

Wartburg

M A G A Z I N E



WARTBURG'S
MAYO
CONNECTION



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If you have suggestions for stories in the *Wartburg Magazine* or comments about the content, contact Emily Christensen, editor and news director, at emily.christensen@wartburg.edu.

Wartburg

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ON THE COVER:

Wartburg's Mayo Connection
Wartburg graduates are making
an impact at the Mayo Clinic.
Photos by Julie Drewes '90.

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Wartburg College is dedicated to challenging
and nurturing students for lives
of leadership and service as a spirited expression
of their faith and learning.

TRANSCRIPTS:

To obtain an official college transcript, contact the Registrar's
Office or complete an online request form
at www.wartburg.edu/academics/registrar/trreq.html.
There is a \$5 fee per transcript. Requests must include maiden
and all married names used, as well as birth date and/or Social
Security number. Enclose return address
and payment with the request.

WARTBURG

— IN THE NEWS —

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323 receive diplomas at Commencement



Wartburg College presented diplomas to 323 graduates from 20 states and 13 countries at its 162nd Spring Commencement May 25, with another 10 expected to graduate through August. Fifty members of the Class of 2014 graduated in December.

Derek Norton '14, a biochemistry major from Prior Lake, Minnesota, and a Dean's Honor Cord recipient, delivered the student address.

The college honored as outstanding high school teachers Joe Link, who teaches language arts, speech, and theater arts-related courses at Jefferson High School in Cedar Rapids, and Tanya Lemburg, a life sciences teacher at Williamsburg High School.

Class of 2014 graduates **Justin Cervantes** of Cedar Rapids and **Chantel Knepper** of Williamsburg nominated them for influencing their education.

Ernsting is new vice president for academic affairs



Dr. Brian Ernsting has been named Wartburg College's vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty, effective Aug. 1. He had been assistant vice president for academic affairs at the University of Evansville, a 2,643-student institution in Indiana with strong ties to the United Methodist Church.

Ernsting earned his bachelor's degree in German and cellular and molecular biology from the University of Michigan, where he completed his Ph.D. in biological chemistry and cellular and molecular biology. He chaired Evansville's regional reaccreditation committee, led an outcomes assessment, and worked to implement a revised general education core.

"He brings a wealth of experience and expertise from his many years at the University of Evansville," Wartburg President Darrel Colson said. "Like me, he's a 'convert' to the model of education we practice in liberal arts colleges, and he brings the zeal of a convert with him."

"Wartburg has a long tradition of deep and integrative learning in the liberal arts and sciences, and I am excited about being a part of that tradition," Ernsting said.

Sopdie recognized by Clinton Foundation



Daniel Sopdie '14, of Cameroon, was named one of "Five Black Students to Watch in 2014" by the Clinton Foundation.

Sopdie was recognized by the organization founded by former President Bill Clinton, which cited "a new generation of black change-makers poised to impact urgent issues."

Sopdie spoke at the Clinton Global Initiative University conference March 21-23 in Phoenix. He was joined by **Linda Nkosi '14** of Swaziland. Together with **Aseya Kakar '14** of Afghanistan, they used a Clinton grant last summer to set

up biogas digesters at a Swaziland refugee camp in southeast Africa, converting animal and plant waste into methane as a sustainable energy source. All three are Davis United World College Scholars.



Linda Nkosi



Aseya Kakar

Wartburg Choir sings in historic Venice cathedral

The Wartburg Choir performed during high Mass at the legendary Basilica de San Marco in Venice, Italy, during its eight-country international tour April 26-May 21.

Dr. Lee Nelson, associate professor of music, Patricia R. Zahn Chair in Choral Conducting, and director of choral activities, said the program honored the legacy of the cathedral's foremost Renaissance composers—Giovanni Gabrieli and Claudio Monteverdi, and their German pupil Heinrich Schütz, whose compositions influenced Johann Sebastian Bach.

The choir also traveled elsewhere in Italy and to Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Austria, France, Turkey, and Germany, where it connected with the college's roots. Unbeknownst to the choir, its performance in Modra, Slovakia, raised €875 (more than \$1,200) for the local orphanage.

In addition, the choir was one of 14 to perform at the six-state North Central division of the American Choral Directors Association's conference in Des Moines March 19-22, selected on the basis of a peer-review blind audition using submitted recordings.

Larson receives R.J. McElroy Fellowship



Courtney Larson '14 was one of two students to receive an R.J. McElroy Graduate Fellowship—up to \$30,000 paid over three years. Larson, a biology major with an environmental science minor from Plymouth, Minnesota, plans to pursue a Ph.D. in ecology and entomology at Michigan State University.

"Field work, especially that involving aquatic ecosystems, has been a highlight of my Wartburg experience. I love working outdoors," Larson said.

Her research focus will be on the interactions between aquatic insects and microbes. She gained critical research lab experience working with Dr. Roy Ventullo, biology professor and director of undergraduate research.

Wartburg gets Silver sustainability rating

Wartburg College received a Silver rating from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, which assesses the sustainability efforts of more than 300 colleges and universities.

Wartburg was the sixth institution of higher education in Iowa to seek a STARS rating and received the highest score of any non-regents institution. AASHE has Platinum (never awarded), Gold, Silver, and Bronze levels. The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System covers curriculum, cocurricular activities, strategic plan, research, building and grounds,

purchasing, greenhouse gas emissions, and dining services and investments, among other things.

Wartburg had a near-perfect score in cocurricular education, which includes faculty and student initiatives.



Wartburg is No. 2 in service trips

Wartburg earned a second-place finish in the 2013-14 Break Away National Chapter Survey recognizing colleges that promote alternative break options for students. This year, 245 students (14.2 percent) served on one or more of the 24 trips hosted by the Service Trips program during the college's breaks. Only Rollins (Florida) College had more with 15.71 percent. Wartburg was No. 1 in 2009-10.



Wartburg student media win awards

The *Trumpet* won the Society of Collegiate Journalists' Overall Excellence Award for weekly newspapers, among six honors for the *Trumpet* and a dozen overall for Wartburg student media during the 2013 judging period. Wartburg Television stories took first through honorable mention, while *The Circuit*, the online news source, had two second-place awards.



The judges praised the *Trumpet* for its "excellent job" on "tough stories" about Adderall, stress, financial aid, sex offenders, and enrollment, as well as lighter stories in the Knightlife section.

Wartburg Television won first place for *Wrestling Cut from 2020 Olympics: Wartburg's Reaction*, by **Shelby Granath '13**.

Wartburg student media won nine Eric Sevareid Awards, including one for first place, from the Northwest Broadcast News Association and five awards in the Upper Midwest chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences student production contest.

Knight Vision, which began broadcasting sports events last year, took a first-place Sevareid Award for Best Sports casting.

Journalists from Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Nebraska, and the Dakotas competed for the honors. The Sevareid

Awards honor the pioneering CBS newscaster, a North Dakota native and University of Minnesota graduate.

Wartburg student media won 23 Iowa College Media Association awards, including first place for Best Newscast (Wartburg Television staff); Storytelling (**Ben Hoppenworth '13**); and Short Documentary, Short Film, and Best Variety Show (The Outlet).



Manders named Cedar Valley leader



Jenna Manders '15 received the Gordon Mack Award for Student Leadership at the 10th annual Cedar Valley Nonprofit Awards April 16. Manders, a business administration and sociology major from Dubuque, had served two years as student director of Teen Trust, a Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa program promoting youth philanthropy. Each year, the board of high school students allocates \$10,000 to nonprofit agencies in Black Hawk County.

Manders served as the Wartburg College Service Trips student director and assistant director of Wartburg College Dance Marathon.

Community Builders honored

Community Builders' adult volunteers received the 2014 Partnership Award from Iowa Campus Compact recognizing individuals and groups for deepening and strengthening community engagement. Iowa Campus Compact, a coalition of college and university presidents, promotes the public and civic purposes of higher education.

Community Builders, part of Wartburg's Institute for Leadership Education, brings together Wartburg leadership students, Waverly-Shell Rock and St. Paul's Lutheran School sixth-graders, and a committed group of community-minded adult volunteers to discuss and share what it takes to build a sense of local and global community and the value of doing so.

Wartburg recognizes retirees

Wartburg saluted these retirees during its annual Milestones Recognition Event May 23:

- Dr. Jane Andrews (2001-13), professor of music
- Dr. Roberta Bodensteiner (1993-2014), Dr. Cheryl O'Brien (1985-2014), and Dr. Susan Sherwood (1990-2014), professors of education
- Terri Meier (1997-2013), administrative assistant, Human Resources and Payroll
- Linda Smith (1991-2014), campus visit coordinator, Admissions Office
- Jim Ohmstede (2003-14), broadcast engineer
- Joan Richmann (1989-2014), Betty Dreesman (1995-2014), and Marian Melcher (1996-2013), housekeepers



President Darrel Colson visited Nigeria in May.

President Colson visits school in Nigeria

President Darrel Colson traveled to Nigeria in May for the dedication of the Wartburg Science Laboratories at Nobelhouse College. **Chief Olatunde Abudu '56** founded the college four years ago to "educate the next generation of world-class leaders." The dedication coincided with the launch of a 10-year capital campaign. **Robert Vogel '56**, former Wartburg College president, serves on the Nobelhouse College Board of Visitors. Abudu founded the law firm Abudu, Dalley & Co. in the capital of Lagos, near his birthplace of Abeokuta, where the college is located. He has chaired the Indo-Nigerian Merchant Bank, Ltd., which sought to boost Nigerian agriculture with loans to small farmers, and has been a leading industrialist and philanthropist.

LAW AND ORDER: WARTBURG

WARTBURG COLLEGE'S PRE-LAW PROGRAM had a landmark year in 2013-14.

In the fall, Karen Thalacker '88 was officially named pre-law adviser.

A practicing attorney in Waverly, Bremer County magistrate, and senior lecturer in law at Wartburg, she already had assumed many duties of the position previously housed in academic departments and career services. Her advising includes mentoring, visits to law schools, and an on-campus Law School Admission Test preparation class.

In the spring, Wartburg and the University of Iowa College of Law agreed to a "3+3" partnership. Students could begin law school at Iowa after three years of coursework at Wartburg if they meet the requirements, including the qualifying LSAT score. First-year law school courses at Iowa would count as credits at Wartburg, so students would graduate with their Wartburg class after beginning the three-year law school curriculum.

The partnership will save a year's tuition for students and let them enter the workforce earlier. "We are responding to concerns about the overall student debt and the time it takes to get a degree," said Gail Agrawal, dean of the University of Iowa College of Law.

Abhay Nadipuram '10, a 2013 graduate of the Iowa College of Law and a former Wartburg student body president, brought the parties together.

"I worked very closely with Dean Agrawal and President (Darrel) Colson," said Nadipuram, a practicing attorney in Cedar Rapids.

"I look up to both of them as role models, excellent leaders, and generous people who constantly try to make student life better."

"We know (Wartburg) students have the rigorous intellectual foundation and leadership skills that enable them to excel in law school," Agrawal said.

"We believe the best way to prepare our students for law school and the legal profession is to provide a top-notch liberal arts education," Thalacker said. "We want them to study what they are most passionate about, while also focusing on critical thinking, written and oral communication, and leadership skills."

The pre-law students have a dedicated mentor in Thalacker as pre-law adviser.

"I've helped students with personal statements, LSAT preparation, and informally advised them through their law school and legal careers," she said. "I think everyone recognized that we need to



make sure we are giving our students the best information we can about how to transition from Wartburg to law school to a legal career and understanding all the resources available to them."

Thalacker teaches Constitutional and Business Law courses, wrote *The New Lawyer's Handbook: 101 Things They Don't Teach You in Law School*, is KWWL's legal analyst, and contributes to huffingtonpost.com.

She also advises the Spalatin Society pre-law club, named after George Spalatin, a 16th century legal adviser to Frederick the Wise of Saxony in Germany, who advocated providing protection for his friend Martin Luther at the Wartburg Castle.

"What I love about incorporating advising and teaching is that I can employ all the experiences I've had," Thalacker said.

Well, not quite all. She is a Best of Show winner in hand knitting at the Iowa State Fair and has written two "Gigi Knits" books that have won gold and silver medals.

A 1991 graduate of Drake University Law School, she began her legal career as a prosecutor in the Black Hawk County Attorney Office, where she met her husband, Peter Newell, now a Second District associate judge. Their daughter, Ella, one of four children, is a Wartburg student.

Criminology/criminal justice concentration added to sociology



Wartburg's distinctive imprint will be on a new criminology and criminal justice concentration being added to the curriculum.

"It's the liberal arts perspective of criminology with the more preprofessional perspective of criminal justice," said Dr. Mark Biermann, dean of the faculty when the concentration was approved. "You bring those programs together, and they fit very well within the ethos and context of Wartburg."

Dr. Shaheen Munir, professor of psychology and chair of the Department of Social Sciences, and Dr. Dan Sundblad, assistant professor of sociology, will shepherd it.

"There has been interest within the department, particularly among the sociology students," Munir said. "Our coaches indicated that prospective student-athletes had expressed interest in criminology, law enforcement, and criminal justice. Nationally, this area of study is rapidly developing."

"I am particularly excited about the concentration," Sundblad said. "It allows us to expand our course offerings in the major and offer a unique focus for students. The additional courses are likely to have campus-wide interest and contribute to other areas of study."



Sociology majors will choose either a criminology and criminal justice or general sociology concentration. Criminology and criminal justice will include existing sociology courses and new ones to be developed. Students also will take political science and psychology courses.

Field experiences, internships, and career preparation will be emphasized.

Newly hired Dr. Brian McQueen, assistant professor of sociology, criminology, and criminal justice, will teach existing courses Fall and Winter terms, and add new ones for the concentration during Winter and May terms. He has a Ph.D. in sociology from Washington State University, with specializations in political sociology, social policy, and complex organizations.

"The criminology/criminal justice emphasis focuses on the causes of crime and deviance and society's formal and informal responses," McQueen said. "Students majoring in sociology with an emphasis in criminology/criminal justice will be well prepared for a wide variety of careers in the quickly changing field of criminal justice or for further study at the graduate level."



Jim Ohmstede

Ohmstede calls it a wrap

Broadcast engineer Jim Ohmstede literally has made things work—at KWWL in Waterloo and, for the past 11 years, at Wartburg College. Ohmstede, who retired in August after nearly 50 years in broadcasting, was responsible for fixing and maintaining the newly renamed Department of Journalism & Communication's TV and radio equipment as well as working with students and faculty to run the equipment and solve technical problems. He discussed his experiences with associate professor Cliff Brockman:

Dr. Penni Pier, our department chair, is fond of saying you can fix anything, sometimes with baling wire and gum. How do you keep things running so well?

Sometimes equipment is no longer available. If there's a broken part, for example, I'll find a used piece of equipment on the Internet. I'll take their junk and "cannibalize" it to get the parts I need. It's part of the job, taking things apart and putting them back together. It started at an early age. We had a cow knock a radio off a shelf (on the farm where he grew up in Nebraska) and I asked my dad if I could have it. I soldered it back together, and it worked. I've always been curious about how things work.

You've worked with a lot of students at Wartburg. What's that been like?

It's a lot like working with your own kids. It takes a whole lot of patience. You have to provide a lot of guidance and get used to repeating a lot of things. The most satisfying part is to watch their growth. Most of them come in knowing very little, and then they are able to walk out of here into a job, in some cases a good-paying job.

Besides working with students, what has been your favorite part of the job at Wartburg?

I like solving problems with equipment and computer systems. Usually it's a problem created by the user and can take a lot of detective work. Sometimes you have to figure out how to break something to fix it. In other words, you have to duplicate the problem to solve it.

Read along with the Wartburg community

The common reading for new Wartburg Knights is *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley. Students will be discussing the book in their IS 101 classes Fall Term, and other members of the Wartburg community are invited to read along. *Brave New World* was written in 1932 but addresses many themes that are still relevant today, including the nature of happiness, influence of technology, and tension between individuality and conformity.

How can you get involved?

Have your book club read and discuss *Brave New World* sometime this year. Encourage your alumni group to read the book, then plan a get-together to discuss. If no one is nearby, find a few Knights online willing to read along with you.



going
BATTY

3.4
BILLION

of the world's
population—
are at risk
of malaria.

660,000
died from malaria in 2013.

90% of the world's
MALARIA DEATHS
occurred in Africa.

ONE BAT

can eat **1,000 mosquitoes** in a single hour:





WINGS OF THE NIGHT

by Saul Shapiro

TYLER VOGEL '17 ASKS TO BE FORGIVEN for his “bat babble” during an interview. The biology major from Oelwein was gushing nonstop about how winged rodents can reduce malaria.

Vogel, Ana Julante '17 of Angola (a Davis United World College Scholar), and Isaac Chikuse '16 of Malawi can be quite persuasive on the topic. In March they convinced judges at the Clinton Global Initiative University conference at Arizona State University to invest \$5,000 in their “Wings of the Night” project to unleash mosquito-eating bats to fight malaria in Malawi.

Forget mosquito nets. They're opting for full predator mode, while envisioning bats as possible cash cows, using guano (bat droppings) as a highly valued fertilizer and protecting a species in decline on the continent due, in part, to insecticides.

An animated Vogel described his “eureka moment” for fighting malaria.

“I'm a biology major, so I'm looking up stuff, and I thought about an animal adaptation,” he recalled. “After I did some research, I asked, ‘What about bats?’ They said, ‘Bats!’ But it really



Tyler Vogel



Ana Julante



Isaac Chikuse

paid off for us. It has a sustainability element, it's not too expensive, and it's a native species helping people, helping bats.”

Thousands of students annually submit ideas to CGIU, founded by former President Bill Clinton “to engage the next generation of leaders on college campuses around the world” by “coming together to discuss and develop innovative solutions to pressing global challenges.”

