

Civitas

CENTRAL COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

LIVING GLOBALLY

Careers emerge from
abroad experiences

TRIP OF A LIFETIME

Remembering Central's
programs in pictures
and words

» CELEBRATING THE GLOBAL NETWORK:
50 YEARS OF STUDY ABROAD



Standing on the Shoulders of Global Giants

by Mark Putnam, Central College president



Students make the return voyage from France circa 1960 on the *Flandre*, a few years before an official program was launched. Back row: Norma De Bruin, Douglas Heerema, Carolyn Wagamon, Sally Crawley, Henry Reysack. Second row: Nancy Vander Meulen, Ellen Rempe, Bill Wing. Foreground: Fred Nuernberg, Bruce Glenn.

A few months ago our campus community assembled in the Harry and Bernice Vermeer Banquet Hall of the Graham Conference Center to kick off a year of celebration, recognition and reflection for the 50th anniversary of our study abroad programs. During my remarks I noted we were gathered together, “standing on the shoulders of giants.” After my presentation, Professor Emeritus Larry Mills pulled me aside to say that was the first time he ever had been publicly referred to as a “giant.” Larry may be small in stature, but he, along with many others, are towering figures in the history of Central College in general, and our study abroad programs in particular.

Together we can see the work of people

such as Barb Butler, Jim Graham, Charles and Marianne Haydon, George Ann Huck, Don and Max Huffman, Don Lubbers, Bill Wing, Ken Weller and many more as a foundation for all we are doing today. I have learned so much from our former administrative leaders and emeritus faculty about the origins of these programs. As I visited our international sites I could see the large footprint they left for us to fill. Their stories remind me of the word often heard from our own, Bette Brunsting – COURAGE! It took immense courage to even dream of a program that would send students around the world. Courage was needed through every step of our 50-year study abroad history. And now, we who have inherited this legacy will need courage as we seek to build on it for the future.

We stand today at the midpoint of a century of Global Experiential Learning (GEL). We have behind us an amazing 50 years to celebrate success and recognize achievement. We now begin to turn our attention to the next 50 years as the legacy continues and we envision what we will need to accomplish. As is the case with all academic disciplines, professional fields of study and experiential learning programs, things change. The fast pace of change in the global context is breathtaking and our 50 years have been witness to profoundly important international developments. That pattern continues.

Our goals are ever the same. A rigorous and substantive international experience is simply transformative for our students. The tales of transformation told by generations of Central alumni could fill volumes and be translated into many languages. The journey ahead will require the same creativity and enterprise Central’s giants taught us by their examples. They took some risks ... we will need to do so as well. They had a bias toward action ... that will serve us as well. They embraced change and opportunity with a willingness to pilot new things and try out new ideas ... an important example for us to embrace. We look ahead to the centennial of study abroad in another 50 years. In the meantime, we have a lot of work to do to honor the legacy we inherit today. Giants have a way of setting the bar very high.

Read more of Mark Putnam's writings in President's Corner at civitas.central.edu.



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Anita Terpstra and Henry Reyseveh at Mexico City College, during an exploratory trip circa 1960.

summer 2014 contents

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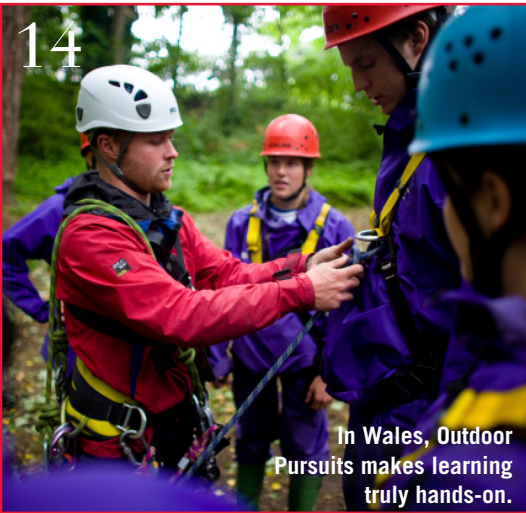
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 Central celebrates a milestone for its international programs.

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In Wales, Outdoor Pursuits makes learning truly hands-on.



Alums like Chris McMorran '95 (center) are living around the world.

Major changes at Maytag Student Center



A new stone fireplace in Maytag Student Center serves as a focal point for the space.

Maytag Student Center has been under heavy construction as it received a \$3.1 million renovation.

Funding for the renovation came from the Fred Maytag Family Foundation and is among the largest single donations in the college's history. It was also the Fred Maytag Family Foundation that provided much of the funding for the original Maytag Student Center in 1990.

The renovations have drastically changed the look and layout of the building to better utilize space according to students' needs. Some of the changes included moving the student activities center upstairs to the second level, while moving the J. Gilbert Boat, Shirely Weller and Margaret Moore conference rooms to the main level.

The conference rooms will reside in

the previous bookstore location, while the bookstore has been transformed into the Central College Spirit Shoppe.

One of the most eye-catching new features in the building is a large stone fireplace with a comfortable seating area. Students will be able to request the fireplace be turned on at the information booth for personal or club use.

Grand Central Station, renamed Fred's, received a complete overhaul as it was transformed into a more café-like atmosphere. The booths have been replaced by a variety of tall tables and standing tables, and the stage is smaller. Students will have more dining options and an increased coffee selection.

The basement of Maytag Student Center has been transformed into a workout facility and wellness center. A

wide selection of equipment is available, including 10 treadmills, 10 elliptical machines, five recumbent bikes, two cable pull machines, hand weights and kettlebells. There is also a large open space for yoga and exercise classes.

Central is working with Second Wind Exercise Equipment to properly outfit the space. Machines that are under-used will be exchanged for ones that are more popular.

However, the floor of the wellness center will look familiar—the previous carpet was in such good condition it is being saved and reused.

The exterior of the student center remains mostly unchanged. The frequently congested northwest entrance to the building, which faces Central Market, has been expanded to create easier movement between the two buildings.

Another change to the building is that it is the first self-locking structure on campus. Every evening at a pre-determined time it will lock, and only those with Central key cards will be able to access the building.

The wellness center downstairs will always require students, faculty and staff to use their key card for access. This will create a safer environment for the locker room area.

-Hillary Hotz '15

CENTRAL HOSTS STEM FEST WITH LT. GOVERNOR

A STEM extravaganza took place May 5 when Central hosted Iowa Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds, along with Mary Andringa, the co-chair of the governor's STEM advisory council and president and CEO of Vermeer Corp., for a STEM town hall meeting.

