students and alumni taking initiative
What shall we talk about?
by Mark Putnam, Central College president

"the medium is the message"
~ Marshall McLuhan

Heinrich Zimmer lived from 1890 to 1943 and was a German-born professor of South Asian art, language and civilization. His best known work centered on sacred myths and symbols derived from the history and traditions of India. He has been widely quoted as saying:

"the best things cannot be talked about. The second-best things are almost always misinterpreted. So we spend our life talking about the third-best things.

When is the last time you had a meaningful conversation?

McLuhan was right. The digital world has changed us as a society and has allowed us to communicate in new ways.

Our knee-jerk reaction is to assume that advances in information technology have created social distance in human interaction as technology-mediated communication is now becoming the norm. We isolate ourselves in homes and offices behind email addresses, cellphone numbers and websites. Conversations tend to be about numbers and websites. Conversations tend to be about

Meaningful conversation is different in this world. It may be synchronous or asynchronous. It may be delivered in text, audio, video or all three.

The challenge for the future is to worry less about the medium and more about the content. The quality of our discussion is what matters most, even when it is mediated by technology. The cultural transition is not easy. Our minds are occupied by the dizzying innovations and by the plethora of messages we receive. We describe, but do not enrich, understanding. The web page, podcast and YouTube video provide archival information for retrieval as needed to reinforce information and ideas previously communicated.

McLuhan was right. The digital world has changed us as a society and has allowed us to communicate in new ways.

It’s time to refocus.

For more of the president’s writings, go to www.central.edu/go/president
New plaza entryway to campus

This fall, students will be welcomed to campus by a new plaza entryway outside Central Hall.

Central is getting a makeover in the form of new signs and a grand plaza. To clearly delineate the campus entrances, President Mark Putnam initiated a project consisting of three brick-faced signs and a plaza entryway. Construction on the entryway began this spring and, other than a few finishing details, should be completed by Homecoming in the fall.

Two brick-faced signs, costing $125,000 each, will be placed at the corners of Independence and Broadway and Broadway and University. A smaller brick-faced sign, costing $50,000, will be placed at the corner of University and West 4th. Steve and JoAnn De Cook have graciously agreed to donate one of the larger signs. The plaza entryway — costing $500,000 — will be located at the corner of University and West 4th. Steve and JoAnn De Cook have graciously agreed to donate one of the larger signs. The plaza entryway — costing $500,000 — will be located at the corner of University and West 4th.

Boat Receives Honorary Doctorate

Tom Boat ’61 received an honorary Doctor of Science degree before he addressed the class of 2011 at commencement on May 14. Boat was also on campus in March for Central’s health science symposium. He moderated a panel of health professionals discussing the patterns and trends of the health science fields and the impact on future Central graduates.

Strey Named Dean of Student Life

Charlie Strey began as associate dean of student life Aug. 1, bringing 30 years of student affairs experience to Central. Strey served as assistant dean of student and director of residential life at Gustavus Adolphus (Minn.). He’s earned a master’s degree in guidance and counseling from the University of Minnesota’s College of Medicine, effective July 1.

Five Million for Scholarships

The Geisler Penquite Foundation awarded Central with $5 million for scholarships, committing to $100,000 per year. The gifts will alternate between the Geisler and Penquite Endowed Scholarship Funds.

The scholarships will be awarded to juniors and seniors accepted into the teacher preparation program. When completely funded, the gift will support 48-50 renewable scholarships of $5,000 for 12 new students in the elementary and secondary education programs. A second part of the gift is an endowment of the Geisler Penquite Educational Excellence Fund. The endowment will be used to enhance educational opportunities in teacher preparation and performance.

The Geisler Penquite Foundation makes annual contributions to the library endowment, the Harold and Mavis Geisler Scholarship Fund and the Loren and Ceci Penquite Scholarship Fund. The Geisler and Penquite families have funded scholarships, buildings and statues totaling more than $1.6 million.

SUMMER 2011  3
Through the Generations

What was your favorite age? Was it 18, when you first stepped onto Central’s campus and the world seemed so wide open? Was it the age you got married or had your first child? Or do you still look forward to the years ahead — more seniority at work or that long-coveted retirement? Even if you’re perfectly happy right ahead. Your generation knows what you’re going through.

As the launch approaches, watch for more details about Generations at central.edu/alumni and in The Dutch Letter sent to your inbox every month.

