solon, announce the birth of Emma Zbinden, Nov. 28.

MATT POPOWSKI and Rachel Beal, Asheville, N.C., were married in May 2012. Matt was promoted to public relations and events manager at Chimney Rock, a major tourist attraction at Chimney Rock State Park.

JANEL DVORAK SACKREITER, Rochester, Minn., teaches kindergarten at Primrose School of Rochester.

LAUREN SEMLER-NOLTE and MATT NOLTE ’08, Waverly, announce the birth of Evelyn Christine, June 8.

ROCO AYARD-OGAHA, Fulton, joined Ashford University as associate director of campus student affairs after spending two years in Spain, where she began work on a master’s degree.

KEVIN ESULK. Cedar Rapids, is a financial adviser and registered representative with Eslick Financial Group, Waterloo.

JAKE HELEY and KRISTAL SCHELLENE, Des Moines, were married Sept. 29.

JOE HOEKSEMA and RACHEL OSWALD ’09, Dubuque, were married Dec. 8.

TYLER HUNT. Mason City, was promoted to assistant general manager at Buffalo Wild Wings, Cedar Falls.

Steve and BREI ASPENSON JOHNSON, West Des Moines, announce the birth of Winnie Mae, Oct. 18.

KATHERINE KNOTSEN and Colin Atkinson, Milwaukee, Wis., were married Oct. 6. Katherine is a career development counselor at Mount Mary College.

ASHLEY STEINER LANSING and JASON LANSING ’09, DeWitt, announce the birth of Paxton Lee, Oct. 28.

Dr. CASSIDY and KAYLA GUNLOGSON ’09 LONG, Des Moines, announce the birth of Kendra Rae, Jan. 13.

ELIZABETH MARTIN and Knowlin Velstal, Grand Rapids, Mich., were married Sept. 8.

LINDSEY BEGEMANN MULLENBACH, Center Point, graduated with distinction from Capella University in September, earning a master’s degree in public health with an emphasis in health management and policy.

LISA NOWELS and NATHANIEL MALDONADO ’12, Austin, Minn., were married Dec. 1.

BRADLEY SCHMITT and BRITTANY MELLOY ’11, Sumner, were married June 16.

Dr. JESSICA WILBERDING and Adrian Suarez, Omaha, Neb., were married Sept. 1. Jessica completed her Doctor of Dental Surgery degree in 2012 from the University of Iowa, Iowa City.

EMILY BRADBISHAW, is the assistant manager of Memorial Union Catering at Iowa State University, Ames.

SHANNON MCBABE and Nathan Hermanson, St. Paul, Minn., were married Oct. 12.

abby MOENK, Monticello, is a Jumpstart kindergarten teacher with the Central Community School District, DeWitt.

JENNA PETRSON. Rotterdam, N.Y., graduated in May with an M.A. degree in history museum studies. She is assistant curator/educator at the Schenectady County Historical Society, Schenectady.

KRISTAL PHILLIPS and Ryan Rupp, O’Fallon, Mo., were married Sept. 8.

RACHEL PICKINKE and Jon Zinanti, Lakewood, Colo., were married in September.

JESSI PREUSSNER, Blacksburg, Va., is program manager for the Remember Serve Learn Initiative at Virginia Tech.

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

MARGARET CROFT RUNAAS. Ainsworth, is a full-time faculty member at Iowa Wesleyan College, Mount Pleasant, where she teaches piano and music theory. She is pursuing a D.M.A. degree in piano performance and pedagogy at the University of Iowa, Iowa City.

SYDNEY WILLIAMS, Washington, D.C., is marketing coordinator with the law firm of Bean, Kinney & Korman, P.C., Arlington, Va.

2010

KATIE CAIN and Joe Lange, East Dubuque, III., were married Oct. 20.


JUSTIN KROGMANN and MEGHANN BAUMANN ’11, Austin, Minn., were married Sept. 1.

ERIK LUTZ, Dubuque, is co-manager of US Bank, Asbury.

STEVE MARTIN, Iowa City, is an accounts receivable clerk with West Music Co., Coralville.

BRYAN ODEEN, Mason City, is media coordinator for Nazareth Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls.

NIKOLE RIEMER and Mathew Poock, Cedar Falls, were married Oct. 13.

2011

LAURA BARKEMA, Brighton, Mass., is a reader and information services librarian at the Boston Public Library, Boston.

CARSTEN and ERIN SAVARESE EARL Decorah, announce the birth of Keegan William, Jan. 9.

KENTON ENGELS, Cedar Falls, teaches eighth-grade social studies at Peet Junior High in the Cedar Falls Community School District.

DAN GROSSER, Waterloo, completed a Master of Social Work degree in August from the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls. He is a clinical social worker with the Black Hawk Grundy Mental Health Center, serving students in the Waterloo school system.

CHRIS GUSTAT, Farley, teaches physics and chemistry at Beckman Catholic High School, Dyersville.
JOHN HELGERSON, DeKalb, Ill., is an assistant wrestling coach at Northern Illinois University.

ALEX HELMICH and MEGAN FUERSTENAU, Davenport, were married July 7.

JACEY HEUER and JESSICA STADLER, West Des Moines, were married Sept. 15.

JACOB HINRICHS and MOLLY ANDERSON ’12, Kasson, Minn., were married Nov. 10.