In addition to the speakers, the Harry and Bernice Vermeer Banquet Hall in the Graham Conference Center was filled with exhibits, such as robotic vehicles, bubble labs and biology displays. Central students took the opportunity to showcase the ideas they are researching in STEM classrooms, allowing community members and local schoolchildren a window into the world of science and technology.

Reynolds held STEM town hall meetings across the state to update Iowans on the progress being made by Gov. Terry Branstad's STEM Advisory Council, to showcase student STEM work and to seek feedback from communities about how the council should set STEM priorities moving forward. Central College President Mark Putnam is a member of the executive committee of the governor's STEM advisory council.

Central is committed to providing students a solid foundation in these growing fields, and Putnam said the statewide focus on STEM "is an initiative that fully aligns with Central's role in education, particularly in education for the STEM fields."

The STEM fest also included refreshments and music from the Flying Pans Steel Band.

CLASS GIFT AIMS FOR A LASTING LEGACY

The class of 2014 has given a pond filtration system to the Central College campus as its senior class gift. The environmentally conscious pond filtration system will rely on biofilters and aquatic life to help keep the water clean in the pond outside of Maytag Student Center.

The senior gift planning committee, with the help of Adam Haselhuhn and Cindy Wilson in the advancement office, selected three different gift ideas for students to vote on. After voting, the pond filtration system was a clear winner with almost 70 percent of the popular vote.

Megan Sloss '14, a member of the planning committee, says, "Alumni and current students understand the fun-filled



Iowa Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds speaks at a STEM town hall meeting in May.

traditions that are centered on the pond, so it is great to be giving this area an eco-friendly makeover for future generations to enjoy, and it carries the potential for continual growth and additions for years to come."

Money was raised by the class of 2014, the 40-year reunion class of 1974, and additional costs were covered by the Central Facilities Management and Planning office. Overall, 49 percent of the class of 2014 donated toward the project.

Kyle Freischlag '14, a member of the planning committee, says, "While this gift was very expensive, we raised a significant amount of funds from the senior class, and our partner class, the class of 1974."

The project was designed and will be constructed by Country Landscapes, a professional landscaping company based in Ames.

"In past years the pond discoloration has been due to excessive algae growth," says Mike Lubberden, director of facilities planning and management. "The system being put in will work with algae growth, not against it."

The pond filtration system will have four biofilters installed. The biofilters are silent and use pipes to either push water into or pull water out of the filters. The actual filter is a system of plant roots held in place by river gravel. The roots of the plants will feed off the algae, cleaning up the water.

"This will hopefully be a solution to a long-standing maintenance problem for the college, and we are glad that we are able to pool resources together to make this happen," says Adam Haselhuhn, director of annual giving.

Keeping with the theme of sustainability, the river gravel was taken from the roof of Gaass Hall when it received an upgrade in July.

The plants chosen for the project were carefully selected based on whether they are native to Iowa, their impact on the pond ecosystem and availability. Plants will include water lilies, blue rush and irises. With the additional plant life on the pond, there will be a stronger ecosystem for frogs, fish, turtles and a variety of other animals to live.

The pond's most famous residents—the Canada geese—will actually have a better environment to raise their goslings due to the increased plant and animal life. The animal life will also help keep algae levels down during the hot summer months.

One of Central's key events, the Lemming Race, will not harm the system either. The biofilters and plants have been strategically placed to avoid being damaged in the annual race.

-Hillary Hotz '15

by Larry Happel

Dutch distance star Horton regional track athlete of the year



◀ Junior distance standout Eli Horton was the Iowa Conference and regional men's track MVP.



Sophomore Abi Davis posted top-four national finishes in the women's 100 and 200 meters. ▼

Central junior Eli Horton is continuing his ascent to national track and field prominence.

The standout distance runner was tabbed the USTFCCCA Central Region outdoor track athlete of the year for the second time after also receiving the indoor honor as well as a similar award from the Iowa Conference.

A sixth-place finisher in last November's NCAA Division III men's cross country meet, Horton placed fourth in the 5,000 meters at the NCAA track and field championships in Delaware, Ohio in May.

Horton's efforts put Central 53rd in the NCAA men's outdoor meet. Meanwhile, sophomore transfer Abi Davis propelled the Dutch to a 16th-place showing in the women's meet, Central's best finish since 2004. Davis was second in the NCAA 200 meters and fourth in the 100.

Davis also ran at the national meet in the 4x400-meter relay with junior Allie McBroom, junior Camie Kibbee and sophomore Monica Ruiz. Senior Austin O'Brien was also a national qualifier in the men's 5,000 meters.

The Central men were second in the league outdoor standings while the women were fourth.

Three Central players are all-conference in men's golf

Central junior Desmond Stoll finished second at the 72-hole Iowa Conference men's golf tournament and was joined by junior Adam Squires and junior David Watson on the all-conference list.

Squires won a playoff for fifth place while Watson tied for 10th. Junior Jon Prescott finished 14th and junior Clayton Curwin was 18th.

Central nearly erased an 18-shot first-round deficit but saw its three-year league championship run end, placing second behind Dubuque at 313-295-300-309—1217.



Northern Illinois coach to lead Dutch tennis programs

Ryun Ferrell left his post as Northern Illinois University head women's tennis coach to take over the Central men's and women's programs.

Ferrell was head women's coach at Drake University for seven years before joining the Northern Illinois staff in 2006. He led Drake to a pair of Missouri Valley Conference titles.

He replaces Steve Tyler, who retired after guiding the Dutch for six seasons.

Central's men were fourth in the Iowa Conference this spring. Sophomore West Adelman earned first-team all-league distinction for the second straight year, posting a 14-7 mark at No. 1 singles while teaming with junior Tim Kahl to go 15-7 at No. 1 doubles. Kahl received all-league



Junior second baseman Abbey Strajack and the Dutch made a record 26th NCAA Division III softball tournament appearance.

Photo by Dan Vander Beek

honorable mention.

The Dutch were 13-10 in dual action.

All-America baseball distinction for Rushing

Senior designated hitter Robbie Rushing became the first Central baseball player in 44 years to receive all-America recognition.

Rushing was a second-team choice after hitting .410 and driving in 46 runs. His 23 doubles broke the school record set by former coach John Edwards in 1970.

He helped spark a spirited stretch run by the Dutch, who posted a 28-16 record and placed second in the Iowa Conference tournament, giving Central 101 wins over the past four seasons.

