

## Upcoming Events & News!

**Register Now!!**

**Homecoming 2025: October 10 - 12**



## Weekend Highlights – Waldorf Homecoming

### Friday, October 10

- **NEW! Alumni Mixer – Cobblestone Inn & Suites | 7 PM**
- Kick off the weekend catching up with classmates and friends in the party room!
- **Athletic Hall of Fame Ceremony – Boman Fine Arts Center | 5 PM**
- Help us honor our 2025 inductees:
  - Jessica Fresh '14/'18 – Women's Wrestling
  - Jordan Nelson '15 – Men's Basketball
  - Julie Jolivette '75 – Cheer Coach
  - Neil Boyd – Men's Wrestling & Assistant Football Coach

### Saturday, October 11

- **Annual 5K Walk/Run – 7:30 AM**
- Hosted by Waldorf Track & Cross Country teams
- **Waldorf Team of Honor Celebration – Boman Fine Arts Center | 9:30 AM**
- Honoring the 1969 Waldorf Football Team
- **Tailgating & Carnival – Bolstorff Field | 10 AM**
- Fun for all ages!
- **Reunions, Luncheons, and Awards – Atrium/Ballroom | 11 AM**
- Celebrate your class and reconnect over great food
- Dawn (Borgschatz) Johnson 1980 will be receiving the Alumni Distinguished Service Award and Ingrid (Levik) Gangestad 1985 will be receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award
- **Warrior Football Game – Bolstorff Field | 1 PM**

- Cheer on our team and feel the energy of the crowd
- **Homecoming Showcase Concert – Boman Fine Arts Center | 7 PM**
- A can't-miss performance from the Waldorf Music Department
- **Waldorf Trivia Night – Shooterz | 8:30 PM**
- Test your Waldorf knowledge with alumni and friends

## **Get Your Homecoming Pass**

\$40 gets you all Saturday events plus an exclusive bookstore discount!  
Individual tickets will be available at the door, but the pass is your best value.

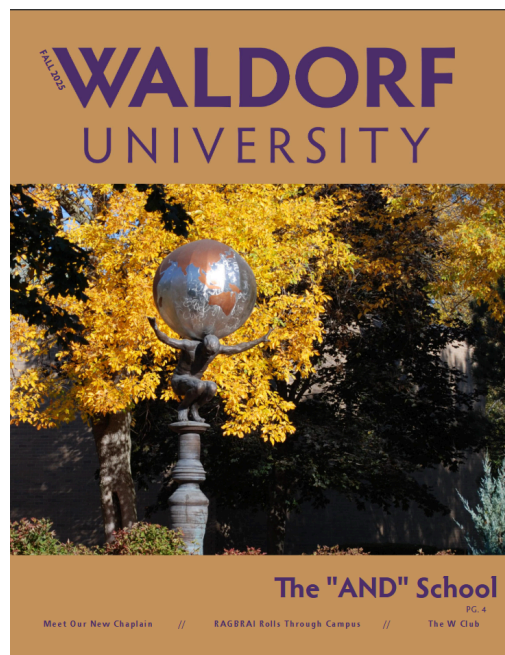
👉 [View the Full Schedule](#)

**Whether it's been 5 years or 50, come celebrate what makes Waldorf special — you. We can't wait to welcome you home!**

Register Here!

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## Fall 2025 Waldorf University Magazine



The newest edition of Waldorf Magazine is live! This issue features a heartfelt Letter from President Alsop's Desk exploring the Waldorf "AND," an inspiring profile of Senior Director of Engagement and Advancement Rod Schultz and his RAGBRAI journey through Iowa and our Forest City campus, plus exciting updates from Campus Ministry, Music, and the brand-new 'W' Club for Waldorf athletics. Class updates and notes are also included.

 Read the full magazine here: [waldorf.edu/alumni-friends/waldorf-magazine/](https://waldorf.edu/alumni-friends/waldorf-magazine/)

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## Dr. Cox Estep's opening of the year essay



*Dr. Hayli Cox Estep*

A week ago, I turned up my radio to hear IPR over my old Saturn's various chatterings and began my commute from Mason City. Freshly married and full of the optimism of starting my second year, I was unphased by the added length to my commute brought on by thick fog. Just moments after I left the city limits, a white wing raised up and cut through the grey. I turned to see a pair of trumpeter swans and their little cygnets making their way towards the water's edge.