JANET HUEBNER, Readlyn, is manager of the Wartburg College Bookstore, Waverly.

DAVID LAUGHLING and LAURA GEHRING ’12, La Crosse, Wis., were married Aug. 18.

GABI MILLER, Chicago, III., is a scout coordinator with NCSA Athletic Recruiting.

NATHAN RAMTHUN, Fort Dodge, teaches eighth-grade mathematics in the Fort Dodge School District.

CASEY ROSE and Marta Belhil, Minneapolis, Minn., were married Sept. 22.

NATHAN WELSCH, Grapevine, Texas, is a communications director with Hunt Sports Group, Dallas.

2012

EMILY BARCLAY, Ames, is a graduate student in Spanish education at the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls.

AMBER BAUER, Winterset, is a customer service clerk with Hy-Vee, West Des Moines.

ELIZABETH BRINZA, Lansing, is a substitute teacher with the Eastern Allamakee Community Schools.

CHRISTOPHER BUCKINGHAM, Cedar Falls, is a group leader with Target Distribution Center.

AARON CHRISTIANS, Waverly, is an orthopedic medical student at Rocky Vista University, Parker, Colo.

ANGELA CHURCH, Cedar Rapids, is a bookseller at Half-Price Books.

KYLE CREED and KRISTA FREDRICKS, Cedar Rapids, were married Aug. 18.

ALEXIS ECKMAN, Cedar Rapids, is a plasma center technician with Baxter.

REBECCA FAGERLUND, Waverly, is a graphic designer at Advantage Screenprint and Embroidery, Waterloo.

TREVOR FINCHAMP, Los Angeles, Calif., is an editor for Black Light Films.

DEANNA FLOOD, Janesville, is a graphic designer with Mendelson & Associates, Los Angeles, Calif.

JOY GIBSON, Waverly, completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in August from Allen College, Waterloo. She is a registered nurse at Allen Hospital.

STEPHANIE HABERER, Geneva, Switzerland, is an au pair.

2013

JEREMIAH HARRIS, Peosta, is a student engagement facilitator at Dubuque Senior High School, Dubuque, and a graduate student in school counseling at the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls.

ELIZABETH HILTON, Blooming Prairie, Minn., is an audiovisual specialist with Hormel Foods Corp., Austin.

KYLE JAEGER, Ferryville, Wis., is a retreat host at Sugar Creek Bible Camp.

ALYA KIRACOF, Dubuque, is registered nurse in the pediatric department at Medical Associates Clinic.

JESSICA MACAULEY, Cedar Rapids, is a lab technician with DuPont/Genencor.

ADAM MUHAMMAD, Hartley, is a process operator at Valero Energy Corp.

BRETT MULKEY, Mason City, is a part-time Certified Nursing Assistant at the IOOF Nursing Home.

AISUN NICOLL, Fort Worth, Texas, is assistant minister to junior high youth at University Christian Church.

KENDALL PLATT, Cedar Falls, is an assistant manager with Aeropostale.

ALISON SCHAEFER, Clear Lake, is a registered nurse at United Hospital, St. Paul, Minn.

REGAN SCHWARTZ, Story City, is a loan servicing specialist with Wells Fargo, Des Moines.

LACEY SNYDER, Waukee, is a substitute teacher with the Waukee Community Schools.

AL STRAIN and Danielle Yeadon, Owatonna, Minn., were married Aug. 11.

KELSEY TEUEL, Iowa City, teaches second grade at Lone Tree Community School, Lone Tree.

EMILY TIMMERMANS, Wayzata, Minn., is a graphic designer/administrative assistant at the Wayzata Country Club.

KATHERINE TJEERDSMA, Sioux Falls, S.D., is enrolled in the accelerated nursing program at the University of Sioux Falls.

THOMAS ULMANN, Tipton, is a high school substitute teacher with the North Iowa Community School District, Buffalo Center.

TAYLOR UMLAND and MALYNYA RYAN, Waterloo, were married Sept. 1.

HOPE VONZINDEREN and Sean O’Neill, Sitka, Alaska, were married June 9.

MICHELLE WELSH, Claremont, Minn., is an elementary resource teacher with the Triton Public Schools, Dodge Center.

MATT WIEBKE, Waterloo, is a graphic artist with Mudd Advertising.

WALKER WILSON, Clear Lake, is a 911 communications officer with the Cerro Gordo County Sheriff’s Department, Mason City.
Optometrists in training at the Indiana University School of Optometry have been sporting Wartburg pins to remember a late colleague and friend.

Aaron Wernimont ’09 was in his third year at the School of Optometry when he suddenly stopped breathing and died last March from an undetermined cause.

Wernimont, from Pocahantas, transferred to Wartburg in 2007 from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He became both a three-time All-American wrestler and an Academic All-American, winning his last 80 matches and NCAA Division III titles in 2008 and 2009.

Victoria Prichodko, Wernimont’s classmate at the Indiana University School of Optometry, remembered him as one of the “smartest” and “kindest” people she knew.

“Aaron always had a smile on his face, asked the best questions in class, and was everyone’s best friend,” said Prichodko, president of the Indiana University Optometric Student Association. “He knew how to make you feel special.”

Prichodko and her other classmates wanted to remember their friend in a special way.