Senior shortstop Jordan Judkins and senior pitcher Judson McKown joined Rushing on the all-Central Region squad as third-team honorees. McKown was 6-3 with a stingy 1.50 ERA while Judkins hit .379 with 30 RBIs.

Schirm named baseball coach

Veteran assistant Matt Schirm is the new Central head baseball coach.

A graduate of Coe College, where he was an all-Iowa Conference player and a team captain, Schirm assisted at the University of the Cumberlands (Ky.), helped direct the North Carolina Baseball Academy and was an assistant at Wartburg before joining the Dutch staff.

Central lands record 26th NCAA softball berth

A 30-12 record and a record 26th NCAA Division III tourney berth left the Central softball team 20th in the national rankings following a typically memorable season.

It was the fifth straight NCAA appearance for the Dutch, who were chosen to host regional tourney play for the 11th time.

Hall of fame coach George Wares eclipsed yet another milestone, becoming the first coach in Division III history to record 1,000 wins. Central's leader since 1985, Wares has compiled a 1,007-335-3 (.749) career record.

Gritty junior third baseman Whitney Sowers was a first-team all-Midwest Region pick. Despite a brief dip as the result of a late-season injury, Sowers hit a steamy .491, the second-highest season mark in school history. She had five homers and 23 RBIs while sparkling in the field, committing just one regular-season error.

Senior shortstop Annie Sarcone and junior second baseman Abbey Strajack were second-team selections. Sarcone, a four-time all-conference pick, hit .433 with 14 doubles, seven homers and a school-record 51 RBIs. She set school career marks for homers (25), RBIs (172) and total bases (304). Strajack batted .354, scoring 35 runs and stealing 12 bases. She's a two-time all-league honoree.

50 YEARS OF STUDY ABROAD

1960s

- Total cost of an entire year in Paris in 1965 was \$1,975—including travel expenses from New York City, tuition, room, board and excursions.
- President Ken Weller is among the many Central faculty members who have spent time teaching in the Yucatan.
- In 1968, Inge Drappier was a student with Central's program in Paris. By 1975, she was the Paris director, using her room at the dorm as an office.
- In 1968, 122 Central students were studying abroad in France, Germany/Austria and Spain.
- In the late 1960s, students studying in the Yucatan lived in a convent along with several practicing nuns.

Carolyn Wagamon, Ellen Rempe, Sally Crawley, Nancy Vander Muelen, Fred Nuerenberg, Norma De Bruin and Marcie Brouner studied in Paris in 1960, before the official start of Central's program.



1965: First program established in Paris, France

1966: Program established in Vienna, Austria

1966: A field trip to the Yucatan foreshadowed the Merida program—students had to take a bus to Kansas City, a train to New Orleans and a plane to the Yucatan.

1968: Programs established in the Yucatan and Spain



The French Line's *Flandre* sailed the transatlantic route in the 1960s.

1970s



The Merida program proved popular with students in 1970.

- Webster University professor Jon Dressel used his Welsh background to establish and direct the Wales program in 1976.
- President Weller's son was among the first 20 students to study abroad on Central's London program.



Students enjoyed the water in sunny Spain in 1971.

- During their London semester, students have worked at British Parliament, the United Nations, Greenpeace, local magazines, museums, publishing houses and theaters.

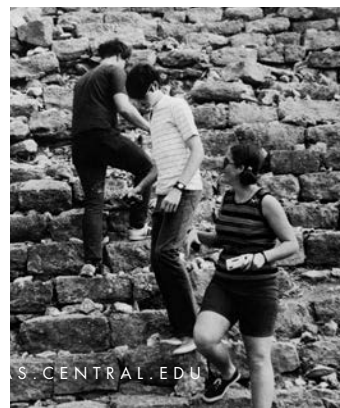
1973: Program established in London, U.K.

1975: Yucatan program moves to a new home, a former governor's mansion

1976: Program established in Wales, U.K.

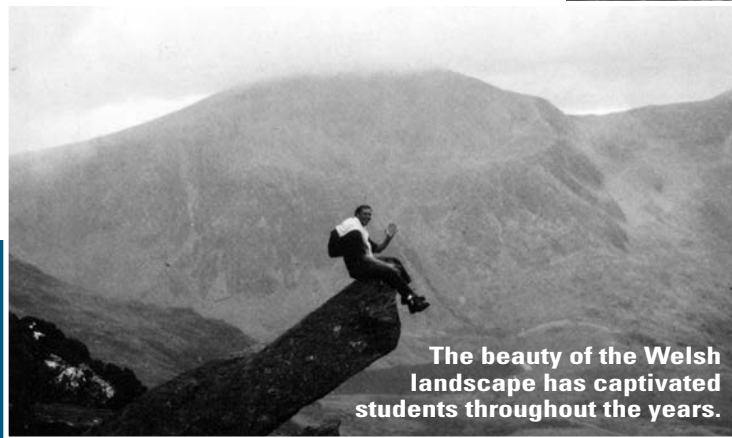
1976: Princess Caroline of Monaco is enrolled in courses with Central students on the Paris program

Above: Studying in Spain, 1977. **Top right:** Students tour London in 1983. **Second row left:** Students in Paris, 2014; **Second row right:** Wales, 1991. **Bottom row, left to right:** China program in 2008, student visiting the Vienna Volksgarten in 2014, Ghana program in 2012, Merida, 1973.



1980s

- Dr. William Stronks, a Dutch native, set up the Netherlands program at Central after successfully founding programs at Dordt and Trinity Christian College.
- In the late 1980s, at the end of the Cold War period, a field trip to Berlin was part of the Leiden program.
- In 1980, the Spain program included spending July and August in Comillas, September in Madrid, and the next nine months in Granada.



1985: Row House opened in Vienna for classes and director's office

1986: Program established in Leiden, the Netherlands



- During the '90s, a popular course in Wales was Soviet Studies. After studying the USSR, students had the option of a fieldtrip to Russia.

- In 1998, a program was established in Essex in conjunction with University of Essex (primarily for math and science students).
- Students in the China program were assigned a pengyou, or friend to help with their integration into Chinese language, arts, history and culture.
- In 1998, the Wales program still offered a trip to Moscow, interest and Russian situation permitting.

1990: The first Central students study in China

1993: Central's International Programs Project Team (IPPT) makes it a goal that over half of Central students study abroad

1994: More students had studied in the Yucatan than any other program



Left to right: London, '90s; Merida, 1999; Netherlands, 1998.

