



# WISCONSIN LUTHERAN COLLEGE

FALL 2023 | Vol. 35, No. 2

MAGAZINE



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## MISSION STATEMENT

Wisconsin Lutheran College, affiliated with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, is a Lutheran liberal arts college for Christian men and women. The college is committed to providing quality teaching, scholarship, and service that are rooted in Holy Scripture; promoting the spiritual growth of students, faculty, and staff; and preparing students for lives of Christian leadership.

## PRESIDENT

Dr. Daniel W. Johnson

## VICE PRESIDENT OF ADVANCEMENT

Dr. Richard T. Mannisto '94

## EDITOR

Melanie Buellesbach

## DESIGNER

Amy Kuether '96

## WRITERS & PHOTOGRAPHERS

Adam Heinzen '06

Michael Kuether '24

Lisa Leffel '98

Jonathan Lorenzen '11

Yaz Rodriguez '23

Curtis Wech '09, MA '16

Jeff Wilson

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## ON THE COVER:

Students walked to and from their classes in Generac Hall on the first day of the fall semester, August 28, 2023.



## From the President

Dear Friends of WLC,

A year ago, we embarked on our 50th anniversary of preparing Christian servant leaders who boldly influence the workplace, communities, churches, and families. After many celebrations and visiting with old and new friends alike, we marvel at how God has blessed Wisconsin Lutheran College with remarkable students, faculty, staff, facilities, donors, and alumni. Who could have imagined in 1973 the WLC of today? How great is our God!

Now we set our sights on the next 50 years, and we have much work to do. While our Christian morals and values are challenged and questioned, WLC remains firmly grounded in the truth of God's Word. We stand courageously Christian amidst a higher education landscape that follows the path of this world. Perhaps there's never been a greater need for a Christian college like WLC that provides world-class academic programs, promotes spiritual growth, and prepares our students for lives of Christian servant leadership. The next generation of Warriors will be well-prepared for their vocations and equipped to bring the love of Jesus to a hurting world.

Our strategic planning efforts have helped us reach record enrollment. However, given the national decline in undergraduate college-age students, we will not rest on our past success. We anticipate adding more graduate programs and attracting undergraduate students to maintain our robust enrollment. You can help us enhance our Christian learning community by recommending a student, sharing news about WLC, and supporting our ministry with your prayers and gifts.

Please page through this magazine to learn more about the fantastic programs, projects, and opportunities experienced by our Warriors. I believe you will agree with me that WLC is well-positioned to embrace our bright future with optimism and resolve.

Thank you for your partnership and friendship. We need you all today more than ever!

Blessings in Christ,

Dr. Daniel W. Johnson  
President, Wisconsin Lutheran College



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**GRACE STROH** was the student speaker at commencement. A resident assistant and four-year member of the Wisconsin Lutheran Choir, Stroh graduated with a B.S. in mathematics and English. She is pursuing a Ph.D. in mathematics at Montana State University.

# CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES

# 2023

## *class of*

On May 20, Wisconsin Lutheran College held its spring commencement exercises in the Recreation Complex – Time of Grace Center. At the ceremony, WLC awarded diplomas to more than 160 traditional undergraduate students, accelerated degree completion students, and graduate students. WLC's 2023 graduates are from 16 states plus Brazil. They represent 36 undergraduate majors and three master's programs.



Six students earned bachelor's degrees in sport and exercise science.







**JACOB WERRE** received the Alumni Service Award during commencement and welcomed graduates to the ranks of WLC alumni. A 2015 WLC grad with a degree in communicative arts, Werre is an account supervisor with TRG Marketing who served on WLC's Alumni Board for three years.



**REV. DAVID P. KOLANDER** was the ceremony's keynote speaker. He is the assistant to the district president of the Southeastern Wisconsin District of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.



**JALEN HARRIS**, a criminal justice major from Chicago, Illinois, waves to the crowd after commencement.



Biochemistry graduate **PAIGE SWEEM** of Kalispell, Montana, will pursue a Doctor of Dental Medicine degree from the University of New England.



Biology graduate **REIDUN MEIER** of St. Joseph, Michigan, will pursue a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM). Seven members of the CLASS of 2023 are furthering their education at LECOM, while eight are continuing their studies at the Medical College of Wisconsin.



**HANNAH CENTINARIO** of West Allis, Wisconsin, received the 2023 Award for Excellence in Theatre Arts at Honors Convocation in May. She majored in elementary education and theatre.



WLC's nursing graduates served in healthcare settings over the summer while preparing to take the NCLEX exam.





# *Celebrating* CHRISTIAN SERVANT LEADERSHIP







Wisconsin Lutheran College presented **Kurt and Brenda Warner** with the **2023 Divine Servant Award** during a celebration on June 2 at Discovery World in downtown Milwaukee. More than 400 guests joined together to raise over \$850,000 in support of student scholarships at WLC.

“For our 50th anniversary year, we felt it was time to truly grow the reach and impact of the Divine Servant Award Celebration, so we moved our premier scholarship fundraiser to Discovery World in beautiful downtown Milwaukee,” said **Dr. Rich Mannisto '94**, vice president of advancement. “Our friends and donors who attended loved the new location, the fantastic views of Lake Michigan, and the outdoor patio spaces, which offered even more opportunities for networking and socializing.”