“We wanted to have a part of Aaron with us every day when we are at the clinic,” Prichodko said. “As optometry interns we are required to wear white coats when we work in the clinic, and we decided a great way to have Aaron right by our side was to wear his undergrad’s pin.”

A School of Optometry student contacted Jane Lindner, Wartburg office coordinator for alumni and parent relations, to ask if Wartburg had lapel pins. The timing was perfect because the office had just ordered newly designed pins.

Each member of the Indiana University School of Optometry Class of 2014 now wears the Wartburg pin as well as most of the doctors working in the clinic.

“We wanted to honor and remember him in the way that we knew him the best as a future clinician,” Prichodko said.

“They are continually asked why they are wearing the pins,” Lindner said. “Their answers result in telling stories about Aaron.”

The School of Optometry honored Wernimont with a 5K run last fall. With the proceeds, students will plant a tree in his memory in April next to the school.

Additionally, due to the many donations received, the Indiana University School of Optometry Class of 2014 has started a $500 scholarship in Wernimont’s name.

“[It] will be given every year to a second-year optometry student who exhibits strong skills in the classroom, in the clinic, and is kind and outgoing among classmates,” Prichodko said.

“It is a truly beautiful and loving gesture on the part of his classmates,” Lindner said. “Aaron touched so many people in his short life and that will continue in the stories they tell about him.”

“Since they have been wearing the pins they are continually asked why they are wearing them, and all their answers result in telling stories about Aaron.”

– Jane Lindner
IN MEMORIAM

1932
The Rev. REINHARD BECKMAN, Syracuse, Neb., died Jan. 19 at the Good Samaritan Nursing Center. A graduate of Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque, he served churches in Nebraska for more than 50 years and spent seven years as administrator of the Good Samaritan Center. After retiring in 1979, he did part-time public relations work for Oak Indian Mission in Oklahoma, served 13 congregations as interim pastor, and worked part-time at a funeral home. In 1983 he became mission developer/pastor of Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Palmyra, serving there 10 years on a part-time basis. He held numerous leadership roles in the Central District of the American Lutheran Church, was Protestant chaplain at Boys Town in Omaha, played a leading role in organization of the Great Plains Lutheran Federation, and served on the National Board of Directors for the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society, including five years as president. A member of the Syracuse Chamber of Commerce, Park Board, Handibus committee, and Otoe County World of Aging Board, he also assisted with transportation and meals for elderly.

1936
ELMER W. KRETZSCHMAR, Cheyenne, Wyo., died Nov. 18, on his 100th birthday, at Cheyenne Regional Medical Center. He began his career as a teacher, principal, and coach at Plainfield, Iowa. After serving in the U.S. Army during World War II, he became superintendent of schools in Waucoma and earned a master’s degree in school administration from the University of Iowa. In 1950, he was recalled to active duty in the U.S. Air Force. Upon retiring as a lieutenant colonel in 1968, he became dean of the Evening College at Texas Christian University, Fort Worth. After retiring from that position, he spent 12 years as a part-time teacher at Tarrant County Junior College and began course work for a doctoral degree in education at the University of North Texas in Denton. In 2009, he became the oldest person ever awarded a Master of Education degree atUNT and received the university’s first Lifetime Achievement Award for his scholarly activities in education. He was inducted into the Wartburg Athletic Hall of Fame in 2005.

1937
ELMER MAAS, Parkston, S.D., died Nov. 29 at Tripp Good Samaritan Society. He spent 15 years as director of equalization for Hutchinson County before becoming South Dakota’s first Certified Assessment Evaluator in 1962. From 1970 to 1974, he was director of equalization for Yankton County, then became senior appraiser and regional field man for the State of South Dakota until his retirement in 1984. He was an outdoorsman, hunter, and active church member.

1938
The Rev. ERWIN H. KNITT, Brazoria, Texas, died May 19. A graduate of Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, he was ordained in 1941 and served congregations in California before entering the U.S. Army. As a military chaplain, he was stationed in Washington state, Austria, Germany, and Fort Hood, Texas. After leaving the Army, he served congregations in Texas and participated in prison ministry in Huntsville.

1939
ANNA OLINE COOPER, Forest City, died Oct. 11 at Muse Norris Hospice Inpatient Unit, Mason City. Prior to her marriage, she worked as an air controller in Birmingham, Ala., and Atlanta, Ga. After marriage, she and her husband lived in Des Moines and Forest City. She was active in many areas of her church.

The Rev. ALFRED W. DOERFLER, Seguin, Texas, died Feb. 12, 2010. He served congregations in Kingsville, Mason, Corpus Christi, Bellair, and Denhawken, Texas.

1941
WILMA WITTE HAMANN, Garnavillo, died Aug. 2 at Guttenberg Care Center. She farmed with her husband and taught school in National, Farmersburg, and Guttenburg. She completed her bachelor’s degree at Upper Iowa University in 1973, was an active member of the Republican Party, and a past district president of the American Legion Auxiliary.

1942
LAVON WATSON ROEPKE, Aurora, died Sept. 13 at University of Iowa Hospitals in Iowa City. She worked with her husband on their farm and was active in her church.

