Faculty Scholarship, Achievements, and Service

Report from the
Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs
In addition to teaching, Wartburg College faculty participate in a variety of activities that contribute to the advancement of knowledge, the improvement of teaching, and service to the college and the community. The following is a report on the achievements of the Wartburg College faculty during the 2008-2009 academic year.
Publication of Books or Papers

Njus, D.M., & Bane, C.
(in press)

Bouzard, W.
(in press)
The date of the Psalms scroll from the cave of letters. In Freund, R. (ed.) *Return to the cave of letters.*

(2009)
Bible study in a box. *The clergy journal* 85(4), 6-8.

(2009)
Old testament review. *Lutheran Study Bible.* Minneapolis, Minn.: Augsburg Fortress.

(2009)

(2009)

(2009)

(2009)

(2009)

Brockman, C.
(2008)
The convergence of print and radio in one of Iowa’s smallest markets. *The convergence newsletter,* University of South Carolina.

Clarkson, J. and Ewest, T.
(2008)

Cohenour, G.
(2008)

Donham, J.
(2008)

Ellerbroek, S.
(2008)
[Review of the article The dioxin receptor AhR modulates fibroblast shape, adhesion, and migration through transcriptional control of the vav3 proto-oncogene] *Journal of Cell Science.*

Ewest, T.
(2008)

(2009)

Fullwiler, S.
(2008)

Hagan, D.
(2009)
[Review of the article The function of the dream and the body in Diderot’s works] *The Eighteenth-Century Current Bibliography* 31.

Hedeen, P.
(2009)
When I think about rain, Final Thursday Press.

(2009)
Long-lived photogenerated states of α-oligothiophene–acridinium dyads have triplet character. *Journal of Physical Chemistry.* 113 (13), 3096–3107.

Jones, B.
(in press)

(2008)

(2009)
Delivering the good news. *The Lutheran,* April.

Lambert III, L.
(2008)

(2008)

Miller, K.E., Laszlo, K. & Suomi, S.J.
(2008)

Nash, P.
(2008)
Pruisner, P.  
(2009)  

(2009)  
Moving beyond No Child Left Behind with the merged model for reading instruction. *Tech Trends*, 53(2), 41-47.

Schneider, R.  
(2008)  

Stein, J.  
(2008)  

Strickert, F.  
(2008)  

(2008)  

(2008)  

(2008)  

(2009)  

Thomas, D.  
(2008)  

Torkelson, S.  
(2008)  

Vallem, S.  
(2008)  

Walther, D.  
(2008)  

(2009)  

Zelle, J. and Reed, D.  
(2009)  
Data structures and algorithms using Python and C++. Wilsonville, Ore.: Franklin, Beedle and Associates.

Brockman, C.  
(2008)  
Convergence on a dime: Student media migration to the Web. Iowa Association for Communication Technology Fall Conference.

(2009)  
Convergence on a dime: Student media migration to the Web. Broadcast Education Association national conference.

Campbell, G.  
(2009)  
What website components are being used in the employment recruiting process? What does this info mean for HRM courses? North American Management Society track of the Midwest Business Administration Association, Chicago, Ill.

(2009)  

Clarkson, J.  
(2008)  
Leadership with integrity in higher education. The Way Up Conference, Coralville, Iowa.

Cohenour, G.  
(2008)  

Donham, J.  
(2009)  

(2009)  
Academic library/IT department relations. Iowa Association of College and Research Librarians.

Ellerbroek, S. and Chaffin, K., Huegel, K., McKenna, T., Liu, Y., and Stack, S.  
(2008)  

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**Professional Presentations**

Babcock Mashek, K. and Weaver, K.  
(2009)  
Making your user guides relevant in a 2.0 world. Midwest Library Technology Conference, Minneapolis, Minn.

Babcock Mashek, K. and Weaver, K.  
(2009)  


(2009) How the crisis has changed the economic policy paradigm. Mosler Economic Policy Center Symposium, Franklin College, Switzerland.


Munir, S.
(2008)
Parenting styles and test anxiety among college students. Annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, Ill.

(2008)
Perceived parenting styles among college students: A cross-cultural comparison. Annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, Ill.

(2009)

(2009)
Motivation and parenting among American and Indian college students. Annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, Ill.