ALLUMNI PROFILES

JILL (DIEK'S) LUTES ’87

Majors: Communication and business management
About me: I have been married to Doug for 22 years. We have 3 children: Ryan, 18; Tyler, 15; Nicole, 13. I have worked for Emerson in Human Resources for over 10 years.
Hobbies/Activities: Attending our kids’ activities, waterskiing, bike riding and reading
Memorable Central moments: Too many to mention!

WILLIAM E. URMSTON ’62

Majors: Accounting and Spanish
About me: After graduation I moved to Tampa, Fla., to work for John Deere. I’ve recently moved back to Iowa and am currently living in Davenport and working for John Deere in Milan, Ill. I also recently got engaged to Quinn O’Brien ’09.
Hobbies/Activities: Playing/coaching volleyball, traveling and spending time with family and friends
Memorable Central moments: Being a part of the Dutch volleyball team and studying abroad in Granada, Spain.

CAROL LEE SCOTT ’61

We have three wonderful children and five fantastic grandchildren. I spent my entire career with Liberty Mutual Group in New York, Boston and finally Dover, N.H. I retired several years ago and try to play golf in my spare time.
Hobbies/Activities: My number one hobby is golf, not that I am any good at it, but I still enjoy getting out when the weather permits. We enjoy traveling, church activities and, of course, our family, who by some miracle are still all within 100 miles of our home.
Memorable Central moments: I have many memorable moments from my days at CUL. Most however, revolve around a certain blonde from Brooklyn, N.Y. Carol and I met when I was a freshman, and we have been “going steady” ever since. I have fond memories of Dr. Nanes and Dr. Butler, both excellent educators.

MIRANDA KOURA ’09

Majors: Economics and business administration
About me: Upon graduation I married Carol Lee Scott ’61.

11 All-Americans as Dutch shine in NCAA track

LEAGUE CHAMP CENTRAL NO. 7 IN NCAA MEN’S TRACK

A seventh-place national team finish was just one of many season highlights for Central’s powerhouse men’s track and field squad.

Coming off a second straight NCAA Division III tournament berth, the Dutch set 11 school records during the season, eclipsing their own record in the hammer throw of 78-71-79-72—300 to gain all-league and conference recognition. Junior second baseman Angela Davis was also a first-team all-American in the pitching circle. She ranks fourth in NCAA Division III history, upping his remarkable 27-year record to 929-302-3 (.750).

Meanwhile Central’s George Wares was the winningest coach in Division III history with 83 victories over four seasons. The Dutch won 83 victories in its history with 65 victories and seven home runs (21) and RBI (140). Lythberg recorded a league tournament berth for the seventh time in eight years.

Central’s 22-19 mark gave the team’s six seniors the winningest class in school history with 83 victories over four seasons. The Dutch set 11 school records during the 2011 campaign.

Three underclassmen earned All-Iowa Conference recognition. Junior shortstop Mike Parlow was named for the third straight year and was a first-team pick, while junior pitcher Joel Fullham and sophomore center fielder Sam Stekel were second-team honorees. Senior third baseman Anthony Miller and freshman second baseman Adam Ariola received honorable mentions.

CENTRAL ATTENDS 30TH NCAA MEN’S GOLF TOURNEY

New coach, same tradition. First-year coach Chad Green piloted the Central men’s golf team to a record 29th NCAA Division III tournament berth, finishing second behind eventual national champion Linfield ( Ore.). It was the fourth league indoor/outdoor MVP award for Miller, who then led off Central’s 4x800-meter relay unit which lowered the school record four times during the year and stroked to a surprising second-place finish.

Junior Tyler Croese qualified in the NCAA Division III championships in Delaware, Ohio May 26-28. Ziskovsky then led off Central’s 4x800-meter relay unit which lowered the school record four times during the year and stroked to a surprising second-place finish.

Junior transfer Justin Livingston finished just two shots back to take second place. Meanwhile Miller also took third in the NCAA long jump (23 feet, 4.75 inches).

Senior Jill Ziskovsky earned all-America honors seven times in her career and led the 4x400-meter relay unit to a second-place national finish.

The Central baseball team earned a 3.95 grade point average. She received CoSIDA Academic All-America honors seven times in her career and led the 4x400-meter relay unit to a second-place national finish.

ZISKOVSKY HELPS FUEL TOP-20 WOMEN’S TRACK FINISH

The records kept falling as the Central women’s track and field squad pulled off a 17-place effort at the NCAA Division III championships in Delaware, Ohio May 26-28.