1943
The Rev. ROBERT WIERDAAFENDERS, Dubuque, died Oct. 22 at Ennoble Skilled Nursing and Rehab. He served in the U.S. Army Horse Cavalry during World War II, traveled to India to serve in a finance office, and was part of a jungle recovery unit in Burma and Thailand. After the war, he earned a Bachelor of Divinity degree at Wartburg Seminary and a Master of Sacred Theology degree at the University of Chicago Theological Seminary. He served Lutheran congregations in Illinois for 12 years, then moved to Dubuque, where he was archivist for Wartburg Seminary and what is now Region 5 of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America from 1964 to 2008. He helped organize the Lutheran Historical Conference and served as its president from 1972 to 1974. He was a board member and past president of the Dubuque Rescue Mission and active in the Dubuque Historical Society and Dubuque Area Congregations United. He was honored to officiate and assist representatives of the Meskwaki Tribe at the reburial of Chief Peosta. In retirement, he joined French Colonial Studies and edited a historical database, *The People of the American Midwest;* to 1803. His biography of Julien Dubuque was included in *Plumbing the Depths,* a book published in 2006.

1947
MARIE “MICKEY” HANFF BOGAS, Dubuque, died Oct. 30 at Luther Manor. A graduate of Finley Hospital School of Nursing, she worked in the operating room and entered management at the Polyclinic Hospital in New York City. She returned to Dubuque to manage the Finley Hospital operating room and also taught nursing for many years. She was a member of the Finley Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association.

The Rev. ALVIN PINKE, Bullhead City, Ariz., died Dec. 8. Survivors include his wife, Delores Loots Pinke '49. He served in the U.S. Army from 1945 to 1946 and was acting sergeant major at Itazuke Army Air Base in Japan after the Japanese surrender. He spent 47 years teaching high school biology, physics, and chemistry in the Monona schools, followed by 17 years as a substitute teacher. He was a golf coach, swimming pool manager, baseball umpire, and assistant softball coach. After retiring in 1987, he spent 10 years as an emergency medical technician. He was a member of the American Legion, VFW, started a Boy Scout Explorer group, served on the Monona Cemetery board and the town zoning committee, and was an active member of his church.

1948
ARTHUR F. MATTHIAS, Bellevue, Wash., died Jan 19. He earned a graduate degree from Iowa State University, Ames, and was employed as an engineer at Boeing Aircraft Company from 1943 until his retirement in 1987.

1949
The Rev. GERARD “JERRY” KOEHLER, Spearfish, S.D., died Sept. 18 at David M. Dorsett Health Care Center. He earned a Master of Divinity Degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary, was ordained in 1952, and spent 37 years as a pastor in South Dakota. After retirement, he served 13 years as an interim pastor and supply preacher. He supervised seven interns and served on multiple synod and state committees, several as chairman. Survivors include his wife, Roberta Kamper Koehler ’50.

AUDRA PETERS JAKOBER LEHMANN, Dubuque, died Jan. 18 at University of Iowa Hospitals, Iowa City, of complications following cancer-related surgery. She lived in Minnesota and North Dakota during her first marriage to the Rev. Roland Jakober and was severely injured in a 1959 car accident that killed him and their daughter. After her recovery, she moved with her two sons to Waverly and completed the Wartburg teacher education program in 1962. She taught first and fifth grades in the Waverly-Shel Rock School for 13 years until she remarried in 1975 and subsequently lived in Des Moines, Ottumwa, and Dubuque. In addition to teaching, she worked as a hospital chaplain, church organist, and coordinator for Hospice of Wapello County, Ottumwa. She was an active volunteer who served on conference and district boards for Iowa Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Stephen Ministry, Hospice of Dubuque and Finley Hospital. She is survived by her second husband, the Rev. Robert Lehmann ’51.

LORETTA DORNBUSCH SUHR, Sun City, Ariz., died June 10. As a teacher, her career spanned 40 years and included schools in Great Falls and Bozeman, Mont., Cheyenne, Wyo., and Independence, Iowa. She earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Wyoming and a master’s degree from Montana State University.

GLADYS TONN, Waterloo, died Nov. 12 at Cedar Valley Hospice Home. She taught fifth and sixth grades for more than 45 years at schools in Corwith, Postville, and Waterloo. She earned a master’s degree in education from the University of Northern Iowa.

1950
WALTER A. “GUS” BEGALSKIE, Monona, died Nov. 18. He served in the U.S. Army from 1945 to 1946 and was acting sergeant major at Itazuke Army Air Base in Japan after the Japanese surrender. He spent 47 years teaching high school biology, physics, and chemistry in the Monona schools, followed by 17 years as a substitute teacher. He was a golf coach, swimming pool manager, baseball umpire, and assistant softball coach. After retiring in 1987, he spent 10 years as an emergency medical technician. He was a member of the American Legion, VFW, started a Boy Scout Explorer group, served on the Monona Cemetery board and the town zoning committee, and was an active member of his church.

WARTBURG MAGAZINE 29
MERWIN BRIGGS, Waverly, died Oct. 31 at Allen Memorial Hospital, Waterloo. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and earned a master's degree from the University of Northern Iowa. He was a teacher and assistant principal in the Davenport Community Schools from 1955 to 1988 and worked with Community Based Health Services for lower-income women in Davenport. He was a member of the Cedar Prairie Group of Sierra Club.