Only 1,200 get conference invitations, and that's culled to 24 projects selected for the grant competition. For the second consecutive year, Wartburg College was a recipient.

A year ago, Davis Scholars Linda Nkosi '14 of Swaziland, Daniel Sopdie '14 of Cameroon, and Asey Kakar '14 of Afghanistan received \$6,000 for five biogas digesters to convert animal and plant waste into methane, providing fuel at a refugee camp in Swaziland in southeast Africa.

For Julante and Chikuse, the issue of malaria struck home. Both were afflicted with it.

“Ana was telling us that she slept in mosquito nets,” Vogel said. “In the Angola sun, it can get up to 100 degrees, sometimes even until night. You may not want to sleep in a mosquito net when it's creating a sauna effect. So people have to make a choice: Am I going to protect myself or be comfortable?”

“We found this species of bats that can eat more than 1,000 mosquitos—insects in general—per hour and can be effective in fighting malaria,” Julante said. “Like birds, we can attract them to specific locations as long as we have the right conditions and habitat.”

“There's science behind it, but there's also a degree of luck,” Vogel added. “We want to limit that luck as much as possible. Once they find a place to roost, they'll stay there indefinitely. Some bats live as long as 20 years.”

The students plan to work with bat conservation groups in Malawi. Chikuse also must convince residents in his native land that these bats will be benign. While 70 percent of bats eat insects, the species gets

“You may not want to sleep in a mosquito net when it's creating a sauna effect. So people have to make a choice: Am I going to protect myself or be comfortable?”

— Tyler Vogel '17

a bad rap—beyond Transylvanian and African folklore—because of bloodsuckers and fruit-eaters that carry diseases.

“A main chunk of this is educating the villages that bats are good,” Vogel said. “It's important when we're building our house that we only get the correct bats—the insectivorous ones, not the fruit-eating ones.”


“If we build the bat house in a specific way—maybe a bigger one in a higher position—people won't have direct contact,” Julante said. “Even if they can see the outside of the bat house, they cannot see what's inside. Plus, bats are nocturnal animals. When they eventually come out, people won't be around.”

A bat byproduct may contribute to economic development.

“There's a large market for guano,” Vogel said. “It is one of the best fertilizers you can get naturally. There's a way to install the bat house where you open a slot and the guano falls out. You can sell that or use it for agricultural purposes in the village, which would create disposable income.”

The grant provision, Vogel said, is for “\$2,500 out front and \$2,500 later” after papers are completed. The project is estimated at \$10,000 overall and will include a fundraising effort.

“The resolution grant is sort of a seed foundation to build upon,” he said. “They provide us with a mentor, resources, and connections, which is a big deal and may help us get more money. It makes us an organization to be taken seriously.”

Biology professors, Drs. Michael Bechtel and Jennifer Maxwell, helped the students execute the particulars of the plan, while Kacee Garner, the office coordinator in business administration and economics, assisted with their presentation. 



Anne Epley Birtwistle and Kwabena Owusu-Amoah are the two leads for the Hecuba Group.

DREAMS COME TRUE

Students win MIT contest against hefty competition

by Saul Shapiro

IT'S A STORY WORTHY OF A HOLLYWOOD SCRIPT. *Out of Africa* meets *Field of Dreams*, complete with an all-star cast.

A young man from Ghana is on a mission to save mothers who die all too frequently in childbirth in his native land. His plans coalesce at Wartburg College.

Kwabena Owusu-Amoah '15 witnessed the heartbreak beyond the numbers—350 women out of every 100,000 perishing in childbirth in Ghana (a higher rate in rural areas), according to the U.N., compared to 25 in developed countries.

His mother worked with the World Health Organization in Ghana and elsewhere, focusing on maternal mortality issues. He often worked alongside her, witnessing the tragedies.

His father, a Pentecostal minister in Ghana, urged him to attend an American college with a religious affiliation. He did his research at a U.S. embassy. He came to Wartburg to build his dreams.

A biology and economics major, he worked as a public health intern at Franklin General Hospital in Hampton, gaining more insights into health care delivery. He knew what didn't work at rural facilities in Ghana. "They have mobile health centers where they bring equipment into the villages and give them maternal care for a week, and then they'd be out. So the problem is not going to stop."

At Wartburg, he became intrigued by the concept of social entrepreneurship—"ideas that are sustainable, not just charity"—but knew he couldn't realize his dream alone.

ASSEMBLING A CAST

Owusu-Amoah enlisted some of the best and brightest of his fellow students—a mix of American and African students representing the pertinent disciplines—to aid the cause. Dr. Jennifer McBride, assistant professor of religion and Regents Chair in Ethics, became the adviser.

"The students from Africa know a lot about the problem and together with their counterparts from America are able to write proposals and talk to organizations," Owusu-Amoah said.

As befitting an all-star assemblage fighting social ills, they needed a name. They called themselves the Hecuba Group after a Trojan queen in Greek mythology with 19 children.

The Hecuba Group regularly brainstormed, devising innovative plans and pursuing grants. A \$10,000 Davis Project for Peace grant would enable it to build a two-room clinic in rural Oyibi on land Owusu-Amoah had convinced village rulers to donate. The Ghana Health Service agreed to provide a health worker. The Charisbel Health Service (the health charity arm of a Pentecostal Church in Ghana) helped subsidize an ultrasound machine.

CASTING THE FEMALE LEAD

Anne Epley Birtwistle '16 of Mason City, the only biology major in the group, joined Owusu-Amoah in Ghana during the summer to initiate the clinic project. She plans on pursuing a career in medicine and has volunteered on medical missions overseas and at home since she was 13.



HECUBA
GROUP

MISSION

Hecuba entrepreneurs are committed to rendering their skills and intellect to the socio-economic advancement of developing countries.

DESCRIPTION

The Hecuba Group is a conglomerate of initiatives and organizations advancing innovative solutions in the fields of health, energy, agriculture, and entrepreneurship.

"I knew this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. If a female were not involved in the project, I think that the community health outreach programs would not be as successful," Epley Birtwistle said.

"Outdated cultural practices and beliefs held by rural women contribute to the high number of maternal deaths in the region," she added. "One such belief forbids expectant mothers from attending formal health facilities. Instead, local midwives, who are lacking in formal training, assist during childbirth. Our plan to combat this issue involved incorporating community health outreach programs and taking quality health care to the doorsteps of those who require it."

The Hecuba Group had broader aspirations. It wanted to develop a healthcare software application, Obaa 2.0 ("honorable woman" in Ghana), so doctors in cities could monitor the health of the women.

"The irony is that even though people in these rural areas don't have access to health care, clean water, or proper sanitation, they all have cell phones," said Owusu-Amoah, citing a high penetration of flip-phones.

"When a community health officer visits a woman at the clinic or their home, they would take the basic information about their pregnancy and health history—all the vital information a doctor needs to know—and put it into the app," he continued. "The app would organize the details, which would be presented to doctors in urban areas."

Doctors would examine women virtually—based on data and photos—and send recommendations back to the community health officer.

THE DRAMATIC SHOWDOWN

Now cut to the Big Game that could put Hecuba on the entrepreneurial map as it seeks funding for the application.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Global Startup Workshop is billed as the "world's premier workshop" dedicated to "building entrepreneurial ecosystems globally," bringing together business, education, and government leaders to support "next-generation entrepreneurs."

Among hundreds of applicants, the Hecuba Group was selected to make its pitch for Obaa 2.0. It would be David versus the Goliaths—the likes of Harvard, Yale, Dartmouth, and Stanford—when the finalists arrived in Marrakech, Morocco, to compete for the \$20,000 grand prize in late March.

Owusu-Amoah represented the Hecuba Group. All the finalists had mentors to polish their pitches. He rehearsed with Othman Laraki, co-founder and president of Color Genomics and a former Twitter vice president. The initial assessment was not good.

"He was pretty blunt with me," Owusu-Amoah remarked. "He told me that was not a winning presentation."

Cue the violins for impending disappointment. Could Owusu-Amoah's pitch be salvaged when he took center stage amid stellar competition?

The "ghost" of an icon would provide inspiration.

"(Laraki) made me watch presentations by Steve Jobs and told me, 'When you go up on stage, take your time. For at least six seconds, just walk across the stage. The audience will be in suspense thinking, what's this guy going to say?'"

"And then," Owusu-Amoah continued, "I said, 'Ladies and gentlemen, what I'm going to do is introduce you to an app that will change healthcare delivery across the world!'"

"As soon as I said it, I got applause from the crowd, just as he predicted."

Pause for a few suspenseful minutes as the high-powered panel of judges deliberates.

Its verdict: 1. Wartburg. 2. Harvard 3. Dartmouth. 4. Stanford.

EPILOGUE: IT'S ONLY THE BEGINNING

The MIT victory includes use of a Boston office for a year, the opportunity for up to five members of the team to live on the MIT campus with a \$1,500 monthly stipend for up to three months, connections with Boston-based entrepreneurs and MIT alumni, and mentoring by MIT professors and lecturers.


The MIT folks will help Hecuba form a board of directors, assist with legal work, and advise it about possibly going public in five years.

The app, though, still must be monetized.

"(Laraki) gave me a question to figure out," Owusu-Amoah recalled. "How can we make health delivery social? It's social entrepreneurship, which means it's not really nonprofit. We need cash flow."

Owusu-Amoah isn't lacking ideas. "The women who receive a benefit through the app are going to pay for it through their cellphone companies. The cellphone companies will reimburse us, although the service will be really, really inexpensive. It's also going to be covered by insurance companies."

Expect a slew of sequels.

"Our goal is to build the world's largest social enterprise, right out of Wartburg College, in all aspects," Owusu-Amoah said. "For our first year of existence, we've been able to pull this off, so we're pretty confident that we can do more in the future, although we're not expecting it to be all rosy and sweet. We've gotten grants here and there, but mostly we've learned how to build a social enterprise. We want to help as many people as possible all across the world." 

THE CAST OF HECUBA CONTRIBUTORS



photos by Sibusiso "Charles" Kunene '14 and Olaniyi Omiwale '15

Sibusiso "Charles" Kunene '14, Swaziland, communication design; Madison Stumbo '15, Boone, business administration; Olaniyi Omiwale '15, Nigeria, computer science and communication design; Jenna Manders '14, Dubuque, business administration and sociology; Kathryn Ross '16, Littleton, Colorado, economics; Yuk Teng Chan '14, Tanzania, business administration and economics; Ryan Shields '15, Iowa City, economics and business; Oxana Protchenko '14, Russia, history, a Davis Scholar; (not pictured) Shalom Nwaokolo '13, Nigeria, economics and math.

WARTBURG COLLEGE

2014 YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS

Zirra Banu '11

Working for peace in West Africa

by Saul Shapiro

WHEN HYLADZIRRA "ZIRRA" BANU '11 OF NIGERIA was named Miss ECOWAS Peace Ambassador (pageant motto: "Beauty with Brains") in December 2012, Internet commentators gushed, calling her "dazzling" and "intelligent."

"She is one lady of a kind with an overflowing resume," wrote a smitten blogger after Banu was selected to represent youths in the 15-nation Economic Community of Western African States, which pursues "economic integration."

Her resume included numerous service trips and a \$10,000 Davis Projects for Peace grant with countrywoman Chikemma Nwana to drill for clean water in Nigeria while at Wartburg, where she also was in student senate, was a Wartburg Television director, interned at the Washington (D.C.) Center, and worked in Marketing & Communication. She graduated cum laude with majors in international relations and political science and a minor in communication arts.

After graduation, Banu gravitated toward new media as a New York-based editor for hellokpop.com, a South Korean entertainment site with an international audience; editor for Face2FaceAfrica.com, a Pan-African media group; and social media coordinator for Museum Africa.

She returned to Nigeria in 2012 for the traditional year of national youth service, working as an ECOWAS communication assistant, but not envisioning the pageant.

"I never had considered something like that," Banu said. "Because the meaning of this pageant was to support development and intellectual work, I decided to do it."

She put into practice what she learned in college.

"While I was at Wartburg, I realized I could change things by going on service trips, volunteering, doing mission work, and also with the Davis Project for Peace grant," she said. "If I saw a problem, I could actually build a bore hole for clean water. That really changed my viewpoint about how I could contribute as a young person."

She told the ECOWAS Commission in May 2013, "I'd like to use this platform to improve the lives of people, to get things done at a grass-roots level, to create more opportunities for young people, and to promote all that ECOWAS is doing throughout the region. And this, to me, is not just all talk."

Zirra's Projects

I Luv West Africa, a social media campaign addressing language and culture divisions among the French-, English-, and Portuguese-speaking countries in ECOWAS. In that regard, she cited fashion as a unifying force. "West African fashion is employing a lot of young people. There's a whole concoction of art from West African countries that's really bridged our language and cultural differences."

Curbing the spread of HIV/AIDS and malaria with the help of the ECOWAS health office and promoting CPR "because far too many people die choking or drowning."





Her focus was on some basics.

"Education is not accessible to a lot of people," she said. "The quality varies. Very few can pay more to get the best quality education, and those that can often are shortchanged."

"Water is the essence of everything," Banu continued, "because if people don't have water, they won't be thinking about getting an education, which is essential if someone isn't going to be left behind."

She co-founded the DorcaSapel Foundation to boost education. The foundation donates books, visits orphanages, and collaborates with larger organizations that "allow children to channel their talents in a positive way."

She cited concerns—well before the kidnapping of Nigerian female students became an international incident—"with young people being used to promote conflict. We have this issue with religious extremism with a (Islamic militant) faction in the north, Boko Haram, that recruits young people."

Banu will finish work on her master's degree in international relations and economics at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Baltimore after spending 2013-14 at its Bologna, Italy, campus.

As for career goals, Banu said, "I hope to be able to work with organizations like ECOWAS or the U.N. I don't see really myself in political role, but in a role with projects that contribute to a societal effort."



Providing clean water. More than 100,000 Nigerians annually succumb to diarrheal deaths, according to the World Health Organization.

Banu and Nwana's Water for Life Nigeria—an outgrowth of their Davis project—initiates independent projects and helps write grants.

The DorcaSapel Foundation to boost education via book donations, orphanage visits, and multi-organization collaboration.



PAUL YEAGER '98 MAJORED in communication arts and received the coveted "Maggie" award as an outstanding senior in the program. After graduation, he put his degree to use as a reporter at KIMT-TV in Mason City, and later served as weekend anchor in Davenport and assignment editor in Des Moines.

In 2007, he moved to Iowa Public Television, where he is a producer on *Market to Market*, a nationally syndicated weekly journal of rural America. In 2010, he won an Emmy (Upper Midwest Region) for work on *The Iowa Journal*. Paul also is the play-by-play caller for DMWebcasting.com, the home of West Des Moines Valley and West Des Moines Dowling Catholic football.

For five years, Yeager has served on the Iowa Broadcast News Association Board, including a stint as president. He also serves on the Archives of Iowa Broadcasting and the Wartburg Journalism & Communication advisory boards.

At Holy Trinity Lutheran in Ankeny, Yeager sings in the choir, has served on two call committees, and reads Scripture during services. His commitment to service extends to other organizations, including Lutheran Social Services of Iowa, the Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois, the Safer Foundation, and the Iowa High School Speech Association.

Yeager's award nomination describes him as a "constant promoter of Wartburg." He and his wife, Amy (Freese) '98, have two boys, Noah and Levi.



FOR MORE THAN A DECADE, Aaron '01 and Crystal Heins '03 Buzza have dedicated time in their professional and personal lives to bettering their community.

Aaron was a driving force behind the relocation of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame Dan Gable Museum to Waterloo from Newton. His continued success earned him the respect of the Waterloo Convention and Visitors Bureau board and, in 2007, a promotion from director of sports development to executive director. The promotion came just two days before Aaron began intensive treatment for multiple myeloma, an incurable but treatable cancer of the plasma cells.

Crystal, director of strategic partnerships for Waterloo Community Schools, has served on the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Salvation Army Advisory Board, Wartburg Journalism & Communication National Advisory Board, Allen Hospital Community Advisory Board, and Waterloo Cultural & Arts Commission, as well as many others. She also was a 2008 YWCA Woman of Persimmon Volunteer of the Year and 2009 *Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier* 20 Under 40 recipient.

The couple also serves through St. Edward Church. They have two daughters, Avery and Abigail.



Stephanie Fisk Mendez '04

On a mission to fight sex trafficking

by Emily Christensen

STEPHANIE FISK MENDEZ '04 WAS STANDING on a bustling Bangkok street the first time her heart was fully opened to the plight of women sold into sex trafficking.

Mendez was participating in her first World Race, an 11-month mission through 11 countries. She had read up on the issues facing each destination. Her selection included *The Natashas: Inside the New Global Sex Trade*.

"It mentioned the hotels and the nearby brothels—the red light district," she said. "One of our first days in Bangkok I was right there where the book had described. I broke down. It was the first time I truly felt God exposing me to his heart on the issue."

The group built relationships with the women and offered them options for a different life. When the racers moved on, Mendez did too, but part of her heart stayed behind.

"As I would travel to other places—Cambodia, Vietnam, Eastern Europe—I would see signs of sex trafficking everywhere," she said "Being a woman, I wanted to fight for those who didn't have a voice. This is an issue close to God's heart, and one he placed in me. When that connected, it was the first time for me having the spirit of intercession. You can read about it and be informed, but when you meet the girls and hear their stories and their heart, that is what kept me on the issue."

Mendez, who graduated with a degree in biology and a chemistry and Spanish minor, came to Wartburg from Milford with plans to become a doctor. Four years and several mission trips later, she knew she wasn't meant for medical school. During a senior-year service trip to San Antonio, Mendez and two other fourth-years worked out a plan to trek through the 48 contiguous states, Mexico, and Canada on a mission to connect others to service.