Kurt Warner is a Super Bowl champion quarterback and two-time NFL MVP. Brenda Warner is a speaker, philanthropist, and *New York Times* best-selling author. The Warners were featured in the film *American Underdog*.

“Over the past five Divine Servant Award Celebrations, we recognized individuals. Honoring a Christian-to-the-core couple like Kurt and Brenda Warner was unique and unforgettable,” said WLC’s president, **Dr. Daniel W. Johnson**. “They so eloquently shared the importance of faith in their marriage and how their faith played a role as they faced adversity on and off the field. What a spectacular evening it was, sharing the stage with Kurt and Brenda!”

Wisconsin Lutheran College established the Divine Servant Award in 2017 as an opportunity to honor individuals who exemplify qualities of Christian servant leadership and have exhibited Christian values throughout their lives of service. This event also serves as an awareness and fundraising event for the college.



# SAVE THE DATE

On May 31, 2024, WLC will present the Divine Servant Award to **Steven Curtis Chapman**, the most awarded artist in Christian music history. He has sold more than 17 million albums and has had 50 number one singles. The event will take place at Discovery World on Milwaukee’s lakefront. In addition to a question-and-answer session with him, the audience will be treated to a musical performance by Chapman. Visit [wlc.edu/DSA](http://wlc.edu/DSA) to learn more about the event.







## SUMMER LEARNING

This summer WLC offered learning and enrichment opportunities for Wee Warriors through high school educators.

On June 21, high school science educators gathered in Generac Hall for workshops taught by **Dr. Rob Balza '98**, dean of the College of Health Sciences, and **Dr. John Werner**, professor of biology. Balza demonstrated how to divide and propagate marine invertebrates, and the teachers got to try it themselves using coral we grow on campus. Werner demonstrated the pGLO Bacterial Transformation Kit, which teachers can use to introduce the basics of genetic engineering to their students.



In July, students entering grades 5-9 enjoyed the weeklong WELS Summer Band Camp. This overnight camp focused on God's Word, fellowship, and making music. Learn more at [welsbandcamp.com](http://welsbandcamp.com).



Warriors Athletics coaches hosted camps for basketball, Esports, softball, soccer, track and volleyball. Visit [wlcsports.com/camps](http://wlcsports.com/camps) to learn more or register for upcoming youth sports programs.



Wisconsin Lutheran College's annual orientation weekend for new students got underway bright and early on August 25, with cars lining the Front Circle for move-in. Our volunteers – with their blue carts – were out in force! We were excited to welcome another large freshman class, and coupled with a high retention rate, the college **set a record for total undergraduate enrollment!** We are grateful for all the students and parents who chose WLC this fall, and we are thankful for our wonderful volunteers who gave their time during WOW Weekend. Praise God for this tremendous blessing of record enrollment!



## DISCOVER WLC!

The Office of Admissions has scheduled its next group visit opportunity for October 27. During Discovery Day, high school and homeschooled students and their parents/guardians can tour campus and talk with professors, current students, coaches, and their admissions counselor. Personalized visits are also available weekdays on campus. **Learn more or register at [wlc.edu/visit](http://wlc.edu/visit).**





# Showcasing Christian Leadership

Since 2021, the Christian Women’s Leadership Circle has hosted its Annual Showcase, a fundraising event to benefit students through scholarships and leadership initiatives at Wisconsin Lutheran College. At this event, scholarship award recipients are recognized, outcomes of student and faculty-staff leadership grants are celebrated, and attendees hear an inspirational keynote talk.

This year’s speaker was WLC alumna **Tracy (Schneider) Tulle ’92**, who retired this year after working for more than 25 years in the airline industry. She most recently served as chief experience officer for Allegiant Travel Services in Las Vegas, Nevada. Tulle said at the event, “My Christian education provided a critical foundation in my professional journey.”

Tulle was the first at Allegiant to serve in the senior vice president of flight crew operations role, which united the airline’s flight operations and in-flight services departments under one umbrella. She was unique among United States airline executives as the only woman to have served in a position overseeing both pilots and flight attendants.

While speaking at WLC on the topic of “How to Lead as a Christian Woman,” Tulle stated, “I try to take every opportunity in my career to share that I am a woman of faith.”

She concluded: “We all have the ability to lead and learn in our roles as Christians... Never underestimate your ability to influence others by simply being a Christian. Seize the opportunities.”



The 2022-2023 Sharon A. Schoeneck ’89 Christian Women’s Leadership Scholarship recipients recognized at the Annual Showcase were (left to right) **Elise Meier ’23**, **McKenna Ely ’23**, and **Jenna Bednar ’23**.

## FULL HOUSE *for Tauren Wells*



On April 14, WLC and the Center for Christian Leadership hosted platinum-selling recording artist and 10-time Grammy Award nominee Tauren Wells and his “The Joy in the Morning Tour,” featuring special guests Aaron Cole and Lakewood Music. The sold-out show was held in the Recreation Complex’s Time of Grace Center.



# MAKERSPACE

By Jonathan Lorenzen '11

While WLC's robotics course was immensely popular with students and fostered great ingenuity, the class had a physical and logistical space problem. Students were constructing advanced robotics projects in classrooms, resorting to hallways and stairwells to test their machines. It was clear to WLC computer science professors **Jess Brewster** and **Dr. Jeff Brown** that something needed to be done, so the duo set out to find a permanent home for robotics.