The Rev. HAROLD W. BUENTING, Currite, Ohio, died Nov. 29. After earning a Master of Divinity degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary, he served in congregations in Indiana and Michigan and was senior pastor at First St. John Lutheran Church in East Toledo, Ohio, for nearly 25 years. After his retirement in 1996, he served as interim pastor for congregations in the Toledo area. He was a board member of the Lutheran Home and Society and Luther Home of Mercy and an interfaith chaplain at Sacred Heart Home.

EUGENE ‘GENE’ DIEMER, Missoula, Mont., died Jan. 31 of natural causes. He served in the Coast Guard during World War II and was trained as a sonarman to hunt submarines. After earning a degree in civil engineering at Marquette University, he worked as a civil engineer in Rhinelander, Wis., Spokane, Wash., Helena, Mont., Portland, Ore., and Missoula. In 1976, he began a second career as a peatmoss and gardener, selling vegetables and later flowers at the downtown farmers market until 2010. He also started and maintained a bouquet delivery route. He is survived by his wife, L’Vonne Heiken Dierer 49.

ALICE EGGIMANN LEHMAN, Montgomery, Minn., died July 26 at Traditions of Montgomery. She was a social worker. Active in the American Legion and VFW auxiliaries and her church, she also was a proud 30-year member of Take Off Pounds Sensibly! Keep Off Pounds Sensibly.

1951
E. MAE PETERS PEARSON, Elmhurst, Ill., died Dec. 9. She attended Drake University and the Milwaukee Deaconess Hospital School of Nursing. After marriage, she was active on a number of community boards and president of the Elmhurst League of Women Voters. In 2007, she was the first recipient of the Elmhurst Historical Museum’s Alden F. Bates Jr. Award for Outstanding Service, recognizing her service as president of both the museum and the Museum Foundation Board. She was also involved with her church.

JOANNE SCHMITT WENZLER, Brookfield, Wis., died Sept. 10, 2010.

1952
LOIS WUSTRACK STINDT, Markesan, Wis., died Oct. 22 at the Markesan Resident Home. She was a homemaker and an active member of her church in Fairwater, where she was past president of the church women, superintendent and teacher for the Sunday School, and director of the children’s Christmas pageant.

1953
The Rev. DELMAR NIEMUTH, Urbandale, died Nov. 11 at Mercy Medical Center, Des Moines. He was a graduate of Wartburg Theological Seminary and completed a Master of Pastoral Education Program at hospitals in Portland, Ore., and Des Moines. He served mission congregations in Oklahoma City, Okla., and Kansas City, Mo., and was on the founding board of directors for Metropolitan Lutheran Ministry in Kansas City. From 1978 to his retirement in 1986, he was pastor of St. Peter Lutheran Church in Grimes and involved with the local Lion’s Club. Survivors include his wife, Madeleine “Lynn” Baudot Niemuth ’56.

1954
EDWARD F. CHEZIK, Waverly, died Dec. 3 at Clarksdale Skilled Nursing and Rehab Center, Clarksdale. He farmed in partnership with his father and was later a coin broker until illness forced him to retire. He served in several positions at Burton Avenue Baptist Church, Waterloo, and First Baptist in Waverly.

ARDETH SEEHAASE RAMSEY, Vinton, died Nov. 23 at Mercy Medical Center, Cedar Rapids. She was a career teacher and earned a bachelor’s degree from Upper Iowa University in 1965. She taught in Raito, Calif., and in five Iowa school districts, including Arlington, Bellevue, Oelwein, and Vinton. She was an active member of her church and involved in many clubs and organizations.

1956
The Rev. DR. ROBERT F. GRAF, Cedar Falls, died Jan. 11 at Elizabeth Martin Health Center of the Western Homes Communities. A graduate of Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, he served congregations in Missouri and Kansas before his retirement in 1999.

1957
JOHN M. CHEZIK, Overland Park, Kan., died Nov. 13 at his home. He was drafted by the St. Louis Browns after his high school graduation and played professional baseball for five years, ending his career in 1957 with the Lake Charles Giants in Lake Charles, La. In 1966, he opened his first car dealership, a Buick franchise in Kansas City. Throughout his 46-year career, he owned and operated many award-winning dealerships in Kansas before he purchased and owned an Iowa City dealership with football legend Earl ‘Two Headed’ Dawkins. He was a six-time Honda President’s Award winner. An avid duck hunter and member of Ducks Unlimited, he was inducted into the Water Fowlers Hall of Fame in 2004 in Mound City, Mo. Survivors include his wife, Sharon Folkerts Chezik ’58.

KATHLEEN BROCKA KRULL, Cedar Falls, died Sept. 23 at Allen Memorial Hospital, Waterloo, of cancer. After completing her teaching certification at Iowa State Teachers College, she taught in the Geneseo Schools and then at Orchard Hill Elementary in Cedar Falls, where she retired in 1986.

AGNES “PEG” BORCHARDT LARSON, Litchfield, Minn., died July 31 at Meeker Memorial Hospital. A graduate of Fairview Hospital School of Nursing in Minneapolis, she worked as a registered nurse in hospitals, clinics, and nursing homes in Minnesota and North Dakota, and as parish nurse at Zion Lutheran Church in Litchfield. She served on the Meeker County Community Home Board of Directors and the Augastana Home and Hospice Care Advisory Board. She was a Hospice volunteer, active in the Parish Nurse Network, and facilitated the Alzheimer’s Memory Loss Support Group and Parkinson’s Support Group. She was active in the American Legion, the V.F.W. Auxiliary, and her church.

