



2009 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE SYNODS

Wartburg College observed the 2008-09 academic year as the Year of the Liberal Arts, focusing on its mission of educating the whole person for a life of service to the world. .

Among the highlights of 2009:

William Hamm finished his term as interim president with characteristic grace and skill. He provided leadership that equipped and enabled faculty, staff, and students to continue moving forward in mission with a sense of energy and cooperation.

Dr. Darrel Colson began his work as Wartburg's 17th president in July 2009 and was officially installed on Friday, Oct. 16, during the college's Homecoming Weekend.

The Rev. Larry Trachte retired after 35 years of service as campus pastor and Herbert and Cora Moehlmann Chaplaincy Chair. His legacy of a thriving campus ministry, well integrated into the life of the college, continues to provide a strong base for Wartburg's mission.

After a two-year process of evaluation and planning, the college implemented a new campus ministry staff configuration with the completion of national searches for two pastoral positions, Dean of the Chapel/Herbert and Cora Moehlmann Chaplaincy Chair, and Campus Pastor. The Rev. Ramona Bouzard was called to serve as dean of the chapel and The Rev. Brian Beckstrom was called to serve as campus pastor.

Dr. Lee Nelson was named as Wartburg's new choral director, a position that includes artistic direction of the college's annual Christmas with Wartburg program.

The college continued to receive national recognition. The Center for Community Engagement (CCE) received a 2009 Iowa Governor's Volunteer Award for service provided to the community during the Waverly flood of 2008. In the fall of 2009, President Colson, CCE director Dr. Dan Kittle, and internship coordinator Jo Dorrance traveled to Washington, D.C. to accept the Washington Center Higher Education Civic Engagement Award on behalf of the college. Wartburg was one of only five colleges nationwide to receive the award.

Wartburg's Service Trip program equipped students to plan and lead 17 trips over the course of the academic year. A total of 267 students and 20 advisors were involved in these experiences. Their work represented 11,628 hours of service and provided leadership training and opportunities for personal and faith reflection. The college is blessed to be led in this work by service learning coordinator Renee Sedlacek.

Nine Wartburg representatives, including five admissions counselors, participated in the ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, serving in the Learn and Live portion of the Interaction Center.

During the 2009 winter semester, Wartburg became one of only three colleges in the nation to win three NCAA championships in one year with titles in women's indoor and outdoor track and wrestling.

Phase III of Commission on Mission strategic planning began. It will culminate with a new vision statement that provides the foundation for long-range planning and fundraising.

It is clear that students, faculty, and staff continue to make Wartburg College a place where faith, learning, service, and leadership are lived out in excellent curricular and co-curricular programs that encourage daily reflection on personal vocation and action on behalf of the world. The college community rejoices in the opportunity to share in the mission of Lutheran Higher Education and to serve with young adults from across the country and the world.

Darrel D. Colson
President