

# Report of Colleges, Seminaries, and Campus Ministry

## Augustana College - Rock Island, IL



Central to the mission of Augustana College is education of the whole person: mind, body and spirit. This triune focus will be familiar to ELCA colleges and universities, whose educational missions are not concerned solely with accumulation of knowledge. Rather, one might say that for ELCA colleges, and liberal arts institutions in general, knowledge is the interplay of all aspects of human growth—*intellectual, physical and spiritual*. I would add one more to these, perhaps most related to the spiritual, and that is *mindful*.

Mindfulness, the state of being present *now* and paying attention to the moment at hand, is integral to individual well-being. It also is important to those concerned with the well-being of communities and the greater good in a world of precipitous change. Certainly important to education of the whole person, mindfulness also is relevant to another part of Augustana’s mission: educating students “for a diverse and changing world.”

This thinking is behind Augustana’s plans for **The Austin E. Knowlton Center for Innovation in Health, Wellness and Human Performance**, which the college will unveil in 2020. Building on our renowned programs in the sciences and pre-health fields, Augustana also will introduce a major and minor in kinesiology—the study of human movement and physical activity, and their impact on the health and well-being of individuals and societies.

Launched by an \$8 million investment from the Austin E. Knowlton Foundation, the center will include classrooms and offices, exercise and mindfulness laboratories, gathering areas, and an aquatic center with 25-yard and therapeutic pools. It will bring together faculty expertise from public health, communication studies, psychology, biology, kinesiology and more. Through its design and blending of programs and spaces, the center will integrate mindful, intellectual and physical activity.

At ELCA colleges and universities, we are aware that to address problems and challenges facing the whole world, education of the whole person is necessary. As Saint Irenaeus of Lyons has said, “The glory of God is the human person fully alive.”

When it is built, the Austin E. Knowlton Center for Innovation in Health, Wellness and Human Performance may be the one building on our campus that most encompasses preparation of “the human person fully alive.” Throughout the Midwest it will be known for excellence in educating responsible, responsive leaders who are mindful of community and global issues related to health and wellness.

I invite you to visit Augustana and see it for yourself.

augustana.edu

Steven C. Bahls, President



## Carthage College - Kenosha, Wisconsin

Dear Friends in Christ,

Proverbs 29:18 from Eugene Peterson's *The Message* reads, "If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; but when they attend to what God reveals, they are most blessed." People like to have a vision of where God is leading and guiding them. Every congregation needs a clear vision of how God is using its gifts in its particular location to care for the community.



CARTHAGE  
COLLEGE

CENTER FOR FAITH  
AND SPIRITUALITY

The same is true for Carthage College. On Feb. 20, President John Swallow shared his vision for Carthage in the years to come. He gave us four phrases to help guide our work: Communicate boldly. Educate expansively. Integrate regionally. Excel responsively.

### **Communicate boldly.**

We want people to know about Carthage and what it has to offer. We also want people to know that Carthage is affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Our connection with the ELCA roots us in the work of helping every student who comes to Carthage to find their vocation. We also want people to know that, if they come to Carthage, we will help them discover more about who they are, the gifts they have, and how they can make a difference in the world.

### **Educate expansively.**

As we all know, the world is changing rapidly. Technology is pushing all of us to learn new skills not only for our work, but for basic living in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Carthage is creating — and will continue to create — new programs that help both traditional undergraduate students and adult students who need to update their skill set.

### **Integrate regionally.**

Carthage wants to be involved in providing the people that this region — and the world — will need to thrive. Working together with businesses, nonprofits, churches, and other local organizations, Carthage students, faculty, and staff can make a difference in the Kenosha/Racine communities and beyond.

### **Excel responsively.**

We want to do all these things well, and it will mean training faculty and staff to help our students achieve their goals. We will keep our eyes on the future and be nimble with our responses to what is needed.

This is an exciting time at Carthage, as we look for new ways to tell the world about the hidden gem in southeastern Wisconsin — a college where students are educated to think deeply about the gifts they have to offer the world and are given the skills to take those first steps out into the lives they are called to lead.

In Christ,

Pastor Kara Baylor - Director of the Center for Faith and Spirituality

## Grace Place at Northern Illinois University

### **All are welcome**

Grace Place is well known on the Northern Illinois University campus as a welcoming place for students. We are a place without judgement that embraces all diversity, no matter the student's denominational choice (or those who identify with no religion), their sexual orientation, their race or ethnicity, or any other way they or society view them as separate. They are God's creation and they are welcome at Grace Place.