Senior Jill Ziskovsky, who gained all-America honors seven times in her career, central career, closed by placing fifth in the NCAA heptathlon with a personal best 4,758 points, while junior Caitlin Wilson was eighth with 4,630. Ziskovsky then led off Central’s 4x800-meter relay unit which lowered the school record four times during the year and stroked to a surprising second-place finish.

Junior transfer Morgan David was also a national qualifier in the hammer throw and shot put. She won Iowa Conference titles in both events, while Ziskovsky earned the heptathlon championship.

The Dutch were third in the league team standings, just a point behind Luther. Central’s 17th-place NCAA effort was the program’s ninth top-25 national team finish and its best since taking 14th in 2004.

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TAKE THEIR WORD FOR IT:
ALUMNI DIVE INTO SELF-PUBLISHING

If it's true that “everyone has a book in them,” as the old saying goes … then what’s next? The traditional route has been to find a publisher who will take on your book, print it, market it and sell it. But with the publishing world in a flux due to smaller profit margins, the burgeoning popularity of e-books and more authors flooding the field than ever before, the chances of an unknown writer hitting it big with a publisher are…well, pretty slim.

So what do you do with a story you’ve got to tell? Self-publishing might be the answer. Here are two alums that chose that route and the advice they have if you’re thinking about putting your words into print.
Turning a Tragedy Into Helping Others

by Val Van Kooten

Life was going well for Thom Vines and his family. A 1976 Central grad and Pella native, Thom and his family — wife Becky ’77, son Jeremy, and twin daughters Kelsey and Kayla — lived in Lubbock, Tex., where Thom was the deputy superintendent for the Lubbock-Cooper School District and Becky was a curriculum specialist.

Then on Sept. 2, 2008, the Vines’ world changed forever.

On their way home from basketball practice at the beginning of their senior year of high school, the 18-year-old twins were hit by a 40,000-lb. dump truck that swerved into their lane of traffic. Kayla was banged up but fairly unscathed. Kelsey, however, was killed instantly.

“I remember, before this time, hearing about parents who had lost their children, and thinking, ‘That’s as bad as it gets,’” Thom Vines said. “But when it actually happens to you, it’s worse.”

Vines said his family’s strong Christian faith was about the only thing that pulled them through the tragedy. “But for Christians, there’s an added question of: ‘Can you still trust God when something like this happens?’” he said.

He began writing a book for parents who had lost a child and soon realized that any Christian who has been through a significant tragedy has the same questions and doubts.

Once the book was complete, Vines secured an agent in Boston and thought for a while that a major publishing firm might publish it. “But profit margins are so narrow in this business, and most firms are not going to take a chance on a beginning writer,” he said.

At that point, Vines took a look at self-publishing, literally googling the term and finding a multitude of companies that published books for authors. He settled on AuthorHouse — lived in Lubbock, Tex., where Thom was the deputy superintendent for the Lubbock-Cooper School District and Becky was a curriculum specialist.

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When an English major marries someone with a photojournalism degree, publishing books is a pretty good bet.

That's what Deb (Tindle) Parker '95, an English grad, figured when she married J.O. Parker, a University of Missouri alum who had majored in agriculture with a concentration in photojournalism. And since the couple had met at the Iowa State Fair, why not a book about the fair for kids?


“When we took a picture to go along with every letter of the alphabet,” J.O. said, “the work begins. They take their books to craft shows, toy shows and any place lovers of history congregate. When you publish yourself, the work of marketing largely falls on you. "We handed out our business card to everyone we photographed," she said. "It got to the point where people were requesting the book at Barnes & Noble, and they contacted us and wanted our book in the store."

The Parkers’ books are available at Barnes & Noble and at selected Iowa bookstores. You may also contact them at debwrite@zumatel.com.
Executive-In-Residence Pushes Move Toward Social Entrepreneurship

By Val Van Kooten

President Mark Putnam remembers hearing about a women’s prison that was teaching entrepreneurial skills to its inmates. “How many of them actually start a business when they leave prison?” he’d asked the instructor.

“Almost none,” the instructor replied. “But we think the skills they learn being an entrepreneur will give them a skill set that will help them break out of the system and empower them.”

Which got Putnam to thinking — can we expand the idea of entrepreneurship at Central to more than just something business majors might be interested in? What if that concept could teach a set of skills that could be applied to any major? And what if these ideas could be put into practice abroad?