2000s

- Since Central was not allowed to buy 7 Bedford Place in London (a registered national landmark) the college was forced to rent the former hostel until the purchase of Vandon House.
- Early 2000s saw a new emphasis on service-learning, a positive result of director of Community Based Learning Cheri Doane's ('98) visits to all sites abroad.



Clockwise, starting top left: Students with London's famous lion in Trafalgar Square; hopping a trolley in Vienna; hiking in Wales; Chichen Itza pyramid, Merida; visiting the Great Wall of China.

2000: On May 30, 2000, a Leiden program student kissed the reigning Queen of the Netherlands three times—the Dutch way—during her official birthday visit held in Leiden that year.

2001: London program moves from 7 Bedford Place to Vandon House.

2001-6: With Spain and England leading the way, summer programs are gradually increased to offer short-term study abroad.



2010s

2010: Summer program in Ghana is established

2015: Central celebrates 50th anniversary of study abroad



- More than **15,000** students from over **400** American colleges and universities have studied with Central College since the launch of its **first international program in 1965**.

DISCOVERING A SENSE OF PLACE: LOOKING BACK AT STUDY ABROAD

by Shannan Mattiace '90
(Mérida '88, London '89)



Mattiace, Suzanne Corley and Ann Sobiech Munson '91
visit Chiapas, Mexico, in 1988.



Clockwise from top left: one of Merida's yellow buses, Mattiace with George Ann Huck and Merida program alum Sonia Lucic Trujillo '69 in 2014, Mattiace and Trujillo in 1988, the 1988 group tours Palenque, Mexico.

Shakespeare Company. We emerged after nine hours at the Barbican exhilarated and not at all sure if English really was our native language! Just walking down Whitehall Road from Bloomsbury to the Houses of

"I carry much of that semester in London with me each time I am in a city: THAT FEELING OF OVERSTIMULATION AND EXCITEMENT."

Parliament for my internship with Scottish MP George Foulkes several times a week immersed me in the art and pleasure of city strolling. The varieties of human experience on the streets of London stimulated me, broadening my notions of individual agency and style. And the variety of museums, gallery openings, and bookstores made me giddy. I've often remembered the surprise and excitement I felt one Saturday afternoon at the British Museum when I spotted the Dead Sea Scrolls, fragments of which I had read in Professor (Thomas) Kopecek's Modern Christian Thought class. I wasn't looking for them, yet there they were. I simply could not believe that I was seeing the original texts of some of the gospels that hadn't made it into the New Testament canon. As an impressionable undergraduate I wanted to ask the big questions: What would Western civilization have looked like had these gospels become the annointed ones?

I carry much of that semester in London with me each time I am in a city: that feeling of overstimulation and excitement, the sense of desire generated by so

I met my best friend, Suzanne Corley, on the Merida program. Today she teaches Spanish at Tulane University, and it was in Merida where so much of her love for and immersion in the Spanish language began. Together we learned the difference between North and South America, between Latin America and Latinos and grappled with Mexico's Hispanic and native histories. On the language front, it was so easy to learn from Yucatecans, with their quiet formality and that politeness that never seemed to fail them, even on the hottest of days.

On so many levels, Yucatan felt like home to me, and still does. The following year in London I discovered a love for the cosmopolitan—the city and all that it offers. I never became an Anglophile, but after living a semester in one of the world's

great cities, I fell in love with the urban experience. For many Central College students, studying abroad offers the chance to live in a city: so many of us are from small towns in the Midwest. And what glorious immersion into the pleasures of metropolitan life. As students at 7 Bedford Place in Bloomsbury, many of us took a course on British Theater from Michael Billington, the celebrated theater critic of The Guardian newspaper. Billington approached us as if we were urban sophisticates, sharing his recommendations for each upcoming weekend, assuming we would want to take in at least a couple of shows, in addition to the ones we were required to see for class each week.

And why not? Several of us spent one unforgettable day at three back-to-back Shakespeare plays performed by the Royal

being in such a warm place—both in terms of temperature as well as in terms of Yucatecans' effusiveness. In general, Mexicans are very verbal and my love of talking—particularly in Spanish—quickly immersed me in Yucatecan culture in 1988 and allowed me to deepen and broaden my friendships and connections in 2014 as well. My stay in Merida allowed me to reflect on the joy I've experienced in learning a foreign language and on the importance of finding places that feel like home.

Living life in a foreign language makes everything more interesting! A simple thing like riding the bus downtown feels special. Overhearing conversations about the most banal of topics seems like a revelation. I have never quite gotten over my delight at hearing Spanish-speaking tennis players

yell, "Ve la bola" (Watch the ball). It just sounds so much more poetic in Spanish.

In January, I asked a transit police officer in the neighborhood adjacent to the Central House (Itzimná) where I could pick up the bus going downtown. He told me that I simply had to "raise my little hand, deposit my little coin and I would be on my way." I was enchanted. My little hand? My little coin? How could such a charming series of instructions come from the much disliked (in Mexico) transit police? Grinning broadly, I crossed the street to position myself at the corner, little (or not) hand ready for action.

Multiple personalities are also possible, depending on languages spoken. I think I am more forgiving, have a better sense of humor, and may be a more patient person in Spanish.

As a guest in the Central house this winter, I experienced some of the same feelings I felt during those weeks in residence as a student over 25 years ago: the intense delight and sense of discovery in speaking Spanish and the joy of

many beautiful things to enjoy and to see, that sense of being alone and accompanied that cities offer. And always, always, that sense of discovery and surprise.

At the heart of a liberal arts education is the notion that the more we know about the world, the more interested in the world we become. That interest propels us to want to contribute something significant and to make our lives matter somehow. George Ann Huck, resident director of Central's Mérida program for over 35 years

who retired in 2005, embodies the intellectual curiosity and enthusiasm at the heart of the liberal arts. She finds virtually EVERYTHING she sees in Mérida interesting. Driving down the street with her in 2014 (in the same car she had in 1988, that green Volkswagen bug), I was caught up, as always, in her excitement in showing me a new art gallery that had just opened, in discussing the talk we attended together about the Maya world on the cusp of the Conquest, in telling me about a human rights group she is a part of, among myriad

other observations. (For those of you wondering, she has no plans to replace her beloved bug).