College students are challenged in areas of food, housing and rising costs of educational fees. A recent survey of college campuses across the U.S. revealed that 35% of students are hungry. Our NIU students are no exception.

Example: I met a student in her senior year who had incurred a debt of \$30k on her credit cards through four years of study at NIU. We brought in two financial advisors who counseled her on debt reduction. She was able to have the debt cut in half and given workable monthly payments to get her back on track.

### **Hunger challenges addressed**

Food challenges include poor choice in dietary habits and lack of money to buy food (many students prioritize books and tuition over healthy food). Grace Place's response is to facilitate handing out free lunches each Monday and Thursday from 10:30 am to noon. This program was initiated and run by First Lutheran Church in DeKalb. Lunches are feeding over 180 persons per week. We are looking for a team of churches to share preparation of lunches and volunteers to distribute lunches on Thursdays.

Example: A student from Nigeria came running up to our lunch table on the corner of Normal and Lucinda with arms outstretched. He gave a joyful hug saying, "God bless you. Thank you for being so kind and generous to us. We love you!!" I said, "We love you too. Thank you for letting us help in this small way."

Every Tuesday we offer a warm, home-cooked meal at 6:00 pm feeding an average of 15-20 persons per week, followed by an inspiring worship with music at 7:00 pm. These are shared by pastors in the Synod who would like to impart a message and dialogue with the students. Musicians and singers are welcome to offer their talents to enrich the service. We have a team of piano players hired to share weekly music and songs for the students. (Abi Mogge and K-Rae Knowles)

Example: This year we had a young woman who requested baptism. I gave her instruction, prayer and Bible study to prepare. She was baptized at Grace Place with family, friends, sponsors, and Bethlehem Lutheran members witnessing and recording the baptism in their records. This caused Grace Place to celebrate with a full capacity congregation in the chapel. What a JOY!

She said, "Pastor, I feel special. I can feel God's love from all of you."

### **Outreach by students**

Students often need volunteer hours for classes or other reasons related to vocational ambitions:

Examples: Food Pantry at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in DeKalb; Feed My Starving Children; Meals on Wheels; Heartland Blood Center Blood Drive; Student representative for Grace Place

### **Memorial Services**

Northern Illinois University and Grace Place Responds

1. Eleven years ago, NIU had six students lose their life to gun violence.
2. This year one student and one alumna lost their lives in gun violence in Aurora.
3. Eleven of our brothers and sisters of the Jewish faith in Pittsburgh were victims of gun violence at the Tree of Life Synagogue.
4. Fifty of our Muslim friends were slaughtered in a hate crime in Christ Church, New Zealand.

All of these horrific events cause deep anguish in our students. We addressed each incident through worship, a remembrance service and discussion at Grace Place and on campus. To say nothing or do nothing is unthinkable. Gun violence needs to be addressed in our land, so that we can feel safe even in times of prayer gatherings. Guns, hatred, and judgementalism are not welcome at Grace Place.

Example: The president of NIU, Dr. Lisa C. Freeman, and congregational representatives from Beth Shalom in DeKalb came to the service we hosted in response to the shooting at Tree of Life Synagogue. They participated in the service by reading the names and brief biographies of each Jewish victim. This was an inspirational and unifying service for all in attendance.

### **Search for a Campus Pastor**

The search committee and our staff liaisons at Episcopal Diocese of Chicago and the Northern Illinois Synod of the ELCA are looking for candidates for the role of Campus Pastor at Grace Place. Our prayers support these efforts since we know that God is calling someone who has a passion for this ministry to our students.

I have been the half-time Interim since Reverend Amy Fallon's departure for a new call in August of 2017. I work with the Campus Ministry's Board and offers compassionate outreach to our students. The ACRO,

Association of Campus Religious Organizations, has been invaluable in keeping up-to-date with students' needs on campus. This group meets once per month with guest speakers from various disciplines throughout the NIU community. They share their challenges and we share ideas to find the best possible answer to support our young men and women.

Personally, I feel honored to serve the Synod in the role of campus pastor. My hope is to constantly improve the ministry we offer. It is important to provide the best possible transition to the next called pastor.

Example: We are caring for our building as well as our community: getting the infrastructure in tune: We re-painted all of the inside of Grace Place. We have made repairs where needed such as a leaky roof, outdoor deck and furniture. We are bringing order to the office and meeting rooms. I look forward for the students to have a permanent pastor in which they can build a long-term relationship.

