

# Civitas

Central College



**SPECIAL BLESSINGS**  
developmental disabilities

**MODERN AGRICULTURE**  
alumni feed the world

# Integrated Learning

by Mark Putnam, Central College president



Photos by F.J. Gaylor



Faculty time with students is messy and inefficient. But for transformative education, it's incredibly effective.

James A. Garfield was president of the United States for a brief time in 1881. Though his life was cut short by an assassin's bullet, historians note his many contributions to our nation. During his years as an undergraduate at Williams College, Garfield was the beneficiary of both the teaching and leadership of Mark Hopkins, who served as president of the college for 36 years during an even longer career as a member of the faculty. Garfield's admiration for Hopkins is remembered through his still famous quote: "The ideal college is Mark Hopkins on one end of a log and a student on the other."

For educators, the image is poetic. It stands in stark contrast to the rhetoric we hear today. Many voices are calling for an educational approach designed for efficiency—less time to degree completion, fully online programs of study and customer convenience. It's a very transactional model resting on

the individual accumulation of credits, courses and credentials. By checking boxes to fulfill requirements we assume we can efficiently declare an individual educated. It's all nice and neat.

An education at "the other end of the log," however, is not transactional—it's relational. The opportunity for faculty to spend time with students is not at all efficient, but our experience tells us it's incredibly effective.

The stories I hear from alumni tell of the unexpected twists and turns that naturally accompany learning about themselves, others and the world. Some describe a sure decision for a major as a high school senior, later set aside when the inspiration of learning set them on a new path. Others recount tales of international study that opened new global perspectives and broader cultural awareness. Interns sometimes discover a reality different than anticipated, leading to a change in direction. It's

all very inefficient, but highly effective if personal transformation is our educational imperative.

A great undergraduate education is by its nature very messy. Our students become explorers of old patterns and creators of new ideas. They journey through tough questions without easy answers. They learn in teams rather than in isolation and are eager to share knowledge and experience. They seek flexibility and customization in shaping their unique experience of learning. They encounter failure and learn how to be resourceful and resilient. An education of this kind is not about job training, it's about setting the course for a lifelong journey.

Central College, true to its heritage of innovation and core values, is re-imagining a highly relational model for education—we call it *Integrated Learning*. I invite you to learn more at [www.central.edu/go/integratedlearning](http://www.central.edu/go/integratedlearning).





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The De Cook bison herd is a family unit of bulls, cows, calves and yearlings.



Photo by Paul Gates

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A little boy with a big heart.

Photo by Dan Vander Beek

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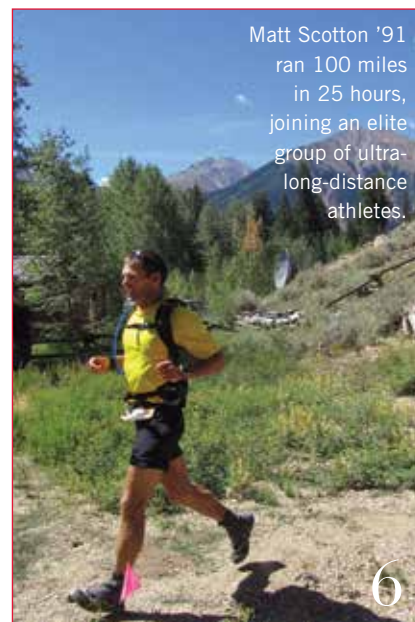
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## HOME<sup>coming</sup> FAMILY WEEKEND

{save-the-date}

SEPT. 28-30

# 22



Matt Scotton '91 ran 100 miles in 25 hours, joining an elite group of ultra-long-distance athletes.

# prestigious award for community service



Central was noted for serving distressed communities.

*“To be  
named a  
national  
finalist is,  
indeed, an  
elite honor  
...”*

Central College was named a Finalist for the Presidential Award by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). Central was one of only 14 schools in the nation—and the only one in Iowa—awarded the distinction. More than 750 applied, including elite universities like Stanford, Cornell and Vanderbilt.

“To be named a national finalist is, indeed, an elite honor,” said Mark Putnam, Central College president. “Experiential learning and participation in civic and social engagement, in partnership, are ever-expanding emphases within our core mission and programs.”

Central was especially noted for its work improving the educational and

developmental outcomes for children in Iowa’s most distressed communities.

One notable cause that Central students have been active in is refugee support. They provide English-as-a-Second-Language education, childcare and tutoring, grant writing and assistance with job and citizenship applications.

Central students also serve at-risk youth on the north side of Des Moines, providing weekly mentoring and tutoring sessions for preschool through sixth-grade students, as well as supporting English-language learning for nonnative speakers.

Research demonstrates that students who engage in service-learning have a more positive sense of personal efficacy,

personal identity and spiritual growth. Service-learning builds leadership and communication skills and has a positive effect on social responsibility.

## HARRY AND ROSEMARY WONG VISIT

Hundreds of Central education students and teachers from across the state came to hear Drs. Harry and Rosemary Wong speak Feb. 15 in Douwstra Auditorium. Their three-hour workshop, titled “How to Create Effective Schools and Teachers,” was made possible through the Geisler Penquite Education Excellence Fund.

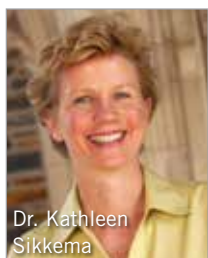
The Wongs, classroom management and student achievement experts, are a highly sought-after speaking duo, having delivered more than 3,500 presentations on education across the globe. “The First Days of School,” their book on effective teaching, is the highest-selling book ever in education, with more than 3.6 million copies sold worldwide.

“We are here for one reason only,” Harry said to the audience of pre-service and in-service teachers. “We want our kids to learn.”

The Wongs emphasized classroom management, lesson mastery and positive expectations for students. Learn more about their teacher-tested techniques at [www.central.edu/education](http://www.central.edu/education).



## COMMENCEMENT AND BACCALAUREATE SPEAKERS



Dr. Kathleen  
Sikkema



Rev. Wes Granberg-  
Michaelson

Central College selected two prominent speakers for the commencement and baccalaureate ceremonies May 12.

Dr. Kathleen Sikkema '84, speaking at commencement, is a professor and clinical psychologist at Duke University with emphases in health and community psychology. An expert in HIV prevention and mental health, Sikkema's research has been supported by the National Institutes of Health for 20 years. Her research focuses on developing and evaluating community approaches to help those with HIV disease cope with bereavement and traumatic stress.

Rev. Wes Granberg-Michaelson, speaking at baccalaureate, served as general secretary of the Reformed Church in America (RCA) for 17 years. During that time, he initiated a widespread process of missional change in the denomination, implementing a plan for revitalization and church development that was built on its historic commitment to mission, outreach and education. He also served as the first board chair of Call to Renewal, a broadly ecumenical movement linking faith and justice.

"These two professionals have been influential on a global level," said Mark Putnam, Central College president. "They are shining examples of service and dedication and clear models for our academic community. Their messages are quite powerful in showing students pathways in life with open doors of opportunities along the way."

Both Sikkema and Granberg-Michaelson will receive honorary degrees from Central during commencement.

## BRAZILIAN JAZZ IN PELLA

Gabriel Espinosa, associate professor of music, released his second album within three years in April. Titled "Celebrando," the CD is a collaboration with harmonica virtuoso Hendrik Meurkens. Released by ZOHO Music of New York, "Celebrando" focuses on Brazilian jazz.

"It celebrates the general influence of Brazilian ideas on musicians and audiences," Jack Goodstein of BlogCritics.org said of the album. "It celebrates the influence of Brazilian jazz on this current ensemble of artists who have devoted themselves to the exploration and development of its dynamic possibilities."

A release party for "Celebrando"



was held at the Pella Opera House on March 30.

Espinosa directs the jazz band and vocal and instrumental combos at Central. Read about his history in Pella and Yucatan, at [news.central.edu](http://news.central.edu).

## MOCK TRIAL COMPETES AT NATIONAL SEMIFINAL

The Central mock trial team competed at the American Mock Trial Association Opening Round Championships (ORCs) hosted by the University of Calif.-Irvine March 10-11.

Central's nine-member squad received an at-large bid to the ORC following regional competition and faced off against 23 teams from across the nation.

"The tournament included some elite mock trial programs, including

UCLA, which won the national title last season," said coach Andrew Green, associate professor of political science. "As the team returns all nine students next year, competing against the nation's best provided valuable lessons as we continue to build our program."

Central's ORC tournament field also included teams from Stanford University, the University of Southern California and Arizona State University, among others.

Participating in the ORC marks the first time Central has qualified a team to a national competition since 2004.



Pictured (left to right): Andrew Green, Kristin Look, Alison Ranniger, Molly Ward, Sarah Maxwell, Tyler Ernst, Karleigh Miller, Emily Rouse and Sada Thompson.

# 11-game win streak carries men's basketball team

Photo by Dan Vander Beek



All-Iowa  
Conference  
guard Demarco  
Turner helped  
Central to a  
surprising  
18-8 season.

It didn't take long for the Central men's basketball team to disprove the Iowa Conference coaches' prediction that the Dutch would finish eighth in the nine-team league race.

Central reeled off 11 straight wins en route to a 12-1 start. Unfortunately, a six-game losing streak followed before the Dutch regrouped and closed the regular season with six consecutive victories. Central tied for fourth in the standings but was a title contender most of the way in the balanced conference. The Dutch finished 18-8, logging its second-highest victory total since 1980.

Senior guard Demarco Turner was again a first-team all-conference honoree. He averaged 12.9 points a game and hit a team-high 67 3-point goals. Meanwhile, junior power forward Jacob Winkler blossomed. He came off the bench yet averaged 10.5 points and 6.8 rebounds and was second on the team in assists with 2.2. He received second-team all-league recognition. Senior post Jack Bruns averaged 9.0 points and 5.7 rebounds.

"Although there were many who did not have high expectations for us, we had aspirations of meeting the goals we set on a yearly basis," coach Mike Boschee said. "I'm proud of the way we played and that we were able to bounce back and finish the season as strong as we did."



Alyssa Schwartz is a top returnee for next season.

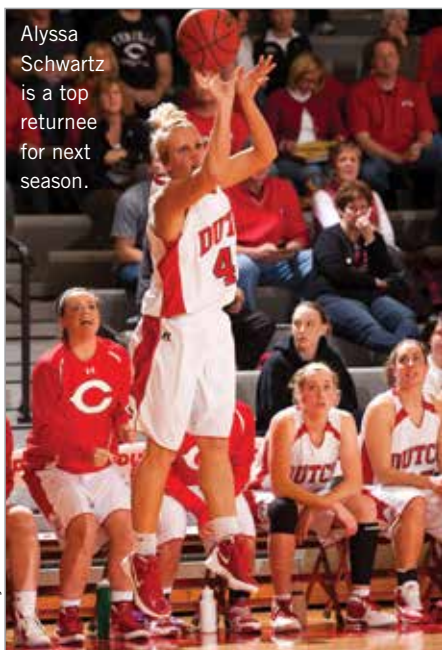


Photo by Dan Vander Beek

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SQUAD BEGINS TURNAROUND

Due to tournament play, few college basketball teams get to close their season with a win, but the Dutch women's squad did so in buzzer-beating fashion. Coach Mike Jacobsma hopes that will serve as a launching pad for future success.