As they brainstormed, Brown recalled his experience working in an idea incubator lab as an undergraduate. "It was a cool place for people to come and test out ideas that they couldn't necessarily afford to do at work." Similar such places are common on many college campuses. Referred to as a "makerspace," these rooms provide a dedicated area for students to share ideas and work collaboratively on projects, especially those involving technology.

The wheels began to turn for Brewster and Brown: What if WLC could have its own makerspace? Not only would it provide the robotics course with adequate space and resources, but computer

science students could also use the room to design and build other projects. "We researched and visited makerspaces at other colleges in the area to get some ideas," said Brewster.

Work began to transform a storage room in Generac Hall into a clean, brightly lit, and well-equipped makerspace. "Our makerspace houses four 3D printers, a laser cutter, and other tools for quick fabrication of mechanical parts and enclosures. We also have a basic electronics area with the aim of supporting small, computerized devices," Brown explained.



In addition to robotics, several other computer science courses now regularly use the makerspace. Students in computer architecture gather in the room to build a miniature central processing unit (CPU), while those in computer networks collaborate there on a Bluetooth project. Brown's software development class meets in the makerspace for a three-week-long software writing group project. He said, "It's a good place to work together collaboratively."

Next semester, Brewster and Brown plan to offer an "internet of things" course where students will build and program web-connected household devices like smart lights and temperature sensors. "We'll install small computer chips and circuits on a 'breadboard' and write the software that allows the devices to communicate with smart phones over WiFi or Bluetooth," Brown said. "This course would have been a pain in a regular classroom – having to haul in and out all of the electronic components before and after every class."

While the makerspace is routinely used for structured class and lab time, it is perhaps even more valuable to students as a place for experimentation, creativity, and individual growth. Brewster noted:



“They have their own bins where they can keep ongoing projects. It really helps encourage them to try lots of things. Giving students freedom and autonomy causes them to take ownership of the makerspace, which fuels a natural desire to keep learning.”

Computer science major **Matthew Pope '24** (pictured on page 10) has become the makerspace's 3D printer expert. Recently, he used the machines to manufacture a honeycomb-shaped wall organizer designed to display students' makerspace projects. “My desire to ‘dive in’ came from the vision that Dr. Brown and Prof. Brewster have for the makerspace as a room where student imaginations can run wild creating 3D prints and laser cuttings or learning how to build and program robots.” Pope wants to share his skills and creativity with other students as president of the Computer Science Club this fall.

Even for assigned course projects, Brewster and Brown want the makerspace experience to be as open-ended as possible. “For my robotics class, I tell my students their project has to include one component made on one of the machines in the makerspace. They come up with some really slick ideas. I think that flexibility gives them time to be creative and still really analyze if it makes sense,” said Brewster.

Brown added: “They have to create something that serves a purpose. They come up with the idea and figure out what parts are needed, then use the CAD (computer-aided design) software to draw the pieces they need and manufacture it themselves. It's pretty hands-off for the professors.”


Recent graduate **Michael Sell '23** and senior **Benjamin Schaser '24** (pictured bottom left) used the laser cutter and 3D printers to make the components of a self-leveling robot. They also teamed up to make a quadcopter drone for an independent study.

Sell explained, “We learned how a drone works by building one piece by piece, including programming the flight controller.”

Brown stressed benefit of learning and exploring in a low-risk environment: “If you misprint something on the 3D printer, that's fine, you just throw it away – it's not a big deal. Learning new skills and being bold about it is very good for building confidence and career development.”

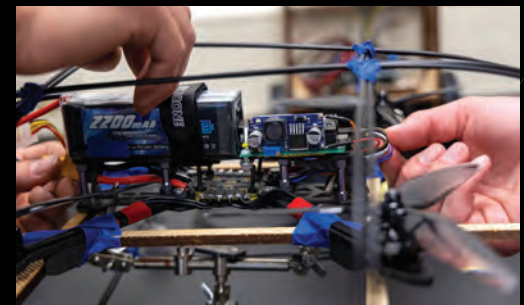
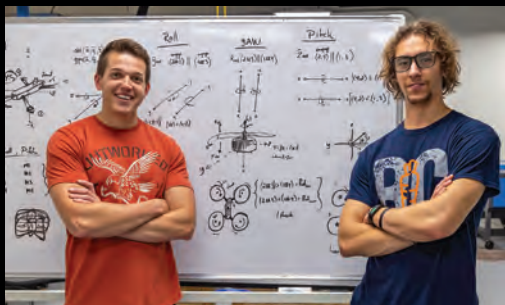
After the first year of having a fully functioning makerspace, Brewster and Brown are excited for the future. They plan to host an open house where students can learn about the space while exploring projects. They also look forward to the possibility of other disciplines utilizing the makerspace.

Pope is already planning to make these connections: “The makerspace and the tools within it are the draws that I am using to encourage students to join the Computer Science Club, because they can be used by anyone from a multitude of degree paths.”



“Giving students freedom and autonomy causes them to take ownership of the makerspace, which fuels a natural desire to keep learning.”