"Honestly, that conversation changed the direction of all of our careers," Mendez said. "At that point I had already started applying for the Peace Corps, someone else was planning on going to seminary, and the other to law school."

In a show of support, Wartburg sold a 15-passenger van for \$1 to Mendez, Kelly Dotson Matthias '04, Laura Nielsen Bernard '04, and Jesse Henkle, then a resident hall director. The van was their home base as they traveled the country, stopping for a weeklong stay in each state, speaking in churches, and serving with lesser-known organizations. After a year on the road, they opened the Latreia (Greek for worship through serving others) headquarters in Minneapolis, where Matthias still organizes summer mission trips.

"My life could have been so different, but my professors knew me and supported my decisions. ... A lot of my encouragement came from my friends. I have walked this path with some of them, and they were key to my success."

— Stephanie Fisk Mendez '04

"When Steph has a dream, it's going to happen one way or another," said Kathy Fisk, Mendez's mother. "She dreamed of doing this mission, and we told her all the reasons she couldn't. 'You don't have a vehicle. Gas prices are too high.' She only sees a way that she can. We just have to support her, even though it has taken her away from us."

Mendez credits her Wartburg experiences for at least some of her service success.

"I have friends from my biology courses who are in med school or are doctors. My life could have been so different, but my professors knew me and supported my decisions," she said. "The quality of individuals Wartburg attracts also helped. A lot of my encouragement came from my friends. I have walked this path with some of them, and they were key to my success."

She spent two years with the World Race before joining up with Men Against the Trafficking of Others, an international organization empowering men and boys to stop the trade. She started as European director, overseeing offices in Spain and Romania.

"It didn't really make sense why I would be representing an organization focused on getting men involved in stopping sex trafficking, but my heart was behind it, and there was such a void in the Spanish culture," she said.

Today, MATTOO is helping make a difference. Mendez continues to build support in Spain, where she lives and works with her husband, Martin. As men have stepped up, Mendez has worked more with Cinderella House, an organization providing housing for women coming out of prostitution.

Her work is far from over. The annual global profit of human trafficking is estimated to be \$32 billion, according to the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime.

"It will forever be a thread in my life. I am open to what that might look like in the future, especially if we move away from Spain, but this issue will remain a big part of my life." 🍷

THE Withers METHOD

Marketing mavens impact Waverly

by Saul Shapiro

MARKETING FIRMS SUCH AS Creative Orange Agency, Blush, Muse, and Vision quickly made a name for themselves in the Waverly area.

But after 14 weeks—an academic term—they vanished. However, the four-person teams from Dr. Bill Withers' Integrated Marketing Communications course invariably create a lasting impact.

"I will sing your praises to others so that this program will have clients to serve in the future," stated Alan Weber of the American Martyrs Retreat House. "My only concern is that once other organizations find out about the class, it may be harder for us to secure your services again."

Actually, a waiting list already exists.

Withers came to Wartburg 15 years ago after a decade in the private sector (he still does consulting for prominent businesses). He wanted to immerse students in the "Mizzou Method"—the University of Missouri Journalism School's emphasis on multitasking and real-world learning.

"That was a way to get Integrated Marketing Communication students out into the community, working with real clients. It aligned perfectly with the college's mission pillars of leadership, service, and learning.

"But," Withers said, adding, "there was some apprehension about taking students out into the nonprofit and core business community and cutting them loose."

That was then. This is now. "The community partners are hoping they are an attractive, viable account because they get 14 weeks of free integrated marketing student assistance," Withers said.

The third- and fourth-years have had the full sequence of public relations courses and art, design, and business electives to develop a wide range of skills. They prepare a minimum of four projects for each client.

"Most of the agencies are doing some sort of media relations, so the news release is pretty common," Withers said. "But some clients need work on their websites or on social media. Some are asking students to manage fundraising and events. It's gotten very robust. What form those projects take is part of the situational analysis the students do with the clients."

Last fall, the Blush agency worked with Family Resource Respite Options of Northeast Iowa, a local nonprofit that sends a trained respite provider to a home when foster parents need time off. It has "four very part-time employees," according to Nancy Magnall of the Iowa Foster and Adoptive Parents Association, but was expanding and needed rebranding.

Blush created a new logo, a letterhead, business cards, a brochure to recruit respite providers, a postcard to encourage foster parents to use the program, and a website.

"I was very impressed," Magnall said. "They have given us the tools to



Natasha Willey '15 discusses plans with a client.



Dr. Bill Withers meets with a student in the Konditorei.



Alana Enabnit '15 and Valerie Villafan '14 meet with a client.

promote our project with attractive, professional designs.

They listened to my description of our needs and created options for us.

They were open to suggestions and handled themselves very professionally."

"This experience taught me how to work with a real-life client and a design team; how important it is to create good relationships with everyone involved, to stay on task, and be thorough in details," said Blush's Brianna Becker '15 from Waterloo.

Muse "did an excellent job of digging into our mission and expressing that through what they did," said Becky Baker of Grace Baptist Church. "It was amazing to see our mission come alive."

The Creative Orange Agency did a "great job" with Ladage Photography, according to Kip Ladage.

"We did a complete redesign of his website," said Adam Azzaro '14 from Chicago. "We made it more user-friendly, simplistic in design, and gave him the knowledge to tag his photos for SEO (search engine optimization)."


Vision worked with Jill Krall, the sole full-timer at the Waverly-Shell Rock United Way, to create campaign pieces, including a video with stories about people benefitting from contributions.

"Students were timely and professional," Krall stated, "and provided the tools for me to execute."

"She didn't have the time or resources to do what we were doing," said Vision's Kristine Milbrandt '14 from Buffalo Center. "It will help make more people take notice of the United Way's impact in the community."

Withers and the Waverly Area Chamber of Commerce are working to expand the students' scope to serve both a nonprofit and a for-profit, most likely a downtown business.

The students also are reaping benefits.

"My students are frequently asked to make presentations before boards of directors, and we talk about everything from soft skills to consumer service to different presentation platforms," Withers said. "I have to say the possibility for these students to be better employed more quickly is great." 



WARTBURG COLLEGE AND THE MAYO CLINIC. The name association strikes a chord with many shared values—education, service, collaboration, and a sense of community.

At least 50 Wartburg graduates work in various capacities at the Mayo Clinic—"the largest integrated, not-for-profit group practice in the world"—and its related enterprises.

During on-site and email interviews last spring, 30 Mayo employees and medical and graduate students frequently cited common Wartburg and Mayo traits, such as the emphasis on mentoring and teamwork—what Dr. William Worrall Mayo, the family patriarch, called "continuing interest by every member of the staff in the professional progress of every other member."

Wartburg graduates are making noteworthy contributions, including:

- Development of the rapid anthrax test to cope with terrorist scares following 9/11.
- Using viruses to fight cancer as well as investigating the causes of multiple sclerosis and eye movement disorders.
- Creating award-winning technology.
- Licensing Mayo inventions.
- Streamlining operations.
- Roles in key administrative positions.

All told, 59,000 employees work at three Mayo Clinic sites—Rochester, Minnesota; Jacksonville, Florida; and Phoenix and Scottsdale, Arizona—and its community-based providers at more than 70 locations in southern Minnesota, western Wisconsin, and northeast Iowa; and at affiliated hospitals and auxiliary operations.

Mayo, which was recently ranked No. 1 among U.S. hospitals by *U.S. News and World Report*, also is renowned for cutting-edge research and operational efficiencies.

On the health side, Wartburg graduates are physicians, surgeons, instructors, researchers, lab technicians, pharmacists, nurses, therapists, and social workers. From an operational standpoint, they are involved in administration, legal work, finance, supply chain management, information technology, and data analysis.

They exemplify Wartburg's "holistic" liberal arts education, stressing interdisciplinary learning, which has some parallels with Mayo's "integrated, multispecialty group practice of medicine."

"Being a more well-rounded person helps you achieve better results, to think outside the box sometimes, and to have a different perspective," said Jeff Gamez '96, a senior research technologist.

They cite a sense of community similar to Wartburg. Mayo is consistently among *Fortune's* 100 Best Companies to Work For.

"I now recognize that at Mayo I work in the same type of collegial collaborative environment that I first experienced at Wartburg," said Emily Vetter '78, a laboratory operations manager.

"If you go to work every day and enjoy the people you interact with, that is a huge part of being happy in life," said Dr. Jamie Bakkum-Gamez '98, a gynecologic oncology surgeon. "I felt that at Wartburg every day and definitely feel that here, too."

The snapshots that follow look at the work being done by some of the Wartburg graduates at Mayo. Of note, Drs. Jerry Swanson '73 and Scott Eggers '93 are in *U.S. News's* No. 1-ranked neurology and neurosurgery department, while Bakkum-Gamez is in the top-ranked gynecology department.

emily '78 HELGERSON VETTER

It's Vetter versus bacteria in Mayo labs | by Saul Shapiro

MAYO CLINIC'S SPRING 2002 ALUMNI MAGAZINE featured microbiologists in "a race against time" to finish a groundbreaking rapid anthrax test.

On Sept. 18, 2001—a week after terrorist attacks shook the nation—letters containing deadly anthrax spores were mailed to political and media offices. Five people died, 17 others were infected.

An eight-member Mayo team reduced a three-week test to identify a person afflicted with anthrax to less than an hour, separating exposure from hoaxes. Emily Helgersen Vetter '78 is front row, left, in the photo of the team in that magazine.

As Mayo celebrates its 150th anniversary, a mobile exhibit touring the United States and Canada features the rapid anthrax test. Vetter downplays her role.

"I was actually supervising the bacteriology lab at that time," she said. "We have a group of research and development technologists whose job is to develop new methods and testing platforms working with the lab director. When the anthrax test was developed, my main focus was managing personnel and helping with internal communications.

"Everyone was concerned with suspicious powders," she added. "We had the technology, which we were using to detect and identify other organisms. We thought we could take that same know-how and create a molecular test for anthrax and do it quickly."

Bacillus anthracis is the bacterium that causes anthrax. Vetter, a Mayo lab technologist before becoming an operations manager, is particularly animated when discussing bacteria.

"Bacteria are fascinating to me," Vetter said. "I always enjoyed the challenge of identifying the significant bacteria present in clinical specimens used to diagnose infections from a common strep throat to blood stream infections and many other serious infections."

"After you've seen organisms over and over, you can recognize them on culture media and also microscopically. The methods for identifying bacteria have really evolved over the years and are now very accurate, rapid, and automated," she added.

"I always felt good about the work I performed because it made a difference for patient care. I think studies demonstrate that 60-70 percent of patient diagnoses are made based on laboratory results."

Vetter, who has been at Mayo since 1980, became a supervisor in 1989 and was promoted to laboratory operations manager in clinical microbiology in 2005. She provides operational oversight to the specimen receipt and processing area, bacteriology, mycology, and mycobacteriology labs on personnel management, equipment acquisition, quality monitoring, and process improvements while working with lab supervisors and directors.

For perspective, Mayo has 2,500 lab employees and receives more than 30,000 samples daily from around the world through Mayo Medical Laboratories, its reference laboratory.

"We perform many esoteric tests that are not performed in your typical hospital laboratory with accuracy," Vetter said. "Some of these tests were developed at Mayo Clinic."

A native of Joice near Mason City, Vetter spent three years at Wartburg majoring in medical technology and her senior year interning at the Metropolitan Medical Center in Minneapolis, while graduating magna cum laude. Prior to Mayo, she was a medical technologist at hospitals in Detroit and Yankton, South Dakota, while her husband, Harold '77, worked at the Social Security Administration. The couple has two daughters.

Vetter fondly remembers Wartburg's "supportive, caring Christian community," and "the excellent professors in the biology department—Drs. Darold Wolff, Leo Petri, and Elmer Hertel '66" as well as religion courses with the Rev. Larry Trachte.

She also appreciated her mentoring at Wartburg and is paying it forward.

"I need to develop all the professional traits and leadership skills for the new medical laboratory scientists working

in the laboratory because they're going to rise up through the ranks, just as I did," Vetter said. "Whatever I can do to help them is very gratifying."

She is doing so in an environment reminiscent of Wartburg.

"My career has been a constant learning process," she said. "My colleagues are very supportive, encouraging everyone to be the best that they can be, just as it was at Wartburg."



REPORTS OF MEASLES CASES reached a 20-year high in the United States in May. For many, the virus is considered a highly contagious, but preventable, respiratory disease sometimes causing death.

Jamie Bakkum-Gamez '98 sees it—and other viruses like it—as a possible cure.

As a gynecologic oncology fellow at Mayo Clinic, Bakkum-Gamez, a Wartburg biology major, helped re-engineer the measles virus to fight ovarian cancer. The virus didn't kill the cancer, but the work started Bakkum-Gamez—now a Mayo gynecologic oncology surgeon—on a research path she continues to walk today.

Viral therapy, a form of treatment converting viruses to treat diseases, has been researched since at least 1912. In May, viral therapy research at Mayo made national headlines when a patient battling myeloma, a blood cancer that affects the bone marrow, went into remission after being injected with a re-engineered measles virus.

"It does seem counterintuitive, but there are different receptors on cancer cells than on normal cells," Bakkum-Gamez explained. "These receptors act like keyholes. The virus has the key, gets in there, and starts turning on things and making the cell become toxic to itself."

Today the Westby, Wisconsin, native puts her energy into designing clinical trials to develop screening tools that detect endometrial cancer and viral therapy to fight it.

"With endometrial cancer, if it comes back, it is essentially a death sentence, and we don't have a standard of care for it," she said. "We have recognized a need here. We've done the basic science aspect of it ... and it is very promising when it comes to future research in this area."

Wartburg's strong biology program coupled with multiple opportunities for hands-on experience—she was an obstetrics aide at Waverly Health Center and conducted research with Dr. Roy Ventullo, professor of biology—prepared her for medical school at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

jamie '98 BAKKUM-GAMEZ

On the front lines battling cancer | by Emily Christensen

Hours in music rehearsals prepared her for the operating room. She is certain years of oboe playing gave her the hand-eye coordination and steady hands needed to perform delicate surgeries on women fighting for their lives.

"Women in their 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, even 90s, they are tough people. They are resilient people," she said. "I take care of women with cancer every day. Whatever I ask them to do, they will do it."

And Bakkum-Gamez will do whatever it takes to help them, all while steeling herself for the reality that some will succumb to the disease.

"One of my patients I met as a resident died in February after nine years of fighting ovarian cancer," she said. "I went to her funeral and bawled my eyes out."

"Every patient is an individual person. I don't know how it is when I go into the operating room I am able to do the things that I do to them. I think it has to do with the fact that I am removing the stuff that is making them ill."

When she's not treating patients or searching for a cure to endometrial cancer, Bakkum-Gamez can usually be found mentoring up-and-coming doctors—another skill she learned watching Wartburg professors like Dr. Darold Wolff, emeritus biology professor. Her Mayo work includes Master's faculty privileges at Mayo Graduate School in the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine.

"I was worried I would have a hard time making the transition from learner to teacher, but I found watching those I am teaching,

watching the light bulb come on, watching them become good surgeons, that was actually more rewarding," she said. "Now I understand why Dr. Wolff loved what he did. It's super rewarding when your efforts are translated into somebody else realizing their dreams and abilities."

Bakkum-Gamez is married to Jeffrey Gamez '96, a Mayo senior research technologist.



TODD WILKENING '86

Rising through the ranks

Todd Wilkening '86 is Mayo Clinic's vice chair of management accounting for patient care, education, and administration across its Minnesota, Florida, and Arizona sites.

Wilkening, who is based in Scottsdale, Arizona, said his double majors of computer science and accounting were invaluable.

As the accounting industry changed with technology, I was able to adapt and take advantage of the skills learned at Wartburg."

After working for a national accounting firm, Wilkening began at the Rochester location in 1991 as the Mayo Foundation's internal auditor and later accounting systems and controls unit head. In Scottsdale, he has been a financial analyst; management accounting section manager; controller for all financial, management,

and reporting activities in Arizona; and enterprise director of strategic initiatives and acquisitions.

The Perry native earned his Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Minnesota.

A SMALL, WHITE MOUSE COMFORTABLY RESTED in Jeffrey Gamez's palm, oblivious to the fact that it was the center of attention.

Gamez '96, a senior research technologist at Mayo Clinic, could have talked for hours about this little mouse and all of its friends and relatives, but he kept the conversation brief—and simple.

Since 2010, Gamez and a team of Mayo doctors and researchers have used mice to try to find the cause of and a treatment for multiple sclerosis, a potentially debilitating disease in which the body's immune system eats away at the protective sheath covering the nerves.

"We infect the mice with a virus directly into the brain. That causes a demyelinating disease, like MS, in susceptible strains of mice that we can then study to see what the effects are over time," Gamez explained.

They use high-powered MRIs, capable of producing detailed 3-D images of a mouse's brain and spinal cord, to study the internal effects of different viruses and drugs. Earlier this year Gamez presented the research at the American Academy of Neurology in Philadelphia.

Drs. Stephen Main, Darold Wolff, and Donald King, emeriti professors in biology, showed him how a science degree could lead to something other than being a doctor. Gamez's first research experience, studying diatoms and ecosystem health, was with Main.

Gamez went on to earn a Master of Business Administration from Cardinal Stritch (Wisconsin) University in 2013 and project management certification, which helped him navigate the high-dollar world of drug testing. Novartis, a Swiss pharmaceutical company, gave his research team \$1 million to test an MS medication in the mouse model.

"Working with drug companies is very different," he said. "If you don't have that project management background, or an understanding of it, you aren't going to talk the same language."

jeffrey '96 GAMEZ

The quest to find the cause of multiple sclerosis | by Emily Christensen

Professors opened the doors, but Gamez said he—and students today—must still walk through them.