Trailing Wartburg Feb. 18 by 11 points with 2:18 remaining, Central mounted a furious comeback that forced overtime, then pulled off the 83-82 upset with a desperation 3-pointer by senior forward AJ Baker.

It was Central's second league win.

The Dutch were 7-18 overall. Guard Sarah Paulson received second-team all-conference honors. She averaged 12.4 points and 7.0 rebounds. Forward Alyssa Schwartz averaged 9.8 points.

## LARSON AND WILSON EARN ALL-AMERICA INDOOR TRACK STATUS

Continuing Central's powerful tradition in the multi-events, senior Caitlin Wilson and freshman Eric Larson each earned all-America distinction at the NCAA Division III indoor track and field championships.

Wilson, previously a national outdoor placewinner, took fourth in the women's pentathlon with a career-best 3,352 points. Meanwhile, Larson opened some eyes by taking eighth in the men's heptathlon with 4,749 points.

The Central women placed third as junior sprinter Felicia Coleman broke two school records.

Senior Kyle Wood was also a national qualifier, competing in the 400 meters. He earlier was named the Iowa Conference track events MVP. He won the same honor at the league outdoor meet last spring. Wood helped Central place second in the conference team standings after the Dutch claimed the previous two titles. An injury to all-American multi-eventer Ethan Miller dampened Central's hopes.

## DORENKAMP TO RETIRE AS ATHLETICS DIRECTOR

After 14 years of serving to enhance the Central College athletics legacy he helped create as a standout student-athlete, Al Dorenkamp '75 will retire as athletics director in June. His wife, postal services coordinator Jo Ann Fall Dorenkamp '74, will be leaving Central as well.



Dorenkamp to retire after 14 years at Central.

Photo by Dan Vander Beek

Al Dorenkamp earned all-American distinction for the Dutch football team, serving as captain of the 1974 team that won the college's first NCAA Division III championship. During his tenure as athletics director, Central student-athletes have won four more NCAA national team championships, 13 NCAA individual titles and 46 Iowa Conference crowns. He initiated numerous improvements to the A.N. Kuyper Athletics Complex, including the addition of the highly regarded cross country course and the Ryerson Golf Practice Range, new indoor and outdoor tracks and renovations to the softball field and Ron and Joyce Schipper Stadium. In 2002, Dorenkamp started Central's Athletics Hall of Honor.

A former NCAA Division III Football Committee national chair, Dorenkamp received the Distinguished Iowan Award from the Iowa chapter of the National Football Foundation.

"Al embodies the core values of this academic community and of the whole-person concept as taught to him by his beloved Central coach, Ron Schipper," said president Mark Putnam. "He is a tireless worker, a committed servant, and deeply devoted to the young men and women of Central College."

## CENTRAL WRESTLERS CONTINUE CLIMB

The steady ascent continues for the Central wrestling squad and coach Eric Van Kley.

Last in the Iowa Conference with a roster that included five open weights five years ago, the Dutch moved up another notch to sixth in the league tourney, regarded as the nation's toughest. And after a seven-year drought, Central sent a wrestler to the NCAA Division III tournament for the second straight year.

Junior Joseph Atwell went 1-2 at 157 pounds at the national tourney at La Crosse, Wis., March 8-9.

Meanwhile, the Dutch posted a 13-11 dual record, its highest win total in 18 seasons.



Coach Eric Van Kley's club won 13 duals.

Photo by Dan Vander Beek



# to the **VERY** LIMITS!

In the mountains, the jungle and the library, alumni turn fever dreams into life-changing routines.

Humans know no bounds. Or so many think. People have been pushing themselves for thousands of years—testing their abilities, their courage and their persistence. Without such a drive to do better, to do more, many of our greatest achievements would be missing from the history books. And so would some of our worst failures. These alumni have gone to extremes—uprooting their lives and devoting years to a single passion—and have come out better for it.

## RACE ACROSS THE SKY

Matt Scotton '91 uses himself as a human guinea pig. A physical therapist and athletic trainer in Newton, he tells his patients: "Our bodies are amazing. If we do the right things, we can adapt to almost anything."

To prove it, he has pushed his body to the limits of human performance. Scotton is a "Leadman"—one of only two in Iowa and about 75 in the entire world. Last summer, he competed in a series of races in Leadville, Colo., that included a trail marathon, a 50-mile mountain bike race, a 100-mile bike race, a 10-kilometer run the next day and, finally, a 100-mile run six days later. The races—all on mountain trails—started at 10,000 feet and went up from there. But the scenery was spectacular.

"Even when I was exhausted, I would have a chance to look up from a trail and see this awesome vista," says Scotton. "Every time I realized where I was, I would think what a gift it was to run and bike in this place."



Scotton enjoys Iowa's landscape, too, often running and biking in state and county parks. It gives him time to be alone with his thoughts, something he got used to as a teenager driving the tractor on his family's farm. He calls running a form of meditation. "It's a great way to see what's going on in the world," Scotton says. "You are your own power, your own motor, to see and do what you want."

Scotton says he's not a natural athlete. Before he started running and biking 10 years ago, he hadn't competed in sports since high school. At Central, he majored in biology and focused on his work as an athletic training student, which led to his career as a physical therapist. But when he started running with some friends in Newton, he was quickly hooked. Now he runs about 30-40 miles per week and bikes about 5 to 12 hours, depending on the season.

To be named a Leadman, Scotton had to complete all five races under the specified time limits. For the 100-mile run—the monster of all trail races—he began at 4 a.m. with a headlamp and a small flashlight. He never stopped for more than

they face," he says. "Hopefully they can see in me an example of what I tell them every day."

The experience at Leadville has helped him at work in another way, too. "If things are busy and I need to be there for 12 hours, well, that doesn't seem like much of a challenge anymore."

## LUXURY JUNGLE LIFE

When Jim Schulze joined the psychology department in 1968, he had a behavioral emphasis—and no international experience. But when a tour to the fledgling study abroad program in Merida, Mexico, was organized, Schulze jumped on board. "Permission to be gone from Iowa in the middle of February? Done," he recalls.

The tour changed the trajectory of his life. On a side-trip to the enchanting Isla Mujeres, he ate fresh barracuda cooked in banana leaves and found a hermit shell. The tour leader, a fellow faculty member, was afraid he would never leave the island. "Her worry was probably not without some basis," Schulze says.

## "OUR BODIES ARE AMAZING. IF WE DO THE RIGHT THINGS, WE CAN ADAPT TO ALMOST ANYTHING."

three minutes at a time, except once to change his shoes after running through a mountain stream. He finished in just under 25 hours, earning the "big buckle" for beating the time limit by five hours.

At the finish line, his wife Sandy Koon Scotton '91 was waiting for him with their two daughters. Sandy was part of his support crew, who provided food and water along the way and took turns running with him during the second half. After the awards ceremony, the Scotton family piled back into the car for the 13-hour drive back to Newton. They were determined to get the girls to swim practice by 6 a.m. "That was almost as tough as some of the races," says Scotton with a laugh.

In June, Scotton is returning to Leadville for a second time, vying to become part of the even more exclusive club of repeat finishers. There, he will once again explore human performance, a field that fascinates him both as an athlete and a physical therapist. The races "have helped me relate to my patients and the physical and mental challenges

He did leave Isla Mujeres, but he returned to teach and conduct research in Merida every few years until his retirement in 2007. Even then he didn't want to give up Yucatan. Instead, he focused on arranging homestays for college students in Tinum—a Mayan town near the ceremonial site of Chichen Itza.

"One of the perks of being a college professor for life is that you get to stay 'in college' for life," Schulze says. "This implies learning new things, having new teachers, making new friends, figuring things out and trying to tell others about them."

Today, Schulze and his partner Lisa Rock '87 spend their winters in Yucatan, splitting their time between Merida and Tinum. Rock fell in love with Yucatan as a student studying abroad there. When her plans for graduate school fell through, she returned for an extended homestay and volunteer work. "For the first time in my life, I had absolutely no idea what to do next," says Rock. "I was depressed and terrified. Yucatan saved me."

In the mornings in Merida, Schulze and Rock join neighbors for walks in a local park before buying fresh orange juice, bananas, papaya and mango. The capital of Yucatan, Merida is a busy city of nearly a million people. But its historic downtown and bustling markets—where you can hear the call of

another. “We recommend processing their Tinum experience in ways that enable them to recognize privilege and use it to impact change,” says Rock. That means doing what she calls the “slow but necessary” work of convincing leaders to remedy unjust systems and policies.

“PART OF BEING HUMAN IS LEARNING TO CARE ABOUT OTHERS, TO UNDERSTAND THEIR LIVES, CHALLENGES, HOPES AND FEARS.”

the *elote* (corn on the cob) lady and the clack of horse-drawn carts—still thrive. Rock and Schulze say authentic friendships with Yucatecans and the diverse music and cultural scene are highlights of their Merida life.

The rest of their time is spent in Tinum, where the couple lives in a compound of buildings with thatch roofs and stone walls. They have electricity and running water—though it often breaks down—and they sleep in hammocks, a comfort they miss during the rest of the year.

Their work can be classified as ecotourism, though Schulze prefers the term “cultural explorer” over “tourist.” He believes standard tourism exploits the local people. “Ecology focuses on the environment: doing no harm, protecting it, perhaps benefitting or enhancing it,” he says. “A crucially important part of that environment is made of the other people who inhabit and share it with us.”

The visitors include students from Central and other colleges and travelers from many walks of life. Schulze and Rock work with a variety of Tinum families who host visitors. A homestay typically includes sleeping in hammocks, eating Mayan food, making handmade corn tortillas, helping in an agricultural field, learning to weave baskets and watching a local baker make bread in a wood-fired oven. Schulze says the host families are eager to share their lives, stories and hospitality. “They find value in being placed in the elevated role of teacher and expert.”

Visitors to Tinum discover that people can be very happy without the possessions and privileges Americans take for granted, Schulze says. But he hopes visitors move beyond this realization to

“Part of being human is learning to care about others,” Schulze says, “to understand their lives, challenges, hopes and fears.”

Read more about Schulze’s and Rock’s life and work in Yucatan at [civitas.central.edu](http://civitas.central.edu).

## ROOTS AND BRANCHES

Mike Oliver ’74 was disappointed he didn’t get invited to the royal wedding last spring. After all, he is related to the British Royal family, including Queen Elizabeth II, as well as the long-dead French monarchs Charles the Bald and Charles the Fat. His 22nd great-grandfather is Prince John, the villain from the tale of Robin Hood.

In fact, Oliver is related to a lot of people. His long-lost family members include nearly two dozen presidents, including Obama and the Bushes, and Elvis Presley. Through years of intense research, Oliver has traced his family tree back to 100 B.C. So far, it has 5,000 members.

“A lot of people don’t even know who their great-grandparents were,” says Oliver. “I think that’s sad.”

