

JEFFERY A. WITTUNG

MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



CRITERIA FOR THIS AWARD:

This scholarship is awarded by nomination of the Religion Department faculty to juniors or seniors majoring in Religion with a 3.75+ GPA. Selection is based on outstanding academic achievement, academic/scholarly promise, and exemplary character/Christian witness.

Jeff Wittung was a loving husband to his wife, Marne, and daughters, Ana and Kate. Those who knew Jeff were touched by his kindness, sense of humor, and giving nature. He maintained a good balance between being serious about his work and studies while also being fun and playful with family and friends. Jeff followed Christ throughout this life. His mission was to love God and love people. He was constantly learning and growing in his knowledge and love of the Lord while also finding ways to share that with others.

Jeff grew up on his family's farm in Van Wert, Ohio, with his parents and younger sister. It was always one of his favorite places. He loved the land and the open sky. He was very interested in astronomy and enjoyed sitting on the roof with his telescope studying the stars. He and his family faithfully attended a small Nazarene church and heard about Mount Vernon Nazarene University, which he ultimately attended from 1992-1996.

Starting off at MVNU, Jeff was planning to study astrophysics. However, he felt God's calling to vocational ministry and changed his major to religion. One of his favorite aspects of his time at MVNU was being part of Mandate, an organization focused on missions. He traveled several times with this group to provide relief to communities that suffered disasters. Jeff also enjoyed playing his trumpet in an ensemble that performed with Collegians Chorale for MVNU's 25th Anniversary Tour, where he and Marne met. Jeff also worked as the Religion Department assistant. He remembered his time at MVNU as a highlight of his life.

After graduating from MVNU, Jeff went on to earn a Master of Divinity from Nazarene Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri. As he felt God calling him more to teaching than pastoral ministry, Jeff went on to earn a second master's degree from Drew University in Madison, New Jersey, and was on his way to attaining a Ph.D. in Systematic Theology, hoping one day to teach at a university.

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Jeff was a scholar, worker, husband, father, servant, friend, and neighbor. He managed his professional, home, and community life while earning his Ph.D., including working as editor for Baker Publishing Group in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He served in his church where he taught classes and occasionally preached. In this community, he enjoyed serving on the public library board and attending events in town to get to know his neighbors.

In January 2010, Jeff was in a car accident and sustained serious injuries. He passed away a few days later at the age of 35, leaving behind his grieving young family. One of the ways his wife and daughters chose to honor and remember his was to establish the Jeffery A. Wittung Memorial Scholarship at MVNU, a place he dearly loved. Jeff was a recipient of a memorial scholarship when he was a student at MVNU and would be happy to know students today are receiving support through this scholarship in his memory.

In a sermon Jeff once preached, he referenced Jesus' words in John 10:10: "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." Jeff believed this promise of Jesus, and truly lived life to the full. Jeff's family prays that you are blessed by this scholarship and that you, too, will live life to the full.

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