### **MANY, MANY THANKS FROM GRACE PLACE**

Grace Place can only do this united ministry with your help. Thank you for the invitations to speak at your church gatherings. So many congregations have been generous in providing warm home-cooked meals on Tuesdays to our students. Various churches have provided snack foods to be distributed to students to take back to their apartments and dorms like chocolates, ramen, soups, health food bars, chips, and deserts. Pastors have helped with worship services by offering music, prayers, worship leadership, and sermonettes. Congregations have sent in money donations directly to us, as well as through the combined money given through the Lutheran Campus Ministries of Illinois.

Example: First Lutheran of DeKalb has supplied free lunches and volunteers for two years on Mondays and Thursdays every week while school is in session. The third Tuesday of each month, they offer a warm meal.

Finally, we appreciate your offerings of prayers and contributions which forward the good work of Grace Place. Thanks be to God!

Pastor Robert L. Hansen, Interim

## **Grand View University - Des Moines, Iowa**



Dear Friends,

Warm greetings on behalf of our faculty, staff, students, and alumni! Here are some highlights of recent additions or enhancements to the campus:

### **Grand View Receives Nearly \$1 Million to Establish The Moses Project**

Grand View University received a grant of \$996,038 to help establish The Moses Project. The mission of the project is to give rural pastors a vision of ministry that will help them thrive in congregational leadership and, in turn, enhance the vitality of the congregations they serve. This program is designed to help them build relationships with and learn from experienced clergy who will guide them in their early ministerial career. More information is available at [www.grandview.edu/the-moses-project](http://www.grandview.edu/the-moses-project).

### **Grand View Choir to Tour and Perform Home Concert**

The Grand View University Choir will travel on an eleven-day 2019 Spring Tour through Nebraska, Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Montana. Wherever they sing, they have been praised for their excellence in musicality, blend, programming, and attention to detail.

### **Grand View Alumnus Named to Iowa Supreme Court**

Grand View alumnus and appeals court judge Christopher McDonald will become the first person of color to ever serve on the Iowa Supreme Court. "I know that as the first minority or person of color appointed to the Supreme Court, people will have special expectations for me in terms of leadership and mentorship and I understand that. I appreciate that," said McDonald. "I embrace those expectations and I'll certainly do my best to meet and exceed them."

## **Grand View to Begin Women's Wrestling this Fall**

Grand View University is proud to announce the addition of a women's wrestling program beginning in the fall of 2019. Grand View Director of Athletics, Troy Plummer, is excited: "Due to the increased interest and participation in the sport of women's wrestling locally and in the NAIA, along with the success of our men's program, we believe this is the best fit for Grand View as the 26<sup>th</sup> varsity program." Angelo Crinzi is the first Head Women's Wrestling Coach.

## **NEXUS Community of Young Adult Leaders**

Grand View received a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment to launch a Youth Theology Institute for the purpose of cultivating youth who will be theological leaders of the church. The Institute immerses high school students in Christian community, learning under Grand View's theology faculty, being exposed to the vocation of ministry, and putting into practice their calling. More information is available at: [www.nexusgv.org](http://www.nexusgv.org)

## **Grand View Wrestling Wins Eighth-Consecutive National Title**

The Grand View wrestling program won an unprecedented eighth-straight team national title. With the win, the title is the second-longest consecutive championship streak for any wrestling program at any level. Grand View finished with a total of 12 all-Americans and two individual national champions.

## **Campus Ministry at Grand View**

Campus ministry continues to grow and serve our students in many ways. Chapel is held once a week with different guest speakers often featured; there are also multiple Bible study groups, prayer groups, and evening worship offerings. The Viking House on campus is open during the day for students to hang out, eat, study, or relax.

God's Peace and Joy,  
Kent Henning, President

1200 Grandview Avenue / Des Moines, IA 50316 / 1-800-444-6083 / [www.grandview.edu](http://www.grandview.edu)

## **Lutheran Campus Ministry Illinois**

The three synods in Illinois appoint board members to Lutheran Campus Ministries of Illinois (LCMI) who along with Synod Bishops provide guidance and financial support to six staffed campus ministry sites. Our primary funding comes from the Northern Illinois Synod, Metro Chicago Synod and Central Southern Illinois Synod, with a small grant from ELCA Churchwide, and donations received from congregations and private individuals. The campus ministry sites include Illinois State University in Normal; Northern Illinois University in DeKalb; Northwestern University in Evanston; South Loop Campus Ministry in Chicago; University of Chicago in Chicago; and University of Illinois in Champaign. In addition, there are several Lutheran cooperating congregations, in communities with colleges or universities, that engage in programming with students, faculty and staff.