Oliver’s interest in genealogy began at age 20 while watching a talk show. Alex Haley, author of the novel *Roots*, was being interviewed about the extensive research he did for the book. “I was just fascinated that all those records existed,” Oliver says.

He began talking to his relatives, especially his great-grandmother, who was born in 1871. She lived to be 100, and Oliver was especially close to her. Although she was born to poor farmers in North Carolina, it’s her family line that leads Oliver back to royalty.



His relatives were helpful, but Oliver quickly learned he couldn't always trust the family legends. "I made up my own little saying: There's truth in every story, but not every story is true." Instead, he looked for clues that would lead him to libraries and courthouses in search of birth and marriage certificates. "Then the Internet came along, and we hit the jackpot," he says.

Oliver is a fan of Ancestry.com because it allows users to hook up with other family trees and take advantage of their research.

His research has dug up a lot of surprises in his ancestry. Oliver thought he was exclusively English, but he learned his ancestors came to England from France, and before that from Germany. He has traced family back to Syria, Israel and Egypt.

But it is American history Oliver finds especially interesting. He had three ancestors on the Mayflower. In one History Channel show about the Colonies, the first two people mentioned—John White of the "Lost Colony" of Roanoke and Edward Winslow of the Mayflower, who gets credit for the first Thanksgiving—were both his ancestors. "I had chills," Oliver says.

Another favorite ancestor of his is Captain Samuel Jordan, who came to Jamestown in 1610 and became the first elected representative in the New World. Oliver admits that Jordan was probably elected because he employed most of the local people on his huge plantation.

Through his research, Oliver has become a history buff, especially about the Colonies and the early United States. He's come to the conclusion that everything—1,000 years ago and today—is motivated by economics. And he's learned not to put today's standards on yesterday's people. "Things were different 200 years ago. We don't know what they had to do to survive."

Oliver advises newcomers to the genealogy field to start with their relatives, especially the older ones. They often know names and stories that can lead to new discoveries.

"It's like a treasure hunt," he says. "Every ancestor is a new treasure."

What's your hobby? Share your life's passion with us at [civitas.central.edu](http://civitas.central.edu).

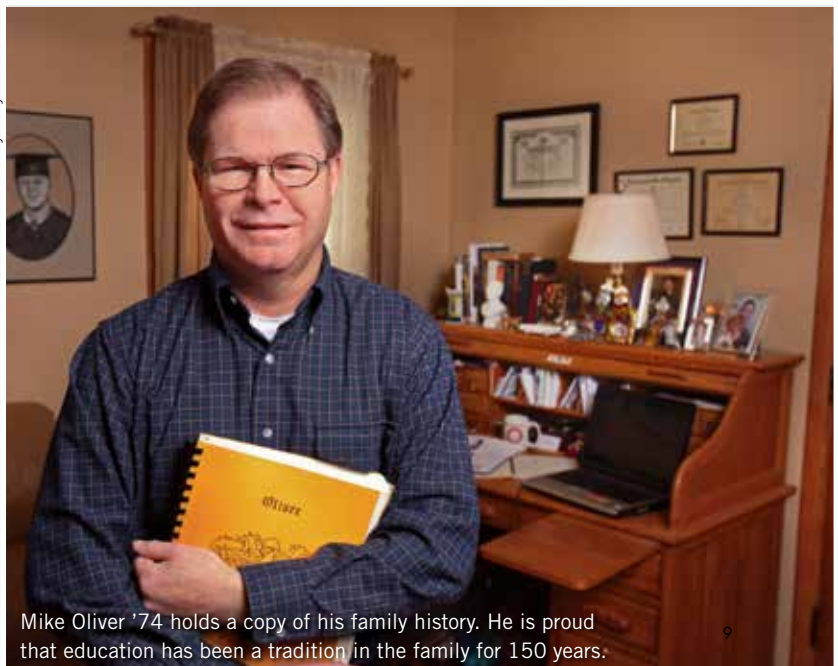


"I never felt like I wanted to quit," Scotton says of his race series. "I was so caught up in the emotion of it."



Jim Schulze and Lisa Rock '87 live in a Mayan *nah* with a wooden frame bound with vines, thatch roof and stone walls.

Photo by Tracy Van Zeeland



Mike Oliver '74 holds a copy of his family history. He is proud that education has been a tradition in the family for 150 years.

# growing MODERN

In Iowa, agriculture has a deep and rich history that speaks to people's hearts. But it can be a double-edged sword—leading to unfair stereotypes.

In America's heartland, agriculture is a legacy and a blessing that can't be ignored. With some of the richest soil in the world, Iowans are inspired by the beauty and tranquility of surrounding farmland. But a reputation for agriculture can be a stigma, too, as the nation sometimes sees stereotypical hicks where none are there.

New technology allows farmers to work more land and get two or three times more out of it than a generation ago. According to the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute, U.S. farmers earned a record \$98 billion last year, with prices driven up by ethanol and demand in China.

Our alumni, too, refute the stereotype. Working across the country in many agricultural fields, they are directly and indirectly feeding the world.



Photo by Paul Gates

Dallas Hakeman '68 of Waukee is reaping the benefits of modern technology like GPS, auto-steering and air conditioning in his new combine. But the skyrocketing price of land has changed agriculture, making it difficult to hold on in the face of urban sprawl. Read more at [civitas.central.edu](http://civitas.central.edu).





# Young and in Love with Cattle

Kevin '06 and  
Lori Risser Pitz  
'05, with daughter  
Miya, like working  
for themselves.  
"Your name is on  
the final product,"  
says Kevin.

A week after the wedding, most young couples are on their honeymoon in a tropical paradise. But a week after his marriage to Lori Risser Pitz '05, Kevin '06 brought home five baby Holstein calves. Nearly six years later, they have more than 400 steers and 30 black angus beef cattle.

The Pitzes own 210 acres in New Vienna, Iowa—land that has been in the family for 155 years. Although they grow corn and alfalfa hay, the bulk of their work is custom-raising Holstein heifer calves for a nearby dairy. With help from Kevin's dad, they raise each of the 165 calves in its own individual hut.

The Pitzes wake up at 5:30 a.m. each day to begin bottlefeeding the calves. Water, feed and bedding—as well as feed for the larger livestock—take until lunchtime. In the afternoon, they focus on smaller tasks like hauling manure and doing fieldwork. Then it's back to bottle-feeding. By 5:30, 12 hours after they've begun, they're ready to begin a second set of chores.

"Some days it's 18-20 hours, and some days it's raining or snowing and you're still out there doing it," says Kevin. "You don't get sick days or vacation days."

But farming is not all manual labor. They attend meetings on improving calf-feeding and research new methods on the Internet. And Kevin, who majored in economics, still gets out his old textbooks. "Even though I didn't major in agriculture or go to one of those big universities, I still use what I learned from Central," he says.


Unfortunately, Kevin and Lori are a rare breed—young farmers. They don't know anyone else their age who farms or raises cattle. Lori thinks this trend is due to the money farming requires—both land and insurance are extremely expensive. "When you sign up, you're in debt a million dollars right away," adds Kevin. "We're still making payments; we're not really making money."

Still, Kevin and Lori love their life on the farm. They both enjoy being outdoors and living in the country. Kevin, who grew up in a rural area, never got used to the lights of Pella. And the couple's two-year-old daughter Miya is a delight, helping feed the calves and greeting them through the fence with a bright "Hi!"

As much as they've already expanded, the couple has even bigger dreams. They are renting more ground and plan to put in manure pits and another cattle shed. To make money, every year they have to grow. "I always wanted to marry a rich farmer," says Lori with a laugh. "I got my farmer, but I'm still working on the rich part."





A photograph of Bill Wintermantel, a man with brown hair wearing a maroon striped shirt and blue jeans, standing in a greenhouse. He is surrounded by numerous black plastic pots containing various green plants, some with small white labels. The greenhouse has a high ceiling with metal framing and translucent panels.

Bill Wintermantel '88 studies the viruses that infect cool-season crops and native plants in California. His favorite? Criniviruses.

# Cool-Season Science

Bill Wintermantel '88 stumbled into his career because of a failed project in college. Between his junior and senior years, he did an independent study with Pioneer Hi-Bred in Johnston, working on disease resistance in sunflowers. But the disease didn't develop the way it was expected to. "I basically had to figure out what I could make of this project," he recalls.

Salvaging the project sparked his interest in plant pathology, or the study of viruses. He went on to earn a Ph.D. in the field at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Then he landed a postdoctoral fellowship at Cornell University in New York. In 1998, he started with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and he's been there ever since.

Wintermantel runs a virology research lab for the USDA's Agricultural Research Service in California's Salinas Valley, which is a center for cool-season vegetables like celery and lettuce. He also works with crops from outside the area, particularly sugar beets, tomatoes and melons. Because his lab and greenhouse receive funding not only from the USDA but also vegetable and sugar beet groups, Wintermantel makes sure his work directly benefits growers.

With microbiology, he and his team develop virus-management tools to increase productivity for growers. One area he studies is the insects that transmit viruses to plants, just as mosquitos transmit malaria to humans.

Wintermantel tackles any virus that rears its head in the area. A few years ago, the Cucurbit yellow stunting disorder virus ("Virologists come up with really stupid names," Wintermantel says with a laugh) hit 100 percent of the melon crop in the Imperial Valley. It's been a problem in the fall ever since, because the whitefly population transmitting the virus explodes each summer. His lab identified common plants that host the virus and is working with the industry to reduce them, as well as the pesky whiteflies.

Like many fields, plant pathology has benefitted from the universal growth spurt in technology. Many of the microbiology tools he uses now were decades away when Wintermantel was a boy growing up in rural Iowa. But his passion for plant "medicine" can be traced back to his affection for the farmers that were his neighbors and friends. He explains, "I get a lot of satisfaction out of the fact that what I do provides a direct benefit to people doing that sort of work."



Julie Wilkening Wilber '92 never wanted to be a farmer. But now, when she's not working as an enrolled agent during tax season, she stands on the tractor to weigh it down during planting, checks the melons for ripeness and sneaks bites of sweet corn during harvest.

"I enjoy being outside in the fresh air, being close to nature and seeing all the things that most people don't pay attention to—the clouds, the bugs, the birds feeding their babies, frogs jumping between plants, deer tracks, fox holes," she says.

Julie and her husband Scott run Wilber's Northside Market in Boone, Iowa, and grow peppers, tomatoes, squash and a host of other fruits and vegetables. Last year, their harvest included 3,000 pumpkins, 2,000 watermelons and several acres of sweet corn.

The business began part time in 2002, when the farmer working an acreage they owned let them sell his pumpkins. Scott had always flirted with the idea of farming, but he didn't know it was possible without inheriting family land. The pumpkin sale went so well they decided to grow their own the next year. Since then, they have bought 15 acres and rent five more. They sell their produce to Hy-Vee in Boone and Perry and at the Boone Farmer's Market. Recently, the Wilbers began selling vegetables to Iowa State University.

"Most people are amazed it tastes so good," says Julie. "If they are used to buying produce at the grocery store that has been shipped from far away, they are amazed at the difference when you eat it fresh out of the ground."