Who among the alumni of Central's Yucatán program could forget pulling into small hamlets in large yellow buses and George Ann's dramatic entrances, knocking on doors, her booming voice resounding: "Bueno, ¿Hay alguien en este pueblo?" After showing us how it was done, she let us loose to find answers to all the questions we surely had about life in rural Yucatán—get going, people!

a small town in Iowa. Then I left to spend a year on Central College's study abroad program in Vienna, Austria—living in a country the size of Iowa, speaking a foreign language and exploring a city of 1.7 million. Now I am back to small-town Midwestern living, but something has changed.

For starters, I eat differently. A simple flour dumpling cooked in chicken broth and I feel like I'm in food heaven, floating on clouds that are made out of dumpling. I discovered my favorite mealtime while studying abroad: brotzeit (literally: Bread Time), a snack where bread and rolls take a starring role. And the only cake I routinely make from scratch is the Austrian cake called Sachertorte (chocolate cake layered with apricot jam).

Now, I speak differently—not just that I can now speak fluent German. When learning a new language, I practiced asking what words meant. I became aware of how often I'd nod along when I didn't understand words. Then I noticed that, in English, there were vocabulary and cultural references I did not understand. Now, I ask. I'm a better conversationalist in two languages.

I even travel differently. I now know what it is like to live a year without car payments, without stops at gas stations, without surprise trips to the mechanic. All that, and to get everywhere I want to go, quickly, for just 50 Euros a semester. Back in the States I am living out of my car again—because the public transportation in my area is expensive and inconvenient—but I take trains whenever I can and have since found excursions into Chicago to be much less stressful. In nice weather, I park several blocks from my destination to enjoy a walk.

Most importantly, my abroad experience helped me see new possibilities, everywhere. During my senior year at Central I funneled my excitement about international studies into an internship in the study abroad office. That experience

“
FOR 20 YEARS, MY BUBBLE WAS THE SIZE OF A SMALL TOWN IN IOWA. Then I left to spend a year on Central College's study abroad program in Vienna, Austria—living in a country the size of Iowa, speaking a foreign language and exploring a city of 1.7 million. Now I am back to small-town Midwestern living, but something has changed.
ANDREA LEVINE '09
”

A BIGGER WORLD, MORE POSSIBILITIES

Andrea (Montrone) Levine '09 studied abroad in Vienna during 2007-2008.

I'm seated across the desk from the executive director of a local community foundation. I've come to her office to learn more about the community I live in to get ideas on how to improve the city blog that I manage.

It is five years after graduation from Central College, and I find myself living in a town similar to Pella. It is a small community in the Midwest, with cornfields just outside of town. The liberal arts college there draws students from across the country and around the world, and downtown is full of local businesses and landscaped flowers (but there are no fines for picking tulips).

I'm active downtown, working at a local café and cheese shop and managing 10 community volunteers from high school to retirement, who are blogging about the positive stories in a city that is transforming after years of economic struggle. I see

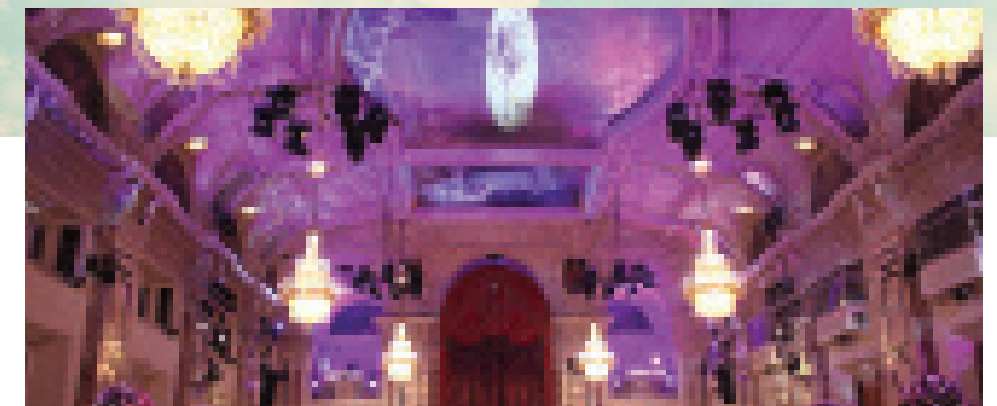
the college students; I see the community leaders and I see the local business people. I also see the retirees, the old men who trickle into the coffee shop in the late morning for their daily social hour, congregating on the comfy chairs that, like the couch on "Friends," always seem to be free when they walk in.

It's this last group that I think of as the executive director describes the makeup of the community from her years of experience. "Many people have never lived anywhere else," she says. "My niece got a great job opportunity but turned it down—she lives with her mom and doesn't need the money. She is attached to what is familiar to her." She leans across her desk to emphasize her point. "I'm encouraging her to study abroad, to get her outside her bubble."

I sympathize with this. For 20 years, my bubble was the size of



Levine enjoys roast pork and dumplings in 2013, her first visit back to Vienna.



gave me the confidence to commit to a year of AmeriCorps VISTA, working full time in a small non-profit in Des Moines. As a VISTA, I met my future husband, and we decided to move to Madison, Wisconsin, together. There, I made a living in international foods, sharing recipes and trying a variety of multiethnic fare as a crew member at Trader Joe's.

In the present, our conversation is wrapping up. The executive director shows me to the door and sends me on my way with a friendly goodbye. I head out into the parking lot. I may live in a small town, but I know that somewhere, it's 7 p.m. and Viennese

are boarding subway cars on their way to a dinner of roast pork and bread dumplings.

It gets harder and harder to tell what parts of my life were impacted by my study abroad experience. Like the proverbial pebble in the pond, the rings of influence get larger and dissolve into the whole. It has influenced every part of my life now, and it will continue to cause unseen ripples throughout the rest of my life. Unlike a piece of Sachertorte, however delicious, investing in a study abroad experience is something that will continue to pay dividends the rest of my life.



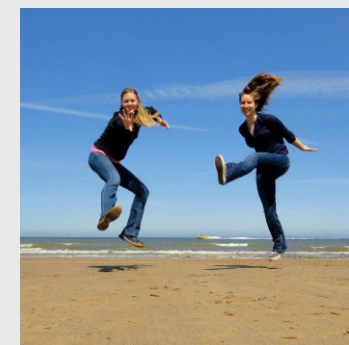
Come for the experience, stay for the social media?

Tecwyn Vaughan Jones recently retired from the Wales program, after 14 years as program director. When he started in 2000, the program was based at Trinity College in Carmarthen; since 2006, the program has been associated with Bangor University. Jones has seen remarkable changes over that time, but perhaps the most notable are those of student and parent communications.