"When you are in your early 20s, you have to do some exploring on your own," Gamez advised.

He started in a hospital lab, running "quick turnaround tests" like blood gases and glucose. He loves his research, but admits there may come a time when he wants to do something new—all at Mayo.

He also is still closely connected to his Wartburg roots. His younger sister, Barbara Gamez Sims '98, is president-elect of the college's Alumni Board. He is married to his sister's college roommate, Dr. Jamie Bakkum-Gamez '98.

"Staying in touch with your professors and college friends can only enrich your life," he said. "It was always kind of hard to imagine being friends with a professor. There was always that respect factor, that you couldn't really be buddy-buddy with them. It's different now. You realize that

idea you had at the time, it was probably wrong. You probably could have been friends with them, and it probably would have been a lot easier.



RACHEL YOUNG OVERTON '07

A year filled with milestones

The past year has been one to remember for Rachel Young Overton '07.

The University of Iowa medical school graduate was elected co-chief resident at the Mayo Clinic Health System in La Crosse, Wisconsin, by fellow residents while finishing her training in family medicine. She lined up a position as a family

medicine physician in West Des Moines and she had her first child, a daughter, in January.

"Having my baby in the middle of my last year of residency meant I could get some of the harder rotations and call responsibilities out of the way before she was born," she said. "Those 24-hour calls were rough being eight months pregnant, but there is no fatigue like the first few weeks with a newborn."

She credits her husband, Brodie '08,

an emergency room nurse, for support in easing the stress. "We definitely share parenting responsibilities."

The Mount Vernon native, a summa cum laude graduate in biology, was attracted to Wartburg by the reputation of the pre-med program. It lived up to expectations, including career guidance from biology professors Drs. Ed Westen and Shawn Ellerbroek.

"The preparation I received for medical school and the MCAT (Medical College

BARBARA GAMEZ SIMS' JOB AS A TECHNOLOGY LICENSING MANAGER,

reviewing inventions at Mayo Clinic Ventures, is literally "off the chart."

"A chart used to hang in the Science Center about potential jobs in biology," said Gamez Sims '98, a Wartburg College biology major who intended to enter the medical field. "You have a lot of career options with a biology education, in addition to having a liberal arts background."

But her Mayo position wasn't on that chart. While continuing her education at Marquette University School of Law helped her get there, she credits Wartburg for "laying the foundation."

"I had to write papers. I had to take a lot of English and history classes that prepared me for success in law school and working with inventions," Gamez Sims said. "I did not follow the usual path, but it shows that you don't have to have your life planned out when you're 18 or 21. Having a solid educational foundation can lead you in different directions."

Gamez Sims became intrigued by patent law because "you need to be somewhat specialized to work with patents, and you have to have that educational background in the sciences."

Following a stint at a law firm, she would put that background to use on a Mayo team of 32—technology and business development managers, finance and operations people, patent liaisons, and others—that evaluates on average two inventions daily from Mayo Clinic enterprise employees.

"One of our favorite stories," she remarked, "is that there is not an MRI machine in existence that doesn't contain Mayo Clinic technology."

"Somebody in the research lab may need a new antibody or other research tool," she said. "They develop it and disclose it to our office so that we can commercialize it. Our technologies are not limited to research tools. We work with diagnostics, software, therapeutics, medical devices, and any other technology that is disclosed to the office. My job is to get the technology to people outside of Mayo Clinic so it can be used by those that need it."

barbara GAMEZ SIMS

Career path took detour to Mayo Clinic | by Saul Shapiro

Gamez Sims will review the invention, send it to a patent liaison for a "prior art search" to review records on any similar inventions, and see "if there is an angle to get meaningful patent claims, and determine if it makes sense commercially to file a patent application," she said.

If so, she will work with outside counsel to draft a patent application and look for potential licensees for the technology. Getting a U.S. patent to issue can take three to five years. The licensee can be an existing company or an entrepreneur who wants to form a startup around the technology. In either scenario, Gamez Sims will negotiate and draft the license agreement.

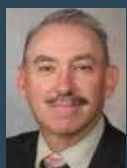
She is happy with the path taken.

"I'm a firm believer that we make our own choices, but that we are led to where we are meant to be. I feel that way about Wartburg and Mayo," Gamez Sims said. "Things have fallen into place, and I'm fortunate, but I like to think I've made the right decisions along the way."

At Wartburg, her experiences included being student body vice president, on the homecoming court, and in Castle Singers. She continues to be involved with Wartburg as Alumni Board president-elect and is a member of the Board of Regents. She has an alumnus to thank for introducing her to her husband, Paul, a senior project architect at Mayo Clinic. Her brother, Jeffrey Gamez '96, and sister-in-law Jamie Bakkum-Gamez '98 also work at Mayo.



Admission Test) was unbelievable," she said. "I knew if I could handle the rigors of anatomy or biochemistry at Wartburg, I would be well prepared for medical school, and that proved to be the case. ... Much of the material we covered in first-year classes was a review of what I learned at Wartburg. That was not something every first-year medical student could say."



JOHN BECK '80
Shaping his direction

John Beck didn't have to be sold on Wartburg. His parents worked at the college. His father, Walter, was a computer science professor later joining the UNI faculty; his mother, Marianne, was a library archivist. He knew the mathematics faculty well.

Beck had a triple major in mathematics, computer science, and business,

graduating cum laude. He was a four-year letterman in tennis and team captain.

"I was fortunate to be a part of the early years of the computer science program and that definitely shaped my career direction," said Beck, who credits Dr. Lynn Olson, former professor of mathematics and computer science, and Don Canfield, his tennis coach, for providing guidance.

Beck, who earned his Master of Business Administration degree at Winona State University, has been at Mayo nearly 30

CORINNE FOX CHILSON '92 DESCRIBED HERSELF AS A NAÏVE 17-YEAR-OLD when she turned down Harvard University recruiters and applied to Wartburg College.

"I was impressed with the campus, and I liked the fact that it was in a small town," said Chilson, who moved to Spillville, population 367, in high school. "Wartburg had a strong business program, and I was confident that was what I wanted to do."

Chilson graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in accounting and management. She was a Family Weekend co-chair, Global Perspectives preceptor, leadership seminar leader, and also spent a term in Denver at Wartburg West.

After graduation, she held accounting jobs in Sumner and at Luther College before taking another bold leap of faith.

Chilson was caring for her terminally ill mother in Rochester, Minnesota, when she submitted her resume to Mayo Clinic in 2001. One month later she was living in her aunt and uncle's basement and had a job at Mayo that allowed her to spend more precious hours with her sick mother.

Two days into the job, Chilson met her future sister-in-law, who was training her.

"I told her how I had felt called to Rochester and Mayo and shared my faith story," Chilson said. "She took my hand and asked me if I was single. When I said 'yes,' she said I would be perfect for her brother-in-law."

Chilson met Jeremy, and they were married within three months. They quickly turned their Eden, Minnesota, home into a haven for foster children. The Chilsons have fostered more than 20 kids, many with developmental delays and behavioral issues. They adopted four.

Corinne was five months pregnant with her son, Caleb, when a social worker asked if they would take in a young Native American girl. They immediately fell in love with Nerissa, a.k.a. Dolly.

"She's my Dolly I got at Walmart," Corinne said, regarding where they met with the social worker.

Nerissa, now 9, had been with the Chilsons only a few weeks when the social worker called again. Nerissa's older siblings, Sonia and David, now 12 and 11 respectively, were living in a homeless shelter with their mom and needed a steady residence. The Chilsons said yes.

corinne '92 CHILSON

Foster parent Chilson finds work-life balance | by Emily Christensen

Caleb, now 8, was born just one month later. "When I was on maternity leave with Caleb, I had four kids in diapers. I worked very hard to get the older two trained," Corinne said. "About one month after Caleb was born, they told us the mom was pregnant again. Paul was born five months after Caleb."

That's five children under 5.

"It was difficult, but great," Corinne said. "The kids really make me think big picture. We need life goals, not just career goals. I love my career, but what I appreciate most about working at Mayo is the work-life balance. I can be a mom to this crew and still work full-time."

A Mayo commuter bus helps with that balance, forcing Corinne to keep a disciplined work schedule—she's a coordinator on the supply chain management team—and allowing her to be home for dinner. In 2010, one day before her 40th birthday, Corinne completed her Master of Business Administration degree through Upper Iowa University.

It was one of three remaining items on a "bucket list" she penned as a Wartburg first-year. "We were told people who wrote down their goals were more likely to achieve them," she said.

The remaining items are writing a book by 50 and being fit and healthy at 60.



years in information technology, starting as an analyst/programmer and now a manager.

He is currently working with a project team to help define Mayo's future state data architecture—improving its information management, facilitating information exchange between hundreds of applications, and helping the information technology department be more responsive to customer needs in support of serving Mayo patients.

A past member of the Wartburg Alumni Board, he has two children.

CRYSTAL TEWS CROWLEY '06

Change in course in nursing

After more than five years as a registered nurse at Mayo, Crystal Crowley is pursuing a Master of Nurse Anesthesia degree at the Mayo School of Health Sciences. She had been a charge nurse on a surgical floor before moving to an intensive care unit.

The Winona, Minnesota, native came to Wartburg intending to teach science in secondary education, but instead pursued a career in nursing, graduating cum laude as a biology major, then earning a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, degree at Creighton University, graduating summa cum laude.

"Dr. Ed Westen's anatomy and physiology courses really piqued my interest in health care more so than ever before," she said. "The human body is one of God's amazing creations, and I am

scott EGGERS

Wartburg a catalyst for Eggers' path to neurology | by Saul Shapiro



DR. SCOTT EGGERS '93 GREW UP IN

WAVERLY interested in a medical career, but hesitant to enroll at Wartburg College because "nobody wants to go to college in their hometown."

"I was looking for a small, liberal arts college, not a large university, one that had a strong background in the sciences," Eggers said. "Also, I wanted to take very good humanities courses and have a chance to sing in the choir. I looked at a lot of places, but chose Wartburg because of its strengths."

His choice paid off in many ways, including meeting his wife, Tiffany '93, an English and philosophy major who later earned law and Master of Public Affairs degrees, in the Wartburg Choir. They have two children.

Eggers' studies prepared him for a research fellowship at Mayo prior to his senior year, acceptance at Mayo Medical School after being named Wartburg's outstanding senior biology student, and a career at Mayo Clinic, where he is a consultant in neurology, chair of the clinical competency committee, and an assistant professor.

His former Little League coach—his future biology professor—helped prepare him.

"My interest in medicine was solidified with Dr. Darold Wolff in his Mammalian Anatomy and Physiology course," Eggers recalled. "It was like an introduction to medicine.

We had zoology, but this was a bit closer to the human physiology. He focused it on those going into medicine, and we had a side curriculum just

on learning medical nomenclature."

After finishing his training in neurology at medical school, he was hired onto the Mayo faculty, but first spent two years in a fellowship at Johns Hopkins University in his subspecialty, vestibular and eye movement disorders.

"That has to do with vertigo, dizziness, or balance problems as well as neurologic conditions leading to impaired eye movement that cause people to have double vision or bouncing vision," Eggers said.

He sees patients, works with residents in neurology's Education Section, gives frequent lectures at the institution and around the country, and is participating on a research project with the National Institutes of Health, Case Western Reserve, and a university in Munich to better understand an uncommon disorder causing inability to move the eyes after certain types of cardiac surgeries.

Eggers' career echoes his parents in some respects.

His father, Daniel, is a family physician. "I think he spent every third night of his career at the hospital and was often pretty sleep deprived," he said. "As a family physician he had to keep up on everything in medicine. I steered clear of that."

His mother, Carolyn, a former Wartburg director of grants and development research, was a part-time correspondent for the *Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier*. He is medical editor for AskMayoExpert.

"AskMayoExpert is an online resource for clinicians at the point of care—in the office or at the hospital bedside with the patient," Eggers said. "It provides quick access to Mayo expert-vetted knowledge to guide diagnosis and management of medical conditions. It allows us to standardize and disseminate our high-quality Mayo practices for participating clinicians all over the country."

privileged to care for others as a part of my vocation."

Crowley, who is married, anticipates her latest degree in 2016.



GARY KEAST '83

Exploring opportunities

Exploring could have been Gary Keast's major in life.

The West Delaware High School graduate tried several majors before deciding on computer science, while also interested in theatre

and cheerleading.

After becoming a Mayo systems programmer and later a manager, Keast still had the acting bug. He moved to the Twin Cities and, for the next decade, dabbled in project management jobs, waiting tables and acting, including a role in a movie, *Haunting Villisca* and, he remarked, "a few very low budget films on Netflix."

In 2007, following recovery from a stroke, he returned to the Mayo Clinic and his information technology roots. He now leads its Meaningful Use project in Phoenix

to enhance sharing of computerized health records "when patients transition from one provider to another. It also provides more information for the patients themselves so they are more informed about their care."

He is married with a grown daughter.



SEAN KANE '06

Liberal arts education at work

Sean Kane's career is another testament to the value of a liberal arts education.

ROBERT THOMPSON "TOM" ZACKERY '73 RECALLS GROWING UP IN CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS,

in a "very strong extended family, salt-of-the-earth type people with strong values."

"All of my grandparents and great-grandparents were barbers or cooks or worked in reconstructing furniture at the University of Illinois," he said, where his father would earn an engineering degree.

He assisted his elders; they helped raise him. "The things that defined me happened in childhood very early on," said Zackery, now a licensed independent social worker specializing in mood disorders at the Mayo Clinic Hospital, Saint Marys Campus.

Those values were translated into societal concerns at Wartburg with an assist from social work professor Lola Reppert.

"Lola instilled service to mankind and being part of something that's bigger than yourself from a spiritual standpoint. That made things click for me," Zackery said. "Also, we had the civil rights movement going on. I was doing a lot of different things in the Waterloo area."

He did a lot of things at Wartburg as well.

Legendary Wartburg basketball coach Lewis "Buzz" Levick and assistant football coach Gordy Jeppson recruited Zackery, whose family moved to Rochester during his junior year in high school when his father got a job there. As a senior in high school, he played on a state championship basketball team.

At Wartburg he focused on academics, but internships and football also were prominent in the mix. Injuries curtailed playing basketball and baseball.

He gained social work experience at the Jesse Cosby Neighborhood Center in Waterloo, the Mental Health Institute in Independence, and with Planned Parenthood.

He was an All-Conference split end and a Lutheran Brotherhood All-American in 1971, setting school single-season and career records for touchdown receptions. He was co-captain in 1972.

robert thompson ZACKERY '73

Zackery helps people 'manage their lives' | by Saul Shapiro

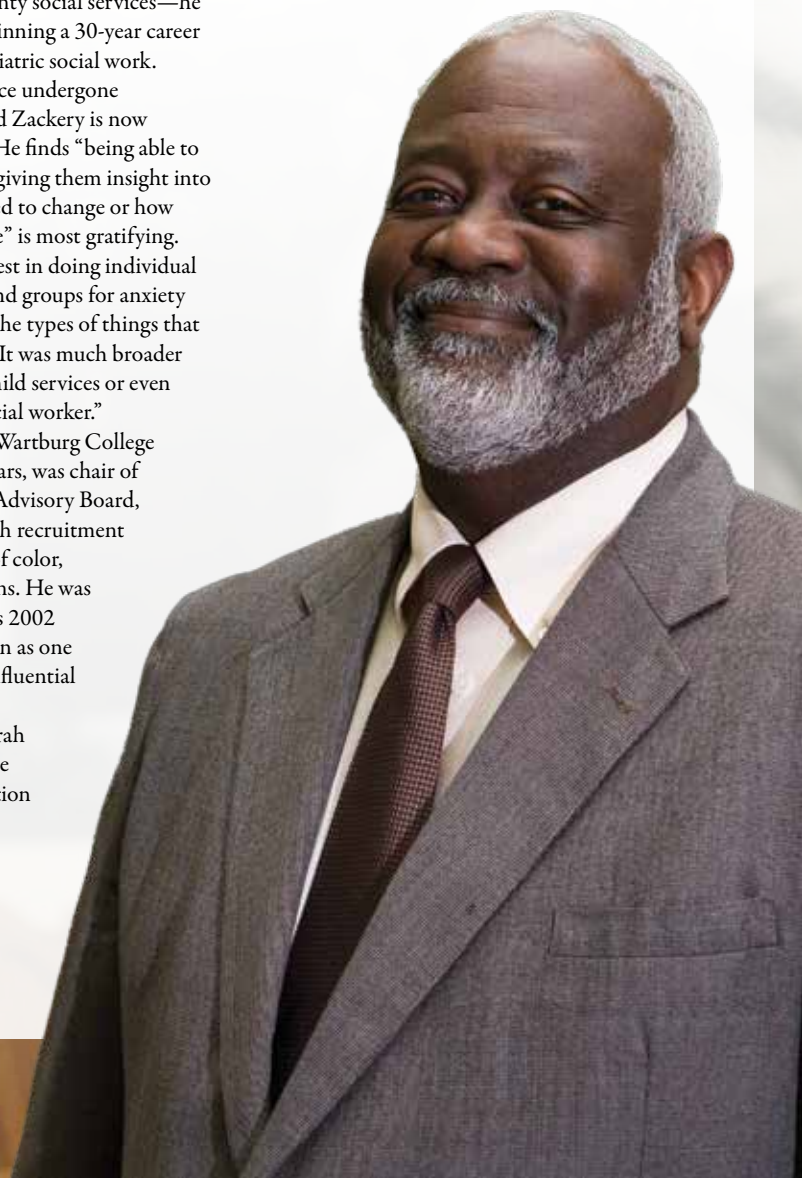
Zackery earned his Master of Social Work degree at the University of Illinois. In 1979—following four years in county social services—he returned to Rochester, beginning a 30-year career as Mayo's director of psychiatric social work.