The Wilber's market is part of a growing trend in consumer culture to buy fresh and local. The Wilbers limit their use of pesticides and herbicides. And they are constantly looking for better ways to care for the environment and grow safe and healthy food, since it's eaten by their family and neighbors.

Julie says eating local is good for the economy because the money stays in the community. And since produce loses nutrients over time, freshness matters too. "I know we live in a global world, but I really think communities need to focus on providing for their own needs and not relying so much on imports," she says.

Their operation is no longer a small one, and the Wilbers are considering expanding. But transportation of fresh produce to more distant markets is a problem. Either way, they'll continue growing food for their community and for their two kids, who help on the farm.

"They are our future," she says. "They will be feeding us when we are old, and I want them to know that food doesn't come from a factory."

# Fresh from the Ground

Julie Wilkening Wilber '92 can't choose a favorite fruit or veggie she grows with her husband Scott. "It is so exciting to eat things that we have worked so hard to produce."





Next year, you may be able to visit the De Cooks' ranch south of Pella and try a big heaping bowl of bison chili. But right now all you'll see is a bare landscape dotted with 66 bison.

Dan De Cook '95 and his brother Mike, with the help of parents Mark '64 and Kay Kuyper De Cook '63, run a 1,000-acre organic ranch. Mike, with a degree in range management, works there full time, and Dan helps out evenings and weekends. The brothers have outlined a philosophy for the ranch that includes wildness, ecological profit and nutrient-dense, grass-fed meat.

"I think it's important to bring back a bit of natural Iowa but do it in working ranch fashion," says Dan. "It's great to bring back the prairies, but people need to be able to make a living from it."

The De Cooks' model is 1800s Iowa, before most of the wetlands, prairies and savannas disappeared. The ranch began as an organic cattle operation, but they switched to bison because the animals are adaptive to Iowa's extreme summers and winters. They let the bison roam free without interior fences and manage their movements with patch-burn grazing. The herd is attracted to the new green growth in the spring. "As grazers, we let the bison do the work," says Dan. "We want to let bison be bison."

Once it's time to sell the bison meat in the fall, the De Cooks will direct market to restaurants and schools in central Iowa, as well as to the general public. Dan says most people who try bison end up preferring it to beef because it's sweeter and more heart-healthy. "Grass-fed bison is higher in protein than most meat and lower in fat than skinless chicken breast."

Another aspect of the ranch's charm is its natural wildness. The brothers use local prairie seed, remove manmade structures and minimize off-farm input. Dan believes they are the first dark-sky ranch in Iowa, meaning no light distracts from the night sky. This spring, they released two trumpeter swans, the largest waterfowl in the world, into the wetlands they restored. "With Iowa being so altered," says Dan, "it's exciting to create a place with a feeling of openness."

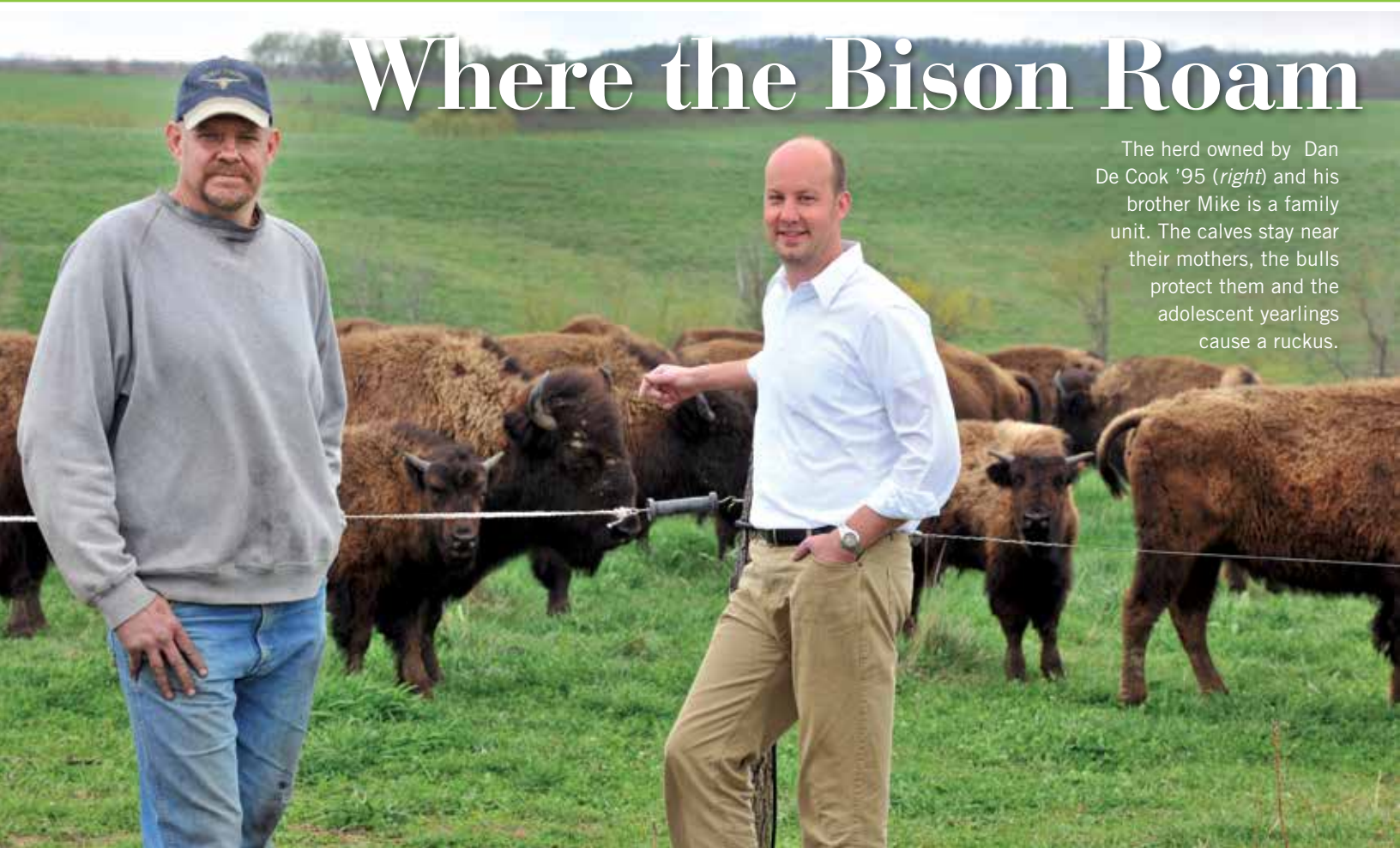
Starting next year, the De Cooks hope to offer safari-style ecotours for visitors who want to camp near the bison, not to mention dine on bison chili. But for now, only Dan gets to enjoy the quiet beauty of the ranch on weekends, luxuriating in the naturalness he learned to love back in his Diversity of Life class at Central.

"For me, the ranch is a release," he says. "It's a place to get out and enjoy Iowa. I love to bring the binoculars and the fishing pole and just sit and watch the bison."

Photo by Paul Gates

# Where the Bison Roam

The herd owned by Dan De Cook '95 (*right*) and his brother Mike is a family unit. The calves stay near their mothers, the bulls protect them and the adolescent yearlings cause a ruckus.





# CENTERED ON SERVICE

After earning her degree in her 40s, Cheri Trout Doane '98 has piloted Central's Center for Community-Based Learning for 14 years, building relationships that serve the community and offer students real-world learning.

Photo by Paul Gates



Cheri Trout Doane '98 has received numerous awards, including the Governor's Volunteer Service Award in 2011. She works not for the recognition but for the valuable partnerships created between students and nonprofit organizations.

It isn't difficult to see that Cheri Trout Doane '98 is passionate about what she does. Spend a few minutes in her office, and she'll tell you story after story. She's not afraid to laugh fondly at the memories, or to tear up if the recollection calls for it.

As the head of Central's distinguished Center for Community-Based Learning (CCBL), Doane calls herself a connector. Academic service-learning strives to enhance students' classroom experiences with hands-on lessons while fostering connections between college and community.

In more than 15 years at Central, as both a student and employee, Doane's enthusiasm has made a lasting impact on the college. "Her passion for what she does permeates who she is," says Renee Sedlacek '05, who spent a year working in the CCBL and is now service-learning coordinator at Wartburg College. "She's authentic. She does this because she believes in it."

That belief stems from her childhood, when her Quaker faith encouraged her to value human rights and community involvement. As an adult living

in Newton and then Pella, she has been involved with the Pella Public Library Board, Lake Red Rock Association and countless other community groups. “I always saw community as a place people learned,” Doane says.

*“It absolutely enhanced my learning experience,” Sedlacek recalled of her four service-learning placements. “It brought to life issues that I would not have otherwise been exposed to.”*

## BACK TO SCHOOL

Some alumni will remember Doane not as a staff member but as a classmate. She came to Central as a non-traditional student in the mid-90s. “With my kids in high school, I wanted to return to the career world,” she says.

Doane admits her first class, one she needed for a core credit, was intimidating. As a woman in her 40s, she stood out in the classroom of first-year students.

Despite the age gap, Doane found she had no problem creating friendships with her fellow classmates, which won’t surprise those who know her. Before long, she was hosting study sessions at her home, where she would provide a home-cooked meal before they hit the books.

Her former classmates say her outside life made her an asset in classes. She “helped us to see how to handle adult communication,” says Sarah Fosdick Turnbull ’00, who was a regular invitee to Doane’s study sessions. “She set the bar high because she was so eager to dig back in and learn.”

## FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

After receiving her degree, Doane began working toward her master’s but also accepted a part-time job coordinating Central’s fledgling service-learning program. Today, sitting in her office in the state-of-the-art Roe Center, she’s not afraid to admit the program got off to a less-than-glamorous start.

Her first office was in Jordan Hall—in a closet. She’s careful to clarify that she doesn’t mean a small office. “My key, when I picked it up from the physical plant, was labeled ‘Jordan Hall closet,’” she says with a laugh.

In the early days, Doane’s primary duty was coordinating student travel to work sites. But her responsibilities grew with the CCBL. Today, faculty can add a service-learning option to any course. When students choose to participate, the CCBL

staff partners them with a non-profit organization whose needs match up with theirs.

Through the staff’s efforts, Central has become a leader in academic service-learning. Today, more than 300 students per semester complete service-learning placements, helping make service an integral part of the Central culture.

## RECIPROCAL RELATIONSHIPS

Central now teams with more than 90 community partners across central Iowa. These partnerships excite Doane because they benefit the college, students and community. Doane explains that people often misconceive service work. “Service is sometimes portrayed as, ‘We’re going to help you.’ We look at it as reciprocal.”

A Spanish major might teach ESL to native Spanish-speakers at an area high school, or a marketing student working for a human rights group may see how classroom theories are applied in the real world. “It absolutely enhanced my learning experience,” Sedlacek recalled of her four service-learning placements. “It brought to life issues that I would not have otherwise been exposed to.”

As part of its role within a liberal arts institution, the CCBL emphasizes more than practicality. “Often when students are doing service-learning, they understand that justice issues are more complex than they seem,” says Doane. “I want them to understand that their potential is connected to the potential of the common good.”