- Prof. Jess Brewster







# SCHOOL OF BUSINESS EXPANDS WITH TWO NEW PROGRAM OFFERINGS

## MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SPORT AND RECREATION MANAGEMENT

Wisconsin Lutheran College's School of Business is launching a new master's degree in sport and recreation management this fall, inviting students to take their passion for sports to new heights.

This degree provides students with a comprehensive understanding of the sports industry, including sports marketing, event planning, and facility management. Students will explore the social and cultural impact of sports, as well as the ethical and legal considerations that are essential to the sports industry. The college is offering two areas of emphasis within this degree: sports management and sports coaching.



**Jeremiah Hoffmann** serves as program director for the new degree offering. Hoffmann brings a wealth of coaching, instruction, advising, and professional experience to the role. He most recently served as the women's golf coach at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and as the athletic director on their Fond du Lac campus. Hoffmann earned a

Master of Sports Administration degree from Ohio University, and he is well-versed in the areas of sports management, budgeting, event management, facility management, sports leadership, and sports governance.

"We are thrilled to offer an extension of our respected and popular undergraduate sports management degree at the master's degree level," said **Dr. David Brightsman**, dean of the College of Professional Studies at WLC. "It is an exciting opportunity for our students and for our community. Milwaukee is a vibrant city for both sports and recreation, allowing this program to leverage some of Milwaukee's finest assets. We believe that this program will prepare our graduates to make a meaningful impact in the Milwaukee sports industry and beyond."

The program is currently enrolling its first cohort of students, with enrollment intakes in August 2023 and January 2024. The program is delivered in an online format with campus residencies.



## DIGITAL MARKETING MAJOR

The School of Business at Wisconsin Lutheran College continues to grow and add innovative program offerings that equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in dynamic and diverse business fields.

As Internet and mobile technology continue to transform communication mediums, the demand for digital marketers is skyrocketing. In fact, a recent study by eMarketer predicts that digital advertising spending will soar to \$876.10B worldwide by 2026, accounting for a staggering 73.6% of all advertising dollars spent globally. Undergraduate students at WLC now have the opportunity to pursue a major in digital marketing and successfully engage in this dynamic industry.

The digital marketing major balances theoretical and practical coursework, leveraging WLC's experienced faculty. Students will work through real-world case studies, hands-on projects, professional certifications, and internships, gaining the experience and confidence they desire to thrive in the digital marketing field. A comprehensive curriculum covers essential areas such as marketing, advertising management, social media, web development, and digital marketing analytics. Students will not only understand the theory behind successful marketing campaigns but also develop the crucial skills of creative thinking, problem-solving, communication, and collaboration.

WLC's School of Business is distinct, in that it integrates Christian values with outstanding academics, igniting the potential of its students as Christian business leaders. Its faculty (pictured at right) expanded this fall to meet the growing number of students enrolled in business programs at WLC.



The first full cohort of Sports Management majors graduated in May 2023. The 12 students (nine of whom are pictured with **Prof. Scott Martens**), will work in a wide range of sports-related careers or continue their education. Some examples:

- **Jake Antczak** - pursuing a graduate degree at WLC
- **Nathan Benish** - stadium operations crew lead, Milwaukee Bucks
- **Ryan Dominick** - director of food and beverage, Schaumburg Boomers
- **Emily Herried** - pursuing a graduate degree at WLC
- **Will Kelley** - golf operations assistant and manager, Erin Hills Golf Course
- **Glavine Matthes** - assistant baseball coach, New College of Florida
- **Ryan Mazza** - pursuing a graduate degree at WLC
- **Carter Raabe** - partnerships coordinator, Capture Sports and Entertainment, and pursuing a graduate degree at WLC
- **Simeon Strauss** - pursuing a graduate degree at Palm Beach Atlantic University



The School of Business faculty (left to right): Jason Van Acker '00, assistant lecturer; Scott Martens, assistant lecturer; Dr. Donald Kudek, associate professor; Willie Delwiche, instructor; Marty Wolf, visiting professor; Jeremiah Hoffmann, instructor and graduate program director; Greta Wagner, adjunct professor; Gregg Pfarr, assistant professor; Lisa Derouin, assistant professor; and Peter Eppen, assistant professor.





During Wisconsin Lutheran College's Opening Worship Service in August, seven new faculty members were installed. Pictured above, left to right:

**Dr. Evan Witz '15**  
*assistant professor, mathematics*

**Dr. Hannah Wagie**  
*assistant professor, chemistry*

**Prof. Lauren Dunn**  
*assistant lecturer, Spanish*

**Dr. Sara Schreiber**  
*assistant professor, criminal justice*

**Prof. Kate Schoen '18**  
*assistant lecturer, sport and exercise science/physical education*

**Prof. Jeremiah Hoffmann**  
*instructor/graduate program director, sport and recreation management*

**Prof. Willie Delwiche**  
*instructor, business*

## FACULTY UPDATES



**Rev. Dr. Michael Berg**, associate professor of theology, had a new book published by Northwestern

Publishing House: *The Baptismal Life*. In this book, Berg reflects on the power of water in Scripture, the impact of baptism, and how this precious sacrament connects believers to Christ.