This fall Central will introduce the executive-in-residence program, funded by the Martin Heerema Endowment for Entrepreneurship. Rick Ryan, a 1970 alumnus who has spent most of his career in life sciences — most recently in drug and pharmaceutical development at Millipore Corporation near St. Louis — will be visiting campus periodically, teaching classes and meeting with students to explore what being an entrepreneur might look like in different settings.

“Being an entrepreneur takes many skills, whether you’re starting a new for-profit business or a non-profit business,” Ryan said. “The skills of leadership, planning, working with others and applying concepts can benefit students in any area of study.”

The executive-in-residence program will be a perfect fit with what’s already happening on campus. Jamie Gyolai, an adjunct instructor of business at Central with experience as an entrepreneur, has been teaching introductory classes in entrepreneurship for the past two years. He said he sees new energy coming onto the campus with Ryan’s appointment. “About 50 percent of the students who have taken my class are not business majors,” he said. “We’re trying hard to get art majors and history majors to see the skills we’re teaching here apply to them, too.”

Getting students out of the classroom and connected through networking are important components of the executive-in-residence program. “It’s not just Rick’s personal experience and knowledge that are going to make him valuable,” Gyolai said. “He’s got incredible connections and networks, and that’s going to open up a world of opportunities for our students.”

Rick Ryan ’70 will be executive-in-residence this fall, teaching Central students how to live like entrepreneurs.

TAKING ENTREPRENEURSHIP ABROAD

Putnam and Ryan see far-reaching effects for the entrepreneurship program, whether that means a student opens his own business on campus or a group of students get together to begin a non-profit that funds charities or private organizations. While these could certainly be worked on at Central’s Pella campus, Putnam said he sees a perfect tie-in with Central College Abroad.

“Would it be possible in Merida to start a program that would be taken up by successive groups of students?” he asked, thinking aloud. “Could we partner with organizations in that community? Could we bring in students from other colleges? It’s about creating authentic experiences in the countries we have students in, not just academic tourism.”

The idea of serving others is not a new concept for Central students, Putnam said. Many come in already as freshmen with a background in mission trips, service days, and other experiences in the countries we have students in, not just academic tourism.”

“Classroom experience is critical, but when we apply the experience, we place an exponent on it. We’ve given them a world where they’ve done it, not just read and studied about it.”

– MARK PUTNAM, PRESIDENT

NOT JUST FOR BUSINESS MAJORS

That’s why Ryan is just as excited to work with a theatre student who wants to explore getting community theatre started in her hometown as he is about the student who wants to develop a new product and market it. He has a special interest in social entrepreneurship — using business skills to help those who need it.

“Starting a business may be the underpinnings of being an entrepreneur, but we’re going to take aim at the concept of being a social entrepreneur,” he said.

“If you’re trying to get art majors and history majors to see the skills we’re training students to acquire, it’s going to have to be in the context of service,” Putnam said. “When we put together academic classes, an entrepreneurial spirit and international experience, we’re going to have students who walk into companies better prepared.”

But perhaps more importantly, the program will give students the tools to apply entrepreneurial principles for their own lives. “Classroom experience is critical, but when we apply the experience, we place an exponent on it.” Putnam said. “We’ve given them a world where they’ve done it, not just read and studied about it.”

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The idea of serving others is not a new concept for Central students, Putnam said. Many come in already as freshmen with a background in mission trips, service days, and other ways they’ve helped in their communities, around the country and abroad. “We could think of a program like this being the spirit of an internship combined with the spirit of service,” Putnam said. “When we put together academic classes, an entrepreneurial spirit and international experience, we’re going to have students who walk into companies better prepared.”

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Alumni are invited to submit NewsNotes to the alumni office. We want to hear about recent promotions, honors, relocations, marriages and births to keep classmates and friends informed about important changes in your life. Email alumni@central.edu or update information online at www.central.edu/alumni/community. News items also are welcome by phone, 800-447-0287 or 641-628-5154, or send a note to Central College Alumni Office, 812 University, Campus Box 5200, Pella, IA 50219.

THE '60S

Doug Schakel ’64 completed his second season as assistant women's basketball coach at Johnson County Community College. He helped lead the Lady Cavaliers to a 32-5 record and a fifth-place finish at the NJCAA National Tournament. Doug and wife Sharon Kreun Schakel ’67 live in Olathe, Kan.