This past year the Board has spent time reviewing and updating our governing documents, discussing how best to provide support to campus pastors, to local campus boards, and for aging campus ministry facilities. Stable funding is our biggest challenge in sustaining these vital ministries. We appreciate support received through your synod, contributions to local campus ministries fundraising appeals or to LCMI directly. Please contact our Treasurer, Carey Mayer by email at [cmayer1302@yahoo.com](mailto:cmayer1302@yahoo.com) for information regarding gifts to LCMI.

Thank you for your prayers and support for campus ministries.

Tammie Farley  
President

Mark Van Scharrel  
Vice President

Carey Mayer  
Treasurer

Laura Schoenecker  
Secretary

## Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago and Wartburg Seminary



Dear Partners in Ministry in the Northern Illinois Synod,

We know that you seek out and value excellent leaders for your ministries. Wartburg Theological Seminary (WTS) and the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC), the two seminaries that you support, are dedicated to forming such leaders. This report reflects the spirit of collaboration between our schools and highlights the benefits of the distinctive ways we form leaders.

Together, LSTC and WTS have been learning from and working with Latinx/Hispanic leaders in Arkansas/Oklahoma and the Texas synods since early 2017 on ways to provide theological education for Spanish speaking communities. In 2018, leaders within the synods completed the first pilot programs that they developed in partnership with the seminaries to continue this work of developing theological education and identifying new rostered leaders.

### **Distinct ways LSTC and WTS serve church and world**

The distinctiveness of our locations and programs mean that those following their call to leadership in the church can find the best fit for their circumstances and passions.

LSTC is a community that forms leaders to form communities. This emphasis is part of LSTC's innovative public church curriculum. Since we are the ELCA seminary with the highest proportion of residential students, they are able to take advantage of all of the resources and learning opportunities the Chicago area has to offer. Students embrace the joys and challenges of being in a diverse community knowing that it strengthens their capacity to lead in a variety of ministry settings. In

2018 LSTC strengthened its mission by

- Hiring three new faculty members in essential areas: Dr. Eunyung Lim, associate professor of New Testament; Dr. Kimberly Wagner, associate professor of homiletics; and Dr. Marvin Wickware Jr., associate professor of church and society and ethics. Each has a reputation for excellence in teaching and scholarship and stands at the beginning of a very promising career.
- Hiring Andrea Finnegan as Vice President for Finance and Clyde Andrew Walter as interim Vice President for advancement. They are leading us in new directions and inspiring confidence in these critical areas of operation.
- Creating a new full-time faculty position, Director of Contextual Education to focus attention on the formation of master's students in collaboration with congregations, local communities, synods, and faith-based organizations.
- Awarding 24 Public Church Fellowships to master's level students who work an average of seven hours a week in 14 local nonprofit agencies. Fellows receive a monthly stipend and reflect together on faith formation and service.

With deep roots, WTS explores new ways of preparing leaders for a changing world. Investments in digital teaching and learning partnered with a commitment to building strong programs - both traditional and new - have contributed to several years of growth at WTS. Students (both residential and distance) learn from a teaching-centered, relational faculty to be formed as faithful leaders for our church. With the growth of new and expanded learning models, students in Dubuque learn alongside students from all four corners of the United States (and everywhere in between). The broad contexts each student in the WTS community brings has enriched and grown the capacity for pastoral formation through the exchange of learning, sharing, and action-reflection practiced throughout the curriculum. WTS has much to celebrate with you, our partners in ministry, as we look toward the rest of 2019:

- Two consecutive years of significant enrollment growth.
- Largest Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) program in the ELCA, training even more leaders for ordained ministry.
- Doubled the number of students in our Collaborative Learning (serving in a congregation and learning in real-time from a distance for the entirety of the degree program) Program and expansion of the program to include Master of Arts in Diaconal Ministry students.
- First students entered in the Integrated Bachelor of Arts/Master of Divinity Degree Program in partnership with Wartburg College.
- Redesigned Master of Arts and Master of Arts in Diaconal Ministry Degrees to meet the needs of new audiences of students.
- Significantly increased scholarships available to students, combined with a 61% decrease in student borrowing since 2015.

### Alumni stories

Finally, we'd like to introduce you to just one alumna from each of our seminaries.