**Dr. Angela Ebeling '99**, professor of biology, attended a statistics boot camp this summer. She was one of 17 instructors

selected from all around the country who traveled to the University of California-Irvine for a weeklong boot camp aimed at advancing Bayesian Thinking in STEM (BATS). The goal is to strengthen undergraduate-level statistics education for

improved scientific outcomes. Ebeling's team proposed a project that was chosen to be developed into teaching materials, so she will receive funding to continue her Bayesian educational work as she introduces students to this approach to statistics in a mathematics and a biology course at WLC.



Last spring, **Dr. Marty Miller '94** presented "Strengthening Teacher Candidacy via the Residency Program: Lessons

Learned" at the National Field Experience Conference in Greeley, Colorado. Insights gained from WLC's year-long teacher residency program, as well as finding from Miller's research on year-long teacher residency programs, were shared with leaders in the field of education.



**At the end of the academic year, two long-time faculty members retired:**

**Rev. Dr. Paul Lehninger** (theology, 28 years of service, pictured left) and **Prof. Jay Sierszyn** (theatre, 21 years of service, pictured right). We thank God for their service and for the impact they had on so many WLC students over the years!







Earlier this year, the University of the West Indies-Mona Campus presented WLC with an award in recognition of more than 20 years of continued support to the Discovery Bay Marine Laboratory in Jamaica. **Dr. Ethan Degner**, assistant professor of biology, and **Prof. Courtney Moll '09**, assistant lecturer of biology, received the award during a J Term marine ecology trip with students. They in turn presented it to **Dr. Bob Anderson**, WLC professor emeritus of biology, who was instrumental in building the college's partnership with Discovery Bay over the past two decades.

Students on WLC's iGEM team will compete in Paris, France, in November. The iGEM – or International Genetically Engineered Machine – Jamboree is a worldwide synthetic biology competition. WLC's team was awarded an Impact Grant from iGEM to offset much of the registration fee. The grants are designed to reward teams that are proposing projects that can impact their community. WLC's 2023 iGEM team is addressing soil monitoring for farm crops. While it is not incredibly hard to measure the total phosphorus in the soil, for example, it is much more challenging to determine whether the phosphorus is in a bioavailable or unavailable form. The WLC team is tackling this issue by engineering a strain of *E. coli* to provide a read-out for the amount of bioavailable phosphate in a soil sample.



## ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH

Many WLC students and faculty members conduct research on projects that can impact food security, soil health, marine life, and other critical areas of biology and environmental science. Here are a few recent examples.



**Dr. Allison Phillips**, professor of biology, uses maize as a model system in her research on seed development. She is working to determine genes and factors that influence seed development and to specifically determine the contribution of the maternal parent to this process. She and junior biology major **Jayla Semons** of Milwaukee are pictured in an on-campus research plot this summer, conducting maize research. Phillips also serves the college as dean of student success.



**Vinny Brim**, a junior majoring in biology and neuroscience from Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, uses the Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrometer (NMR) to measure phosphorus in soil samples in **Dr. Angela Ebeling's** research lab. He competes for the Warriors in football and track & field. Ebeling's primary research interests include soil fertility and water quality as related to phosphorus. Her research seeks to provide current, quantitative data to help farmers and governmental agencies make wise decisions about how to manage their resources.



## Outside the Classroom



### GRENADA, WEST INDIES

From May 29 through June 9, six WLC students and Assistant Professor of Biology **Dr. Ethan Degner** traveled to Grenada to continue the college's research on Grenada's coral reef. The long-term biological monitoring in a marine protected area is part of an on-going partnership with the island's minister of fisheries and an alliance with St. George's University. During each trip, students record and track the health of the island's coral reef and fish populations. Students analyze the data during the academic year and present reports to the island's government. This information is used by local authorities to guide marine conservation policy.

Students also got hands-on herpetology experience with frogs and snakes. The group was able to spend time with members from Grace Lutheran in Grenada during the trip.







## CENTRAL EUROPE

Five Wisconsin Lutheran College students engaged in a study tour of Central Europe during Spring Break in March. The 11-day “collective remembrance” tour immersed students in the culture and society of three Central European cities: Berlin, Prague, and Vienna. Students spent the first portion of the semester exploring how societies remember their past via construction of official and unofficial memorials and other forms of collective remembrance. Accompanying the group were **Dr. Jason Badura**, assistant professor of politics and law; **Dr. Wendy Close**, associate professor of psychology; and **Dr. Sheryl Scott**, associate professor of nursing.

While in Berlin, the group visited many sites, including the Brandenburg Gate (pictured above), the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe (Holocaust Memorial), St. Hedwig’s Cathedral, the Berlin Cathedral, former Berlin Wall remnants, Check Point Charlie, and the Sachsenhausen concentration camp memorial.

In Prague the group walked across the famed Charles Bridge; toured St. Vitus Cathedral (pictured), the Jewish Quarter, and the Museum of Communism; watched the Prague astronomical clock; and viewed the memorial to Reformation-era Czech religious figure Jan Hus, while also enjoying local Czech foods.



The group stopped in the Czech village of Kunta Hora to visit the “Bone Church,” a UNESCO heritage site on the way to Vienna. There they toured St. Stephen’s Cathedral, Schoenbrunn Palace, and Belvedere Palace. They also visited the Sigmund Freud Museum, Victor Frankl Museum, Narrenturm, and the official Austrian national memorial to the Holocaust.