Lesley Dohl ’65 of Morris, N.Y., had her short story Mother Needs a Lift published by UntreedReads. Another short story, Dumpster Dying was among five featured reads in the All Mystery! e-newsletter.

Paula Heusinkveld ’68 retired in June from Clemson University, where, for the past 29 years, she taught Spanish, directed 16 study programs to Mexico and served as director of the university’s Bachelor of Arts program in languages and international trade. In May she received the Faculty Service Award. Paula and husband Jorge Medina live in Seneca, S.C.

THE '70S

Dennis Boekhoff ’70 is an emergency department director at Mercy Hospital in Clinton. Dennis and wife Carol live in Iowa City.

THE '80S

Dwane McFerrin ’80 was named vice president of Medicare Solutions at Senior Market Sales, Inc. He serves on industry advisory committees and is a frequent author of insurance publications. Dwane and wife Sue Berkompas McFerrin ’81 live in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Sue is a business process engineer at Physicians Mutual Insurance Company in Omaha, Neb.

Deb Collins Willhite ’80 received an associate’s degree in nursing from Indian Hills Community College in Ottumwa in November and passed her boards in March. She is a registered nurse at Palmar Lutheran Hospital in West Union, Iowa, where she lives with husband Duane Willhite ’79. Duane is superintendent of North Fayette Community School District in West Union.

THE '30S

Mary Ann Hopp Hemming ’33 retired from full-time teaching. She continues to substitute teach while spending time around the house and with family. Mary Ann and husband Patrick live in Alston, Iowa.

Susan Oiler ’34 of New Brighton, Minn., was elected to the position of academic dean of United Theological Seminary. She will be in her new role half time, while continuing as director of the library.

Sandra Daffer Agnew ’78 gave up substitute teaching to take a full-time position as secretary for a house-call physician at HouseCall MD in Youngstown, Ohio, where she lives with husband Scott.
The honorary degree subcommittee of the board of trustees is soliciting nominations of deserving candidates for an honorary degree. Nominations should include a brief written statement that addresses a candidate’s specific qualifications.

Send to: Mary Shroy
Vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty
Campus Box 5000
812 University
Pella, IA 50219

Please review the honorary degree policy at www.central.edu/honorarydegrees.

THE '90S

For information about Zachary Osborne '99 and Mitch Conrath '99 see the '90s decade.

Joe Pety '90 is a construction technician at Musco Sports Lighting in Oskaloosa, Iowa. Joe and wife Terri Conklin Pety '90 live in Kewanee with their two sons. Terri is an administrative manager of development sales at Musco Sports Lighting.

Carol Price Spending '90 graduated in May from the University of Iowa with a bachelor’s degree in French. She was the recipient of the Arthur and Mabel Beattie Award given yearly to the outstanding graduating senior majoring in foreign languages. Carol and husband Walter live in Muscatine, Idaho, where Carol is a freelance writer and editor.

Kelly Stek '90 is a research consultant in market intelligence at Eliana, a division of Eli Lilly. Kelly has three children and lives in Geneseo, Ill.

Damon Andrews '91 is a systems leader at Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. in Johnston, Iowa. Damon and wife Kellye Briggs Andrews '91 live in Urbandale with their four children. Kellye is the regional vice president of Arkansas International.

Jason Ingle '91 is a senior underwriter at Lockton Affinity in West Des Moines. Jason and wife Robin live in Indiana with their two sons.

Ray West '91 is a senior director of trading and research for the Geode Group LLC. Ray and wife Donna live in Omaha, Neb., with their two children.

Casey Barth '92 of Ames was named 3A Boys at-Large Coach of the Year by the Iowa Association of Track Coaches. Scott teaches sixth grade at Altoona Schools and is in his 19th year of teaching there. He serves as head coach of the boys’ and girls’ cross country teams.

Kate Bere '92 and Kenneth Price of Marion, Iowa were married Aug. 5, 2010. Kate is an advisor for Iowa Workforce in Cedar Rapids.

Carol Antebi Yenger '92 is a foundation manager for Monroe County Hospital and Clinics. She was featured in the March 1 edition of the Iowa Monroe News. Carol and husband Jeff live in Albion, Iowa, with their two children.

Ed Gillette '93 joined the staff of North Ridge Church as minister of development head, where he will help senior leaders strategize and implement the development of new and transitioning areas of ministry. Ed and wife Marcia live in Canton, Mich.