## YOU GET WHAT YOU GIVE

Doane says most of her day is spent in conversation. Faculty members explain their courses,



community partners outline the type of help they need and students describe what they'd like to get out of the experience. The CCBL staff listens and then matches them up in a way that suits everyone.

"She puts in countless hours," Sedlacek says of her former colleague. Like others who have worked around Doane, Sedlacek says it's impossible not to notice her drive. Doane holds innumerable meetings in Des Moines and other communities as

she continues to build partnerships. She also writes grants, works with the admission office to recruit service-oriented students and coordinates with national service organizations to provide financial aid for students.

"What I want for our college is to not exist in a tower," Doane says. "I want Central College to understand the potential of community as a venue for learning."

*How did Cheri Doane or service-learning benefit you? Share at [civitas.central.edu](http://civitas.central.edu).*



## CENTRAL SERVICE BY THE NUMBERS: (2010-11)



**1,101** students engaged in academic service-learning



**42,969** hours of academic service-learning



**60,598** total hours of service by students



**33** classes, **24** professors, **13** disciplines

**\$994,255.12**: value of these hours using United Way's estimate of the value of an hour of volunteerism



# Yes *We* Can

Families face developmental disabilities, learning their own strengths and their capacity for joy.

None of us is normal. This may sound like it comes from a preschool picture book, but every single human being is special—different from the rest. So why do some differences seem so big?

In the 22 years since the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, resources for individuals with developmental disabilities have multiplied. Our society has become more accepting and certainly more helpful. But we're still learning that it's a two-way street. As much as we try to teach them, they are trying teach us.

Esther Streed, associate professor education, has a daughter with a disability and has served as foster mother to many kids with special needs over the years. "Often it's not their inability to learn, it's our inability to teach," she says. "We are learning more and more all the time about how to reach these individuals—how to help them show us their assets, their skills, their intelligence."



Photo by Paul Gates

Esther Streed, associate professor of education, works in "Angi's Office" in the Roe Center. It's named after her daughter, who Streed says "gave me a voice I never would have known I had." She has devoted much of her life to advocacy for people with disabilities. Read more about her daughter, her many foster children and her dinner at the White House at [civitas.central.edu](http://civitas.central.edu).



## WHY NOT US?

Every morning and evening, Ian Jones tells his parents he loves them. The three-year-old son of Matt '01 and Angela Lowenberg Jones '04 can't speak, but he knows around 50 signs, and he's working with two speech pathologists to "pull the words from his tongue," as Angela puts it.

### ***What is a developmental disability?***

The term can refer to a diverse group of severe chronic conditions that impair learning, language, mobility, self-help and/or independent living. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, they can surface anytime between birth and age 22.

Based on what she learned from Dr. Streed, Angela has a person-first, disability-second philosophy when describing her son. "It's Ian. He's three. He's rambunctious. He loves life, he loves people. He has Down syndrome, but it doesn't hold him back."



Ian has an older sister named Madelyn, 5, and a twin named Faith. When he was born, the delivery room went quiet. "That's kind of scary when you know something is wrong but no one is telling you anything," Angela remembers. Although she had

### ***What are the most common?***

Developmental disabilities fall into many categories. Two of the most common Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDDs) include Down syndrome and Fragile X syndrome. Another common group that affects the nervous system is Autism Spectrum Disorders.

multiple ultrasounds before the twins were born, nothing turned up. The doctor presented their son, and based on her special education experience, Angela knew immediately he had Down syndrome.

"My initial thought was 'Why me?' but it turned right away into 'Why not me?'" she recalls. Both Matt and Angela believe they were chosen by God to be Ian's parents because they are the best people to care for him. Matt is an associate principal, and Angela teaches special education in Fairfield, Iowa.

Angela got Ian started on an Individualized Education Program (IEP) when he was six months old. They have access to occupational and physical therapists and speech pathologists. Even more services will be available as he gets older.

Despite all the help, the family still faces challenges. One big worry was the twins starting preschool this year. Because he wasn't potty-trained, Ian couldn't go to the same preschool as Faith. "At first I thought, 'What's Ian going to do without Faith?'" says Angela. "But it quickly became, 'What's Faith going to do without Ian?' She depended on him more than we ever dreamed."

Ian is thriving at his preschool, where he has a special education teacher and classmates with special needs. Angela says Ian is the cheerleader of the class, encouraging the other kids to participate and giving them high-fives.

"He has the biggest heart of any kid I know," she says. "He's my little lover boy."

### ***What makes a special needs individual so special?***

"They can be a really positive force. They have a lot to offer," says Esther Streed. "It just may be different from what we expect of other people. They can add strength to a family—and to a community. They can be so loveable and so frustrating, sometimes all in the same breath."

Nearly every day, the family celebrates a new accomplishment of Ian's, such as mumbles of words or his determination to be independent. But the lessons aren't one-sided, Angela says of her "blessing."

"He truly has taught us more about life than we've taught him."

Photo by Dan Vander Beek

From left to right: Madelyn, Matt '01, Faith, Ian and Angela Jones '04. Having a son with Down syndrome has helped Angela as a special education teacher. When working with other kids, she asks herself, "What would I want Ian to have? How would I want him to be served?"



## REPEATED SUCCESS

Emily Schwarz loves books and has a wonderful memory. Her mother, Mary Jankowski '84, hopes she can someday find a job in a library or bookstore. "I think she would absolutely be in heaven."

The 19-year-old has pervasive development disorder, which is on the autism spectrum, and

### **What if I suspect my child has a disability?**

Esther Streed, associate professor of education, says some disabilities are more medical and some more educational. If you're concerned, call your doctor and your school district. Because it's responsible for all children within its boundaries from birth to age 21, the district can facilitate early intervention services and assist in creating an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). She responds well to structure and repetition, which

is typical of autism, and hates loud noises, a problem at parades and birthday parties with balloons.

Emily attends the Senior Plus program at Valley High School in West Des Moines, which works to transition students to the real world. In the mornings, she goes to job sites with the rest of her class, practicing skills like folding letters and setting up preschool classrooms. The afternoon focuses on life skills like laundry and cooking. Mary says the next step will be finding a job that appeals to Emily's interests and keeps her attention.

Mary and Emily have faced many challenges together since she was diagnosed at age 6. For years, Emily reached developmental goals like walking and talking later than other kids. When the diagnosis came, Mary was relieved, not because she was glad to have a child with a disability but because she now had a label, a new direction and a whole lot of help.

Through the West Des Moines Schools and the Heartland Area Education Agency, Emily has had access to occupational and speech therapists and years in the special education program. But transitions can still be tough. When she had to go from the middle school to the ninth-grade building and then to the high school, she lost several months of learning each time while she adjusted.

### **What if my child is diagnosed?**

Angela Lowenberg Jones '04 has words of encouragement. "You were chosen. This child is a blessing from God. This child will teach you more about life than you have learned in all your years. It's an experience that will fill your heart with joy."

Sometimes Mary is surprised by the things her daughter picks up on, until she remembers Emily is a teenager who spends her day with other kids. It just takes her longer to understand some things. Mary has learned to be patient while repeating answers to her daughter's many questions.

"Ever since I was young, I've always had an open-minded perspective about people with disabilities—not looking at what they can't do but at what they can," she says.

- ☐ Mary Jankowski '84 says her daughter Emily rarely has bad days, something many people strive for. "She is the happiest child you would ever meet. And everybody who meets her loves her."



Photo by Paul Gates



While learning her daughter's strengths, Mary had the support of other parents of children with disabilities. She encourages anyone with a special needs child to do the same. "It's scary in the beginning," Mary says. "If you isolate yourself, it can be even more stressful. You're not alone."

### ***What resources are available?***

Every state has a Parent Training and Information Center (PTI) or something like it. These help parents navigate the complex world of federally funded grants, educational agencies and special programs. They also help connect parents to other parents, who can be an invaluable resource. Visit [parentcenternetwork.org](http://parentcenternetwork.org) to find the centers near you.

### **A HOME RUN**

June Schrodt Taylor '82 doesn't have any special education training. She doesn't have a child with a disability. Until a few years ago, she gave little thought to people with special needs. But now when kids with disabilities see her out in Frisco, Texas, they give her a big hug, especially on game day.

Taylor is the vice president of volunteers with the Miracle League of Frisco, a sports league that assists children with physical and mental disabilities in playing baseball, soccer and bowling.

Taylor's interest in the cause began in 2006 as a member of the Community Development Board for Frisco. The group was planning a new park that included a five-plex of athletic fields. Two representatives from the national Miracle League organization approached them about transforming one of the baseball diamonds, and the board allocated additional funds for the project.

"I realized there was a need for these children to have this opportunity," Taylor says. "And it's not just for the children. There was a need for parents and family to see their children have this opportunity."

Because she had led the task force to start the local soccer association several years earlier, Taylor volunteered to set up the association for her town's Miracle League. She's been involved ever since, now recruiting and training volunteers, called Buddies.

But Taylor first had to do a lot of learning herself. She reached out to special education teachers, physical and speech therapists and groups around the country who do similar work. She learned how to best provide for different kids. Some need walkers or wheelchairs; others have Down syndrome or autism.

Photo by Mauricio Frye



June Schrodt Taylor '82 says every child in the Miracle League is unique. Parents tell her about each child's preferences, interests and needs. She passes that information on to the Buddies, who assist kids in the game and act as friends out on the field.

The Buddies are often young people themselves—teenagers from the local schools who need service hours. "Once they meet the qualifications for their volunteer hours, a lot of them continue to come back," Taylor says. "They enjoy it. They start to have a relationship with the players and become friends." Through her work, she has introduced many teenagers to kids with disabilities, broadening their understanding and respect for people who are different.

Taylor remembers how touching opening day on the Miracle League field was. The speakers cried, the parents cried, the Buddies cried. The kids were so excited to be out there in their crisp new uniforms. Taylor remembers, "We found out that some kids slept in their uniforms all week before the game."

# HOMECOMING & FAMILY WEEKEND

Sept. 28-30, 2012

## schedule preview



Photos by Dan Vander Beek

### FRIDAY, SEPT. 28

- 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Alumni art show open
- 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Classes open for visitors
- 10 a.m. Heritage Day reception
- 10:30 a.m. Schipper Memorial golf tournament
- 11 a.m. Heritage Day worship
- 12 p.m. Heritage Day luncheon {invitation only}
- 6 p.m. Lemming race – A tradition since 1977!
- 6-7:45 p.m. Alumni and family barbecue, pep rally, coronation and street party
- 8 p.m. Student showcase

### SATURDAY, SEPT. 29

- 8-10 a.m. Pancake breakfast
- 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Alumni art show open
- 9:30-10:20 a.m. Lifelong learning classes
- 9:30-10:30 a.m. Central College Abroad information session
- 10-11:30 a.m. Kids' carnival – Inflatable fun!
- 10:30-11:20 a.m. Lifelong learning classes
- 10:30-11:30 a.m. Friends of Central Arts reception
- 11 a.m. Tailgate Under the Big Tent
- 1 p.m. Football – Central vs. Dubuque
- 3:45 p.m. Class reunion pictures
- 5 p.m. Party on the plaza – Alumni award presentations
- 7:30 p.m. Class reunion gatherings

### SUNDAY, SEPT. 30

- 9:45 a.m. Worship at Second Reformed Church with Central's A Cappella Choir
- 11 a.m. Sunday brunch
- 1 p.m. Sixth annual Flying Pans Alumni Steel Band concert



# ALUMNI NEWSNOTES



105TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

## THE '20S

**Dorothy Roelofs Poppen '29** of Orange City, Iowa, celebrated her 105th birthday with **Gary '75** and **Julie Kunze Blythe '75** on March 5. Dorothy is proud to be the oldest living graduate of Central College. Originally from Minnesota, Dorothy traveled by train to Pella during her years at Central, where she majored in math and participated in many activities, including Glee Club and Pi Kappa Delta. She was member of the Pelican staff and President of the Iowa Forensic League. Her fondest memory of those years was her engagement to **Reint Poppen '30†** under the bell tower.