He says, "During the last 14 years there has been a tremendous change in student participation, and the impact of new technology, particularly social media, has been very noticeable. In 2000 the students contacted friends and family by email and letter only, but 14 years later, there is an abundance of communication networks including cellphones, which I feel have altered the depth of the abroad experience."

Today, Jones said students are in contact with friends and family several times a day, and this sometimes requires program directors to make sure communication with home does not predominate in the study abroad experience. Jones said students are required to join societies and organizations abroad to make integration easier and help students become independent of social media and contact with home.

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If the term "excursion" conjures images in your mind of luxury suites and infinity pools, you are not a likely candidate for Central's Outdoor Pursuits course in Wales or Morocco Exchange in Granada, Spain.

If, however, you seek authentic cultural learning, physical and mental challenges, and the daily potential for life changing experiences, then these Central College program offerings promise to deliver, as they have for more than a decade.

Blaire Modic, director of Central College Abroad since 2013, said excursions offer many advantages to helping students develop confidence and cultural understanding outside the classroom. "Over time, you can accumulate experiences on-site," Modic said, "but leaving the site gives students the opportunity to reflect on what they are learning and to break away from the routine of daily life."

According to Modic, excursions as part of study abroad programs are common and expected if a program is to maximize a student's time abroad. But what sets Central's programs apart is that 1) Central includes these intra-curricular trips as part of the overall programming price, and 2) excursions are integrated into academic coursework.

"Few other study abroad programs include the price of the excursion in the overall programming price, integrate the excursion into the curriculum and require participation," Modic says.

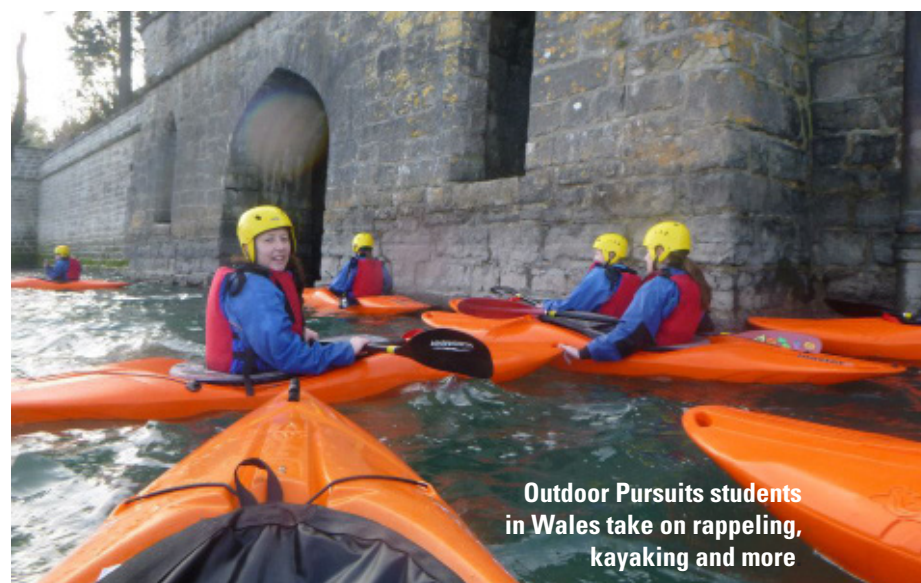
Excursions support the goal of experiential learning, which emphasizes direct and active engagement, beginning on campus and continuing as program participants make their way out into the world.

OUTDOOR PURSUITS, BANGOR, WALES

Tecwyn Vaughan Jones, director

The popularity of Central's Wales program is on the rise, with record enrollment for 2014. Modic and Wales resident director Tecwyn Vaughan Jones attribute this surge to the Outdoor Pursuits experience in the "hauntingly beautiful" Snowdonia National Park.

According to Jones, the Wales program takes advantage of its location in many ways. "The Outdoor Pursuits class enables students to interact with the environment of what is arguably the most striking



Outdoor Pursuits students
in Wales take on rappelling,
kayaking and more

and beautiful in the whole of the United Kingdom. Bangor is on the threshold of Snowdonia National Park and the class takes advantage of this location and offers an opportunity for students to acquire practical knowledge of flora, fauna, climate and weather, landscape and settlement patterns, as well as skills which emanate from such an environment," Jones says.

He also stressed that the program is founded on the belief that learning is an active process, and the best learning occurs as a result of direct and meaningful experience.

In the fall and spring semesters, groups of 10 students are transported once a week from the classroom site at Bangor University to the Outdoor Pursuits Centre on the shores of the Menai Strait in Anglesey, about four miles away. During the summer program, students go to the Centre daily. Once on

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Tecwyn Vaughan Jones, director

site, students are provided with equipment and clothing for activities like surfing, gorge scrambling and raft building. The first hour is dedicated to classroom teaching of the skill, site orientation, and health and safety instruction.

Each class includes beginners, as well as those who may have experience in the day's skill, and is taught by experienced practitioners with broad teaching

background. “For the uninitiated, the challenge is to overcome fears of participation, lack of confidence and whether they are able to fit in,” Jones says. “To the slightly more experienced, it is being able to deal with students of lesser skill and help them overcome their fear.”

Throughout the course, Outdoor Pursuits compels students to get out into the world and test new skills. “The challenges in this class cannot be replaced by any realityTV,” Jones said. “Students use terms such as ‘life changing,’ ‘the best thing I have ever done,’ and often say they achieve confidence in this class.” For some students, the class even provides an introduction to a future career.

This was the case for Kris Johnson ‘14, a double major in environmental science and sociology. He says, “The greatest benefit and challenge of Outdoor Pursuits was learning how to effectively communicate and work with others. Many of the activities required good communication and teamwork, forcing me to rely on my classmates for my safety and completion of a goal.”

Johnson brought his newfound skills back to the United States and is putting them to work in his career. As assistant farm manager at Red Earth Gardens, an organic farm that is part of the Meskwaki Settlement in Tama, he says he must effectively work with a team of people. “My majors tie together in my passion for sustainable agriculture, which I realized while I was abroad. I was forced out of my comfort zone on several occasions. Outdoor Pursuits gave me the confidence, decision making and teamwork skills that I now use in my everyday life,” he says.