Erin Rasmussen Schmid '93 is the director of quality assurance and employee development at Exceptional Opportunities in Butler, Iowa, where she lives with husband Ryan Schmid '93 and their two children. Ryan is a conservationist for the Kosciusko County Conservation Board in Algona.

Brooks Vanderkloet Stenersen '93 is a response to (intervention) (RTI) teacher for the Coral Independent School District in Spring, Texas, where she lives with husband Doug and their two children.

Kari Gasinski '93 is an office manager and personal banker at Lincoln Savings Bank in Waterloo, Iowa. Kari and husband Dale live in Hudson with their two daughters.

Brian Burke '95 and Megan Myhre of Des Moines were married Oct. 2. Brian is a trainer at Nationwide Insurance.

Fumete Kelerie Freeman '95 is a Central Place family support specialist for Southeast Polk Community Schools. In March, she was named co-recipient of the Margaret Hess LIFE Award by the Youth and Shelter Services Riley Business Conference. Pam and husband Jim live in Des Moines with their two children.

Tina Hesketh '95 of Phoenix is the multimedia technology for the eight campuses of North-east Iowa Community College.

Brad Rell Perich '95 is partner at Dickinson, MacKaman, Tyler & Hagen Attorneys at Law in Des Moines. She was named president of the firm’s board of directors, which she joined in 2009. Brad and husband Wes live in Clive with their three daughters.

THE '00S

For information about Christopher Bates '09 see the '00s decade.

Katherine Godzik '00 is a self-employment consultant at Thriving Places in Des Moines. Katherine and husband Michael live in Raymond with their two sons.

Jeffrey Murray '00 received a Master of Education degree with an emphasis in literacy and language from Park University in Parkville, Mo. He teaches second grade at Ocrick schools in Ocrick, where he lives with husband Mitch Conrath '99 and their son. Mitch teaches at Des Moines High School.

Katherine Vacelka Osborn '01 is an optimist at International Eyecare Center in Fulton, Mo. She and husband Zachary Osborne '99 live in Columbia with their son. Zachary is a staff psychologist at Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans’ Hospital.

Stefanie Hess '02 is the U.S. Navy’s deployed forces family support director for the Middle East out of Bahrain.

TWO RECEIVE MASTER’S DEGREES

Megan Kral Kempnich '02 (right) and Malley Hessky '03 (left) graduated from Drake University in May with master’s degrees in education and affective teaching. Megan and husband Brian live in Clive with their son. Megan teaches first grade, and Malley, who lives in Des Moines, teaches second grade at Walnut Hills Elementary in the Waukee Community School District.

Kasey Oertel '02 of St. Louis, Mo., is partner at Kramer & Hand law firm and president of St. Louis Area Young Republicans.

Stephanie Stravensker Messer '02 is a reading lab teacher in the Waukee Community School District. Stephanie and husband Tony Messer '95 live in Waukee with their three children. Tony is a systems QA analyst at Wells Fargo Financial in Des Moines.

Joshua Monson '02 is an internal wholesaler at Principal Financial Group in Des Moines. Joshua lives in West Des Moines with his wife and their two sons.


Allan Adrian '04 of Brighton was named the Iowa State University extension youth coordinator for Washington County.

Rachael Cotel '05 of Chicago, Ill., is the band coordinator and executive assistant at Park Community Church.

Clinton Meek '04 is the field supervisor covering the western Missouri region for Farmers Mutual Hail Insurance Company of Iowa. Clinton and wife Cami live in Urbanaide, Iowa, with their daughter.
For Jim and Kathy Vande Berg, both members of the class of 1960, Central College is all about relationships — with faculty, with classmates at reunions, and with the important relationship they developed at Central with each other. “Central was where we met, fell in love and made a lifelong commitment to one another,” Jim said.

But the couple is also excited about what Central has become “in the past decade. That’s why they decided to purchase a life insurance policy, naming Central as owner and beneficiary — because ultimately it will provide a significant gift for Central’s future which they believe is rich and bright.”

The Vande Berge are grateful for the education and relationships the Central community has given them. By giving back, the couple is ensuring that more of those connections will be made, that the Central community will grow and thrive as it always has.