The department has since undergone organizational changes, and Zackery is now concentrating on therapy. He finds "being able to effect change in people by giving them insight into negative behaviors that need to change or how they are managing their life" is most gratifying.

"I also have had an interest in doing individual therapy, couples therapy, and groups for anxiety and depression. Those are the types of things that drew me to mental health. It was much broader than adult protection or child services or even working as an inpatient social worker."

Zackery served on the Wartburg College Board of Regents for 20 years, was chair of the National Social Work Advisory Board, and assisted the college with recruitment and retention of students of color, primarily African Americans. He was honored during Wartburg's 2002 sesquicentennial celebration as one of the college's 150 most influential graduates.

He met his wife, DeBorah Green '73, at Wartburg. She has her doctorate in education and is a higher education administrator. They have three children and five grandchildren.



The Rochester native, a communication arts major (concentrating on public relations while writing sports for the *Trumpet*), is a pharmacy coordinator within Global Business Solutions, the for-profit arm of Mayo Clinic, monitoring the software system and vendor relationships of the pharmacy department.

"I think the liberal arts education made me a more versatile person and not solely focused on my major," he said. "Not working directly in my field of study

today, having to take multiple different classes, helped round me as a person and a professional."

Kane was co-captain of the Wartburg tennis team as a senior and played soccer alongside his roommate, Kirk Artist '06, now the men's coach. Kane coaches soccer as well, as an assistant at Lourdes High School, his alma mater.

Kane and his wife, who also works at Mayo, have a young daughter.



STEPHANIE BERNDT '11

Taking the fast track to Mayo

Stephanie Berndt, who grew up in Owatonna, Minnesota, has fulfilled a "childhood dream" to work at Mayo Clinic.

She initially wanted to be a pharmacist, but a second-year Winter Break service trip to the Ceta Canyon Camp in Happy, Texas, for persons with disabilities changed her direction.

DR. JERRY SWANSON '73 BUCKED A FAMILY TRADITION

when he chose Wartburg. The Lacon, Illinois, native came from a long line of Augustana College graduates—his father, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

"It was near my hometown, but Wartburg seemed to be a better fit for me," said Swanson, a consultant in neurology and headache medicine specialist who has been at Mayo Clinic since 1977.

"Mayo Clinic has provided me a meaningful career. Mayo's primary value, 'The needs of the patient come first' focuses all of us on the patient," Swanson said. "I am also privileged to work in what is arguably the best department of neurology anywhere."

In addition to clinic responsibilities, Swanson has devoted much of his career to medical education, previously serving as a faculty member of the medical school, neurology program director, and headache medicine fellowship director.

He currently serves as director of program evaluation for Mayo Medical School and leads efforts to evaluate the medical school's outcomes—from individual courses and clerkships to the success of its graduates. He also has worked on the survey team of the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, which is responsible for accreditation of medical schools in the U.S., Canada, and Puerto Rico.

Though much has changed since Swanson left Wartburg in the '70s—only Dr. Ronald Alexander, professor of philosophy and religion, remains—much is the same.

"The students at Wartburg were friendlier than the other places I looked, and I knew I could get a foundation for learning for the remainder of my life," said Swanson, who graduated magna cum laude with a degree in chemistry and philosophy.

jerry '73 SWANSON

Swanson helping shape the next generation of doctors | by Emily Christensen

Swanson met his wife of nearly 40 years, Kristine Haugen Swanson '72, at Wartburg.

Along with Alexander, Wartburg "stalwarts" Drs. David Hampton and Warren Zemke, now emeriti chemistry faculty, provided the guidance and encouragement Swanson needed to get into medical school when applications were painstakingly handwritten and personal statements newly crafted for each school.

Their expectations—no easy As—prepared Swanson for the rigors of medical school at Northwestern University, where he narrowed his focus to neurology. Swanson has worked his way through a host of leadership roles at Mayo while juggling patients, research, and editing duties for MayoClinic.com, Mayo's "layperson" site for medical information, and UpToDate, an evidence-based electronic clinical decision support resource for healthcare professionals with over 250 million visits annually.

"I have had many opportunities for which I am grateful," he said. "I want to continue my career as long as I can make a contribution in a meaningful way. I continue to learn from my patients and colleagues; they spur me to do my best every day."



"That experience helped me solidify what I already knew," she said. "I wanted to make a difference in the lives of others and have a profound interaction with those in unfortunate circumstances. The obvious career choice for me was to be a nurse."

Wartburg's 3+1 partnership with Allen College in Waterloo accelerated that process. Students pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree take three years of general education and science courses at Wartburg, then transfer to Allen for 15 months for its nursing curriculum and to finish Wartburg requirements. They earn dual degrees.

Dr. Roy Ventullo, professor of biology and the program liaison, helped guide Berndt, a cum laude graduate who also played violin in the Wartburg Community Symphony.

Berndt applied to Mayo 29 times, deferring on other job opportunities. She was hired soon after passing her nursing boards to work in radiology, assisting patients in CT, MRI, and ultrasound procedures, where biopsies determined if suspicious lesions were malignant or benign. She now works in hematology with patients who have blood disorders—mostly leukemia and lymphoma—and need chemotherapy.

"While it is a challenge to work with cancer and terminal patients, it is the most rewarding position as well," Berndt said.



DR. LELAND MAYER '74

Medical and community service

Dr. Leland Mayer, an orthopedic surgeon at Luther Midelfort Mayo Health Systems in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, is a busy guy.

He has served as chairman of the surgery department and vice president of the hospital's board of directors; is the operating room medical director for the hospital; was president, secretary, and treasurer of the Eau Claire Chamber of Commerce; is on the Eau Claire Community Foundation Board; coached Little League; and is on the Wisconsin State Golf Association board of directors.

He and his wife, Anna, were Luther Midelfort's "Samaritans of the Year" in 2008.

Mayer graduated magna cum laude as a biology major, then taught biology and coached freshman basketball at Waukesha (Wisconsin) South High School for three years. He pursued his medical career—medical school to residency—at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. The Mayers have three children.



SONDRA ROERISH JOHNSON '12

Internship makes a difference

Sondra Johnson, a social work major from Rochester, is a discharge coordinator at Mayo in her hometown. She helps patients in need of placement in nursing homes, rehabilitation units, assisted living, memory care, and other options.

She cited Dr. Tammy Faux, Tomson Family Distinguished Professor in Social Work, as a "huge influence," helping with her internship at Harmony House Health Care Center in Waterloo. That, she said, "became the driving force for my future career choices. I don't believe I would have chosen to get into the health care field had it not been for my experiences there with individuals who have experienced traumatic brain injuries."

Johnson, a newlywed, earned her Master of Social Work degree at St. Ambrose University.



BRITT OLSON WEHRENBURG '00

Performing a balancing act

A computer information systems major at Wartburg, Britt Wehrenberg has risen through the ranks to become lead analyst/programmer in information technology at Mayo, where she heads the technical environment team that supports its enterprise resource planning.

She also is a married mother of three, LeRoy-Ostrader School District board chair, and on her church council.

"There is no doubt my Wartburg education provided me with the tools and framework to achieve success in my personal and professional life," she said. "I've learned who I am and who I am not, and I've been living the Wartburg mission personally."

She credits Dr. Lynn Olson, former professor of mathematics and computer science, for "helping me believe in myself."

"The No. 1 challenge I face is whether I'm performing the right balancing act between home and work. My work is challenging and rewarding, my team is extremely supportive, and Mayo Clinic offers some tremendous family benefits," she said.



ERICH HENEKE '02

Making a mark on the national stage

When Erich Heneke was named the 2001-02 national president of Phi Beta Lambda, the largest business career student organization in the world, it presaged things to come.

Heneke now is nationally recognized in his field as Mayo Clinic's senior manager in supply chain risk management, audit, controls, and financials.

In 2011, Heneke was a leader of the Mayo team that developed data-mining software to monitor travel credit cards used by Mayo employees.

Until an in-house collaboration among financial departments developed the program—imagining possible scenarios for misuse—distribution of the cards had been restricted because of Mayo's limited ability to identify suspect transactions.

"A credit card company would never notice if you use a corporate credit card in a neighborhood grocery store, but that looks suspicious to us," Heneke told *Treasury & Risk*.

The software won Heneke's team a gold in *Treasury & Risk's* Alexander Hamilton Awards for enterprise risk management and innovative process/technology implementation and also took the Huntington Award for Innovation from the Institute of Financial Operations.

The Maquoketa native, a business administration major, chose Wartburg because of its strong business department and a desire for a liberal arts education. "I found all professors to be very willing to go the extra mile," he said.

He later earned a Master of Business Administration degree at the University of Minnesota and is certified as a management accountant, financial manager, and fraud examiner.

Heneke is on Wartburg's National Business Advisory Board and an adjunct instructor at St. Mary's University, Rochester Community and Technical College, and Upper Iowa University.

He is married and has a daughter.



RYAN TYE '02

Leveraging technology, business processes

Ryan Tye laid the foundation to become manager of logistics business solutions in Mayo's Supply Chain Management Division as a computer information systems and management double major at Wartburg with internships at Pella Windows, CUNA Mutual, and Safeway Rocky Mountain Federal Credit Union (Wartburg West).

His staff develops inventory strategies, manages logistics systems, and facilitates process improvement projects.

"Wartburg helped me understand I'm passionate about leveraging technology to improve business processes," said Tye, who is from Red Oak. "I was able to see both the

business world and software programming. I then leveraged internships to put those two competencies together into a career path."

Drs. Patrick Langan, former assistant professor of business, and Lynn Olson, former professor of mathematics and computer science, helped guide that path, which initially led to a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Minnesota Duluth and 10 years at Hormel in information technology.

Tye and his wife, Jessica Anthony '03, have two children.



ERIN HEDEEN GRAVEMANN '04

Taking on varied responsibilities

Erin Gravemann, a medical social worker, credits Wartburg's social work department for its guidance, "helping me understand my options and the areas I could excel in."

She currently works with patients and their families dealing with a hematologic disorder or disease—mostly leukemia or lymphoma. She also has worked in orthopedics, the trauma center, and an outpatient setting doing individual therapy.

Gravemann, from Vasa, Minnesota, was busy as a resident assistant, Holiday Shoppe organizer, president of the Social Work Club, and recipient of the St. Elizabeth Award for service.

She earned her Master in Social Work/Mental Health degree at St. Louis University. She is married with three children.



JARED ROBB '10

Music made a difference

Jared Robb, a statistical programmer analyst at the Mayo Clinic, can make the case for the importance of co-curricular activities. A magna cum laude graduate in computer science from Waterloo, he was active in music, playing the viola in the Wartburg Community Symphony for three years and was a founding member of Hope Overflow, a service-oriented Christian music group.

For his computer studies capstone project, Robb worked with Dr. Terry Letsche '89, associate professor of computer science; Alec Amosson '11, student music librarian; and Dr. Lee Nelson, associate professor of music, to develop the Wartburg College Online Choral Music Library—an online catalog to record and track each collection of music within the music department or externally loaned.

"I believe my experience with this project created the foundation that I continue to build on every day at Mayo," Robb said. "The resemblance is uncanny. This is very similar to some of what I do now—work with physicians and their study teams to build custom electronic data capture systems for research."

He is married to Kristi Anderson Robb '10.

**TONY ZAHASKY '06**

Making the most of internships
Even while switching majors from biology to business, Tony Zahasky realized his goal of a career in health care.

The Cresco native is a Mayo procurement specialist, providing guidance on the purchase of capital equipment and service/maintenance contracts. He credits internships—Wal-Mart, The Mudd Group, and Covenant Health Systems—plus guidance from Wartburg business professors Kim Folkers and Gloria Campbell for influencing his direction.

"Being in the consumer retail, sales, and health care businesses—all while getting an education—gave me perspective of what career path I wanted to follow," he said. "The experience and education at Wartburg led me to Mayo Clinic."

Zahasky earned his Master of Business Administration degree from Cardinal Stritch University. His wife, a Saint Marys Hospital neonatal intensive care unit nurse, and two sisters, both pharmacists, are Mayo employees.

**LUANN COPPER '11**

Preparing for the next step

Luann Copper, a biochemistry major from New Hampton, is a clinical laboratory scientist in the transfusion laboratory at Mayo's Saint Marys and Methodist hospitals. She does patient testing required to provide the appropriate blood product.

Drs. Christine DeVries, associate professor of chemistry, and Roy Ventullo, professor of biology, helped provide career guidance. Working in the chemistry lab gave her hands-on experience.

"All of my classes at Wartburg," she said, "prepared me to take the next step," which was the Medical Laboratory Science program at Mayo.

Copper was involved in the Scholars Program, Habitat for Humanity, the Chemistry Club, and the Wartburg College Concert Band.

**NANCY KRAEMER HUTSON '69**

Eye-opening experiences

Nancy Hutson, a cum laude graduate in social work from Watertown, Wisconsin, has

worked with liver transplant patients at the Mayo Clinic in Phoenix since 1999.

"Professor Lola Reppert opened my eyes to new ways of thinking about people and their social situations. My internships in mental health were very new experiences for me," she said. "My social work experiences—in and outside of the classroom—were probably significant factors in enabling me to take risks and venture into other new experiences."

Hutson earned her Master of Social Work degree from the University of Minnesota. She is married with two daughters and three grandchildren.

**DAVID NELSON '13**

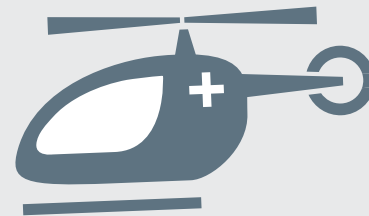
Finding the right career fit

David Nelson was a student senator and three-term student body treasurer, so his majors of political science and economics are no surprise.

But he was pre-med before an internship with Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minnesota, in Washington, D.C., spurred an interest in public policy. Gloria Campbell, associate professor of business administration and economics, helped steer him toward a career combining his interests with an internship at Allen Hospital.

"One of the biggest takeaways from my Wartburg education is the value of a liberal arts degree," Nelson said. "I consider myself very lucky to have had a wide variety of courses in numerous disciplines. I think the emphasis on being a well-rounded student is a benefit that isn't entirely realized while attending Wartburg."

Erich Heneke, a senior manager in supply chain risk management at Mayo, helped the Rochester native connect with possible internships. He has worked as a contractor in supply chain management for Mayo with value analysis and contract administration groups and will pursue a Master of Healthcare Administration degree at the University of Iowa this fall.

**LIZ JABEN GILMAN '02**

Blood is in her medicine



Liz Jaben Gilman admits to a passion for "patient blood management, patient safety, and education."

Until recently, the summa cum laude graduate in biology was medical director of transfusion medicine at the Mayo Clinic Hospital in Phoenix. She has written and presented numerous times on blood-related issues.

While she said "the nation's blood supply has grown increasingly safe from an infectious disease standpoint over the last 20 years—the risk of acquiring HIV, hepatitis B, or hepatitis C from a blood transfusion is exceedingly slim—there are still many risks. Transfusion medicine is not taught very thoroughly in today's medical training, so the risks are not well understood.

"As a transfusion medicine physician," she added, "I have the ability to influence practice by teaching nurses, patients, and other physicians about the risks and benefits of transfusions, and I really enjoy teaching. Patient blood management helps ensure that we, as providers, minimize the ordering of unnecessary transfusions, thereby minimizing the risks and improving safety. It is all about the Five Rights—right patient, right product, right dose, right time, right indication."

The University of Nebraska medical school graduate did her residency and a postgraduate fellowship at Mayo. She returned to Rochester this summer to start an internal medicine residency to become a hospitalist (medical care of hospital patients).

Gilman, a north-central Iowa native, balanced pre-med and track at Wartburg, as a national qualifier in the 200-meter-dash and an All-American in the 4x100- and 4x400-meter relays.

"The coaches and my teammates were incredibly supportive. If I had organic chemistry lab until 5:30, coach Marcus Newsom would give me a workout afterward, and often many of my teammates would stick around and help me run the workout or cheer me on. The coaches always said academics came first, and the professors were more than willing to work with the athletes."

Gilman is married with two sons. 





In need of a few good CHURCH MUSICIANS

by Emily Schmitt Counts '11

ALUMNI ENRICH FAITH JOURNEYS THROUGH MUSIC

KATIE KAMAUS HOUTS '04 BEGAN PLAYING ORGAN in eighth grade because her small, Lutheran church needed someone to accompany the congregation.

After playing for church services, wedding, and funerals while in high school, the West Union native headed to Wartburg College thinking she was leaving behind her organ-playing days.

With her sights set on becoming a band director, Houts found a mentor in her adviser, Dr. Karen Black, who holds the Rudi Inselmann Endowed Professorship in Organ. Black earned a Bachelor of Music degree in church music from St. Olaf College, Master of Music degree in organ and church music from Indiana University, and Doctor of Music degree in organ performance and literature from Indiana.

She inspired Houts to keep playing the organ while pursuing her interest in church music.

"I realized that leading worship was much more than playing the organ, and I could make a career out of the two things I deeply loved—music and theology," said Houts, who has a Bachelor of Arts degree in music with a church music concentration.

Black believes Wartburg's church music track provides students with an enhanced understanding of the subject because it includes the study of religion, setting it apart from programs at other institutions.

"It is very helpful to have a background in biblical studies to be a well-rounded, successful church musician," Black said.

Kartika Putri '10, from Jakarta, Indonesia, is a doctoral student in organ and sacred music at Indiana University.

"There is a good balance between Wartburg's course requirements in music and in religion," she said. "So many colleges offer church music as a Bachelor of Music program in that music is the main focus. Taking religion classes was very helpful in getting acquainted with different religious denominations and their historical roots before playing for a church."