THOMAS E. ROGERS, Elk Grove Village, Ill., died April 23, 2009. A polio survivor, he spent his career in logistics. He was a leader in scouting and in his church, where he also sang in the choir.

1958
DOLORES M. ULIJJE, Madison, Wis., died Oct. 10. She earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her 35-year teaching career started in Denver, Colo., and continued in Madison, Wis., where she taught at Shorewood and Crestwood elementary schools until her retirement in 1993. She was involved in sports as a fan and a participant in Greater Madison Sports for Active Seniors. She was an usher at the Madison Civic Center and Overture Center, a frequent traveler, and a faithful member of her church.

CAROLYN SCHEER McCASKY, Crescent City, Ill., died Nov. 13 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. She shared in ministry to three Lutheran congregations in Illinois with her husband, the Rev. Wilbur McCasky ’56, who survives her. She also worked at Carle Clinic Chemistry Lab in Urbana.

1960
DEAN C. ENGRECHT, St. George, Utah, died July 24 in Las Vegas from a traumatic brain injury, the result of a fall while walking in his neighborhood. He was a graduate of Trinity Evangelical Theological Seminary, Columbus, Ohio, and earned a Master of Social Work degree from Ohio State University. He began his career at Oesterlin Children’s Home, Springfield, Ohio; served as director of residential treatment at Lutheranwood in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, was director of social work at the North Dakota State Hospital, Jamestown; and retired in 2007 from Elgin Mental Health Care, Elgin, Ill., where he was a forensic social worker.

1961
Dr. LARRY L. BECKLEY, Crossville, Tenn., died March 10, 2012, at Benson, Ariz. He earned a master’s degree in elementary administration from Winona State College in 1963 and a Ph.D. in education administration from Purdue University in 1972. He began his career as a classroom teacher at the seventh- and eighth-grade levels and coached boys and girls sports. He served as an elementary school principal, assistant superintendent for administration, and superintendent of schools in several Illinois school districts, retiring in 1991 as superintendent of the Elmhurst Park Unit District. After moving to Crossville, he was part-time superintendent for the Etowah School District and an adjunct professor at Tennessee Technological University until his retirement in 2006.

LORRAINE HEMKEN ERSICKSON, Great Bend, Kan., died April 20, 2012, at Great Bend Regional Hospital. She served as parish worker for the American Lutheran Church in several Midwestern states, then as Pawnee County appraiser until her retirement.

JO ANN SCHMIDT YOSS, Clarksville, died Jan. 20 at Floyd County Memorial Hospital, Charles City. She taught in the Plainfield School for six years and spent 29 years as a home economics and family parenting teacher in Clarksville until her retirement in 1990. She completed gradate classes at the University of Northern Iowa and also did college research for Iowa State University. She was a Sunday School superintendent and Women’s Fellowship member at her church, a Girl Scout and 4-H leader, and a 52-year member and past-president of the Clarksville chapter of P.E.O.

1962
MARRY S. MIXDORF MELSTED, Sioux Falls, S.D., died Jan. 19 at Sanford Hospital from numerous complications following surgery in October. She served as a parish worker in Houston, Texas, and Eau Claire, Wis., and as secretary for the Department of Parish Education for the American Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. After her marriage, she lived in Ridgecrest, Calif., where she directed both vocal and handbell choirs and sang in the Cerro Coso Community College Choir. Before moving to Sioux Falls in 2011, she also lived in Dubuque; Albert Lea, Minn., where she served as chorale director and secretary at East Freeborn Lutheran Church, and Lakota.
developed her horticulture skills into a business of the same name. She moved to Utah in 1968 and completed a degree in education and health and coached football and basketball until his retirement in 2003. He spent several years as a player/manager with the Clyman Canners baseball team and was active in his church, where his grandfather had served as a pastor in the early 1900s. Dr. LYNN A. JOENS, Tucson, Ariz., died Nov. 16 of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. He was a professor and research scientist at the University of Arizona Department of Veterinary Science and Microbiology, where he began working in 1981. He earned a master's degree from Drake University in 1974 and a Ph.D. from Iowa State University in 1977.

MARY ANN SCHLANGE REES, Castle Valley, Utah, died Jan. 7 following an accidental fall in her home. She moved to Utah in 1968 and completed a degree in anthropology at the University of Utah. Later she developed her horticulture skills into a business of restoring landscapes to their natural habitat.

1963

LEON G. SCHADE, Marshalltown, died Oct. 5 while on vacation in Jakarta, Indonesia. Together with his wife, he owned and operated the Best Western Regency Inn, Comfort Inn, and EconoLodge over the last 30 years and had recently retired. He was a Rotarian, an avid Iowa Hawkeye athletics fan, and I-Club member.

1964

RUTHANNE JOENS BELL, Campobello, S.C., died Nov. 8. She began her professional career as a teacher in Iowa. She also served as a librarian and real estate agent before becoming a licensed social worker. She earned a Master of Social Work degree from the University of South Carolina in 1989 and worked as a counselor at Greer Mental Health and the Family Counseling Center before opening her own private practice, Petham Psychotherapy. She was an active member of her church and involved with God’s Pantry and Meals on Wheels.