Like the Vande Berge, you also can give a gift that will help Central today or with a deferred gift for tomorrow. To receive more information or to make a gift, please contact the advancement office at 641-629-3144 or at email mdon@b Abdul@central.edu.
Dr. Dale DeWild

After 23 years at Central, Dr. Dale DeWild, professor of sociology, retired this spring. With a bachelor’s degree from Hope College (Mich.), a master’s from Wayne State University (Mich.) and a doctoral degree from Florida State, DeWild started his career in Florida before teaching in India for two years. DeWild made his way to Central in 1989, leaving for the 2001 fall semester to teach in Bangladesh. DeWild is an active member of the community, volunteering time at the Work of Our Hands for 10 years and initiating the Serve Our Youth program in Marion County.

SERVICE DAY 2011

More than 750 students, faculty and staff signed up to participate in Central’s Service Day on April 19. Volunteers chose from 70 projects around Central Iowa, including tutoring, visiting seniors, translating documents, bowling with disabled people, removing invasive species and preparing Pella for Tulip Time. One group, led by music faculty Stan Dahl and Mitchell Lutch, picked up trash around Lake Red Rock and used it to fashion musical instruments. “Every experience extends the walls of the classroom and allows us to access the expertise residing in the community,” says Cherri Doane ’98, director of community based learning. If you have project ideas for next year’s Service Day, please email doanec@central.edu.
A final word from the editor
by Abby Gonzales Larson ’02

This is my parting shot. My 30-, if you will. The end.

Not often do editors get the chance to write whatever they want. And now that I have the chance, I can’t pass it up.

My time at Central has spanned three decades and I’m only 31. I came to Central in 1998 as a freshman, due to the perseverance of Eric Jones ’87, an admission counselor at the time. He came to my high school at Guthrie Center, Iowa, and we ended up playing H-O-R-S-E in the gym. Not sure if he let me win on purpose, but it helped with my decision.

At first, I think I was like many high schoolers. I wanted to do my own thing and blaze a new path. I didn’t want to come to Central because we were one of those legacy families. My great-grandfather Cornelius Evers was a professor. My grandparents Clyde ’41 and Annie Williams Evers ’43 met at Central in physics class. My parents Scott ’71 and Bonna Evers Gonzales ’72 also met at Central. And my sister Sunny ’99 was a senior at Central when I was a freshman. I didn’t want to continue being Sunny’s little sister at Central. Turns out, I wasn’t. I was my own person. Professors got to know me. Coaches treated me as Abby. I had my own friends, but it was also nice to have family at Central. In fact, Central actually became my family and my home over the next four years.

After a one-year hiatus to Southern Illinois University, Larry Happel asked me to return to Central as the interim sports information director while he took a sabbatical. I’m so glad I did. But I’m also glad he came back. There’s no way I could’ve kept up that pace past one year. It was an eye opener and a great opportunity that opened a door when Central needed a new Bulletin editor and writer.

That was in 2004, and this is what I’ve been doing ever since. It’s been good, challenging, fun and exciting. Most who work at Central understand it’s not an 8-to-5 job. Especially those who have been here a while and have strong ties to the place. I’ve been at work at every hour of the day. Re-inputting basketball stats at midnight; arriving at 3:15 a.m. for “The Early Show” with Harry Smith ’73 and his CBS News crew; crafting an emergency message for the Central community at 4:30 a.m., pounding out articles for the Bulletin at 10 p.m., and sending news releases at 6 p.m.

I wouldn’t trade it for anything. Except a husband. And that is why I must say goodbye. Godspeed Central. Don’t worry; I’ll be back for alumni track meets, Homecoming and any other excuse I can find. After all, I am Dutch and always will be — even though I have a Norwegian last name now.

Abby Gonzales Larson ’02 served as news and marketing writer at Central from 2004-11. She and her husband, Nic, live near Osage, Iowa. Go to www.central.edu/go/partingshot for a list of what Abby will miss most about Central — and a chance to send us your list about what you love.
Returning to Italy for a second trip in four years, 40 members of the Central College football team made stops in Rome, Venice, Florence and Trieste May 16-24. The team practiced twice and played against an Italian football team during its nine-day trek. Although the Dutch dominated the Trieste Mustangs 36-0, coach Jeff McMartin ’90 said that wasn’t the game’s focus. “Both teams had a lot of fun and gained some great memories,” he said. “In Italy, American football is in its infancy. We went to help develop and encourage growth within their program. Football is a club sport in Europe, but the fans they do have are very passionate about the sport and their team.” Fullback Preston West ’12 got a history lesson. “I really enjoyed the Colosseum with my teammates and learning how the Romans valued honor, teamwork and sacrifice, much like our football team strives to achieve,” he said.