

January 2024

A New Year's Message from President Alsop



New Year's is a time of reflections, and it seems especially appropriate this year. Waldorf University just completed its first year under the ownership of the non-profit, Waldorf Lutheran College Foundation. We announced this change of ownership with a vision that would ensure the **vitality** of a Waldorf education for generations to come. It is a vision with a **thriving campus** with very little debt; a vision with **expansive online programs** that bring a uniquely Waldorf educational experience to students around the world; a vision with a vibrant advancement office **engaging with alumni, parents, and friends** in support of Waldorf's mission.

In the last year we have made remarkable strides in realizing this vision. Our campus enrollment this fall was our third largest since the 1970's. Our historic debt has been reduced to 3 million dollars, along with a commitment from the Hanson Family Foundation to retire the entirety of that principal in less than three years. Our online programs continue to create partnerships with:

1. Industry, such as graduate certificates we developed with Pearson Publishing;
2. The government, with a Waldorf presence at two military bases; and
3. Non-profits, such our concentration in Social Emotional Learning developed with Erin Gruwell and the Freedom Writers.

Combining our residential and online enrollments, Waldorf is now the **third largest private college** in the state of Iowa. The response from our alumni, parents, and friends to the change in ownership has been overwhelming. The assets of the Waldorf Lutheran College Foundation have more than doubled from a year ago to more than \$13M. The vision is to double that again in the next few years to create a substantial endowment. The initial support has been tremendous.

The distinctive Waldorf experience rests with a simple word: AND. Our faculty and staff embrace this concept to make sure our students can be successful both inside and outside the classroom. Virtually all of Waldorf campus students are involved in a scholarship activity, whether that be football, theatre, choir, campus ministry, creative writing club,

etc. These students want a quality education AND to follow their passions outside the classroom. Our Waldorf online students also seek the AND. They want a quality education AND to be a spouse, parent, professional, servicemember, or community member. Our flexible online courses and supportive faculty and staff allow them to do just that. Now many schools have activities that students participate in, but we do it better at Waldorf. We embrace this AND for all of our students because it is central to our **mission** of “**educating the entire person.**”

2023 was undoubtedly a banner year for Waldorf, but I am even more excited for what we will be able to accomplish in coming years. We are grateful for all the ways you have supported Waldorf through this transition and wish you a joyful and prosperous 2024.

Time for your next degree? Apply Now!



Waldorf University is proud to offer a variety of online [career prep programs](#) - available for the current or aspiring professional to advance their career related knowledge and skills, or as a stepping stone towards Waldorf's [online degree programs](#).

Is it time for you to pursue your next degree? We'd love to have you join us as you continue your education!

Apply Now

Award Nominations Needed



Send your Alumni Award Nominations for Homecoming
2024: October 4-6!

The 2023 Waldorf Alumni Award for Distinguished Service recipients are pictured above, left to right: Jote Kanaa Taddese '95, Dr. Daniel Hanson '75, and Elaine Docken Hanson '75

Waldorf University is seeking nominations for the Alumni Distinguished Service Award and the Recent Alumni Award for service. These honors recognize Waldorf alumni who have performed distinctive and meritorious service in areas such as public affairs, education, church, business, and government. Do you know someone who has had an interesting life and who might not fit one of these boxes? Send us a nomination for consideration for special recognition.

Individuals selected for either of these prestigious awards will be honored in a ceremony during Homecoming 2024. If you have anyone in mind who you feel deserves recognition by Waldorf in their respective field, please fill out a [nomination form](#) and email it back to us at alumni@waldorf.edu or mail it to the Waldorf Alumni Office at 106 S 6th St, Forest City, IA 50436.

Nomination Forms

What is YOUR Waldorf Story?



Waldorf's Director of Engagement & Alumni Relations, Theodore Schoneman '20, and his wife, Baili (Girkin) Schoneman '22, pose with their little future Warrior class of 2044, son Grayson.

Our current Director of Engagement and Alumni Relations, Theodore Schoneman '20, met his wife, Baili '22, through Waldorf. "Waldorf was the big player in us getting together. We were both communications majors, and once we started talking, we instantly connected with each other," said Schoneman.

Waldorf offers a communications program with four areas of study: Digital Media, Public Relations, Journalism, and Graphic Design. Theodore studied the first three options, with Baili opting for Graphic Design.

"Together, we make up the whole Waldorf communications pie! Jokes aside, Baili was truly the missing piece to my puzzle. Our Waldorf experience was incredible, and I feel fortunate to continue it in a different capacity as an employee of the institution."

Baili, who recently launched her own business, Bohimama & CO., where she hand crafts candles, wax melts, clothing prints and home décor, had a similar sentiment. "Waldorf made me a stronger individual, and it's how I got to meet Theo. The education I received at Waldorf fostered my passion for graphic design, and I am grateful to all of my professors who led me down a successful path."

Theodore and Baili reside in Forest City with their son, Grayson, and goldendoodle, Oakli.

They are proud Warriors, and look forward to Waldorf's bright future ahead.

Did Waldorf leave a significant impact on your life? Share your story with us and tell us what Waldorf means to you!

Share Your Story!

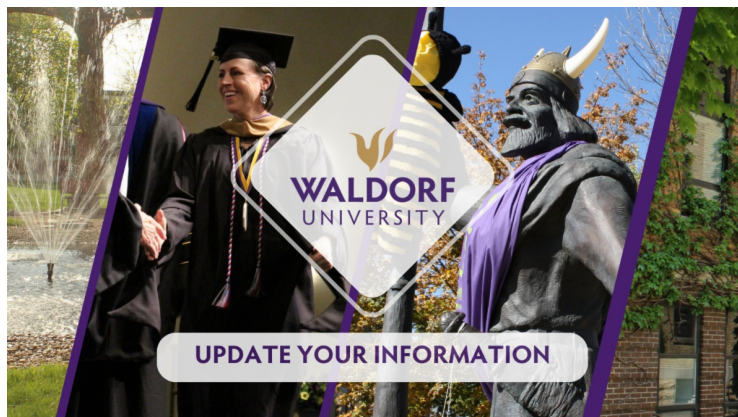


A Window of Opportunity!

Please make a gift to the Window of Opportunity campaign or the area you most love. The *Window of Opportunity Campaign* helps us with the \$2.5 million in costs the Foundation incurred while purchasing the University in December of 2022. This is a short term campaign, but it is currently our highest priority.

The future of Waldorf is bright, and we are grateful for you!

Make a Gift Online



What's new with you? Have you moved? Did we lose you? Got a new job, expanded your family, received an award? You can always email us at Alumni@waldorf.edu or use the [online form](#) to update your info and share your alumni news!

[Warrior Shop](#) - [Stream Waldorf Athletics](#) - [Apply Now](#) - [Request Transcripts](#)

Waldorf University Alumni Association |
<https://www.waldorf.edu/alumni>



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