Pier, P.
(2008)

(2008)
The little program that could: How to foster administrative support. National Communication Association Annual Convention, San Diego, Calif.

(2008)
Undergraduate students’ use of professional ethics in research. National Communication Association Annual Convention, San Diego, Calif.

(2008)

Pruisner, P
(2008)

Honors

Andrews, J.
(2008)
National Growth Award, Collegiate MENC Chapter Sponsor.

(2008)
Sponsor for the Outstanding Collegiate Music Educator in the United States.

Stein, J. with Price, G.
(2009)
A Legacy of Trust: The Black Hawk Broadcasting Company Story accepted for inclusion in the permanent collection of the Paley Center for Media in New York City.

Babcock Mashek, K.
Best of Show Award for Services Available/Orientation Materials/Policy Materials division in the Library Administration and Management Association Public Relations Swap and Shop event, American Library Association Annual Conference.

Ewest, T.
(2009)

Johnson, S.
(2009)
Iowa Conference Women’s Cross Country Coach of the Year.

(2009)
NCAA III Central Region Women’s Cross Country Coach of the Year.

Nolan, A.
(2009)
Honorable mention for the Carter V. Cooper Memorial Prize for Nonfiction.

Strickert, F.
(2009)
Distinguished Alumnus Award, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

Torkelson, S.
(2009)
MTNA Outstanding Leadership Award.

Vallem, S.
(2008)
Excellence in Governance Award, Iowa Hospital Association.

Weaver, K.
(2008)
Invited member, Beta Phi Mu, Beta Iota Chapter.

(2009)
Wartburg Forensics Team Appreciation Award.
Professional Presentations

Walther, D.
(2008)
Sex and control in Germany’s overseas possessions. African Studies Association Conference, Chicago, Ill.

Weaver, K. and Babcock Mashek, K.
(2009)
Making your user guides relevant in a 2.0 world. Midwest Library Technology Conference, Minneapolis, Minn.

Weaver, K. and Babcock Mashek, K.
(2009)

Zelle, J.
(2008)
Simpler is better: Python as a teaching language. Computer Science Teacher’s Association CS & IT Symposium, San Antonio, Texas.

Professional Service

Andrews, J.
(2008)
Guest clinician: Austin, Minn.; Des Moines, Okoboji, Riceville, Cedar Rapids, Nora Springs, Iowa.

Babcock Mashek, K.
(2008)
Board member of the Iowa Chapter of Association of College and Research Libraries

Clarkson, J.
(2008)
Volunteer reviewer, Academy of Management’s Organizational Behavior and Social Issues in Management divisions’ submissions for the annual meeting

Clarkson, J. and Ewest T.
(2008)
Fostering intercultural awareness and competence about China in an American college’s business department using learner-centered instructional techniques to promote deep learning. Global Business Development Institute Conference Proceedings.

Donham, J.
(2008)
Advisory board, University of Iowa School of Library & Information Science

Stein, J.
(2008)

Moderator, You be the editor. University of Iowa School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Iowa City, Iowa.

In the public interest: Iowa broadcasters serve their audience. Iowa Studies Forum, Ankeny, Iowa.


Thomas, D.
(2008)
Barack Obama in the American Mind: Competing Narratives and the Quest for Authenticity. International Society for the Scientific Study of Subjectivity, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON, Canada.

Torkelson, S.
(2008)
New music session Iowa Music Teachers Summer Convention, Cedar Falls, Iowa.

(2009)
FJH Publisher Showcase, Music Teachers National Conference, Atlanta, Ga.

Vallem, S.
(2009)
Preparing students for legislative day. Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors conference.