## THE '50S

**Norma Luce June '50** of Selkirk, N.Y., is a freelance writer for the local newspaper.

**Warren Martens '51** retired with the rank of lieutenant commander of the Chaplain Corps in 1996. Last year the Second Marine Division Association presented Warren with the Distinguished Service Award after several years as their national chaplain. Warren and wife Margaret live in Burton, W.Va.

**Philip Van Veldhuizen '52** retired five times during his half century career in education, which began in 1956 when he returned to teach at Central College. In 1960 his career path took him to

Sacramento State University as an assistant professor. During his tenure at the University of Alaska at Fairbanks, which began in 1963, he rose through the ranks to full professor of statistics and mathematics. Upon his second retirement, the Alaska Legislature honored him with a proclamation in recognition of his contributions and service to the state and the university. Philip taught at Seattle Pacific University and at the University of Nevada at Reno before his retirement in 2011. Philip and wife Deborah divide their time between Fairbanks and Reno.

**Janice Van Zomeren Beran '53** was one of four Iowans to receive the 2011 Friends of Civil Rights Award at a ceremony held in

Des Moines in October. Jan and husband George live in Ames.

**Edwin Kragt '53** of Rock Rapids, Iowa, celebrated his 80th birthday with family and friends at an open house held in his honor at the First Reformed Church in Rock Rapids on April 7. Edwin is a retired chiropractic doctor.

**Shari Philson Sickbert '55** of Springfield, Mo., announced the arrival of her great-granddaughter.

**Mae Rankin Mathes '57** and husband Richard of Russell, Iowa, celebrated 56 years of marriage last July. Their 60member family includes 19 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and 15 spouses spread across six states.

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](mailto:alumni@central.edu) or update information online at [civitas.central.edu](http://civitas.central.edu). 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.





**Marti Miller Sartipi '75**, of Lawrenceville, Ga., **Jerry Vroegh '75** of Arlington, Va., and **Lynn Herndon Howard '75** of Oskaloosa, Iowa, met in Key West, Fla., in February for the “three musketeers of Paris” reunion. The friendship was formed during junior year when studying at the Sorbonne. They remained in contact through the years, but the last time they were all together was 37 years ago when they stood up with Marti at her wedding. **Pictured** (left to right): **Marti Miller Sartipi '75**, Madjid Sartipi, **Lynne Herndon Howard '75** and **Jerry Vroegh '75**.

## THE '60S

**Lesley Diehl '65**, a prolific writer of mysteries from Morris, N.Y., authored a second book in her Master Microbrewer series entitled *Poisoned Pairings*, published by Mainly Murder Press. The second in her Big Lake Murder Mystery series, entitled *Grilled, Chilled and Killed*, will be published by Oak Tree Press this fall, and *Angel Sleuth* will be published by UntreedReads.

**Sharon Wubbena Koch '68** and husband **Gary Koch '68** of Freeport, Ill., have retired; Sharon taught English at Freeport High School, and Gary was a truck owner and operator. They plan to travel, babysit their grandson and remodel their kitchen. Sharon will continue to substitute teach.

## THE '70S

**Dennis Ashby '71** of San Jose, Calif., achieved retirement status on Feb. 29. Dennis and wife Jan intend to travel around the United States revisiting places and people from their past, as well as seeing many for the first time.

**Catherine Elwell '71** of Washington, D.C., retired after 35 years at the International Monetary Fund. In June 2011 she was the featured speaker for Central College Abroad at the NAFSA (International Educators) Conference in Vancouver, B.C. Cathy is involved in dance and ballet and also studies and networks in the field of energetic healing.

**Penny Harris Reynen '71** of Middleburg, Fla., retired after 40 years as an educator

and nonprofit agency administrator. She continues to golf and volunteer at The First Tee and The Wounded Warrior Project.

**Michael Croak '72** retired to Fair Play, Mo., in March 2007, where he enjoys the climate and peacefulness of the area. He has many fond memories of Central and the people who impacted his life.

**Greg Hoekstra '72** of Pella retired April 29, 2011, after 41 years at Pella Corp. Greg and wife Verla enjoy taking trips on their 2009 Harley Davidson Ultra

Classic motorcycle—a retirement gift Greg purchased for himself.

**Helen Tuttle Leonhardt '72** is a family and consumer program coordinator at the University of Illinois Extension in Breese. Helen and husband Paul live in Salem.

**Mary McDonald Richard '72** practices law at Dell A. Richard Law Office in Coralville, Iowa, where she specializes in representing parents in special education matters. Mary and husband Dell live in Coralville.

**Jill Crozier '73** is a family therapist in Belmont, Mass. Jill and husband **Gordon Graham '73** live in Arlington.

**Maria Staler Lachiewicz '73** is a pediatrician for children with disabilities at Duke University Medical Center. Both of her married daughters gave birth to their first children this year. Maria and husband Paul live in Chapel Hill, N.C.

**Karmen Kale Reid '73** is director of compensation at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., and the Mayo campuses in Arizona and Florida. A recent trip to Costa Rica helped her brush up on her Spanish. Karmen and husband George live in Rochester.

**Kathy Brown Gervasi '75** retired from her position as elementary school principal and relocated with husband Mark to their former hometown of Tillamook, Ore.

**Gail George '77** of Urbandale retired after 28 years as the senior environmental specialist at the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

**Kurt Langel '79** is director of human resources at Brunswick Corp. in Fond du Lac, Wis., where he lives with wife **Bobbi Hershey Langel '85**.



**Elisabeth Tucci Calisesi '77** enjoyed a mini-reunion with four friends from Central College and the Paris study abroad program during her daughter's wedding reception in August. The four friends had not been together since graduation. **Pictured** (left to right): **Jill Piefka Scherer '77**, of Simpsonville, S.C., **Sandy Schmidt Savin '77** of France, **Elisabeth Tucci Calisesi '77** of Fort Dodge, Iowa, **Carolyn Schocker Zimmerman '77** of Fort Dodge, Iowa, and **Karen Walsh '77** of Bemus Point, N.Y.



## THE '80S

For information about **Bob Hershey Langel '85**, see the '70s. For information about **Tony Braida '89**, see the '00s.

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**Deb Benton Gevock '80** and husband Kenny of Gowrie, Iowa, enjoyed their second Iditarod in early March, where they enjoyed the mushers' banquet and seeing the mushers off on the trail near Willow, Alaska. Deb teaches an Alaska and Iditarod unit to her seventh grade literature students at Prairie Valley High School in Gowrie.

**June Schrodtt Taylor '82** is the director of account management for the west region at UnitedHealthcare in Plano, Texas. June and husband Pat live in Frisco, where June is vice president of volunteers for the Miracle League, a sports organization for special needs children.

**Marisa Brooks '83** is an instructional designer at Pearson Education in White Plains, N.Y. Marisa and husband Alan Mooren live in Camillus.

**Robert Thurman '83** is a software implementation manager at RuffaloCody in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Last October he hiked from the south rim to the north rim of the Grand Canyon. In December he was promoted to first-degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do. Robert and wife Debra live in Dunkerton.

**Paul Richardson '84** is a writer, translator, editor and publisher; his latest book *Running is Flying* was recently published by Rodale Press. He also authored the *Russia Survival Guide: Business & Travel* and the recently published novel *Russian Rules*. He writes widely on Russian culture, history and society, is a regular commentator on Vermont Public Radio, is the publisher of Russian Life magazine and is a consultant to the Russian Arts Foundation and Napa Valley Festival del Sole. Paul and wife **Stephanie Ratmeyer '85** live in Montpelier, Vt., where Stephanie is vice president at Russian Information Systems.

**Steven Klesner '86** is an attorney and partner at Johnston, Stannard, Klesner, Burbidge & Fitzgerald, PLC in Iowa City, where he lives with wife Arlene and their daughter.

**Cindy Knust Bauer '87** teaches gifted education at Indianola Middle and High School in Indianola, Iowa. Cindy and husband Bill live in Lacona and are the parents of two children.

**Crystal Van Dyke Bower '87** celebrated the anniversary of her 20-year post-bone marrow transplant for acute non-lymphocytic leukemia on Jan. 14. Crystal is the



**Paul Miller '78** (left) is a regional business manager at Johnson & Johnson. He and wife **Carol Winter-Miller '80** live in Wyoming, Minn. Last summer Paul traveled to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, for a visit with classmate **Michael Gridley '78**.

guardianship coordinator at REAL Services Inc. in South Bend, Ind., where she lives with husband Richard.

**Michael Esser '87** is the Iowa sales manager at Capital Technology Group in Urbandale. Michael and wife **Dawn Toyne Esser '90** live in Winterset with their two sons. Dawn is an instructor at Southwestern Community College in Creston.

## THE '90S

For information about **Dawn Toyne Esser '90**, see the '80s. For information about **Mark Babcock '91** and **Chris Gentry '98**, see the '00s.

**Tammi Egesdal Johnson '90** is a math coach for the Des Moines Public Schools. Tammi and husband Kevin live in Winterset with their five children.

**Carol Price Spurling '90** and husband Walter are the co-owners of BookPeople of Moscow, an independent bookstore located in downtown Moscow, Idaho, where they live with their son.

**Sarah Hennesy '91** of St. Cloud, Minn., was appointed judge of the seventh judicial district. Previously Sarah was a civil legal aid attorney with St. Cloud Area Legal Services.

**Laura Brown '93** and Ben Pearson of Milan, Ill., were married in Sept. 2011. Laura is a human resource generalist manager at Enterprise Holdings in Davenport, Iowa.

**Howard Feitel '94** of Alameda, Calif., has been a certified credit and housing counselor at Consumer Credit Counseling Service of San Francisco for the past 16 years.

**Corey Walker '94** practices law at Walker Billingsley and Bair, which has locations in Ankeny, Newton, Des Moines and Marshalltown. Corey and wife Beth live in Ankeny with their two children.

**Maria Carla Chiarella '95** is a lecturer in the department of psychology at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Maria Carla and husband Matthew Eastin live in Matthews.