1965

DARLEEN SICKERT, Des Moines, died Oct. 13 at Iowa Health Hospice Taylor House. She graduated from Allen Memorial Hospital Lutheran School of Nursing in Waterloo and became an RN in 1947. After working as a hospital staff nurse and an office nurse, she completed a Bachelor of Science degree in public health nursing administration and supervision and a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Minnesota. She became assistant director in 1969 and director in 1978 of the Public Health Nursing Section, Department of Public Health, Iowa State Department of Health. Following her retirement in 1988, she completed the Clinical Pastoral Education Program at Iowa Lutheran Hospital and served as parish nurse for seven years. She was president of the Iowa Citizens’ League for Nursing, 1972-74; the Iowa Public Health Association, 1974-75; and was a committee member, chair, and representative for several other professional organizations. She was a member of the executive committee at Bremwood in Waverly and elected to the Allen Nurses’ Hall of Fame in 2002. Her volunteer activities included Living History Farms, Stork’s Nest, Red Cross disaster team, and Friendship Force of Greater Des Moines. She was also active in her church.

1968

JOHN P. STUEBER, Watertown, Wis., died Dec. 11 at University of Wisconsin-Madison Hospital of a ruptured brain aneurysm. He earned a master’s degree in physical education at Winona State College and spent his entire career as a junior high and high school educator in Watertown. He taught physical education and health and coached football and baseball until his retirement in 2003. He spent several years a player/manager with the Clyman Canners baseball team and was active in his church, where his grandfather had served as a pastor in the early 1900s.

1969

Dr. LYNN A. JOENS, Tucson, Ariz., died Nov. 16 of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. He was a professor and research scientist at the University of Arizona Department of Veterinary Science and Microbiology, where he began working in 1981. He earned a master's degree from Drake University in 1974 and a Ph.D. from Iowa State University in 1977.

1970

REBECCA BOHLE WERNER, Stockton, Ill., died Jan. 9 from injuries sustained in a farm accident. She was a business teacher at Stockton High School for five years and spent 32 years at Highland Community College, where she received the Part-time Faculty Excellence Award in 1996 and the Full-Time Faculty Excellence Award in 2007. She earned a Master of Education degree from National Louis University in 1997. She was an active member of her church and was serving as chapter co-president of Delta Kappa Gamma at the time of her death. Survivors include her husband, Jeff Werner ’70.

SANDE J. NELSON, Gowrie, died July 1 in Des Moines. After her marriage in 1975, she lived in Minneapolis, Des Moines, and Gowrie.

1972

JOHN D. BAUMANN, Madison, Wis., died Oct. 10. He volunteered at Care Wisconsin.

1973

GEORGE H. MILLER, Waco, Texas, died Dec. 8 after a battle with cancer. He was a Chartered Life Underwriter and received his JD degree from Gonzaga University School of Law, Spokane, Wash. He had worked at Texas Life Insurance Company since 1983.

1974

EVELYN GREENLEE BARTLETT, Waverly, died Oct. 11 at Bartels Lutheran Retirement Community. She worked for the Shell Rock Post Office from 1942 to 1944, then taught at Hilltop School. After earning her bachelor’s degree, she spent the rest of her career with the Denver Community Schools, where she taught junior high school for two years and second grade for 26 years. She retired in 1986.

1975

THERESA M. THOMPSON KRATCHMER, Shell Rock, died Jan. 26 at Allen Hospital, Waterloo. She had worked for the City of Waverly, the Big 10 Mart, and Lutheran Services of Iowa Bremwood campus, all in Waverly.

1977

PHILLIP A. BAUER, Naples, Fla., died Jan. 3 at Physicians Regional Medical Center in Pine Ridge, Fla. He spent more than 30 years as a registered nurse before health issues forced him to take early retirement.

1980

JANICE L. EVEN RAMTHUN, Lake Mills, died Oct. 29 at Mayo Clinic Health System in Albert Lea, Minn. She was employed at 3M in Forest City until her marriage, then lived in Palm Springs, Calif., before returning to Lake Mills in 1998 and working in the Lake Mills Community School cafeteria.

1986

SANDRA STUDTMANN HANS, Eagle Lake, Minn., died Jan. 25, 2012, at Methodist Hospital, Rochester. She began her career as a staff accountant at McGladey & Fullen, CPAs in Champagne, Ill., then moved to Louisville, Ky., to work for Deloitte & Touche, CPAs. She returned to hometown of New Ulm, Minn., in 1991 and was a manager for Biebl, Ranseiler, Christiansen, Meyer, Thompson & CO, CPAs until 2004, when she became an engagement specialist for LarsonAllen LLP. She was named assistant finance director for Steele County in 2011. She was a member of the Minnesota Society of Certified Public Accountants, American Society of Certified Public Accounts, and Minnesota Governmental Finance Officers Association and was licensed by the Minnesota State Board of Accountancy. She was a local leader for Boy Scouts, a volunteer at the Mankato and New Ulm BMX tracks, a Day of Caring volunteer, and a Relay for Life participant.

1987

DAWN SIMON COFFMAN, Auburn, Maine, died Aug. 31 at Androscoggin Hospice House. She taught music at several Iowa and East Coast schools from 1991 to 2001 and occasionally served as church choir director. Survivors include her husband, Dr. David L. Coffman ’89.