(2009)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Position / Project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ellerbroek, S.</strong></td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Member, Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society Grants-In-Aid of Research Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ewest, T.</strong></td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Management course curriculum development. Grace College, Winona Lake, Ind.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fedeler, B.</strong></td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Juror, Iowa Regional Artists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fiene, K.</strong></td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Board member, The Collaboration for the Advancement of College Teaching and Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fiene, K.</strong></td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Chair, Membership and Advocacy Committee, The Collaboration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fiene, K.</strong></td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Board member, Iowa Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (IACTE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Foster, J.</strong></td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Session chair, 21st North American Prairie Conference, Winona, Minn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Foster, J.</strong></td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Reviewer, <em>Journal of the Iowa Academy of Science.</em> Cedar Falls, Iowa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Jones, B.</strong></td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Served on the Commission on Ministry and on the Professional Leave and Development committees, Episcopal Church, Diocese of Iowa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kleinhans, K.</strong></td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Projects coordinator, Anglican Association of Biblical Scholars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kleinhans, K.</strong></td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Convener, Iowans for Religion and Science Dialogue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lehmann, K.</strong></td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Iowa Library Association/Association of College &amp; Research Libraries Awards Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nash, P.</strong></td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Steering committee chairman, Association of Teaching Theologians of the ELCA and the ELCA Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Payne, T.</strong></td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Member, community long-range planning committee, Waverly Public Library, Waverly, Iowa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Peters, L.</strong></td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Consultant, Concordia College, Selma, Ala.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Peters, L.</strong></td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Consultant, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Northeast Iowa Synod Ministry on Aging Work Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pier, P.</strong></td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Reviewer for the National Communication Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pruisner, P.</strong></td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Awards Committee Chair, International Visual Literacy Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pruisner, P.</strong></td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Member, Reading Leadership Team, Iowa Reading First</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(2008) Member, Higher Education Committee, Iowa Reading First
(2009) Program committee member, International Visual Literacy Association

**Stein, J.**
(2008) Coordinator, Iowa Broadcast News Association convention
(2008) Board member, Board of Trustees of the State Historical Society of Iowa
(2008) Member, State Historical Society of Iowa

**Strickert, F.**
(2008) Chair, Global Mission Program Committee, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
(2008) Advisory member representing Global Mission, Church Council, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
(2008) Board member, Bethsaida Archaeological Excavations Project

**Torkelson, S.**
(2008) West Central Division Commissioner, Music Teachers National Association National Certification Commission Board
(2008) Board Past-President and Repertoire Chair, Iowa Music Teachers Association
(2008) Official accompanist, West Central Division Music Teachers National Association Competitions

**Vallem, S.**
(2008) Chair, Advocacy and Outreach Committee, Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors
(2008) Member, Action Network for Social Work Education & Research
(2008) Member, Board of Directors, Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research
(2008) Member, Commission on Professional Development, Council on Social Work Education
(2008) Member, Nominations Committee, Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors
(2008) Member, Department of Human Services’ District Foster Care Transition Team

**Walther, D.**
(2008) Project Co-Director, German Studies Symposium: German Studies Locally and Globally, Waverly, Iowa
(2008) Chair, German Studies Association Graduate Student Prize Committee.

**Weaver, K.**

**Withers, W.**

**Community Presentations**

**Arns, A.**

**Bane, C.**

**Bousquet, B.**
Brockman, C.  
(2008) 
*Eisenach, Germany and the Wartburg Castle.* Nazareth Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Buckholz, K.  
(2008) 
*To pee or not to pee, that is the question.* Southwestern Research Station, Tucson, Ariz.

(2008) 
*Squirrels, beetles and moles, oh my! National Society of Collegiate Scholars, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa.

(2008) 

Campbell, G.  
(2008) 
*Technology: The Internet called: Incorporating Skype and Sightspeed into classes.* Wartburg College Technology Workshop.

DeVries, C.  
(2009) 
Facilitator, Physics and Chemistry Demonstration Show, Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa.

Donham, J.  
(2009) 
*Information literacy.* Wartburg Chapter, American Association of University Women, Waverly, Iowa.

Ewest, T.  
(2008) 

Fedeler, B.  
(2009) 
Juror presentation. Iowa Regional Artist Association, Denver, Iowa.

Fiene, K.  
(2009) 
*Teaching as a Potential Career.* Jesup Community Schools, Jesup, Iowa.

Figura, C.  
(2009) 
Facilitator, Physics and Chemistry Demonstration Show, Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa.

Fullwiler, S.  
(2009) 
*Predicting presidential elections using economic data.* Waverly Rotary Club, Waverly, Iowa.

Hedeen, P.  
(2008) 
*American cinema and American youth.* Window on America, Vinnitsya Public Library, Vinnitsya, Ukraine.

(2008) 
*The Wizard of Oz.* Window on America, Vinnitsya Public Library, Vinnitsya, Ukraine.