Bryanna Pierce ‘15, an athletic training major and psychology minor, had the chance to put her first-aid skills to work during her semester’s excursions. “This class gave me an opportunity to see how I react in different situations and how much I enjoy helping,” she says. “I now know that I have chosen the right career path, and I can’t wait to continue my education through the Central athletic training program.”

Students still spend time in the classroom. Jones teaches a required course module, Introduction to the History and Culture of Wales, to educate students about the country’s archaeology, architecture, tourism, industry and way of life. The course requires students to complete journals and a final essay on “What is Welshness?” Identity is a major theme of the required class, and students cannot talk about identity without first looking at their own.

Overall, Jones says, “The Outdoor Pursuits class provides students with a unique opportunity to engage with the natural environment, while developing leadership skills; challenging students both physically and mentally; teaching them to act responsibly and to care for others; helping the students to be self-sufficient and persevere in the context of personal challenges.”

MOROCCO EXCHANGE, GRANADA, SPAIN

Veronica Montero, director

Morocco Exchange, known as the cultural highlight of Central’s Granada semester, is an intense excursion across the Strait of Gibraltar to North Africa, where program director Veronica Montero says, “Nothing is typical.”

For four days each semester, students travel throughout the Kingdom of Morocco to meet with peers, participate in homestays and visit historical sites and ruins. Montero says the schedule is action-packed.

- On the first day, students travel from Tarifa, Spain, by ferry to Tangier, where they visit a women’s center and have lunch with students from the University of Tangier. After visiting Assilah for a walking tour in the afternoon, students travel to the capital of Rabat to meet their host families for the night.

- On Day 2, students meet peers from the University of Rabat, visit monuments, meet with Fulbright scholars and Peace Corps volunteers in the region, and have lunch with their host families.

- On Day 3, they leave the capital for a mountain village, where they visit a school and have lunch with a local family. That afternoon, students travel to the fortress town of Chaouen, where they spend the night in a hotel.

- On the final day, students take a walking tour of Chaouen before heading to Ceuta for the return trip to Granada.

When students return, Montero says they are more knowledgeable about many aspects of the region, including society, economics, education and politics.

“Our students are the perfect age to experience and explore places, people and things,” Montero says. “When students arrive in Granada, see their surroundings and hear the historical background of the city, they develop a bigger interest in getting to know more about the history, the culture of Islam and the culture of Spain.”

Modic points out the importance of the Morocco Exchange’s emphasis on direct student-to-student contact. “There is lots of time built into the schedule to create new relationships,” Modic said. “In their group discussions with Moroccan peers, students talk about everything from their reactions to political events to their favorite new websites.”

Montero says the students become enthralled with the hospitality of their host families. “They are very aware of the land they are visiting and the people they are talking to,” she says.

“OUR STUDENTS ARE THE PERFECT AGE TO EXPERIENCE AND EXPLORE PLACES, PEOPLE AND THINGS.”

Veronica Montero, director

Destiny Romberg ‘16 says the experience has impacted the way she views her future. “The program influenced my career decision-making by allowing me to be more open to other people and their backgrounds,” says the sociology and Spanish double major.

As the program celebrates its 10th anniversary, Montero recalls the Exchange was once “simply an idea.” At that time, students were informed about Morocco through a presentation by program leaders. Morocco Exchange became an official part of the Granada program in fall 2009, and Montero said it “provides a safe environment for students, who always come with eyes open in astonishment.”



Morocco Exchange immerses students in a completely new culture.



CONNECTIONS THROUGH SERVICE

by Hillary Hotz ‘15



Elaina Loyd ‘15 worked at a community center in Paris.

Central’s study abroad program turns 50 this year, but service learning abroad is a relatively new component that took root about 12 years ago. Service learning is an experiential component that allows students to learn and develop skills by volunteering in the local community. In many cases, these skills relate directly to students’ future careers by helping them learn about contributing effectively to an organization.

“Connecting two of Central’s strongest programs—service learning and study abroad—was a way to help students maximize their potential by giving them an experience they could utilize for the rest of their lives,” says Cheri Doane, director of Community Based Learning.

Two of the fundamental visions of service learning abroad are to increase global citizenship and gain valuable experience for future careers. “Service learning abroad provides a direct connection and interaction to local people and culture that a classroom experience simply cannot,” Doane says.

Service learning is available at all study abroad sites except Ghana. Each city has a unique culture and diverse opportunities for service, and residential directors help students make connections.

Opportunities change with city and semester, but past activities have included teaching English to kindergarteners in Granada, Spain, outreach to the homeless population of Vienna, Austria, and helping refugees acclimate to local culture in London, England.

Kendra Haack ‘12 volunteered at English Academy, in Merida, Yucatan. While there, she tutored students ages 15 to 45 in speaking and reading English. Haack says, “As an aspiring immigration lawyer, the time at my service learning site taught me to never make assumptions about people’s actions. There were so many reasons people chose to learn English, many of which were truly humbling.”

Elaina Loyd ‘15 volunteered at Centre Cerise, a community center in Paris, France. Loyd tutored children in English and led English conversation hours for both children and adults. This opportunity gave Loyd hands-on experience that will support her future plans to teach English in France after graduation. “I thoroughly enjoyed myself and learned a lot about French culture,” Loyd said, “while simultaneously improving my language skills and making great connections.”

LIVING GLOBALLY

by Laura Billingsley '04 and Cindy Deppe

"I DIDN'T STOP THE EXPLORING I LEARNED TO DO WHILE I WAS AT CENTRAL."

Chris McMorran '95

STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCES LEAD TO CAREERS THAT REQUIRE AN INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING.

We live in a society that loves to measure things. We are constantly asking for data: How long is the movie? How far is the restaurant? What's the ROI on this? What's the cost? Give it to me in a spreadsheet.

But some things in life aren't easily measured. What, for instance, is the value of a study abroad experience that sparked a passion for foreign policy, provided experiences crucial to graduate school admission essays and eventually led to a job working with the Department of State? How do you measure the worth of a semester abroad that led to further exploration of world cultures and ultimately to a position teaching Japanese studies at a university in Singapore?

While we can't hold up a yardstick to these experiences, hearing the stories of the people impacted by study abroad helps us to understand the many ways it has permanently impacted the course of their professional lives.

CITIZEN OF THE WORLD

"If Central ever set out to make anybody into a 'citizen of the world,' I think I would fit that description," says Chris McMorran '95. Today, he lives and works in Singapore, but the journey that brought him to the island country started in land-locked Pella. The Greenfield, Iowa, native graduated high school with a class of about 30 students then headed to Central College. "I didn't really look at many places other than Central," he says. "I went on a campus tour early in my senior year and fell in love with the campus and the atmosphere."

