



2011 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE SYNODS

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

Students at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa, engage in a four-year, liberal arts, residential, college experience where faith and learning inspire life-long leadership and service to God's world.

Wartburg is committed to nurturing a community of learning supported by deep roots of intellectual curiosity and compassionate action. A diverse student body and faculty bring a rich variety of ideas and experiences to this enterprise. In the 2011-12 academic year, Wartburg enrolled 125 international students from 49 countries and 204 U.S. students of color. These students comprise 18.4 percent of the student body, making Wartburg one of the most diverse small-college campuses in Iowa. Enrollment remains strong with 1,805 students and includes residents of 29 U.S. states.

The college welcomed seven new faculty members, filling open positions in Mathematics/Computer Science, English, Engineering, English Education, Music, Sociology, and Religion/Philosophy (Ethics Chair). New faces on campus include Dr. Daniel Kaplunas, conductor of the Wartburg Community Symphony; Dr. Jennifer McBride, Assistant Professor of Religion and Regents Chair in Ethics; and Gail Sexton, new coordinator of church relations and faith community outreach, a position now finding its home in the Center for Community Engagement. Bishop James Arends, La Crosse Area Synod, became the newest member of the Board of Regents, filling a three-year term of office.

In February 2011, Wartburg celebrated the arts and worship at an Epiphany Vespers event, Shine Like the Sun. John Ylvisaker, composer and hymn writer; the Rev. Paul Oman, artist; and the Rev. Phil Blom, preacher, joined the Wartburg Choir under the direction of Dr. Lee Nelson and the Chapel Choir under the direction of Dr. Karen Black to capture the light and hope of Epiphany. Music, storytelling, and art spoke of the light of Christ's work in our world to a packed house in the Wartburg Chapel.

A diverse series of convocation speakers inspired campus dialogue, including Dr. David Ratke, chair of the school of humanities and social sciences at Lenoir-Rhyne University and Wilhelm Löhe scholar; Dr. Amy Nolan, associate professor of English at Wartburg, who spoke on the graphic novel genre; Dr. Surekha Rao, president of the Academy of the Social Sciences in the School of Business and Economics at Indiana University Northwest, who spoke on "Understanding the Potential Impact of India's Economic, Political, and Business Environment"; Dr. Paula Survilla, Slife Professor in Humanities, who spoke on "Audente fortuna iuvat: Reimagining the Humanities from Legacy to Cultural Nexus"; and Luis Argueta, director of the documentary "abUSed: The Postville Raid," who discussed the ongoing impact of the May 2008 immigration raid in Postville, Iowa.

Spiritual Life and Campus Ministry spearheaded a successful Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack, which assembled over 197,000 meals and educated more than 940 Wartburg and community volunteers about world hunger needs. The annual junior high church youth event in November involved malaria education and a hands-on "Blankets of Love" project. Fifty student groups constructed and prayed over 'tie blankets' for each of the children who reside at Lutheran Services of Iowa's Beloit, Iowa's residential facility.

The Wartburg Choir was invited to sing at the White House on Dec. 17, 2011, and subsequently received an invitation to provide prelude and service music that same day for the annual Bethlehem Service at the National Cathedral. The service was part of a simulcast between the National Cathedral and Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem coordinated by the clergy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and the Episcopal diocese of Jerusalem of the Anglican Church and their Washington D.C. counterparts. The Rev. Dr. Munib Younan, bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan, delivered the sermon. Bishop Younan received an honorary degree from Wartburg in 2001. The Rev. Fred Strickert, Wartburg professor emeritus of religion, is an assistant to Younan.

These highlights provide only a few snapshots of Wartburg College life this past year. The ongoing picture is rich with opportunity and promise as students, staff, and faculty provide a mentoring community that encourages dialog, integrative learning, and encouragement for all to listen to their lives and the world in ways that offer hope to all.

Darrel D. Colson
President

Rev. Ramona S. Bouzard
Dean of the Chapel