(2008) 
*There is no place like home: Embracing what’s possible in a violent world.* Window on America, Vinnitsya Public Library, Vinnitsya, Ukraine.

(2008) 
*High noon.* Window on America, Vinnitsya Public Library, Vinnitsya, Ukraine.

(2008) 
*Courage and citizenship: Pessimism and democracy.* Window on America, Vinnitsya Public Library, Vinnitsya, Ukraine.

Hedeen, P. with Rybins’ka, J.  
(2009) 
*Comparative learning of W. Whitman and T. Shevchenko.* Vinnitsya Public Library, Vinnitsya, Ukraine.

Jones, B.  
(2009) 
Panelist, *Darwin and religion.* Unitarian Universalist Society of Black Hawk County, Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Nolan, A.  
(2008) 
*The whirlpool.* Featured writer, Final Thursdays series. University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Payne, T.  
(2008) 
*Photography in the digital age.* Janesville Community Club, Janesville, Iowa.

Pruisner, P.  
(2008) 
*Semantic feature analysis: A content area reading strategy.* Literacy Leaders Reading Council of the Iowa Reading Association, St. Ansgar, Iowa.

Schneider, R.  
*Native American history and culture.* Keep on Learning, Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa.

Stein, J.  
(2008) 
*Communication and television technology.* North Star Dayhab, Waverly, Iowa.

Strickert, F.  
(2009) 
*Under a palm tree: The birth of Jesus in the Qur’an, the infancy Gospels, and a recent archaeological find near Bethlehem.* Annual Slife Lecture, Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa.

Torkelson, S.  
(2008) 
Master Class, Fort Dodge Music Teachers Association.

(2008) 
IMTA Adjudication, Humboldt, Iowa City, Des Moines, Webster City, Dubuque, Iowa.

Vallem, S.  
(2008) 
*Psychological First Aid.* American Red Cross, Hawkeye Chapter.

(2008) 
*Disaster Mental Health.* American Red Cross, Hawkeye Chapter.

Withers, W.  
(2008) 
Facilitator, Ford Family Foundation’s summer youth workshop, Eugene, Ore.
Community Service

Arns, A. 
(2008)  
Board member and club registrar, Waverly-Shell Rock Soccer Association.

(2008)  
Board member, Waverly-Shell Rock Athletic booster club.

Babcock Mashek, K. 
(2008)  
Vice President for Membership and Honors Banquet Chair, AAUW- Waverly Branch.

Bane, C. 
(2008)  
Wartburg College representative, Midwestern Psychological Association.

Clarkson, J. 
(2008)  
Saint Patrick’s Parish and School volunteer, Cedar Falls, Iowa.

(2008) 
Volunteer, Cedar Valley Humane Society.

Ewest, T. 
(2008)  
Waverly Economic Development Committee, Waverly, Iowa.

(2009) 
Board of Directors, Iowa State University Extension Bremer County Site, District Extension, Tripoli, Iowa.

Fiene, K. 
(2008)  
Waverly Exchange Club Executive Committee, Secretary.

(2008) 
Waverly-Shell Rock United Way Campaign Assistant.

Foster, J. 
(2008)  
Program chair, American Association of University Women.

(2008)  
Forum co-chair, Charles Darwin and religion. Unitarian Universalists of Blackhawk County, Cedar Falls, Iowa.

(2009)  
Workshop leader, Cedar Valley Science Symposium.

Fullwiler, S. 
(2008)  
Treasurer, Waverly Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

Hackemann-Bahlmann, R. 
(2008)  
Member, Waverly Public Art Committee.

Jones, B.  
Secretary of the Vestry, St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church.

Lambert III, L.  
Chair, City of Waverly Planning and Zoning Commission.

Lehmann, K.  
(2008)  
Member, Waverly Historic Preservation Commission.

Sherwood, S.  
(2008)  
DARE Program Supervisor.

(2008)  

Vallem, S.  
(2008) 
Chair, Waverly Health Center Board of Trustees.

(2008)  
Member, Waverly Health Center Foundation.

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(2008-2009)  

(2008-2009)  

(2008-2009) 

(2008-2009)  

(2008-2009)  
Grants

**Ellerbroek, S., with Sloan, C. and Quinn, C.**
(2008)
*Participation of residue 43 in GEF-catalyzed activation of RhoA, RhoB, and RhoC.*
R. J. McElroy Trust Research Grant.

