

THE MICHAEL LESTER WENDT
CHARACTER LECTURE

Shaping Character for Lives of Purpose

MAX STOSSEL

Founder and CEO of Social Awakening
Advisor for the Center for Humane Technology

WE'VE BEEN SNEAKING INTO YOUR BRAINS



FEBRUARY 6, 2023 - 7:00 P.M.

JOHN AND ALICE BUTLER HALL
HERITAGE CENTER

This lecture is underwritten in part by Rev. Cathy Young (MDiv'89)



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UNIVERSITY of DUBUQUE

MAX STOSSEL

We welcome Max Stossel, founder and CEO of Social Awakening and advisor for the Center for Human Technology.

Formerly a social media strategist, Stossel designed notifications to keep people glued to their phones. Five years ago, Stossel had a change of heart. Since then, he has spoken with hundreds of thousands of social media users around the world about the harm social media brings to our lives.

Now, through his public speaking and his non-profit organization, Stossel seeks to inform and encourage social media users to critically reevaluate their relationships with their technology. “Are you really the one using technology or is technology using you?”

Seeking to draw us away from our phones and back to our senses, Stossel provides resources and guidance to reduce the use of and reliance on social media and advocates steps to improve our relationship with technology.

Stossel’s solutions for technologists, parents, educators, and policymakers aim to align technology with humanity’s best interests. Stossel provides a unique and much-needed perspective as we grapple with the role of technology in our homes, schools, and society.



Centered in the University’s Mission and Values, and consonant with its Christian identity, **The Lester G. and Michael Lester Wendt Character Initiative** engages the University community in a cooperative and spirited effort to foster intellectual understanding of and personal commitment to leading lives of purpose and excellent moral character.

In 2004, Dick and Nancy Wendt established the Lester G. and Michael Lester Wendt Character Initiative. Lester, Dick Wendt’s father, instilled in his son the importance of truthfulness, honesty, and the Golden Rule, which are incorporated into our emphasis on the virtues of integrity, justice, and compassion. The Michael Lester Wendt Character Lecture honors the memory of Dick and Nancy Wendt’s son, Michael, a man of good character who tragically died young.