Studying church music can lead to a variety of career opportunities.

"I see many open positions for music directors in churches, even in small towns. Many are full-time positions that you can make a good living doing," Black said.

Putri is music director and organist at First United Methodist Church in Martinsville, Indiana, providing music for services and directing the adult choir, children's choir, and handbell ensemble.

Houts, who spent 10 years as a full-time church musician, is now choral editor for Choristers Guild, a music publisher, and lives in Braintree, Massachusetts.

"I jumped at the chance to be involved in shaping the culture of sacred children's music from the publishing desk," she said.

Houts selects new music to publish, works with composers to edit pieces, produces recordings, consults with graphic designers on print covers, and exhibits at various music conferences.

"As I choose new music for our Choristers Guild catalog, I rely on the skills and instincts I cultivated at Wartburg," she said.

Students studying church music take core courses along with their peers studying music and are encouraged to participate in music ensembles.

"Wartburg has a vibrant music program with something always going on," Putri said. "Participating in these events was a great music experience, but understanding how programs like Christmas with Wartburg and departmental recitals were put together—from rehearsals to timing to production—is extremely valuable."

Houts said the ensembles helped her learn and grow.

"I had such a rich and diverse musical experience at Wartburg," she said. "Playing in the Wind Ensemble, Knightlites, and for Ritterchor gave me lifelong friends and musical colleagues. I also spent time accompanying soloists, which gave me exposure to a huge amount of music literature and insight into teaching techniques."

Involvement with chapel services is another advantage.

"At Wartburg, we benefit from our connection to the church. We have worship on campus that our students can be involved with," Black said. "It's not only academic, it's practical."

Internships and even study abroad experiences have helped students become hands-on in church music.

Putri studied abroad in Germany for five months, including time as a guest student at Hochschule für Kirchenmusik (Higher Education Institution for Church Music) in Heidelberg.



Katie Kamaus Houts

"I took private organ and improvisation lessons, attended choral conducting courses, audited general music classes, and sang in the Hochschule choir," Putri said. "I also got to practice and perform on different historical and more modern instruments, and participate in various summer festivals and events."

As churches incorporate worship bands and children's music, the demand for church musicians grows.

"It offers a great deal of variety and creativity. My musical emphasis was learning to play the organ, but my heart is in the choir, and with church music I have the privilege of doing both," said Laura Palmer '03.

Palmer, director of music ministries at All Saints Episcopal Church in Omaha, Nebraska, coordinates music, plays the organ and piano for worship services, and directs choirs and handbell ensembles.

"Wartburg offered me many opportunities for performance, which is critical for music students to gain confidence and experience. I played organ solos at chapel services, accompanied other musicians, and participated in concerts and recitals," Palmer said.

Palmer is enthusiastic about her vocation.

"The most remarkable part of being a church musician is the invitation I receive to participate in people's lives and faith journeys. I share worship experiences with hundreds of people at different stages of their spiritual lives," Palmer said. "I've had the honor of providing music during moments of great joy and sadness—a wedding, the baptism of a child, the memorial of a loved one. These moments are personal and special, and my relationship with parishioners is built on the trust that I will interpret and play music in a way that is thoughtful and meaningful."

"It is rewarding when someone expresses their appreciation for a hymn or anthem shared in worship," she added. "I see the genuineness in their eyes and know I'm blessed to be part of something special."



Kartika Putri



Laura Palmer

BLACK'S PASSION FOR ORGAN HELPS KEEP TRADITION ALIVE

by Emily Schmitt Counts '11 and Saul Shapiro

WITH CHURCH ORGANISTS IN SHORT SUPPLY

despite a big demand, Dr. Karen Black is doing something about it.

The campus organist and professor of music created a scholarship to teach high school students to play her favorite instrument.

"There is a shortage of organists, particularly at small churches," Black said. "The organ is a very practical instrument for a church because it only takes one person to accompany an entire congregation."

Scholarship students receive 12 organ lessons with Black, a methods book, and organ shoes, which have heels wide enough not to become stuck between pedals and stay silent when moving.

In exchange, she encourages her students to share their organ skills by playing at local church services.

Black has worked with nine students through her scholarship program since 2012, including Noel Mills, 15, of Waterloo.

"I have learned that playing the organ is a rare and beautiful ability to have," Mills said.

Mills began playing the organ last fall after receiving the scholarship. She plays every Sunday morning at Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Waterloo.

"I enjoy playing the organ because it is such a timeless, classic art that everyone can really appreciate," Mills said.

MUSIC TO THEIR EARS

Pastor Matt Brooks arrived at Pilgrim in July 2013 from a large congregation with six organists in Mankato, Minnesota. The organist at Pilgrim—100 members—had been the previous pastor's wife, with no replacement in sight.

"Organ music is extremely important to our heritage as Lutherans," Brooks remarked. "It is said that Luther restored music to the church and, in turn, much joy was brought to the people of the Reformation. We needed someone to lead us in congregational singing. The organ does that much better than a piano."

Alex Wright, music coordinator at St. John's Lutheran Church Bennington, near Dunkerton, has posted ads for organists and contacted instructors for five years with limited success.

"Music provides a sense of unity with the congregation since they are all participating together. It also seems to add more variety," she said. "I feel that music is a useful tool to not only guide a congregation with messages, but also has the power to uplift people in a way that differs from spoken messages."

Public school music program cuts have contributed to the shortage, said Pastor Dave Kebschull of St. John Lutheran Church in Cedar



Karen Black works with a student.

Falls, where Black plays monthly. So St. John has become proactive. Several of its musicians offer lessons, including piano teachers who encourage children to discover the organ.

"We regularly invite children to meet our organists and listen to the organ," he said. "Most of them think it is pretty cool to be able to make sounds that an organ does. There are now some young children who have an interest in or are studying organ."

TIME AND MONEY

"There is a shortage in all denominations, and it is not exclusive to small towns or rural areas," said Jo Arthur, organist at Trinity United Methodist Church in Waverly. "Basically, there are not very many of us."

Most churches, she added, "are often unable to provide reasonable compensation. Few churches hold services exclusively on Sunday mornings, so the time commitment becomes an issue, and burnout is common."

Compensation at Pilgrim for the Sunday service is \$50. The American Guild of Organists' single service rate (without additional preparation) is \$50-125. The AGO salary for a full-time organist with a Bachelor of Music degree to play at a religious institution is \$49,842-\$65,622—depending on whether it's rural or urban—plus benefits.

The Rev. Michael Erhard at St. John's Episcopal Church in Mason City faced the compensation issue when he moved there a year ago from San Francisco. The church had lacked an organist because of prior AGO rate concerns. He emailed Black for help.

"I have been in many parishes over my 28 years in ordained ministry and have worked alongside some incredible organists ... so coming to St. John's and not having an organist was a bit disappointing. ... We are prepared and happy to pay the AGO standard rate."

KEEPING WITH THE TIMES

Although many churches are incorporating contemporary music and fewer traditional instruments into worship services, Black doesn't believe organ music is going away.

"I think a lot of churches are finding a happy balance between worship bands and organ music," she said. "Organs are beautiful, and they need to be preserved. They are right there in nearly every church, making them a practical and important instrument to continue using."

"In many congregations, it isn't so much about replacing the organist, but supplementing them," said Scott Weidler, associate director for music and worship for the Evangelical Church in America. "Increasingly, congregations are looking for music directors with that broader range of skills—able to manage organ, direct choirs and praise bands, and more. Organists are still in demand, but increasingly it might be a portion of a job in a larger congregation or, in a smaller one, the work may be part-time."

Kebschull doesn't believe the organ is outdated.

"Many contemporary expressions of worship and younger communities are returning to the organ and the liturgy as a way of reminding them of what is sacred and eternal, (but) they are finding no one who can play the organ."

Black hopes to inspire a new generation.

"The instrument is capable of such a variety of sound and great dynamic contrast, from the gentlest flute stop to the full organ capable of balancing an orchestra," she said.

Black also enjoys the wide variety of styles and means of expression that exist in organ literature.

"Although the building and design of organs have changed over the centuries, there is music written for the organ from the medieval period to today," she said. "I have a wide range of taste in musical style, and organ literature is also wide ranging and vast. In one lifetime, I will never be able to learn to play all the organ music I would like to." 🎹



WWI REVERBERATES A CENTURY LATER

by Saul Shapiro

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO THIS SUMMER,

“The War to End All Wars” commenced on European battlefields.

Its historical implications still resonate.

Dr. Dan Walther, professor of history and the Gerald R. Kleinfeld Distinguished Professorship in German History, will be on the speaking circuit during the WWI centennial anniversary to discuss those ongoing ramifications.

“When you talk about WWII, the Cold War, the Balkans, the response to nationalism, recent events in Ukraine, terrorism, 9/11, and genocide, many of these events were ushered in and played themselves out on a global scale in the Great War,” Walther said. “Almost overnight, 19th-century mentality met 20th-century technology.

“A perfect example in popular culture is *War Horse*, where you had this cavalry charge, a carryover from the 19th century, meeting the machine gun, and the machine gun is one of the quintessential symbols of modern warfare,” Walther added. “You know who won that encounter. Tanks were introduced as well.”

Eleven years after the Wright brothers flew the first powered aircraft, armies engaged in aerial bombardments, dogfights, and spying.

“Everything in modern warfare is technology-based. Our new thing is drones,” Walther said. “Humanity is becoming farther and farther removed from the battlefield, which actually makes it even scarier now. Just like during the Cold War, you didn’t necessarily have to see your enemy, you just had to push a button.”

Terrorism ignited WWI. A secretive group of Serbian military officers, the Black Hand, vowed to end Austro-Hungarian control of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It recruited Gavrilo Princip, who assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, and his wife on June 28, 1914, in Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital.

Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. Germany was allied with Austria-Hungary. Russia sided with its fellow Slavs in Serbia. France, smarting from losses in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870, allied with Russia. Germany invaded neutral Belgium, triggering Britain’s entry. The Ottoman Empire, including present-day Turkey, was allied with Germany. The United States joined the fray in 1917 after German U-boats sank American merchant vessels.

Walther compared some unintended consequences of the alliances to the “blank check” the U.S. Senate granted President George W. Bush after 9/11, despite later misgivings as the Iraqi War dragged on.

“It was not unlike the blank check Germany gave Austria-Hungary when it issued an ultimatum to Serbia,” Walther said. “They basically said we’ll support you in everything you do, not actually thinking about what they were going to do. But it was Austria-Hungary’s only friend and ally. When it went to war, so did Germany.”

The battlefield was no longer a stage just for combatants.

“The distinction between the homefront, the warfront, and who is an enemy combatant was first crossed in the Great War,” Walther remarked. “The belief was that everyone was contributing to the war effort.”

Walther cited genocide perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire against Armenians, Greeks, and other ethnic Christians in its territories—estimated at 1.5 million killed—as a precursor to the Holocaust.

“History matters. You can’t know where you are, let alone know where you’re going, until you know where you’ve been.”

— Dr. Dan Walther

“It wasn’t the first case of genocide, but one of the first in modern times,” Walther said. “Adolf Hitler was paraphrased as saying, ‘How many remember the Armenian genocide?’”

Not only did WWII have its origins in the aftermath of “The Great War,” but so did the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and Cold War.

“The Allies promised the Arabs freedom if they would fight the Ottoman Empire,” Walther said. “They also wanted the support of the Jews, so the (British) Balfour Declaration promised (Zionists) a homeland, but not a state. Then the British and French divided the region for themselves.”

The Allies, including the United States, sent troops to bolster the anti-Bolshevik White Russian Army’s unsuccessful campaign against the Red Army after WWI. “People like Stalin didn’t forget that,” Walther said.

President Woodrow Wilson’s desire that the world “be made safe for democracy” became the foundation of U.S. foreign policy.

“From FDR on, what was our reason for getting involved in WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, and Afghanistan and Iraq?” Walther asked. “It was this Wilsonian principle of fighting for an idea associated with Americans—American democracy—that became intimately connected with American foreign policy.

“History matters,” he added. “You can’t know where you are, let alone know where you’re going, until you know where you’ve been, as any scholar would tell you. If you want to understand the 20th and 21st centuries, you have to look at the events that have shaped our world dramatically.”

KNIGHTS IN THE NEWS

GOLDEN KNIGHTS REUNION Oct. 16-19 featuring the classes of '54, '59, and '64

1952

Professor **HERB HILDEBRANDT**, Ann Arbor, Michigan, re-edited the 7th-8th edition of his book, *Effective Business (International) Communication*, for recent publication in India. Chinese universities also use his Chinese/English version. He has researched and lectured yearly in China for 28 years. Hildebrandt, the Rev. Dr. Tim Ewest, Wartburg College associate professor of business administration, and **Yuk Teng Chan '14** continue their collaboration on three China research projects.

1966

NORMAN AUGST, Minneapolis, Minnesota, published the book, *Long-Term Investing by Watching the Money Supply and Government Spending*.

1967

ALLEN LYNDRUP, Mount Pleasant, North Carolina, retired after 45 years of teaching and working in classrooms, scene shops, and theaters. He taught

at the University of Virginia, James Madison University, and The College of Charleston, where he was theatre department chair from 1991 to 2000. He continues to serve as primary scene designer for Pure Theatre, Charleston, South Carolina.

1968

KAY BIEDERMAN, Elkader, retired in 2013 as a social worker with Hospice of Siouxland.

1969-Class Reunion Oct. 16-19

1970

GRANT GELHAR, Madison, Wisconsin, retired after 21 years as a corporate credit manager with Temperature Systems, Inc. He is active with the Madison office of SCORE, a national nonprofit association that provides professional counseling, education, and mentoring for businesses.

1972

MARY-SUE WILLIS BARTLETT, Cedar Falls, was named Representative Citizen of the Year for Cedar Falls. She is the administrative assistant to the dean of the College of Education at the University of Northern Iowa.

1973

ARLYS SCHLICHTING THOMPSON, Iowa City, retired in 2011 from a 26-year career at the University of Iowa, then spent a year as a volunteer English as a second language teacher in the International Women's Program affiliated with university. After completing the Oxford TESOL/TEFL Certification Course in 2013, she was hired by Kirkwood Community College to teach English as an added language to adults in the Iowa City area. Her current students are from Cambodia, China, Congo, Guinea, Iran, Laos, Mexico, Sudan, Togo, Vietnam, and Venezuela.

1974-Class Reunion Oct. 16-19

1975

REID KOENIG, Waverly, retired March 3 after a 31-year career with CUNA Mutual Group. He received the 2014 Lifetime Achievement award from the Waverly Chamber of Commerce.

STEVE MIEHE, Mesa, Arizona, retired from Aegon/Transamerica.

1978

Frank and **DENISE NORTON PAASCH**,

Glenwood, announce the birth of Joshua Mark, Oct. 11, 2012. Denise is a social worker with Lutheran Family Services, Council Bluffs.

1979-Class Reunion Oct. 16-19

BOBBY GARRISON, Norwalk, is working as a wildlife artist after retiring from the Norwalk schools, where he taught art for 34 years.

Dr. **GUNDARS KAUPINS**, Boise, Idaho, published, *Business Aha! Tips: Ethics for Managers*.

1983

DEB NEWTON MORTENSEN, Alta, is the 2014-15 Iowa Reading Association president. A kindergarten teacher with the Storm Lake Community Schools for 31 years, she will teach vocal music in the fall.

1984-Class Reunion Oct. 16-19

1989-Class Reunion Oct. 16-19

1994-Class Reunion Oct. 16-19
Robert and **ANN UNDERWOOD DERRICK**, Glenville, New York, announce the birth of Emily Jane, Feb. 10.

Mencini's Italian rendezvous gets positive response

by Elizabeth Heying '15

GAIL DAMKROGER MENCINI '76 HAS SUCCESSFULLY NAVIGATED

a transition from accountant to novelist with a critically acclaimed literary debut.

Mencini, a co-valedictorian at Wartburg who majored in accounting, economics, and business administration, is the author of *To Tuscany with Love*, which reunites eight unlikely friends in Italy 30 years after an exhilarating summer studying abroad. Their lives and losses are portrayed with humor and heartbreak set against the beautiful backdrop of the Italian countryside.

Professional reviewers and readers on Goodreads and Amazon.com gave *To Tuscany With Love* more than four out of five stars. It's been called "inspirational women's fiction" by *USA Today*; was the No. 1 bestseller in Mencini's hometown of Denver, Colorado; won the Beverly Hills International Book Award for "Chick-Lit Fiction"; and has been a Sons of Italy National Book Club selection.

"In a way, I have Wartburg to thank for becoming a writer—all my elective courses were in literature," said Mencini, who also credits her husband's belief in her.

Mencini did not study abroad while at Wartburg, but her travels to Tuscany as an adult enabled her to authentically describe the culture and landscape.

Before venturing out as a novelist, Mencini earned a Masters of Laws of Taxation from the University of Denver College of Law, then was a certified public accountant for 15 years, co-owning a firm and specializing in tax law related to mergers, acquisitions, and real estate. She also served as an adjunct college and graduate school professor at the University of Denver and Metropolitan State University of Denver.

Then she switched gears, writing what Kirkus Reviews called "a fun, poignant story" with "beautiful prose that brings settings to life," and "an



Gail Mencini

intriguing tale about how people can affect one another long after they part ways."

Her characters include a vivacious young lady sent abroad as punishment for her erratic behavior, a Southern preacher's son, a California athlete, a pair of twins, a Hollywood wild child, a practical girl from Colorado, and a pre-med student. Mencini said she wanted unique characters from different regions, with different family dynamics, and different points of view.

She said the events and characters in her novel are all products of her imagination, although she often drew from her experiences, including breast cancer. She underwent a bilateral mastectomy in 2009 and wrote the disease into her novel to promote early detection.