**Ellerbroek, S., with Fayram, D. and Kuckleman, J.**
(2008)
*Cellular Regulation of RhoG Activity by Serine Phosphorylation.*
R. J. McElroy Trust Research Grant.

**Ewest, T.**
(2008)
Wildlife Federation Grant to assist students mapping carbon emissions on campus.

**Lehmann, K.**
FRONTLINE/World Social Entrepreneurs Series Grant for international social entrepreneurship programming in cooperation with Dr. Mariah Birgen, Wartburg Scholars, and Waverly's Self-Help International.

**Stein, J.**
(2008)
Quarton-McElroy Trust/Iowa Broadcasters Association Grant.

**Walther, D.**
(2008)
German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Faculty Research Grant.

(2008)
German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Conference Support Grant.

**Zelle, J., with Haugen, B., and Tung, D.**
(2009)
*A pure Python visualization module.* Maytag Innovation Award for Student/Faculty Research.

**Zelle, J., with Herzberg, S. and Juett, J.**
(2009)
*Wii mote interfaces for virtual reality applications.* Maytag Innovation Award for Student/Faculty Research.

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Editor of Publication

**Brockman, C.**
(2008)
Editor of *Cyberwave* the online newsletter of the Iowa Broadcast News Association.

**Donham, J.**
Editor, *School Library Media Research*, the research publication of the American Association of School Librarians.

**Torkelson, S.**
(2008)
New music reviews. *Iowa Music Teachers Magazine*, Fall.

(2008)
New music reviews. *Iowa Music Teachers Magazine*, Winter.

(2009)
New music reviews. *Iowa Music Teachers Magazine*, Spring.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>International/ Domestic Travel</th>
<th>Publication or Performance of Creative Works</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Andrews, J.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fedeler, B.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td><strong>Hackemann-Bahlmann, R.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hangzhou, China</td>
<td>(2009) <em>The ghosts of Coleridge.</em> Tunnel Space, Fashion Institute of Technology, New York, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Foster, J.</strong></td>
<td>(2009) PEEK site specific window project. 301 Gallery, Montserrat College of Art, Beverly, Mass.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2008) San Antonio, Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Peters, L.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Hedeen, P.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Strickert, F.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Pfaltzgraff, B.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2008) Europe and South Africa</td>
<td><strong>Stein, J.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>(2008) Alaska</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Walther, D.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Torkelson, S.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Professional Development by Invitation

Buckholz, K.
(2009)
NSF-sponsored Introductory POGIL Workshop, Mount Mary College, Milwaukee, Wis.

Donham, J.
(2008)
Becoming a mentor Keynote, Iowa Association of College and Research Libraries Mentoring Workshop, Davenport, Iowa.

(2009)
Standards! Standards! Standards! AEA 267, Cedar Falls, Iowa.

(2009)
The liberal arts college library. Guest lecture, University of Iowa School of Library and Information Science. (Course: 021:271 College and University Libraries)

(2009)
Information literacy for undergraduates. Guest lecture, University of Iowa School of Library and Information Science. (Course: 021:248 Information Literacy)

Kleinhaus, K.
(2009)
Invited participant, Transformative Lutheran Theologies: Feminist, Womanist, and Mujerista Perspectives, Chicago, Ill.
Dr. Tamara Faux
Promotion to Associate Professor

Dr. Tammy Faux is committed to sustainability. Many faculty and staff know this about her because she and her husband operate an organic farm that produces fresh vegetables, turkeys, eggs, and beautiful flowers that attract the appropriate bees. But this is not her only interest in sustainability. For the past several years, Faux has encouraged the College, through her own leadership and hard work, to provide a more sustainable campus environment. As the campus sustainability officer she has helped with recycling, challenged Luther College to conserve, and reminded everyone on campus about the need to reduce our carbon footprint.

Probably her most important contribution to sustainability, however, is her interest in sustaining and supporting people. This care for people and improving the quality of their lives comes through when she teaches Social Work 210: Meeting the Needs of Children. One of her central messages is that each individual is important and should receive the love and attention necessary to thrive. In addition, Faux incorporates service-learning into her courses to give students firsthand experience on what it means to help others. She also helps to coordinate the poverty simulation on campus. Through this simulation students encounter the roles and relationships borne of poverty and experience the frustrations associated with having limited resources to manage life.