Minna Bothwell, Wartburg Seminary '14 graduate, has been named one of the Des Moines Register's "People to Watch in 2019." Minna is serving in her first call at Capitol Hill Lutheran Church in Des Moines and has solidified a space in her community as an administer of the gospel for those in need, especially LGBTQ+ people, and immigrant and refugee communities. All of this starts at church, where Minna practices relentless hospitality in the name of Jesus Christ to all who enter.



Fatima Bass Thomas is a leader in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Gambia (ELCG). She is using what she learned at LSTC to help empower women in the Gambia and Guinea Bissau. "They are using the Scripture to block women. I want to bring back all I learned at LSTC (about) those Bible passages. . .that this is not the whole message of those passages." Because she speaks the local language, Bass Thomas is now serving churches in Guinea Bissau, teaching baptizing and presiding to hundreds of new Christians.

We invite you and members of your congregation to visit our seminaries and participate in worship, attend educational events, discern a call to ministry or visit with some of the future leaders that you and your synod support through your gifts to Wartburg and LSTC. To learn more about your seminaries and the innovative and distinctive ways we are forming leaders, please visit [www.lstc.edu](http://www.lstc.edu) and [www.wartburgseminary.edu](http://www.wartburgseminary.edu).

Your partnership is essential for LSTC and Wartburg to continue our shared mission of providing effective theological education. Thank you for joining us in developing leaders for the many ministries of your congregation, synod, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Nieman".

James Nieman  
President  
Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Louise N. Johnson".

Louise N. Johnson  
President  
Wartburg Theological Seminary

## Wartburg College - Waverly, Iowa

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



### Enrollment

Fall 2018 enrollment was 1,498 students from 34 U.S. states and 53 countries. This number included 115 international students and 199 U.S. students of color. The top five majors are business administration, biology, elementary education, music education, and journalism and communication.

### Focus on the Future

In 2017, Wartburg engaged more than 150 alumni, faculty, staff, students, and friends of the College in an examination of strategic opportunities in today's challenging environment for higher education. Task forces focused on academic innovation, student success, and expanding our reach. Wartburg continues to study and implement ideas that grew out of the initiative:

- In spring 2018, the Wartburg Board of Regents approved a new academic major in exercise science. Work is underway to raise funds to create new laboratory space, which also will strengthen other academic offerings in the Department of Health and Human Performance.
- Engineering Science faculty are working to refine the major and develop specializations in the new Bachelor of Science track. The department also dedicated an Innovation Studio, funded in part with a \$123,000 grant from the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust, to expand hands-on design and creation opportunities for students.
- In partnership with Wartburg Theological Seminary, we are building and populating a new B.A.-M.Div. cooperative program, which streamlines preparation for pastoral ministry. Halcyon Bjornstad, director of integrated B.A.-M.Div. degrees, spends time on each campus generating interest among students. The College also continues to implement the new Master of Arts in Music Therapy.
- A new Center for Integrative and Interdisciplinary Studies seeks to advance several projects that bind our curricula together in the service of our common mission. Dr. David McCullough, the Burk Will Chair in Interdisciplinary and Environmental Studies, was named its director. He is charged with overseeing the interdisciplinary tier of general education, searching for a new study away administrator, identifying physical space for the center, reinvigorating the endowed chair that was created to infuse ethics across the curriculum, and exploring possibilities for a center for faculty development.
- The College continues to examine its capacity and effectiveness in the areas of online, distance, and digital education and is grateful to the faculty and staff at Wartburg Theological Seminary who have shared successes achieved in the online teaching and learning environment. Wartburg is seeking approval from the Higher Learning Commission to offer its first complete online programs - an English as a Second Language (ESL) endorsement for educators and a post-baccalaureate certificate program in leadership.
- Wartburg continues to improve diversity and inclusion on campus, especially by discerning how best to support our multicultural students' academic progress through graduation. The American Multicultural Student Success Working Group, in concert with Multicultural Student Services, is assessing students' progress in their second year. The president's Diversity and Inclusion Council is implementing initiatives to address findings of a campus climate survey that evaluated students' perceptions of living and learning at Wartburg. A new Community Response Team is prepared to handle incidents of bias that threaten our campus culture.
- Wartburg became a founding investor in Mill Race, a community workspace in nearby Cedar Falls that supports area entrepreneurs. Building on that relationship, we have developed the Wartburg Incubator, a social entrepreneurship program that supports student efforts to address societal problems. In its first year, the incubator's Wicked Problems Challenge generated 75 poster ideas from students.
- Because St. John's Cathedral no longer works with the College, Wartburg has entered into a partnership with Johnson & Wales University in Denver, Colo., to house students in our Wartburg West program. We welcomed Dr. Greg Lorenz, who assumed program director responsibilities following the retirement of the Rev. Bonita Bock after 27 years of service.