**Scott Hanson '95** of Los Angeles, Calif., is an editor at the post production company Therapy Studios.

**Mark Sabala '95** guided the Hermitage R-IV boys cross country team to a fourth-place finish at the Missouri state championship. This is the second time in four years the team has had a place on the medal stand—the only placements at state by the boys' team in the history of the school. In addition to coaching cross country and baseball, Mark teaches sixth through 12th grade physical education and serves as athletic director for Hermitage Public Schools. Mark and wife **Stacy Duff Sabala '95** live in Wheatland with their three children. Stacy is a Title I speech implementer and teaches math at Hermitage High School in Hermitage.

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**Laura Dillon-Binkley '96** of Monrovia, Liberia, in West Africa is deputy chief of party of the Liberian Agricultural Upgrading, Nutrition and Child Health (LAUNCH) program funded under USAID'S Food for Peace office in Washington D.C. She has been stationed in Monrovia since January; husband Dan joined her this spring. Laura finds her new homeland for the next few years fascinating, filled with history and not a bad place to be during the winter.

**Jennifer Foskett Disessa '97** is a paraprofessional at Lyons Township High School in La Grange, Ill., where she lives with husband Tom and their three children.

**Erik Mackdanz '97** is senior platform engineer at Heatwave Interactive, a video game startup company, which recently produced *Gods and Heroes: Rome Rising* and *Platinum Life: Country*. Erik lives in Austin, Texas, with wife Delta and their daughter.

**Beth Thompson '97** is the assistant dean for online learning at Waldorf College in Forest City, Iowa. She is working toward a doctorate in professional studies from Capella University.

**Kerry Walker '97** owns and operates ServiceMaster in Newton, Iowa, where he lives with wife Mindi and their two sons.

**Lisa Barr Aldrich '98** is a business system analyst at Vermeer Corp. in Pella. Lisa and husband Sean live in Newton with their son.

**Renee Brincks '99** of San Francisco, Calif., is a travel writer for Inspired Media out of Decorah, Iowa. In March, *Inspire(d) Magazine* published her article on Pella.

**Mark Maurer '99** of San Diego, Calif., was promoted to vice president for government business at Silvaco, Inc.

**Nicholas Pacha '99** was named the Wellman city administrator. Nick and wife Laney live in Wellman, Iowa, with their two daughters.

## THE '00S

**Melissa Vink Gentry '01** is a physician assistant and owner of Ottumwa Mental Wellness Center in Ottumwa, Iowa. Melissa and husband **Chris Gentry '98**, along with three sons, live in Ollie, Iowa, where Chris is an insurance agent at his own agency.

**Crystal Schrader '01** of Des Moines is a customer service associate with the Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity and a clerk at the Iowa Civil Rights Commission.

**Corey Vorthmann '02** is supervisor of secondary education for the Council Bluffs Community School District. Corey and wife Annie live in Council Bluffs with their son.

**Jolie Rozendaal Bond '03** accepted a position as solution consultant at The SAVO Group in the Chicago area.

**Barat Smith '03** was named business unit manager at Hewlett Packard Enterprise Services. Barat and wife **Randa Van Rheenen Smith '05** live in Pleasantville, Iowa, with their two children.

**Amy Steenhoek '03** of West Des Moines is an academic advisor at Des Moines Area Community College.

**Russell Allen '04** is the director of worship development at Christ Fellowship Church in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. Russell and wife **Samantha Snedigar Allen '04** live in West Palm Beach with their two daughters.

**Matthew McCombs '04** is the chief operating officer at DHCU Community Credit Union in Moline, Ill. Matt and wife Angie live in Bettendorf, Iowa, with their daughter.

**Lisa Perkins '04** and Juan Bogran were married July 3, 2010. Lisa is a prevention specialist at Partners in Prevention in Jersey City, N.J., while working toward a certificate in urban studies at Moody Bible Institute. Lisa and Juan live in Bayonne with their daughter.

**Sarah Williams Christian '05** teaches first grade at Central Elementary School in Nevada, Iowa, where she lives with husband Tyler.

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**Aaron Eggers '05** of Seattle is the director of communications and community programs at Washington Technology Industry Association, one of the largest and oldest tech trade associations in North America.

**Angela Grey '05** and Brad Klein of Owatonna, Minn., were married March 19, 2011. Angela is a programmer at Federated Mutual Insurance.

**Daira Hoegh '05** and **Clint Driftmier '07** of Norwalk, Iowa, were married Oct. 1, 2011. Daira appeared in a Hy-Vee commercial that aired during the holidays, in which she received a cooking lesson from Chef Curtis Stone on how to prepare a delicious main course without much fuss.

**Catherine Perkins O'Hea '05** is head teller at Premier Bank in Dubuque, Iowa. Catherine and husband Patrick live in Dyersville with their two newly adopted children.

**Gary Pothoven '05** of Minneapolis is employed by the University of Minnesota in the information technology department.

**Renae Boeke '06** of Chicago, Ill., is a marketing representative at HUB International Midwest Limited.

**Kyle Dykstra '06** is serving in Baghdad, Iraq, as a security protective specialist with the U.S. Department of State's Diplomatic Security Service.

**Heather Hoffman-Richeson '06** is an annuity call center claims specialist at ING in Des Moines. Heather and husband **Justin Richeson '05** live in Waukegan. Justin is a web technology specialist at Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. in Johnston.



CALISESI WEDS PEARSON

**Carrie Jo Calisesi '06** and Brady Pearson of Fort Dodge, Iowa, were married Aug. 13. Carrie Jo and Brady are chiropractic physicians at the Calisesi Chiropractic Clinic in Fort Dodge. Front row (left to right): **Mark Babcock '91**, **Elisabeth Tucci Calisesi '77**, **Carrie Jo Calisesi Pearson '06**, Brady Pearson and **Liza Calisesi '10**. Second row: **Tony Braida '89**, **Karen Walsh '77**, **Jill Plefka Scherer '77**, **Carolyn Schocker Zimmerman '77**, **Alison Ver Schuer '06**, **Jared McCarty '09**, **Joel Maidens '10**, and **Caitlin O'Connor '10**. Back row: **Brad Hopkins '06**, **Brooke Bielema '06**, **Sandy Schmidt Savin '77**, **Michael McLoughlin '06**, **Karine Grindberg Feddersen '09**, **Jared Feddersen '08**, **Justin From '06**, **Nick Cochrane '06**, **Andrew VanderLinden '06**, **Chris Weaver '10**, **Matt Lynch '06** and **Heather Van Den Hoek Cochrane '06**.



# Ask an alum: .....

## Will a cure for cancer ever be discovered?

**Rick Ryan '70**, member of the Central College board of trustees, was vice president of drug discovery and development at Millipore, a biomanufacturing and life science research company. His business unit provided various products and services that helped pharmaceutical companies develop new drugs, including some for cancer. Ryan retired in 2010 but is now helping a startup that manufactures active pharmaceutical ingredients.

Ryan says: "The simple answer is yes—in fact, a few cancers already have effective treatments. However, it's now known that there are many different kinds of cancers. In general, all cancers are caused by flaws in the normal metabolism of cells, so that they become uncontrolled and operate at a very high rate. Those effects are normally caused by faulty signaling pathways inside cells. There's an enormous amount of information being discovered today about these signaling pathways, which will eventually allow us to control or cure many cancers."

Read about the cancer research being done by **Nyla Rozeboom Heerema '63** at [civitas.central.edu](http://civitas.central.edu).



**Chad Whittle '06** and Autumn Smith of Arlington, Iowa, were married July 23. Chad teaches social studies and is the athletic director at Starmont Community School in Arlington.

**Amanda Wood '06** of Los Angeles, Calif., is the compliance coordinator at Pepperdine University in Malibu.

**Emily Faidley Linacre '07** is a library clerk and cataloging technician at the Altoona Public Library while working toward a master's degree in library and information science from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee. Emily and husband **Jeffrey Linacre '06** live in Altoona with their twin sons. Jeff is a computer programmer at CDS Global in Des Moines.

**Emily Markey '07** and Eric Manuel of Davenport, Iowa, were married Oct. 1. Emily teaches English at Clinton High School in Clinton.

**Stephanie Bahr Super '07** is a music therapist in Marion, Iowa. Stephanie and husband Nathaniel live in Coralville with their daughter.

**Nathan Cardin '08** of Farmington, Minn., is the director of golf at courses in Farmington and Chippewa Falls, Wis.

**Ben Gander '08** was promoted to assistant vice president and sales consultant at Wells Fargo in Des Moines. Ben and wife **Kyli Hake Gander '07** live in Bondurant with their two children. Kyli teaches kindergarten at Ashland Ridge Elementary School in Ankeny.

**Brittany Waack '08** of Broomfield, Colo., teaches French at Centaurus High School in the Boulder Valley School District in Lafayette.

**Joel Druvenga '09** of Augusta, Ga., is a performance enhancement specialist at Digital Consulting Services.

**Patrick Klopfenstein '09** of West Des Moines is a programmer at Rain and Hail in Johnston.

**Matt Paja '09** of Royal Oak, Mich., is the assistant strength and conditioning coach at Wayne State University in Detroit.

**Meghan Swella '09** of Greeley, Colo., is the community relations director for the Weld County District Attorney.

## THE '10S

For information about **Liza Calisesi '10**, **Joel Maidens '10**, **Caitlin O'Connor '10** and **Chris Weaver '10**, see the '00s.

**Lindsey Oliver Jansma '10** is a real estate fund accountant at Principal Financial Group in Des Moines, where she lives with husband **Greg Jansma '10**. Greg is a short-term disability claims examiner at The Principal Financial Group.

**Sara Mouw '10** of Coralville is working toward a master's degree in business administration at the University of Iowa.

**Dana Peterson '10** and Christopher Black of Pella were married Aug. 13. Dana is an unclaimed property specialist for the State of Iowa Treasurer's Office in Des Moines.

**Quinn Adair '11** of Perry, Iowa, is the director of development and independent living at The Perry Lutheran Home.

**Heather Borgman '11** and Randy Reineke of Pella were married July 16, 2011. Heather is a patient care technician at Pella Regional Health Center.

**Billy Boyle '11** of Waterloo, Iowa, is a supply management specialist at John Deere, Inc.

**Ashley Ellingson '11** of West Des Moines is an account coordinator at The Integer Group in Des Moines.

**Jenae Jenison '11** of West Des Moines is the public liaison for the office of Governor Terry Branstad. Jenae works with non-profits, serves on the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service and oversees the internship program and formal office schedule.

**Kelsey Manecke '11** of Des Moines has accepted a position at Cetera Financial.

**Kaylee McElree '11** of Arlington, Texas, is an English-as-a-second-language tutor and instructional assistant at Tarrant County College District, N.W.

**Amanda Nichols '11** teaches special education at Webster City High School in Webster City, Iowa.

**Tara Prine '11** of Minneapolis, Minn., is a candidate sourcing coordinator at Robert Half International.

**Drew Randol '11** of Urbandale, Iowa, is a behavioral therapist at New Sight Inc.

**Nicoline Smed '11** of Urbandale, Iowa, is a sales associate at Farm Bureau.

**Elizabeth Urban '11** of Naperville, Ill., is a health salesperson at Chiro One Wellness Center in Oak Brook.

**Jessica Vetter '11** of Pella is the operations manager at George Daily Auditorium in Oskaloosa.

**Jordan Waddell '11** of West Des Moines, Iowa, was promoted to product development analyst at Brokers International Financial Services in Panora.

