



2012 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.

“Living our learning; claiming our calling; transforming tomorrow” are key elements of the college’s strategic plan, moving the college forward as it fulfills and expands its historic mission as a college of the church.

The past year has witnessed a host of accomplishments that highlight the effectiveness and strength of the Wartburg College mission:

- A total of 368 students made more than 480 presentations at the college’s first annual Research, Internship, and Creative Endeavor Day (RICE), a daylong focus on student learning through research, internships, performance, and creative expression.
- The faculty voted unanimously to establish a new major, Peace and Justice Studies. This interdisciplinary program prepares students for vocations in organizations that seek to establish peace and justice among individuals, communities, and nations.
- The Class of 2012 set records for study abroad (53%) and liberal arts majors (52%).
- Under the direction of Gail Sexton, coordinator of church relations and faith community outreach, congregational and community partnerships have grown dramatically. Students are serving in volunteer work, internships, research projects, and job shadowing in congregations and congregational outreach.
- The college received \$1.5 million for the Social Work program, including gifts from O. Jay and Pat Tomson to establish Wartburg’s first Distinguished Chair in Social Work and Jack and Sarah Salzwedel to establish the Slife Institute for Social Work Consultation, Research and Training, named in honor of Sarah’s parents, the late Harry and Polly Slife. Harry Slife was a former member and president of the Wartburg Board of Regents.
- Dr. Mark Biermann began his work as vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty.
- Dr. Kunihiko Terasawa filled the new world religions position in the religion and philosophy department.
- A newly formed Mission Effectiveness Committee oversees the work of the strategic plan, aimed at fostering a “culture of collaboration and transparency,” reviewing best practices and improving quality.
- The women’s indoor and outdoor track and field teams and the wrestling team won national Division III championships. Coach Marcus Newsom was recognized for the sixth time as U.S. Track Coaches Association Division III indoor women’s Coach of the Year. Under his leadership Wartburg has won 10 straight indoor women’s conference championship/conference invitational titles. The wrestling team won its 20th consecutive conference title on the way to its ninth national championship.
- Through the work of Kelsey Nulph, ’14, Spiritual Life and Campus Ministry partnered with the ELCA Malaria Initiative to help support a year-long Wartburg Malaria Initiative aimed at education and fund-raising. By January 2013, the effort had raised more than \$24,000. The Wartburg Malaria Initiative’s work includes a dozen campus departments, more than 600 student volunteers, and the Northeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA. The initiative culminates on March 16, 2013, with a benefit concert featuring alumni and student bands. All gifts will be matched by the Sorenson family, whose generosity has made the initiative possible on all levels.
- Creative leadership from the communication arts department and the President’s Office resulted in a partnership with Deutsche Welle broadcasting in Bonn, Germany. The shared work includes satellite feeds, internships, and a variety of other initiatives.
- The annual Graven Award was given to Dr. Kenneth W. Inskeep, director of research and evaluation at the ELCA churchwide offices and author of *Chasing Down a Rumor: The Death of the Mainline Churches*.
- Two Wartburg alums, 64 Wartburg students, and 17 faculty/staff initiated leadership roles to promote awareness and raise funds to build three fresh water wells in Ethiopia through Water to Thrive.

Wartburg College continues to find focus in a mission that is vibrantly alive and transformative for the entire college community. Faculty and staff find challenge and nurture in their work with students, and students find themselves on a quest to become alumni recognized for creative contributions to church, their communities, and the world.

Darrel D. Colson
President

Rev. Ramona S. Bouzard
Dean of the Chapel