FORMER FACULTY AND STAFF

CURTIS LAU, West Burlington, Wartburg assistant men’s basketball coach from 1997 to 2004, died Oct. 25. After earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in education from North Park University in 1992, he was a teacher and coach in the Postville Community School District, at Community Lutheran School in Readlyn, and in the West Burlington School District. He retired in 2010 from West Burlington Elementary. Alumni survivors include his mother, Betty Lau ’54.

RUSSELL ROSSUM, Waverly, who worked in the Wartburg Food Service during the 1980s, died Oct. 1 at Allen Memorial Hospital, Waterloo. A graduate of Luther College, he also worked at Fred’s Super Value in Waverly and as a bus driver and custodial assistant in the Waverly-Shell Rock School District.

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
In 1852, Pastor Wilhelm Löhe sent Georg Grossmann and five students from the Bavarian village of Neuendettelsau to Saginaw, Mich. His charge: To start a teacher's college to provide instructors for the growing number of schools operated by the Lutheran churches he had established in the Michigan wilderness.

From this modest beginning would come Wartburg College and Wartburg Seminary. The histories of those two institutions are well documented. Unfortunately, relatively little information has been available in America about Löhe.

Thanks to the scholarship of Professor Erica Geiger and the translation skills of Pastor Wolf Knappe, American readers have a comprehensive and highly readable biography of one of the truly great Lutheran leaders of the 19th century.

Among Löhe's accomplishments:

- He originated the school that became Wartburg College.
- He started Wartburg Theological Seminary.
- He led the effort to restore the Lutheran Church in Bavaria to a firm confessional basis.
- He trained and sent dozens of pastors to America to serve German immigrants.
- He built a host of charitable institutions in Neuendettelsau.
- He established the deaconess movement in Bavaria and other parts of the world.
- He was responsible for organizing the Lutheran Church in Australia.
- He sent the missionaries who established the Lutheran Church in New Guinea.
- He was instrumental in the founding of the Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod.
- His followers started the Iowa Synod, the church body that operated Wartburg College and Wartburg Seminary.
- He had a major impact on Lutheran liturgy.
- He was a prolific author and amazing fundraiser.

He did all this while serving as the parish pastor in Neuendettelsau, a community of a few hundred souls.

Geiger is outstanding in providing a better understanding of this man who never set foot in America, although his impact is still felt today.

By relying on his letters and other sources, we get to know Löhe as a beloved parish pastor; a widower at an early age, struggling to raise four children, while coping with financial problems that often beset clergy and enduring a variety of illnesses.

The book has some shortcomings:

- Pastor Brian Sanders, president of the Iowa District East of the Missouri Synod notes, “There is precious little about the Missouri Synod.”
- Löhe’s influence in North America is helpful, but relatively brief. While the author notes Grossmann came to America to start a teachers college, there’s no mention it became Wartburg College.
- A companion volume is needed to detail his lasting impact on the Lutheran Church in North America.

For the Wartburg family, the book provides interesting information about the college’s founder. The author’s dedication is to her father, Bishop Herman Dietzfelbinger, who received a honorary doctor of divinity degree from Wartburg College in 1957.

Harold Kurtz ’58 lives in New Brighton, Minn., and is the author of nine books.
Wartburg College Charitable Gift Annuities — A ‘Win-Win’ for You and Wartburg

For a minimum gift of $10,000, Wartburg College will return a portion of your gift to one or two persons as a lifetime income. Benefits include:

- Attractive payout rates based on your age(s)
- A portion of your income is generally tax-free
- Capital gains tax advantages when using appreciated assets
- A charitable income tax deduction for itemizers
- The satisfaction of investing in the work of Wartburg College

“Charitable gift annuities are a ‘win-win’ for both the college and me. They will provide Wartburg with future funds, and they also provide me with some additional income in my retirement. I’ve funded several gift annuities with the college, and they’ve just been great for me.”
– Grayce Hartman ’60

Return the attached reply card for your FREE Charitable Gift Annuity illustration!

### CURRENT SAMPLE ANNUITY RATES

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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

SAVE THE DATES

**APRIL**
17 – RICE Day, Campuswide

**MAY**
23-26 – 50 Year (’63) Reunion
18 – Chicago Cubs Outfly

**JUNE**
6 – I-Cubs Outfly, Des Moines
11 – Twin Cities Area Outfly
12 – Mason City Area Outfly
15 – Cedar Rapids Kernels Baseball Game and Fireworks

**JULY**
10 – Appleton, Wis., Area Outfly
11 – Wausau, Wis., Area Outfly
21-27 – RAGBRAI
31 – Des Moines Outfly

**AUG.**
1 – Ames Outfly
6 – Chicago Outfly
7 – Cedar Rapids Outfly
14 – Black Hawk County Outfly
15 – Waverly Outfly
25 – Denver, Colo., Outfly

**OCT.**
4-6 – Family Weekend
10-13 – Homecoming
Wartburg students and adviser Anne Duncan on the Winter Break service trip to New Orleans formed the “fan tunnel” for the Los Angeles Lakers at the start of their March 6 game against the New Orleans Hornets at New Orleans Arena. The Hornets selected the students for the honor.

“It’s a real testament to how much the people of New Orleans still appreciate people coming down here and helping with the rebuilding,” said Duncan, Wartburg’s sustainability coordinator. “The Hornets learned why we were here and appreciate what we’re doing to help people in the community.” The Lakers rallied from a 25-point deficit to win and reward their newfound fans.