**Loni Weston '11** and Cody Leedom were married Oct. 1. Loni is a client representative at Marsh US Consumer in Urbandale. She and Cody live in Pella with their daughter.

## ADVANCED DEGREES

**Bob Morley '57**, master's degree, American history, George Mason University, May 2005.

**Cindy Knust Bauer '87**, master's degree, education, Viterbo University, July 2011.

**Debra Deeney Zwank '89**, master's degree, University of Northern Iowa, Aug. 2006.

**Cindy Grauberger '99**, master's degree, educational psychology, Capella University, March 2004.

# Where are they now?



Lee Collins was a member of the education faculty from 1979-97. She says that what she enjoyed most during her time at Central was the people—the students and colleagues she worked with.

It's not surprising, then, that she has continued to make others her focus. Living in Pella, Collins is heavily involved in service work. She has volunteered with Marion County Habitat for Humanity, Pella's Second Reformed Church and the Senior Health Insurance Information Program.

Service work and mission trips have taken Collins around the globe. She's worked in Alaska, South Korea, Japan, British Colombia, Mexico and West Virginia, among others. In Collins' eyes, her service work is an extension of the culture she picked up at Central. "Central's tradition of being a liberal arts college in the Christian tradition attracted me here, and I have grown as much as I hope I helped others grow," she says.

Read the full Q&A with Collins online at [civitas.central.edu](http://civitas.central.edu).



**Marc Vander Velden '00**, doctorate, physical therapy, Washington University, May 2011.

**Corey Vorthmann '02**, doctorate, educational leadership, Baker University, Dec. 2011.

**Emily Markey Manuel '07**, master's degree, education, University of Iowa, Dec. 2010.

**Stephanie Bahr Super '07**, certificate of completion, music therapy, University of Iowa, July 2009.

**Brittany Waack '08**, master's degree, French language, literature and culture, Colorado State University, Dec. 2010.

**Joel Druvenga '09**, master's degree, counseling and sports psychology, Boston University, 2010.

## ARRIVALS

Philip and **Pam Bendixen Herman '87**, adopted Kaylan Mere, Feb. 8.

Chad and **Michelle Kuesel Waring '91**, daughter Jady Lynn, Dec. 4.

Betsy and **Jonathan Rippentrop '95**, daughter Gretta Grace, Feb. 1.

**Kevin '95** and **Heidi Chobar True '95**, son Brady Michael, Sept. 2.

Ethan and **Michelle Peters Kister '96**, daughter Amelia Marie, April 23, 2010.

Michael and **Joey Stiles Morrison '97**, son Gunner Jesse, Oct. 10.

Eddie and **Korine Wills Marshall '98**, son Garrett Emerson, Feb. 15.

**Marc '98** and **Ellen Gallinger Poortinga '04**, daughter Maree Michelle, Oct. 2.

**Curt '99** and **Angela Vos Kopacek '99**, son Nathan John, Jan. 16, 2011.

Kenneth and **Kristi Viehl Bahr '00**, daughter Emersyn Ann, Dec. 27.

Danielle and **Brad Hinton '00**, daughter Anna Caroline, Jan. 5.

Grant and **Natalie Hansen Kimberley '00**, son Austin Grant, May 31, 2011.

Kristian Pettersen and **Amy Brunsvold '01**, daughter Ella Louise, Dec. 5.

Sam and **Candace Wilson DuRegger '01**, daughter Hadassah Marie, Jan. 25.

**Cole '01** and **Sarah Wood Van Vark '02**, son Fisher James, Dec. 30.

Sarah and **Luke Willis '01**, twin sons Jude Dalton and Levi Aaron, Dec. 29.

Benjamin and **Martha Muir Beard '02**, son Benjamin Harper, Nov. 12.

**Lucas '02** and **Sally Shumaker Bennett '01**, son Nile Steven, Feb. 8.

Jill and **Bill Hartsock '02**, daughter Elise Jane, March 2.

**Patrick '02** and **Elizabeth Byers Morgan '02**, son Tyler Allen, Jan. 2.

Katie and **Mathew Petty '02**, son Evan James, Jan. 7.

Terry and **Angela Kneeland Stockert '02**, daughter Cassidy Noel, Dec. 10.

Annie and **Corey Vorthmann '02**, son Mathes Dean, Feb. 3.

**Patrick '02** and **Stacy Jahnke Bacon '02**, son Charlie James, Nov. 11.

**Aaron '03** and **Sarah Wagner De Kock '04**, daughter Brynlee Ann, Jan. 6.

Andrew and **Jen Van Utrecht Groenenboom '03**, son Liam James, Dec. 22.

**Russell '04** and **Samantha Snedigar Allen '04**, daughter Joby Laine, Aug. 3.

Juan Bogran and **Lisa Perkins '04**, daughter Addison Joy, July 14.

Emily and **Trent Keegan '05**, daughter Claire Kristin, Feb. 5.

Pat and **Catherine Perkins O'Hea '05**, adopted daughter Madison Louis and son Tiegan Patrick, Feb. 3.

**Jeffrey '05** and **Krysten Wormley Osby '05**, son Cabe James, March 5.

Jon and **Jennifer Erickson Schoeberl '05**, daughter Kaly Sue, Jan. 4.

**Matt '05** and **Erika Hartung Weih '06**, daughter Emma Renee, Sept. 16.

**Jeffrey '06** and **Emily Faidley Linacre '07**, twin sons Henry Lorin and Liam Bruce, Dec. 9.

**Jason '07** and **Sarah Benz Boyce '06**, son Avner Gregory, Feb. 15.

**Isaac '07** and **Kristin Hacker Rodenberg '07**, daughter Rosalie Marie, Dec. 30.

**Benjamin '08** and **Kyli Hake Gander '07**, son Braylan Tyce, Nov. 21.

David and **Jessica De Bruin Winegar '10**, son Dalton Lynn, July 28.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Nelson Nieuwenhuis '32** of Hospers, Iowa, Nov. 6.

**James Evers '40** of South Elgin, Ill., March 13.

**Ruth Heerema Squibb '40** of Pella, Jan. 15.

**C. Don Van Houweling '40** of Ames, Iowa, Feb. 23.

**Norma Goodell Gaass '42** of Pella, Jan. 23.

**Jean Harder Brower '46** of Malone, N.Y., Dec. 18.

**Dorothy Ver Dught Fisher '47** of Sebring, Fla., Aug. 25.

**Clara Jones Pell '50** of Fresno, Calif., Jan. 25.

**Marvin Aiken '51** of Grand Lake, Colo., Aug. 8.

**Everett Hawbaker '54** of Batavia, Ill., Jan. 25.

**Ronald Kimm '62** of Urbandale, Iowa, Jan. 28.

**Dennis Elliott '64** of Council Bluffs, Iowa, March 13.

**Walter Walther '65** of Oceanside, Calif., Jan. 14.

**Bernice Daku Danchisko '68** of Edison, N.J., Nov. 30.

**James Buikema '70** of Savanna, Ill., June 22.

**Armand Betancourt '78** of Hialeah, Fla., Jan. 22.

**Alex Foell '05** of Ankeny, Iowa, Feb. 10.

† denotes deceased



# Dancing to Make a Difference

This year, seniors Megan Gray and Emily Sullivan gave their time to organize Central's Dance Marathon, part of a nationwide effort to raise money and awareness for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals.

Sadly, many hospitalized children can't get up and dance. That's what inspired Dance Marathon, a nationwide fundraiser that takes place every year at colleges and high schools to raise money for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. For the past three years, Central has held events of its own, raising thousands of dollars for its local Children's Miracle Network Hospital: the University of Iowa Children's Hospital.

This year's event, held March 3, was coordinated by seniors Megan Gray, Amy Schmitt and Emily Sullivan, co-presidents of the Central Volunteer Center.

*"One of the mottos of Dance Marathon is 'we dance for those who can't,'" says Sullivan.*

The event calls for participants to come to a six-hour marathon during which both caffeine and sitting are strictly forbidden. Instead, they dance, play games and otherwise stay on their feet as a show of solidarity for kids who are unable to do the same. Participants are joined by local children who are receiving long-term care in Iowa City. The kids and their families are invited to partake in the activities—though the young ones are perfectly welcome to take a seat when they get tired.

"We try to make it for the kids," says Gray. They do that with hourly themes—game show, superhero and jungle, for

example. "The event is very high-energy and fast-paced," says Sullivan. "We want to make it a very positive environment."

In advance of the event, participants fundraise to support their six hours of non-stop movement. Each person is encouraged to raise \$100. This year, Central's marathon raised more than \$7,500. Since its founding in 1991, nationwide Dance Marathon events have raised more than \$50 million for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals.

"It's not only a great cause, but it's a fun thing to do," Gray says. Sullivan agrees. "The kids are always so excited to come. It's good for Central to be involved in the community. They do a lot for us, and it's important we give back."

Planning began in the fall when the duo set the date for the event and began

to recruit participants. After returning from winter break they established the schedule, created themes and otherwise organized logistics. The two agree the most difficult part was educating potential participants. Since the event is relatively new to campus, many students aren't familiar with its purpose.

Despite the hard work, they both say the event is more than enough payoff. Every year, the kids are excited to spend time with college students and have some fun. That makes it worth it. "The soreness you feel when you're done is only a fraction of what these kids go through," Gray says. But that doesn't mean she can't look forward to sitting down. "When it's all done you just melt into your chair with a smile on your face."



Photo by Paul Gates

Emily and Megan spent a night on their feet for children with long-term illnesses.



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# Alumni Spotlight



Read more  
about Jenae  
Jenison's  
visit with  
the next  
president of  
China online.

## PARTY FIT FOR A PRESIDENT

For a few days during February, Iowa was at the center of the international spotlight as China's Vice President Xi Jinping spent a visit bolstering the agricultural relations between Iowa and the world's most populous nation. Behind the scenes, Jenae Jenison '11 was helping to make sure that visit went smoothly.

Less than two months after her December 2011 graduation, Jenison—now working as public liaison for Gov. Terry Branstad—was responsible for organizing the welcome and departure ceremonies for Vice President Xi's visit. Over a short three-week planning period, she handled every detail of

the ceremonies. "It's Chinese tradition to have a big ceremony to welcome dignitaries," she explains. "We rolled out the red carpet—literally."

After the hard work that went into planning and executing the vice president's visit, Jenison was a member of the seeing-off party and had the chance to shake Xi's hand and thank him for visiting. "It didn't quite hit me until afterward," Jenison says. "Then I realized, 'I haven't even walked in my graduation ceremony, and here I am shaking hands with the person who will one day be president of one-fifth of the world's population.'"

Natalie Hansen Kimberley '00 and husband Grant hosted Xi at the Kimberley Farm. Read more at [civitas.central.edu](http://civitas.central.edu).