## ARIZONA

During Spring Break in March, six WLC students, accompanied by **Prof. Rachel Kuehl '96**, took part in a mission trip in Arizona. They helped Builders for Christ complete a duplex for teachers in need of housing at Peridot-Our Savior’s Lutheran School, which is located on the San Carlos Apache Reservation.

Kuehl, who is head of WLC’s sport and exercise science program, reports that their days were full of construction work, but they were able to do some hiking, attend a Milwaukee Brewers Spring Training game, and play pickleball.







# MAKING AN IMPACT

By Yaz Rodriguez '23

Last spring, **Elise Meier** was presented with the 2023 Impact Award for her achievements at Wisconsin Lutheran College. Elise, who is from Watertown, Wisconsin, plans to graduate in December 2023 with degrees in Spanish and cultural anthropology. She is also a member of the Christian Leadership Certificate Program, where she has built upon her skills and gained new experiences toward becoming a Christian servant leader on campus and in the community.



Outside of the classroom, Elise has been a team captain for WLC's women's volleyball team for three seasons. She served on Student Senate as the spiritual life and community outreach director from 2021-2023, during which time she coordinated many opportunities for WLC students to serve the Milwaukee community while supporting WLC student life.

Upon receiving the Greenfield Christian Leadership Scholarship in 2021, Elise seized the opportunity to re-establish WLC's student mission trip program for the benefit of students and those whom they serve. Born to parents who served overseas in the mission field – **Bill '97** and **Cathy (Hahn) Meier '99** – Elise was always surrounded by mission work and has come to value it herself. She has worked closely with campus pastor **Rev. Nathan Wordell** and a group of students to plan mission trips. During the 2022-2023 academic year, Elise's mission trip team sent out three groups of WLC students: two to Arizona to evangelize and complete housing projects, and the third to Conroe, Texas, to contribute to a WELS mission church start-up.



"I've been super blessed," Elise reflected. She is tremendously grateful for her time at WLC, and especially for all of the growth she's undergone during the last three years due to the people that have supported her. One of the greatest lessons that her time at WLC has taught her is that, "We are placed exactly where God wants us to be, and for a specific reason." Elise looks forward to serving as a student leader during her final semester at WLC and to using her God-given gifts to serve others in the ministry post-graduation.





# COURAGEOUSLY CHRISTIAN

Preparing Leaders to Impact the World

Wisconsin Lutheran College launched its **Courageously Christian Campaign in 2021** and is on its way to reaching the **\$32 million goal**. Of the many areas of the campaign, we are focusing our efforts on **three significant projects yet to be funded**. Your donation to this campaign today will help WLC to prepare more Christian servant leaders to impact the world. Learn about all of the campaign projects or make a gift by visiting [wlc.edu/campaign](http://wlc.edu/campaign).

In 1977, WLC purchased 8.5 acres on Bluemound Road that marked the start of its permanent location. The campus has seen tremendous growth over the years, expanding its footprint to include nearby Outdoor Athletic Complex. These enhancements have allowed the college to better serve a growing student body. The majority of campus buildings were built under the leadership of WLC's first full-time president, Dr. Gary J. Greenfield. Two decades after his retirement, we need to continue updating our facilities and technology.

## CHAPEL



Our founders dreamed of establishing a Christian college to prepare lay leaders to serve Jesus in their careers, families, churches, and communities. The Campus Ministry Office provides WLC students with spiritual growth opportunities through chapel services, Bible studies, service projects in the community, and mission trips.

***WLC's chapel, which was constructed in 1927, is nearing the century mark. It needs updates such as fresh paint, new chairs and carpeting, acoustic treatment, and air conditioning. The venue is used for student worship opportunities, Bible studies, weddings, and more.***

## CENTER FOR ARTS AND PERFORMANCE



WLC has a vibrant arts scene in the Center for Arts and Performance, which has been bustling with activity since its doors opened in 1996. More than 150 WLC students participate in the arts annually through bands and instrumental ensembles, choirs, theatre productions, and art exhibitions. The Guest Artist Series hosts nationally touring performers on stage in the Schwan Concert Hall.

***Now, this 27-year-old building is in need of a new sound system, upgrades to technology for instruction, and additional storage solutions. Increasing fine arts scholarship support is also important for student growth in the arts.***

## OUTDOOR ATHLETIC COMPLEX



This year, more than 400 student-athletes (45% of our student body) are competing for the Warriors in 20 varsity sports. The Recreation Complex, built in 1992, was recently remodeled to better serve student-athletes. The Outdoor Athletic Complex was developed in 2005 and enhanced in 2011 with construction of the Outdoor Athletic Center, which houses locker rooms and athletic training facilities.

***To alleviate weather cancellations, enhancements could include replacing the grass soccer field with turf, adding turf to portions of the baseball and softball fields, and/or purchasing a seasonal dome to provide another indoor location to practice and play.***





## ***STUDENT-ATHLETES RECOGNIZED FOR CLASSROOM ACHIEVEMENTS***

**A record 228 student-athletes from WLC's 19 NCAA Division III sports teams were named Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference Scholar-Athletes for 2022-2023.** The 228 student-athletes recognized by the NACC is the Warriors' highest total in the 17-year history of the academic award. WLC had a previous record 203 student-athletes honored by the conference just a year ago. To achieve NACC Scholar-Athlete status, student-athletes competing in the conference must maintain a grade point average of 3.25 or higher for the current academic year.