### Spiritual Life and Campus Ministry

- The Rev. Dr. Brian Beckstrom was inducted as the Herbert and Cora Moehlmann Chaplaincy Chair, following the retirement of the Rev. Dr. Ramona Bouzard. As dean of spiritual life, he leads the College's ministry program and promotes faith exploration and development in and out of the classroom.
- The Rev. Munib Younan, bishop emeritus of the ELCA in Jordan and the Holy Land, presented "Loving God and Neighbor: Living Out the Biblical Call in the Holy Land" to faculty, staff, students, and the general public.

- The Spiritual Life and Campus Ministry Guiding Team, comprising faculty, staff, and students, continues to implement findings of the SLCM program review, made possible through the generous support of the Siebert Foundation and other donors. Efforts include more clearly articulating our identity as a college of the church, more closely integrating it with practices and decision making, and seeking creative ways to expand the ministry beyond the walls of the Chapel.
- The first annual “God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday was held with Redeemer and St. Paul’s Lutheran churches in Waverly, featuring joint service projects, worship in the Wartburg Chapel, and lunch. More than 300 people participated, including 50 students.
- The College is planning several events to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wartburg Chapel in 2019. A fundraising effort will focus on Chapel sound improvement, organ maintenance, and projection capabilities.

## Recognition

- Dr. Caryn Riswold joined the Wartburg faculty as a professor of religion, serving as the Mike and Marge McCoy Family Distinguished Chair in Lutheran Heritage and Mission. In addition to her years of teaching experience, Riswold is an accomplished scholar in Lutheran and feminist theologies and the author of three books. Established in 2013, the chair celebrates Wartburg’s distinctive mission and commitment to vocation. Riswold succeeds the Rev. Dr. Kit Kleinhans, who now serves as dean of Trinity Lutheran Seminary.
- Dr. Simon Estes, world-renowned opera singer and former Wartburg distinguished professor and artist-in-residence, received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters during spring Commencement.
- Dr. Gloria Kirkland-Holmes, associate professor of early childhood education at the University of Northern Iowa, was the 2018 Graven Award recipient. The annual award for Christian vocation continues to highlight the powerful and positive effect of a strong sense of Christian vocation as it interfaces with service to community, the church, and the world.
- Dr. Robert E. Lee, professor emeritus of music, received the Wartburg Medal at December Commencement in recognition of his sustained service to the College.
- Campus Compact named Madison Bloker ’19 of Clarksville, Iowa, a Newman Civic Fellow for her contributions to community and civic engagement. As part of her participation in Wartburg’s Baldwin Leadership Fellows Program, Bloker penned “Bound Blessings,” a devotional that raised funds for the Wartburg Dance Marathon.
- Tom Trenney, minister of music at First Plymouth Church in Lincoln, Neb., and renowned composer and organist, served as visiting conductor and artistic director for Christmas with Wartburg while Dr. Lee Nelson was on sabbatical for one semester.
- The Wartburg Choir joined choirs from Luther College and Iowa State University in “A Celebration of Song” at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis, marking the first time the three choirs have performed together.
- The Wartburg Castle Singers and Kammerstreicher chamber orchestra performed in the Great Hall of the Wartburg Castle in Eisenach, Germany, during May Term and participated in worship services at the Georgenkirche.
- Sophomores Collins Kalyebi and Saffa Bockarie Jr. each received \$10,000 Davis Projects for Peace grants to construct classrooms and provide health education for girls in Uganda and water wells in Sierra Leone, respectively.
- The 2018 wrestling team won a record-setting 14<sup>th</sup> national championship; the women’s basketball team advanced to the Final Four for the second time in three years; football player Matt Sacia was a semifinalist for the Gagliardi Trophy DIII National Player of the Year; and two student-athletes won NCAA Postgraduate Scholarships, bringing the total to 41.
- President Darrel Colson served on the executive committee of the Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities (NECU) and on the Council of Independent College’s NetVUE Advisory Council.

Wartburg College continues to find focus in a mission that is vibrantly alive and transformative for the entire college community as we learn, work, and serve together. Thank you for your prayers and support as we share in the work of strengthening the Lutheran traditions of higher education and Christian vocation.

Darrel D. Colson, President