Her care for people is also expressed through volunteer work with the Allison Area Foster Parent Advisory Board, the Community Club, in Triopi, Iowa, Together 4 Kids Advisory Board, and the Bremer County Habitat for Humanity. She presented a Salon Discussion on Green Social Work at the Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Programs Directors meeting and presented a Collaboration for the Advancement of College Teaching and Learning Workshop entitled “using Service-Learning to Strengthen Student Learning and Retention.” Her unique approaches to pedagogy resulted in presentations on active learning and “The Quilted Story of Social Justice: Right-brained Analysis and Synthesis.”

Dr. Terry Letsche
Promotion to Associate Professor

By his own definition, Terry Letsche has the coolest job ever: a college professor at his own alma mater. An enthusiastic and passionate educator, Letsche’s teaching philosophy seeks to create an environment where students can maximize their success in learning in courses typically considered very difficult. Letsche fosters success primarily by tailoring courses to meet the needs of the individual students and by incorporating active and cooperative learning.

Letsche also motivates students by inviting guest speakers to discuss real-life application and job opportunities. He also incorporates real-life situations as problem solving opportunities to great success. During one course, he collaborated with Student Life asking students to automate the incoming student room and roommate assignment process. The class then developed databases to assist in that process. Students found this a fun way to synthesize what they had learned in class. During the summer they will try the best of the programs on actual data to see if they can assist Residential Life increase their productivity.

A good citizen of the college, Letsche is active on several committees, including the Instructional Resources and Convocation committees. He has been a faculty adviser to Kappa Mu Epsilon, the math honor society, a student adviser, and contributed to the Lutheran Heritage tour.

Dr. Edward Westen
Promotion to Associate Professor

When Dr. Ed Westen arrived at Wartburg his most important assignment was to ensure that the pre-health program at Wartburg continued to prosper. Following in the footsteps of Dr. Darold Wolff would not be easy, but it had to be done in addition to the usual faculty work of excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service. Westen met this challenge in his own unique way and the pre-health program thrives today not only because of his work, but the team effort of the biology, chemistry, physics, and biochemistry faculty.

Mammalian Anatomy and Physiology, a required pre-health course, was transformed when Westen added a human cadaver to the laboratory and recruited upper division students to assist students new to the laboratory to find their way around the human body. In addition, he instituted a problem-based learning approach in the lab that provides students the opportunity to solve medical problems using the resources available and their own problem solving skills. These laboratories are a beehive of activity with students studying the cadaver,
working on problems, or memorizing muscle origins and insertions, nerves, and blood vessels. Student feedback on this course characterizes it as having a high level of difficulty, a challenging workload, and being an excellent course. In addition, Westen established the MCAT class. Recruiting faculty from chemistry, physics, biochemistry, and the English departments to assist students with preparation, Westen has improved the average score of students and the percent of students going to medical school. He also regularly contributes to the biology research sequence advising students in the conduct of research and attending professional meetings with students.

Service to the college has included membership on the Admissions and Scholarship Committee and the Human and Animal Research Review Committee. He has taught in the Cedar Valley Science Symposium, a recruitment tool for the biology department, and has served as an adviser for the Students for Peace and Justice organization and the Climbing Club. He has focused on the scholarship of teaching, presenting at the Human Anatomy and Physiology Society meetings on Writing, Implementing and Assessing Problem-Based Learning Activities in a Two Semester Anatomy and Physiology Course, and Using an Emphysema PBL to Teach Respiratory Physiology. He has also presented with students on The Metabolic and Cardiovascular Effects of a Low Carbohydrate Diet, and Changes in Weight as a Result of a Low-Carbohydrate Diet.

Dr. Richard Schneider
Professor of English 1986-2009

When considering the long tenure of Richard Schneider at Wartburg College, one is reminded of the quote from Henry David Thoreau, “In the long run, men hit only what they aim at. Therefore, they had better aim at something high.”

An internationally recognized expert in the field of Thoreau, Schneider has edited several important volumes on the American author. His volume, Approaches to Teaching Thoreau’s Walden and Other Works, which surveyed national/international colleagues about how they teach Thoreau, has become the primary guidebook for educators of America’s literary heritage. His second volume, Thoreau’s Sense of Place: Essays in American Environmental Writing, addresses how Thoreau’s sense of place has affected the tradition of nature writing. Schneider has also served on the board of directors for the Thoreau Society, the oldest and largest organization devoted to an American author dedicated to promoting Thoreau’s life, works, and legacy.