**SOFTBALL:** WLC had 13 student-athletes honored as 2022-2023 Easton/National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-America Scholar-Athletes. Student-athletes who achieve a 3.5 or better GPA on a 4.0 scale are eligible for the individual honor. The 13 Warriors who earned the prestigious honor were Emily Brands, Chloe De Leon, Kyla Elliott, Jackey Farias, Addison Gelande, Lydia Lindemann, Gwen Malecke, Lexi Martin, Kacey Mietsner, Allison Powers, Cara Velez, Briana Vilches, and Maddie Votsis.

**MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD:** WLC's men's and women's track & field teams were honored as All-Academic Teams for the fourth straight year, the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) announced. The Warriors' men's program was honored as an All-Academic Team for the fourth straight season, compiling a NACC-best team grade point average of 3.57.

**MEN'S AND WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL:** WLC was one of 26 NCAA Division III men's volleyball programs to receive the United States Marine Corps (USMC) and American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) Team Academic Award for the 2023 season. The award honors volleyball teams that maintain a year-long grade-point average of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale. WLC finished the academic year with a cumulative team grade-point average of 3.31.

WLC was one of 229 NCAA Division III women's volleyball programs to receive the USMC and AVCA Team Academic Award for the 2022 season. It marks the sixth straight year and seventh time overall that the Warriors have received the award. WLC finished the 2022-2023 academic year with a cumulative team grade-point average of 3.53.



## **WLC ATHLETICS ANNOUNCES HALL OF FAME CLASS FOR 2023** *Wisconsin Lutheran College inducts six Warriors alumni.*

Former student-athletes Tanner Behnke '16, Matt Eisold '10, Tim Koepsell '07, Ellyn Mortell '18, Jacob Mortell '16, and Julie (Favorite) Robles '15 comprise the seventh class that was inducted into the department's Hall of Fame. Inductees were honored at a banquet on September 29 as part of Homecoming weekend at Sonesta in Wauwatosa. **Learn more at [WLCsports.com](http://WLCsports.com).**



## MARTIN HONORED AS NFCA FIRST TEAM ALL-AMERICAN



Lexi Martin was named a 2023 National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) First Team All-American, becoming the third student-athlete in WLC history to receive First Team All-American honors.

The First Team All-Region VIII honoree and back-to-back NACC Position Player of the Year compiled a staggering slash line with a .528 batting average (4th NCAA), a .630 on-base percentage (1st NCAA), and an .849 slugging percentage (11th NCAA). The junior infielder led the NACC in all three categories, and finished the regular season tied for the conference's top hit total. Her on-base percentage also led NCAA Division III and represents a new NACC single-season record.

Lexi, who was one of two Warriors to start all 40 games last season, recorded at least one hit in 34 of 40 games. She finished with 56 hits in 106 at-bats, 37 runs scored, 27 RBI, 12 doubles, two triples, and six home runs. Martin also drew 27 walks and was hit by four pitches while striking out just eight times. She established WLC career records for hits (166), doubles (45), and RBI (92).

## NABC CROWNS BROECKEL THIRD TEAM ALL-AMERICAN



Ryan Broeckel was named a 2023 National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) Third Team All-American. The 6-7 junior forward is the fifth All-American in program history and first since the 2000-2001 season. Ryan, who was also named First Team All-Region VIII, NACC Player of the Year, and First Team All-NACC, averaged 17.7 points and 8.8 rebounds per game. He ranked second in the league in blocks (44) and third in scoring (478),

scoring average, total rebounds (237), rebounding average, field goal attempts (352), field goals made (183), blocks per game (1.6), and double-doubles (10). Ryan was also fourth in the NACC in both free throws made (94) and free throw attempts (134).

## TANZI TABBED NACC MEN'S GOLF FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR



Riley Tanzi was named NACC Freshman of the Year as the lone true freshman in the medalist standings at the 2023 NACC Men's Golf Championship. He was one of seven golfers to record four sub-80 rounds (76-78-79-77) during the split-season championship. Riley is the third WLC men's golfer to be named NACC Freshman of the Year following Sean Esenberg (2013) and Jake Gaudynski (2012).

## MEN'S BASKETBALL CLAIMS THIRD CONFERENCE TITLE IN FOUR YEARS

WLC finished the 2022-2023 season 19-8 overall and tied St. Norbert for the NACC regular season title with a 14-3 mark in league play. It was the third NACC title in the last four years for the Warriors.

WLC ranked second in the conference in scoring offense (82.5 points per game) and third in scoring defense (70.7 ppg), equating to a league-best scoring margin (+11.7). The Warriors were very active on the defensive end of the floor, leading the NACC in both steals (245) and turnover margin (+5.2). Offensively, no one in the conference made more three-pointers than WLC (258), which drained nearly 10 per game (9.6).

Ryan Broeckel (Player of the Year, First Team), Grayson Goetz (First Team), and sixth-year head coach Aaron Aanonsen (Coaching Staff of the Year) received postseason NACC honors.