"If I can spur someone to do a self-breast exam or get an annual screening mammogram, I will have achieved my goal of helping others fight breast cancer," Mencini said.

The message in her novel is to evaluate the best way to cope with life's obstacles and take action. She thinks family and friends are an underrated asset, which is why the focus of *To Tuscany With Love* is on friends helping each other through difficult times.

Mencini enjoys cooking gourmet Italian food in addition to writing, and recipes are included in the book. She said her expertise comes from her mother and grandmother along with tips from her Italian relatives.

She also is cooking up a second book in the *Tuscany* series centered on a Tuscan hill town not visited in her first novel.

"One thing I will reveal is that the delightful Tuscan cuisine and wine are certain to play a memorable role in this book," she said.



1995

MATT ENTZ, West Fargo, North Dakota, is a defensive coordinator and linebacker coach with the North Dakota State University football program.

1998

KIMBERLY CALDWELL WILDEBUER, New Brighton, Minnesota, is a health adviser in the employee and individual division with United Healthcare, Minnetonka, Minnesota.

1999-Class Reunion Oct. 16-19

MARK and KATE GAMMELL '00 HARGRAFEN, Grimes, announce the birth of Rocco Tully Ray, Jan. 20. He joins Barron, 3. Mark was appointed by Gov. Terry Branstad to Iowa's Child Advocacy Board. He is in-patient Nursing manager/Critical Care Unit services manager at ChildServe, Johnston.

Jeff and **MARY WOLD LEIMER**, Sheldahl, announce the birth of Gabrielle Grace, March 18. She joins Violet, 2.

2000

Ryan and **SANDRA HANSEN HILDRETH**, Rockwell City, announce the birth of Quinn Harper, Dec. 24, 2012. She joins Kathleen, 3.

JIM LICKO, Denver, Colorado, was promoted to vice president of GroundFloor Media, a marketing and communications firm.

Shai Wise and **VICTORIA VanZILE**, West Allis, Wisconsin, announce the adoption of Gloria Jean Marisol, born Oct. 26. She joins Claire, 5, and Ian, 5.

2001

Adam and **ANDREA ROHNE McNEELY**, Lyle, Minnesota, announce the birth of Jameson Henry, Dec. 16. He joins Asher, 5, and Emmett, 3.

Teri and **KRISTINA VOYNA**, Davenport, announce the birth of Leo Dane Alvin, Feb. 2.

2002

Travis and **KATHRYN SHANNON FUNSETH**, Ankeny, announce the birth of Felicity Marie, Nov. 24.

HEATHER JOHNSON RAUSCH, New Hampton, won the women's title at the Wartburg TriByKnight triathlon May 3 with a time of 1:13:30.

Dr. **LEAH SIEREN**, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, is a pediatric surgeon and assistant professor at Wake Forest Baptist Health.

2003

RYAN and KALEA BUCKNELL '05 HALUPNICK, New Hope, Minnesota, announce the birth of Brynden Rae, Aug. 5, 2013. She joins Madeline, 4.

Charles and **KIMBERLY BABCOCK MASHEK**, Waverly, announce the birth of Timothy John, Dec. 26. He joins Theodore, 2. Kimberly is a library resources technician with Iowa Library Services, Waterloo.

2004-Class Reunion Oct. 16-19

ERICA OSTWALD and Tony Rath, Cedar Falls, were married March 15.

Jeff and **SARA NYHUS PENNING**, Ventura, announce the birth of Olivia Grace, March 20. She joins Abigail, 4, and Levi, 1.

ANGELA HOLTHAUS SCHWENDEMAN, Cedar Falls, completed the requirements to qualify as a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries.

Jake and **ERIN SUTER THORUIS**, Washington, announce the birth of Jayse Dean, Dec. 31. He joins Jordan, 2.

DAREN (DJ) and **HEATHER WINTER ZAJICEK**, Waverly, announce the birth of Zoey Ann, Dec. 20.

2005

Justin and Dr. **KATIE GELNER HANSON**, Roland, announce the birth of Leah Joy, Feb. 17. She joins Joel, 4, and Zach, 2.

CHELSEY RODGERS KOLPIN, Grinnell, received her master's degree in school library science in December from the University of Northern Iowa. She is a teacher librarian at Grinnell High School.

ANNIE FOX REYNOLDS, West Des Moines, is an assistant Polk County attorney, Des Moines.

Dr. **JOEL REYNOLDS**, West Des Moines, is an oral surgeon with Iowa Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, P.C., Des Moines.

CHRIS TRIPOLINO, Minneapolis, is the music and worship production lead with Jacob's Well.

2006

Juan and **LINDSEY HUINKER ALLENDE**, Geneva, Illinois, announce the birth of Luis Eduardo, Oct. 1. He joins Isaac, 2.

KAREN CONNELLY and Joseph Newcomb, Cedar Falls, were married March 15.

IVAN and ELSA MAY '07 DVOJAKOVSKA, Rockdale, Australia, announce the birth of Samson M, March 21. He joins Mary, 3.

Ethan and **MEGAN KAMPMAN EPLEY**, Waverly, announce the birth of Isaac Ethan, Oct. 17. He joins Jackson, 5, and Logan, 2.

MICHAEL and Dr. **LACEY EBERT GREENWALD**, Keokuk, announce the birth of Juliana René, Feb. 7. Lacey purchased Schleier and Associates Family Dentistry on Jan. 1.

Dr. **KYLE HILSABECK**, Iowa City, is vice president of pharmaceutical affairs with PinnacLife, Inc., Coralville.

JOSH JOHNSON, Waterloo, is high school principal in the Charles City Community School District, Charles City.

Matthew and **ALYSSA BENVENISTE MORAN**, Grimes, announce the birth of Chloe Ann, March 1. She joins Ava, 2.

Ben and **SHELBY SCHNEIDER VANDERWILT**, Oskaloosa, announce the birth of Beckett John, Feb. 26. He joins Brooklyn, 2.

2007

SCOTT KEMPEL and Amanda White, Pearl City, Illinois, were married June 8, 2013.

Andrew and **ERIN LUND PAUL**, Cedar Rapids, announce the birth of Emmett, July 2013. Erin was promoted to lead scheduler and billing specialist for St. Luke's Therapy Plus and Witwer Children's Therapy.

STUART and ERIN GRANDGENETT SPENCER, Johnston, announce the birth of triplets, Alan "AJ," Ben, and Caleb, July 18, 2013.

KATIE VALENTINE, Westchester, Illinois, is a transitional kindergarten teacher with the Kensington School, LaGrange, Illinois.

2008

Dr. **BEN CLARKSON**, Madison, Wisconsin, published a research article on the role of immune cells in stroke that made the cover of the *Journal of Experimental Medicine*.

TYLER HUNT and Brenda Servidio, Clear Lake, were married March 8.

2009-Class Reunion Oct. 16-19

JUSTIN HERRICK, Urbandale, won the men's title at the Wartburg TriByKnight triathlon May 3 with a time of 58:54.

LEAH GROH KARALIUS, Forest City, is a production employee with Winnebago Industries.

ABBEY SAATHOFF and Matt Morrill, Waverly, were married July 27, 2013.

2010

Kyle and **CASSIE BECKER BENNING**, Waverly, announce the birth of Blaise Bradley, May 14.

2011

TREVOR CAROLAN, Minneapolis, received his Juris Doctor degree from the University of St. Thomas (Minnesota) School of Law, where he also served as representative of his class on student government and sat on numerous faculty committees. He plans to take the Minnesota Bar Exam in July.

MISSY McMURRAY TIMMERMANS, Waverly, received her Juris Doctor degree in May from the University of St. Thomas (Minnesota) School of Law.

2012

JONATHAN HOUSHOLDER, West Des Moines, is a production assistant for NASCAR Media Group, Charlotte, North Carolina.

MICHAEL JORGENSEN and SHEA KRUGER '13, Iowa City, were married June 22, 2013.

ERIC KERNS and KELSEY FORD were married March 16.

SIRENA WEBB, Chicago, is an assistant language teacher for the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program.

KATIE ZIMMER and John Eliason, Waverly, were married March 29.

2013

EMILY HOGAN, Cedar Falls, is a territory manager with Mudd Advertising.

JOSHUA LEMERT, Denver, is a medical student at the Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine, Des Moines.

REBECCA MARION, Cedar Falls, is a graduate student in the Postsecondary Education: Student Affairs program at the University of Northern Iowa.

NNEKA MOLOKWU, St. Louis, is a public health graduate student at Washington (Missouri) University.

SAMUEL READ, Marion, is a statistics graduate student at Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana.

MEGHAN TENDALL, Mason, Ohio, is a global marketing communications specialist - graphic designer with Crane ChemPharma & Energy, Cincinnati.

2014

JAKE AHLES, Lino Lakes, Minnesota, is an anatomy graduate student at Des Moines University, Des Moines.

KATIE ALDRICH, Waverly, is a music therapy intern with Primary Children's Hospital, Salt Lake City.

JACKSON ANDERSON, New Hampton, is a third-grade teacher with the Rowad Al Kahleej International School, Dammam, Saudi Arabia.

ADAM AZZARO, Chicago, is an account management intern with Ogilvy and Mather.

BRITTANY BARNARD, Cedar Rapids, is a K-12 band director and grades 4-5 general music teacher with Central Community Schools, Elkader.

LAUREN BAUER, La Porte City, is a physical education teacher at Holmes Junior High in the Cedar Falls Community School District.

EMILY BELL, Nora Springs, is a K-4 general music teacher and high school choral director with the American Academy for Girls Kuwait, Kuwait City, Kuwait.

TAYLOR BOECKHOLT, Milford, teaches second grade in the Pocahontas Area Community School District, Pocahontas.

EMILY CLAMAN, Gilbert, is a social work graduate student at St. Ambrose University, Davenport.

JUSTIN CLARK, Rock City, Illinois, is a medical student at the Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine, Des Moines

KARLY COCHRANE, Mount Vernon, is a graduate student in business administration and a track and field graduate assistant at the University of Sioux Falls, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

JAMIE COMSTOCK, Harmony, Minnesota, is a gerontology graduate student at Bethel University, Arden Hills.

ALLYSON CROTTY, Dike, is a bilingual patient care coordinator with VGM Homelink, Waterloo.

BRIAN CROW, Marion, is a quality engineer II with Volt, Ankeny.

EDWARD DIEMER, Waverly, is an occupational therapy graduate student at Washington University, St. Louis.

MIRANDA FADDEN, Des Moines, is a public health graduate student at Boston University, Boston.

MEREDITH FLATTERY, Fairfield, is an account executive media relations with Cambridge Investment Research, Inc.

MADDIE FORSYTH, Charles City, teaches kindergarten at East Elementary in the Independence Community School District, Independence.

NATHAN FRATZKE, Wilton, is a composition/music theory graduate student at the University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri.

KAYLA FRICKE, Cedar Rapids, is a social work graduate student at St. Ambrose University, Davenport.

DAKOTA GILLMORE, Monticello, is a sport and performance psychology graduate student at Minnesota State University, Mankato, Minnesota.

CAITLIN HARBACH, Delhi, is a content producer at KWWL, Waterloo.

ALEXANDRA HOLBACH, Reinbeck, teaches fourth grade special education in the Winterset Community School District, Winterset.

REBEKAH HOLTEN, Plymouth, Minnesota, is a volunteer with Reach Out Orphanage Ministries, Honduras.

SHAYLA HOPP, Burlington, is a physical therapy student at Des Moines University, Des Moines.

KATIE HERRIGAN, Waterloo, is an osteopathic medical student at A. T. Still University, Kirksville, Missouri.

ALLISON HUEDEPOHL, South Amana, is a commercial lines trainee with The IMT Group, Des Moines.

TAYLOR JACOB, Elk Grove Village, Illinois, is a volunteer with Urban Servant Corps, Denver, Colorado.

MICHAEL JAHN, Charlotte, is a 6-12 vocal music teacher in the Tripoli Community School District, Tripoli.

LANCE JOHNSON, Boone, teaches fourth grade in the Bettendorf Community School District, Bettendorf.

CRAIG KERPER, New Vienna, is a CPA with Bohr, Dahm, Greif & Associates, P.C., Cedar Rapids.

MATTHEW KRISTENSEN, Ankeny, is an EDP manufacturing engineer with Deere and Co., Ottumwa.

RACHEL KIST, Eagle Grove, is an administrative assistant with the Shell Rock Healthcare Center, Shell Rock.

CHANTAL KNEPPER, Washington, is a medical student at the Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine, Des Moines.

COURTNEY LARSON, Plymouth, Minnesota, is an entomology graduate student at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan.

JOSHUA LEHMAN, Waverly, teaches high school mathematics in the Denver Community Schools, Denver.

KJERSTIN LEWIS, Centennial, Colorado, is an office assistant with World Relief Immigration Services, Baltimore.

JOSEPH LORENZEN, West Des Moines, is a lighting and sound intern with the Omaha Theater Company, Omaha, Nebraska.

JENNIFER LYNES, Keokuk, is a graduate student in the Postsecondary Education: Student Affairs program at the University of Northern Iowa.

BETHANY McATEE, Coggon, is a marketing specialist with Mechdyne Corp., Marshalltown.

MEGAN McDONOUGH, Decorah, teaches second grade in the Tipton Community School District, Tipton.

JUSTIN MEYER, Belmond, is a 9-12 social studies teacher in the Dunkerton Community School District, Dunkerton.

MAKENZIE MEYER, North Liberty, is a convention center/catering coordinator with Clarion Hotel, Davenport.

KEELAN MOORE and **VALERIE VILLAFAN**, Waverly, were married April 26.

ABBIGAIL MUELLER, Garnavillo, joined the United States Marine Corps.

ANDREW OLMSTEAD, Janesville, is a programmer with Abundant, Waverly.

NEVENA OSTOJIC, Waverly, is a physical chemistry graduate student at the University of Texas, Austin, Texas.

NICOLE PERSON, Burt, is a K-4 teacher at Lakes Partnership School in Spencer, operated through the Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency.

LINDSEY POGGE, Kanawha, is a medical student at the Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine, Des Moines.

EMILY PREUSSNER, Delhi, is a graduate student in sport and exercise science and sport administration at the University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado.

LORYN REED, Grimes, is a K-5 special education teacher in the Gresham-Barlow School District, Gresham, Oregon.

LAURA REICHERT, Emmetsburg, is a sales support specialist with DuPont Pioneer, Johnston.

KATHRYN RICE, Jefferson, is a music performance graduate student at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln.

ROSS RYAN, Ankeny, is a department manager with Pella Corp., Pella.

AARON SCHENDEL, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, is a programmer analyst with Securion Financial, St. Paul.

ELLEN SCHWARZ, Munster, Indiana, is an activities coordinator with Lutheran Volunteer Corps, California.

ROBERT SEUBERT, Washington, is a process engineer manager with A to Z Drying, Inc., Osage.

CONNOR SHEAGREN, Burlington, is a program counselor at the Kit Carson Living History Museum with Philmont Scout Ranch, Cimarron, New Mexico.

RAMEY SIECK, Fayette, is an occupational therapy student at Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska.

COLLEEN TAGUE, DeWitt, is an administrative assistant in merchandising with the Von Maur Corp., Davenport.

DANIELLE TANNER and Jordan Shepard, Cedar Falls, were married May 4.

KATHRYN TRESSEL, Ankeny, is a music therapy intern with Cedar Community, West Bend, Wisconsin.

SERENA UGORETZ, Wausau, Wisconsin, is a law student at the University of St. Thomas School of Law, Minneapolis.

ALEXANDER VALENTINE, La Crosse, Wisconsin, is a music education graduate student at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

HADLYN VAWTER, Union, teaches eighth-grade language arts in the Tipton Community School District, Tipton.

KRISTIN VOLKENS, Reinbeck, is an assistant auditor for the State of Iowa, Des Moines.

COLE WELTER, Gilbertville, is an insurance salesperson with Peoples Insurance Agency, Waverly.

JESSICA WENDLAND, Fredericksburg, is an elementary special education and Title 1 reading teacher with the New Hampton Community Schools, New Hampton.

TANNER WENGER, Elkader, teaches seventh- and eighth-grade social studies in the Edgewood-Colesburg Community School District, Edgewood.

KAYLA WOOD, Charles City, is a graduate student at the University of Northern Iowa.



Submit your news for *Knights in the News* on myBurg!

myBurg is an online resource for Wartburg College alumni and students. It serves as a virtual meeting place, news source, and vital connection to the college and each other.

Best of all, it's free and available on your schedule.

You can use it to search the alumni directory, learn about what's happening on campus, and sign up for alumni events taking place across the country.

myBurg is integrated into the www.wartburg.edu/alumni website and requires a username and password for some features.

Last year we played defense to **Protect This Castle**.
This year, prepare yourself to go on the offense.



Look forward to:

Kastle Kapers
Parade and Renaissance Faire
Class Reunions ('69, '74, '79, '84,
'89, '94, '99, '04, '09)
Football Game vs. Dubuque Spartans
Oktoberfest

Golden Knights Reception, featuring
the classes of 1954, 1959, and 1964
Homecoming Worship, Wartburg Choir
Concert, Wartburg Wind Ensemble,
and Symphonic Band Concert
...and more!

IN MEMORIAM

1934

DELMA JOHNSON KNUTH, Fontana, Wisconsin, died Oct. 10, 2011.

1942

EMMA SCHOCK WHITAKER, San Gabriel, California, died May 4, 2014.