Schneider’s service to the college has been equally impressive. He served as the Harry and Polly Slife Professor in Humanities from its inception in 1995 until 2004. During that time he played an important role in the promotion of the humanities through the state of Iowa. During his eight years as department chair in the English/modern languages department, Schneider initiated Writing Across the Curriculum into the College’s Plan of Essential Education and saw the department double in size. He has also been an active speaker in the Keep on Learning program.

Dr. Paul Torkelson
Professor of Music, Zahn Endowed Chair in Choral Conducting, Director of Choral Activities 1984-2009

A Wartburg alumnus, the energetic Torkelson joined the faculty at his alma mater in 1984 originally to fill the position of choir director for a term, one that lasted 25 years.

Under his direction, the Wartburg Choir performed at Carnegie Hall, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis, and at Avery Fisher Hall at New York City’s Lincoln Center. In addition to leading the seven tours of Europe, the Wartburg Choir toured both South Africa and Prague. Torkelson has been a frequent conductor for all-state choirs throughout the country, including the Iowa All-State Choir’s 50th anniversary performance in 1996. Torkelson also directed Metropolitan Chorale and Chancel Choir at Zion Lutheran Church, both in Waterloo.

Under his direction the choral program has grown from two to five choirs and has seen the department grow from 50 to 150 majors. He has not only assisted students with their musical skills, but he has also introduced hundreds of students to the arts and culture of the world, traveling with them on music tours and with the Wartburg Scholars Program.

Torkelson has taken a position as conductor in residence for MidAmerica Productions in New York City where he will recruit college and high school choral groups to perform at Carnegie Hall. He will also serve as chorus master for the opera at the Festival of the Aegean on the Island of Syros in Greece.

Dr. Torkelson’s passion and energy for music, teaching, and Wartburg has left a legacy that has furthered the reputation and the tradition of the program. His commitment to the Lutheran choral tradition and to Wartburg College is truly a “Mighty Fortress of Service.”
Pastor Larry Trachte
College Pastor, Moehlman Endowed Chaplaincy Chair,
Assistant Professor of Religion 1974-2009

As a college student, he couldn’t decide whether to be a counselor, pastor, or professor. As it happened, the Rev. Larry Trachte became all three during his 35-year career at Wartburg College, often in the course of a single day. Trachte has served as campus pastor and assistant professor of religion at Wartburg College since 1974.

Trachte graduated from Wartburg College in 1966 and enrolled at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque. In 1968 he was ordained and called to serve as associate pastor at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Waverly. While serving on the search committee for the new Wartburg College chaplain, he was urged to become a candidate and became college pastor in 1974.

The German-speaking Lutheran with traditional leanings wasn’t convinced he was campus pastor material. To his surprise, Trachte found campus ministry at Wartburg offered a perfect blend of faith, teaching and learning. The academic environment appealed to his zest for intellectual discovery, and the Lutheran college offered values-based education with an emphasis on service.

Trachte developed a strong love for Wartburg and made a significant impact on the lives of students as both a pastor and teacher. Because college students are at a life-changing time in their lives, he believes it is critical for the church to be involved in higher education to assist students with decision making.

Having first traveled overseas as a Wartburg student, Trachte returned to Germany after graduation to serve as an intern pastor at the Phillipus Gemeinde in West Berlin. He also served as resident pastor at a German resort camp on the Lido in Venice, Italy. Traveling abroad with students and alumni now tops Trachte’s list of favorites as a college chaplain. Watching young adults discover monuments and historic cities for the first time rivals the sites themselves. In all this travel the most important experience was introducing faculty, staff, alumni, and students to Neuendettelsau and the mission of Wartburg College. Traveling with Pastor Trachte was an opportunity to learn about Luther, Wartburg College, and the town in Bavaria that was the home of Wilhelm Löhe.

Wartburg College has created the Pastor Larry Trachte Service Award, to be given annually during St. Elizabeth Week to one member of the campus community who exemplifies his dedication to Wartburg and a life of service.