# Spotlight on Choir

By Jonathan Lorenzen '11



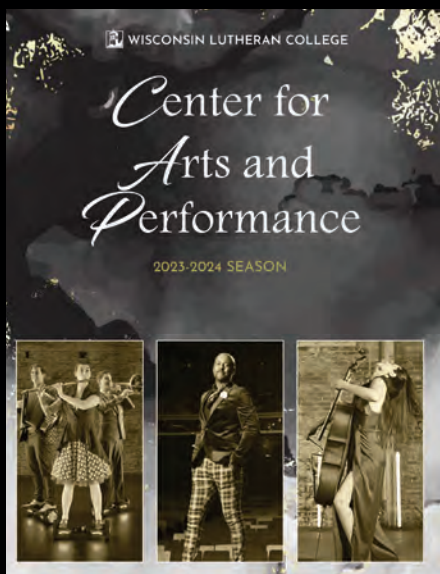
Members of the Wisconsin Lutheran Choir have several traits in common: a passion for singing, strong voices, musical ability, a commitment to practicing, and a desire to create something beautiful to share with others. But as an ensemble of Christian men and women, the choir's strongest and most sacred bond is a united faith in Jesus Christ. Each year, this close-knit, family-like group embarks on a concert tour where students share God's love with audiences and each other through their music and their time together. Whether traveling the country or on campus in rehearsal, choir members are continuously kindling friendships and growing as Christians and musicians.

Seniors Christal Phelps and Sydni Haubrich have personally experienced a profound joy and sense of belonging in the choir. Both students entered WLC during the COVID-19 restrictions of 2020 and were greatly relieved when regular rehearsals resumed the following spring. "Coming into college right in the heat of a global pandemic, it was really hard to find comfort and belonging in such an isolated atmosphere," Sydni recalled. "However, when the choir was able to practice and perform again after a semester hiatus, it felt like the sun poking through the clouds on a foggy day! I found myself coming out of my shell, making friendships and memories, and finding

happiness in such a rough period of time."

Christal was glad to once again be able to share the hope of Christ in song: "Singing God's praises is something I value and is very powerful. You never know what people in the audience are going through or if they've even heard of Jesus before."

In March 2023, the Wisconsin Lutheran Choir proclaimed the love of Jesus across Texas during their first-ever tour to the Lone Star State. Students performed sacred concerts at churches in Keller, Dallas, Austin, Friendswood, The Woodlands, and Plano. The series concluded with a



## FALL 2023 *Fine Arts Performances*

09/29

**TAKE3**  
Where Rock Meets Bach

10/06  
and  
10/07

**WLC Band & Choir**  
Fall Showcase Concert

10/09

**Philomusica String Quartet**  
Season Colors Concert

10/19  
through  
10/28

**WLC Theatre Presents**  
*Peter & the Starcatcher*

10/29

**Jukebox Saturday Night**



home concert in WLC's Schwan Concert Hall. In addition to their performances, students had the opportunity to sightsee and enjoy social time and activities: "We went to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Johnson Space Center, and even had a free day to explore San Antonio's River Walk," explained Christal.

Sydni spoke to the special bonds that are often formed on tour: "Some of the highlights included playing card games on the bus and at hotels late at night – laughing till my eyes were bleary from tears. These small moments were so impactful because they gave me the chance to become closer to members of the choir and create new memories and friendships."

The two seniors are looking forward to spending one more year in the choir. They cherish the opportunities to share their musical gifts with others and spending time with friends who have a passion for singing. Christal remarked: "Our Christmas concerts and

choir tours are always amazing experiences, but I also am excited to spend every day learning new music and bonding with other choir members."

For those students thinking about auditioning for the Wisconsin Lutheran Choir, the seniors have the same advice – do it. "Coming into college, you are entering a new stage of your life, and it's a clean slate allowing you to take on so many different opportunities. However, college can be overwhelming and it's easy to feel lost at times. I would know," said Sydni. "By joining the choir, you are also joining a Christ-centered family. As a senior, I am so thankful for everything this choir has given me! It is truly a blessing."

Christal added: "Joining choir has many benefits. You have the opportunity to meet people from a variety of majors with many different strengths. Most importantly, choir is not just about singing, it's about spreading God's Word and the message of Jesus through song to people who need to hear it."



**Christal Phelps '24**  
Pewaukee, WI



Biochemistry



**Sydni Haubrich '24**  
Racine, WI



Art and Graphic Design



The 2023-2024 Fine Arts season is packed with exciting Guest Artist and WLC events! Both individual event and series tickets are now available for purchase. You can download the complete season brochure at [wlc.edu/box-office](http://wlc.edu/box-office), or call the Box Office at 414.443.8802 for more information.

11/3  
and  
11/5

**WELS  
National  
Choral Fest  
Concerts**

11/10

**The  
Soul of  
Broadway**  
Impossible  
Dreams

11/12

**WLC  
Chamber  
Ensemble  
Concert**

11/15

**WLC  
Jazz Band  
Concert**

12/01  
through  
12/03

**WLC  
Christmas  
Festival  
Choral  
Concert**

12/08

**WLC  
Christmas  
Festival  
Band  
Concert**

12/09

**Christmas  
with  
Six Appeal  
Vocal Band**



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Student-athletes who graduated in May were recognized after commencement.



“I can do all this through him who gives me strength.”  
– Philippians 4:13 NIV