Over the past year I've come to appreciate the surprising nature of northern Iowa, which I believe undersells itself. Sure, there's a lot of soy and corn sweat, but there are also wild turkeys, the males displaying proudly while the females peck on unmoved. Does lick fawns in dewy grass, their legs still too weak to stand. Here and there a hawk atop a pole, an eagle or two flying overhead. Even the calves, tails wagging atop a mound of hay as they bait the others into play. I haven't even touched the red of dogwoods, the knotted branches of burr oaks, the reeds and the many wildflowers. Don't get me wrong—there are days, especially around October (new colleagues, you'll find out soon enough), when the journey seems too long, when the piles of ten-page essays seem to topple over and out of every drawer, when we wonder why we thought all those years of grad school were such a bright idea. Sometimes, on these days, I forget the birds. But some things, like what I experienced last Wednesday, serve as reminders of how lucky I am to do what I love in a place like this.

As the miles brought me closer to Waldorf, the fog gave way to sunlight and I saw something I never knew existed.... [click here to continue reading](#)

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## **Waldorf Alum Nathan Chester Returns to Inspire Students and Community!**



*Nathan Chester (left) with fellow Waldorf alum, Stross Newcom 2017*

Students and Forest City locals filled the Boman Fine Arts Center on September 21 to hear an unforgettable performance by Nathan Chester—a Top 5 finalist on Season 25 of The Voice and member of John Legend's team. The following day, Nathan hosted a meet-and-greet and Q&A session on campus, where he shared stories about his time at Waldorf, his journey on The Voice, and how his college experience helped shape his career.

**Have you been featured on a TV show, movie, game show, or other media?** We'd love to hear your story! Our students and community are inspired by alumni like Nathan who share their experiences. Email us at [alumni@waldorf.edu](mailto:alumni@waldorf.edu) to get in touch.

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## Waldorf Creative Writing Festival



Waldorf University will host a Creative Writing Festival for prospective students on October 30th, which will include announcing the winners of the 13th annual Top of Iowa High School Creative Writing Contest.

This festival will include opportunities for students to attend a screenwriting demo, gain insight into publishing from our in-house literary magazine, and attend a reading by Waldorf's Visiting Distinguished Writer, Samantha Edmonds, author of the story collection *A Preponderance of Starry Beings*.


After Edmonds' reading, Waldorf's Top of Iowa High School Writing Contest winners will be announced.

[Schedule & Registration](#)


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☕ **Greater Des Moines Area Coffee Series** ☕

Connect with fellow Waldorf alumni and friends over a morning coffee! Join us for our First Thursdays coffee series — a casual drop-in event held every other month at local cafés in the Des Moines area.


 Your first beverage is on us! Just share a favorite Waldorf memory and enjoy some free Waldorf swag while you're at it.

#### Upcoming Dates & Locations:

 **October 2, 2025**

##### **Main Street Café & Bakery**


2510 SW Birch Dr, Ankeny, IA 50023

 7:00 – 10:00 a.m.

 **December 4, 2025**

##### **Grounds for Celebration**


2709 Beaver Ave, Des Moines, IA 50310

 7:00 – 10:00 a.m.

 **February 5, 2026**

##### **Scenic Route Bakery**


350 E. Locust St, Des Moines, IA 50309

 7:00 – 10:00 a.m.

 **April 2, 2026**

##### **St. Kilda Collective**

333 5th St., West Des Moines, IA 50265

 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. (Note the later start time!)

No need to RSVP — just stop by when you can and stay for as long (or as short) as you'd like. We'd love to see you!

#### **Questions?**

 [alumni@waldorf.edu](mailto:alumni@waldorf.edu)

 Text or call Rod Schultz: 608-312-0521

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## How to Help!


### Warrior Wardrobe

Waldorf Alumni - we hope this message finds you well. This year, the Career Center proudly launched the Warrior Wardrobe — a free, year-round resource that provides students with professional attire for interviews, internships, and career events. The best part? Students get to keep the clothes to help build their professional wardrobes with confidence!

If you're cleaning out your closet and have gently used business or business-casual attire, consider donating to support our future professionals.

#### **Clothing donations are accepted year-round.**

For more information, contact:

 Kailee Phillips – 641-585-8681

 [Kailee.phillips@waldorf.edu](mailto:Kailee.phillips@waldorf.edu)

**Thank you for supporting our Warriors!**

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## Celebrate Waldorf through Philanthropy





We have experienced a record outpouring of support for Waldorf since 2022. So many alumni, family members, and friends celebrate their love for Waldorf by including the University in their philanthropy. With such an incredibly strong financial position, no debt as of summer 2026, and bucking enrollment trends for the past several years, Waldorf has a bright future. Please [make a gift](#) to the Waldorf Fund or a priority area of Scholarships, Alumni Relations, or Campus Ministry. You can make gifts to existing scholarships by typing the name in the comments box.

The future of Waldorf is bright, and we are grateful for your love for Waldorf! How can we help you achieve your dream for Waldorf?

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