1943

Dr. **WILLIAM WEHRMACHER**, Morton Grove, Illinois, died Jan. 30, 2014. The Waverly native was a cardiologist in Chicago and a clinical professor of medicine and adjunct professor of physiology at Loyola University of Chicago, Stritch School of Medicine. He had been on the faculty at Northwestern University Medical School until 1970. Wehrmacher earned his medical degree at the University of Iowa. He was a medical officer during World War II, including head of the section on cardiology at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Oceanside, California. He was known for his research in areas related to cardiology and for his children's books about medicine.

1945

JOHN MEYER, St. Augustine, Florida, died Jan. 28, 2014. He attended seminary at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio. Meyer served congregations in San Antonio, Texas, and Toledo and Bowling Green, Ohio.

1948

IRMA HOEFELING FALLON, Manhattan, Kansas, died April 19, 2014. Survivors include her husband, **Donald Fallon '48**.

Bochmann rides Colorado River rapids in new book

by Sarah Boraas '14

EXPERIENCING THE CURRENT OF CALMING, YET CONSTANTLY RUSHING WATER

and getting dumped on occasion into the icy, cold Colorado River provided an adrenaline rush and storyline for a Wartburg alumna.



Sarah Bochmann

Sarah Seboldt Bochmann '02, a.k.a. author Sarah Latchaw, said her recent novel, *Hydraulic Level Five*, originated while rafting with her sister in Colorado.

"That's kind of where it all began. Colorado holds a special place in my heart, and the setting provides a new experience for readers to explore," Bochmann said. "I'm a firm believer that authors should write about things they love and know. Your passion becomes that much more apparent."

Hydraulic Level Five has received an average five-star review on Amazon's Kindle site and effusive praise from bloggers. The story concerns the love of the main character, Kaye, for whitewater rafting (the title is a term for extreme rapids), bluegrass, family, and her childhood sweetheart and ex-husband, fantasy writer Samuel Caulfield Cabral.

"I just wanted to tell a story that readers could truly relate to and ultimately touch a corner of nostalgia," Bochmann said. "It's like flipping through a high school yearbook again. Everyone can think of that person in high school they thought was gorgeous and perfect and wonder 'what

happened to that boy?' I wanted to tell that story." Bochmann believes her Wartburg experiences influenced her writing.

"Wartburg encourages students to be well-rounded and to never limit themselves to their major," Bochmann said. "Wartburg allowed me to gain memorable experiences in the dorms, the classroom, and extracurricular activities that have given me different stories and people to relate back to and use in my writing."

Bochmann traveled frequently while at Wartburg, including May Term trips to Israel and Palestine and the Czech Republic and Slovakia, and choir tours of Europe and California.

That broadened her worldview.

"Without Wartburg, I would not be as in touch with myself and the world around me," she said. "Good writers wear their hearts on their sleeves, making themselves vulnerable to their readers. Wartburg helped form my passion and love for writing, and that has made all the difference."

Hydraulic Level Five focuses on themes of Hispanic culture, extreme sports, and the conflict between love and friendship.

"I wanted to bring out different elements relevant to society and to provide a Hispanic romantic interest and hero not usually seen in other books," Bochmann said. "Including the Hispanic culture is organic to the setting of the book and gives readers the chance to really experience the beautiful aspects of the Hispanic culture."

With an interest in the works of C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, and passages taken from the Bible,



Bochmann said, "I wanted to send the message on how important a foundation of friendship is in any relationship. By keeping secrets and being afraid to own up, it ultimately has the potential to destroy friendships and marriages. Kaye and Samuel's story is the perfect example."

Bochmann lives in Des Moines with her husband, Nathan '02, and two children. She has a master's degree in English and creative writing from Iowa State University. As a stay-at-home mother, she works on novels and does freelance writing as time allows.

She will release a sequel, *Sky Gods*, in late August and a third book to finish the series. She eventually wants to write a series set in Iowa.

"My main focus was and always will be to write because I love to. When you're able to do something you love, and truly enjoy doing so while providing enjoyment for others, there's no better way," Bochmann said.



LOIS LANDDECK EGENES, Newton, died May 11, 2014. She taught music, English, and voice for many years.

VIRGINIA KELLNER GULDEN, Mesa, Arizona, died May 4, 2014. She attended Lake of the Ozarks National Aquatic School in Missouri and was a Younkers model in Des Moines.

1949

HERBERT HEIST, Victoria, Minnesota, died Feb. 27, 2014. He earned his master's degree and doctorate in zoology and bacteriology from the University of Iowa. He retired from Honeywell in 1987 following a 24-year career in research and management. A veteran of World War II, he served on a U.S. Navy destroyer in the South Pacific.

BERT LOHR, Manassas, Virginia, died Dec. 27, 2013. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and was a member of the VFW and American Legion.

WINNIFRED KUMPF VOIGTS, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, died Feb. 5, 2014. After Wartburg, she continued her education at the University of Manitoba of Manitoba, Canada. She was the registrar at Camrose Lutheran College, Alberta, Canada, until her retirement in 1989.

AUDREY MATTHIAS UEKERT, Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, died Feb. 23, 2014.

1950

The Rev. **RICHARD BAHE**, Alexandria, Minnesota, died May 3, 2014. Survivors include his wife, **May Ann Reyelts Bahe '50**. He served congregations in Saskatchewan, Canada; rural Marshfield, Wisconsin; rural Tama/Marshalltown; Raymond, Minnesota; and Sherwood/rural Kenmare and New Leipzig, North Dakota. He retired in 1993, but served as an interim pastor in Alexandria, Minnesota; a part-time chaplain at a care center in Hoffman, Minnesota; and conducted Sunday supply services in nearly 60 west-central Minnesota congregations.

1951

LAWRENCE "DEAN" PRICE, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, died Jan. 7, 2014.

1952

The Rev. **MELVIN BLOBAUM**, Gifford, Illinois, died April 3, 2014. After graduating from Wartburg, he earned a Bachelor of Theology degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, in 1956. Blobaum served congregations in Nebraska and Illinois until his retirement in 1995.

The Rev. **ELROY DIETRICH**, Genoa, Ohio, died Feb. 18. After graduation, he attended Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, and was ordained in 1956. Dietrich served congregations in Elizabeth, Illinois; Marine City and Rogers City, Michigan; and Toledo, Ohio, before retiring in 1994.

1953

The Rev. **WALTER BEHRENS**, Blair, Nebraska, died March 15, 2014. He served five Lutheran congregations in Iowa from 1957 to 1990. Survivors include his wife, **Ellen Bartels Behrens '53**.

1955

MARY LOU POLLOCK MATTKE, Webster Groves, Missouri, died March 14, 2014. Mattke taught second grade for 20 years in Nevada, Iowa.

DEAN ANDERSON, Beloit, Wisconsin, died June 11, 2014. He served as a U.S. Army medic in the Korean War from 1951 to 1953. After being honorably discharged, he returned to Wartburg College to earn his bachelor's degree in science. He earned a master's in science for teachers from the University of Michigan. He taught biology in the Beloit School District until his retirement in 1988. He is survived by his wife, **Janice Will Anderson '55**.

1956

JOSEPH GERLT, Omaha, Nebraska, died Feb. 6, 2014. He transferred to Iowa State in the fall of 1953 to complete his civil engineering degree. Gerlt worked for the Metropolitan Utilities District, Omaha, for 40 years.

ELIZABETH MARTIN, Cedar Falls, died March 9, 2014. She taught English in Oelwein before earning her master's degree from the University of Minnesota. Martin was head of the library science department at the University of Northern Iowa.

1958

PAUL BRITZMAN, Cedar Falls, died May 10, 2014. He served in the U.S. Navy and worked at John Deere Waterloo Tractor Works for 35 years, retiring in 1993. Survivors include his wife, **Sharon Jacobsen Britzman '58**.

1960

RONALD HART, Medford, Oregon, died Jan. 27, 2014.

DARLENE ARNS GRING, Michigan City, Indiana, died March 17. She earned a master's degree in elementary education from Purdue University in 1960. Gring taught for 32 years at St. Paul Lutheran School, Michigan City, Indiana.

1961

CHARLES "CHUCK" WALLIN, La Junta, Colorado, died March 29, 2014. He earned a master's in social work from West Virginia University and a doctorate in education from Nova (Florida) University. After working with the Mental Health Center in La Junta, Colorado, Wallin opened his own private practice in Monte Vista, Colorado, in 1987 and later a drug addiction center in South Dakota.

1962

DIXIE BURRACK GHORMLEY, Waverly, died Jan. 27, 2014. She was parish secretary at Redeemer Lutheran Church from 1971 to 1976 and a receptionist at Colorfx until 2005.

1963

The Rev. **ALLEN HASTINGS**, Austin, Texas, died March 4, 2014. He earned a divinity degree from Concordia (Illinois) Theological Seminary and a graduate degree in Byzantine history from Oklahoma State University. He served congregations in Minnesota, Oklahoma, and Texas.

KAREN KUENSTLING FAUST, Vista, California, died May 28, 2013. She worked 15 years as a dietary cook at Carlsbad Lutheran Health Facility before retiring.

MARY DEWEY DEWEERTH, New Hartford, New York, died Jan. 23, 2014. She earned a master's degree in special education from St. Cloud (Minnesota) State University. Survivors include her husband, the Rev. **Eldon DeWeerth '63**.

1964

LINDA OLSON RIDIHALGH, Columbus, Ohio, died Nov. 10, 2011.

1965

ELAINE ROLOFF EHRRICH, Waverly, died Feb. 26, 2014. She taught in Plainfield and Reinbeck, and Blue Earth, Minnesota.

1967

JOHN MOYERS, Evanston, Illinois, died March 9, 2014.

1969

The Rev. **DANIEL WISSMANN**, Appleton, Wisconsin, died Jan. 15, 2014. He earned a Master's of Divinity degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary. He served congregations in North Dakota, Illinois, and Wisconsin.

1971

RUTH DODGE, Britt, died April 9, 2014. She earned a master's degree from the University of Minnesota. and taught until 1995.

1972

RONALD WESTPHAL, Kewanee, Illinois, died May 19, 2014.

MARGARET NESS SLOTTEN, San Bernardino, California, died May 14, 2014. Survivors include her husband, **Lyle Slotten '71**.

1974

DWIGHT CARR, Thornton, Colorado, died Nov. 13, 2012. Survivors include his wife, **Deborah Stevens Carr '75**.

KENNETH DE BRONKART, Lebanon, Ohio, died Feb. 15, 2014.

1975

ROBERT "BOB" BASHAM, Bettendorf, died Feb. 8, 2014. He earned an executive MBA from the University of Iowa and worked at Deere & Company for 38 years. Survivors include his wife, **Kay Voss Basham '77**.

1980

W. RANDALL BRUBAKER, Johnston, died May 3, 2014. He worked at the *Iowa City Press Citizen* as sports editor, then joined the *Des Moines Register's* sports department as a copy editor and page designer and later sports editor. He eventually became the *Register's* senior news director, overseeing an award-winning investigative team and the sports department.

1983

BEVERLY WETZEL SUNDET, Clarksville, died April 19, 2014. She taught in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Survivors include her husband, **John Sundet '80**.

1988

KAI HEINECKEN, Chicago, Illinois, died May 31, 2014. He earned a bachelor's degree in education from DePaul (Illinois) University and a master's in education from Concordia (Minnesota) University. He was an athletic director, coach, and teacher in Chicago.

LIFE ON THE ICE

A SUMMER IN ANTARCTICA

by Dr. Mark Peterson '76



THIS PAST ANTARCTIC SUMMER SEASON

(winter in the Northern Hemisphere), I was the lead physician at McMurdo Station, the largest station of the U.S. Antarctic Program, which conducts research with funding from the National Science Foundation.

Life at the South Pole station is a bit like being on a space station on Earth. It sits on over a mile-and-a-half of ice on the polar plateau at about 9,800 feet, yet is drier than the Sahara.

The hospital/clinic at McMurdo is fairly analogous to an urgent care clinic with sufficient resources to provide some basic hospital and emergency care. Despite the small size and limited resources, we were the largest medical facility on the continent and had to handle just about anything. The most common complaints were colds, followed by muscle strains and sprains. We also took care of cases ranging from appendicitis to multiple fractures, pneumonia, and heart problems.

Our greatest challenge was a helicopter crash at the Korean station. Four critically to severely burned and injured patients were transferred to our care. We stabilized them and arranged an eight-hour medevac flight to Christchurch, New Zealand.

McMurdo Station usually has roughly 1,000 residents during the summer and about 120 to 140 over the winter, mainly a caretaker crew that does repairs and prepares for the summer. It is on Ross Island, next to the enormous Ross Ice Shelf on McMurdo Sound—a location selected because it is the farthest south that open water can be found (briefly) and can be resupplied annually by cargo ships.

Several hundred scientists along with their assistants and graduate students work from a

week to five months on NSF-approved research projects during the summer at the station or at remote field camps.

Geologists, glaciologists, biologists, astronomers, astrophysicists, and other scientists research topics as diverse as seals, diatoms, ozone depletion, and the origin of the universe. The effects of climate change attract considerable research.

They work amid extremes. Antarctica is the highest, windiest, and driest continent. Ninety-eight percent of its surface is covered in ice, but annual rainfall is less than two inches. Yet 70 percent of the world's fresh water and 90 percent of its ice is in the Antarctic ice sheet.

Travel to McMurdo is always a challenge. The runway is all ice. Weather frequently causes flight cancellations (mainly Air Force C-17s or LC 103s, the largest planes on skis). The last flights are in early March and don't resume until August.

A summer resupply caravan, the South Pole transverse, uses tractors to pull about a quarter-million gallons of fuel on sleds from McMurdo 600 miles to the South Pole. They are the real "ice road trucks."

McMurdo town looks like a remote mining camp/industrial site with a half-dozen or so dormitories, a galley, two bars, a coffeehouse, four gyms, a chapel, a small store, the clinic/hospital, an administration building, a large science center/laboratory, a water treatment/waste treatment facility, warehouses, and maintenance buildings.


Showers are limited to two minutes, two times a week, along with one load of laundry a week.

The McMurdo community is an interesting mix, tending to be well educated and well traveled. Many have been to all seven continents and have worked in Antarctica for years. Although most of the staff are blue-collar workers, it is not unusual to

have people with master's degrees washing dishes, Ph.D. candidates driving shuttles, or engineers fixing snow machines.

Most work nine hours per day, six days per week. Many like working five to eight months and having the rest of the year off. There's not much time for recreation, but with what little they have people go hiking and cross country skiing and take exercise, craft, and language classes. They also take part in music groups, go to science lectures, and do extensive socializing at such annual events as a Halloween costume party, holiday dinners, and the Icestock Music Festival/Chili Cook-Off on New Year's Day.

Then there's the 300 Club. To join, you sit in the sauna at 200 degrees F and then go streaking nude outside at minus-100 degrees F around the ceremonial South Pole.

While Wartburg has Outfly, the South Pole has "Winfly" in August, bridging winter and summer. That's when the rhythm of life at McMurdo begins again as the station is prepared for the opening of the summer science season in October. 

Peterson, a family practice physician in Juneau, Alaska, also has master's degrees in public health and medical management.



Aman Gebremariam '13 of Ethiopia and Sibusiso Kunene '14 of Swaziland brought water to a village in Dansa, Ethiopia, through the construction of three 26-meter deep wells.



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Wartburg College Annual Fund

SAVE THE DATES

SEPTEMBER

- 12 **Bach's Lunch Organ Series**
Wartburg Chapel
- 26-28 **Family Weekend**
Campuswide, All weekend
- 27 **Catapult: Living Shadows**
Neumann Auditorium, 3 and 7:30 p.m.

OCTOBER

- 5 **Rockapella**
Neumann Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
- 16-19 **Homecoming**
Campuswide
- 17 **Bach's Lunch Organ Series**
Wartburg Chapel
- 18 **The Charming Cello**
Neumann Auditorium, 8 p.m.

NOVEMBER

- 6-8 **Wagner's ENTIRE Ring of the Nibelung (minus music, plus puppets)**
McCaskey Lyceum, 7:30 p.m.
- 14 **Bach's Lunch Organ Series**
Wartburg Chapel

DECEMBER

- 5-7 **Christmas with Wartburg**
Des Moines/Neumann Auditorium
- 9 **Peter and the Wolf**
Neumann Auditorium, 7 p.m.

Dates are tentative; check Knightline and www.wartburg.edu/alumni for event details and information. Call the Alumni Office at 319-352-8491 with questions.

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Wartburg College wrestlers won a record-setting fourth consecutive NCAA Division III championship and 11th overall, while women's outdoor track and field took a record-tying third straight title and fifth overall earlier this year.

Coach Eric Keller's wrestlers had three champions and six All-Americans—all seniors. The individual winners were Kenny Anderson (133), Billerica, Massachusetts; Cole Welter (165), Gilbertville; and Landon Williams (174), Davenport. Anderson was Wartburg's third three-timer and the 13th in DIII history. Williams won at 165 in 2011. Ryan Fank, Independence, was a runner-up (285), and the other All-Americans were Gilberto Camacho (125), Fresno, California; and Puna Soriano (197), Waialua, Hawaii.

For Coach Marcus Newsom's track and field team, Libbey Schubert '14, Fairfield, won the 200 meters, while Tashina McAllister '14, Oelwein, and Haddie Vawter '14, Iowa City, were second in the 400-meter hurdles and 1,500 meters, respectively. The 4x100-meter relay team of Schubert; McAllister; Sarah Boraas '14, Sherrard, Illinois; and Erica Dynes '17, Annawan, Illinois, and the 4x400-meter relay team of McAllister; Kayla Kregel '14, Decorah; Kaly Adkins '15, Earlham; and Schubert were runners-up. Other All-Americans were Sammi Bruett '14, Urbandale, fourth, 3000-meter steeplechase; Taylor Moore '15, New Hampton, fourth, 800 meters; and Kayla Hemann '15, Stacyville, fourth, shot put.