While at Central, McMorran, a sociology major, participated in A Cappella Choir, which whisked him on a choir trip to Europe during the summer of his sophomore year. It was his first time abroad, and the experience instilled a desire for more travel. He had the feeling that "I had to get more of this," he says. During spring term of his junior year, McMorran participated in Central's China program, led by Don and Maxine Huffman. He then

McMorran teaches Japanese studies at National University of Singapore.



signed up for the Yucatan, Mexico, program during the first term of his senior year. At the time, Don Maxam and wife, Elsie led the program. Right after graduation, McMorran joined former professor of anthropology Steve Ybarrola's program in the Basque country of Spain.

After college, McMorran remained hooked on international experiences. He took a job as an English teacher in Japan as part of the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program, which

he continued for three years. At first, the job was mainly a way to experience a new culture. "I went to the JET Program to teach English mostly to satisfy a longing to see more of the world," he says. But he became fascinated by Japan and by "its image of itself and the image it portrays to the rest of the world."

After three years, the travel bug bit again and McMorran says he put Japan "on the back burner." He spent about a year living in London, minus a month-long visit to Mali in West Africa. "I didn't stop the exploring I learned to do while I was at Central," he says.

McMorran then decided to continue his studies and started graduate school at the University of Colorado, Boulder, in 2000. He earned his master's degree in geography then took two years off to research rural depopulation and study Japanese language on a scholarship. He went back for a Ph.D. degree in 2004 and finished in 2008. After working for a couple years in outreach at the University of Colorado, McMorran began teaching at the National University of Singapore in the department of Japanese studies.

McMorran's Ph.D. research focused on domestic tourism in Japan, and the people who work in tourist spaces. His research brought him to rural areas where family-run inns are popular, and McMorran found many stories waiting to be told about the people—mostly women—who end up working at the inns.

"The laborers they hire are often very vulnerable," he says. "The people that I worked with when I did my research were mostly women who had been divorced or abused or in some way had fled their own home, and the only jobs they could get were in these recreated homes or tourist impressions of what a conservative Japanese home should look like."

While the jobs provide the women with food, shelter and a salary, they often have nowhere else to go. McMorran says, "I feel like there is a story to be told of the behind-the-scenes, you might call them micro-geographies, of gender and labor that can be revealed in these traditional Japanese inns."

McMorran's classes at National University of Singapore tend to be more broad-based, helping students understand Japan in a variety of frameworks, including the country's environmental history, as well as general classes such as Introduction to Japanese Studies. He also leads a field study course to Japan each year.

Part of the appeal of teaching at the university is the diversity of both students and professors. "I have colleagues from around the world," McMorran says, citing office neighbors from Germany, Australia, Japan, Singapore, the U.S. and more. He says the students are "ambitious and eager to learn" and that "the interactions I have with colleagues and students are the highlights of the job." McMorran's commitment to teaching has been recognized by his university, which has twice presented him with the Annual Teaching Excellence Award. The award goes to about 50 people each year, out of more than 2,300 total faculty members.

In Singapore, McMorran finds an unusual mixture of the amenities

DISCOVERING GHANA

by Jenni Hodges

Every summer since 2010, a small number of students have taken advantage of Central's newest study abroad program in Ghana. The one-month program takes students through Ghana's history and introduces them to the nation's performing arts.

Program director Samuel Mate-Kodjo, an associate professor of Spanish, said Ghana's past few decades have been fascinating because citizens have been adjusting to a host of changes in their country. "They have been re-finding themselves after a period of crisis," Mate-Kodjo said.

Now students with Central College Abroad can also explore the events, traditions and opportunities that define Ghana. Mate-Kodjo said program courses are enriched by excursions to European colonists' plantations, a tropical forest reserve and the world's largest manmade lake, where Ghana produces electricity for several nations.

As part of the performing arts course, students take drumming lessons and perform ceremonial dances in traditional African dress. Jesse Merk '16 studied in Ghana last summer and said he was amazed to discover how Ghanaians express themselves through dance—and how difficult the dances are.

A particular highlight is the canopy walk tour, where students explore the rainforest canopy on one of the world's few treetop walkways. Merk enjoyed the canopy walk so much that he returned at the end of the program to spend the night in a tree house and watch elephants and monkeys in the dark. "It was unreal," Merk said.

The most important part of students' experiences, according to Mate-Kodjo, is one-on-one interaction with Ghanaians. Through those



relationships, Mate-Kodjo said students learn there is more to Africa than news of violence and crisis—and Ghanaian students care about many of the same things that are important to Central students. "I want them to learn that the world is bigger than they knew, but it is still the same world," Mate-Kodjo said. "People in Ghana are just like people in Iowa. They have many of the same aspirations and needs."

Lucas Lazenby '15, a biology student from Yale, Iowa, said he loved playing soccer with Ghanaians in summer 2012. Whether in the city, on the soccer field or at the beach, Lazenby said his Ghanaian friends set an example for what it means to treat someone as different but equal.

In the future, Mate-Kodjo hopes the Ghana program can expand and offer semester- or year-long studies in several fields so students can take advantage of the wide range of disciplines offered at the University of Ghana.

Several Central faculty and staff members visited Ghana in 2012 and 2013 to explore possibilities for biology courses, business internships and other studies. Semester-based programs would also allow students to use their financial aid in Ghana, which Mate-Kodjo hopes would increase enrollment.

of a big city—Singapore has more than 5 million people—and small-town life. For instance, he can walk to work in 15 minutes and enjoys never having to drive in traffic. In fact, he doesn't drive at all, saying there is no reason to have a car in Singapore because public transportation is so good. He also likes the fact that Singapore provides a convenient hub from which to travel the world—a flight to Australia takes only five hours.

McMorran still has the travel bug and tries to visit one new country every year, continuing his experience of living as a global citizen that began at Central. Today he says he “has no hesitation about living almost anywhere in the world. And I think that has to do with being exposed early to opportunities to study abroad while I was at Central.”

GLOBAL CAREER PATH

Stephanie Heiken '12 didn't expect that she could “translate her study abroad experiences into a career,” but the path she's charted since Central appears full of global possibilities.

The political science and Spanish double major recently completed a master's degree in foreign policy at American University in Washington, D.C. She is also an adoptions assistant at the U.S. Department of State, working on intercountry adoption issues for contractor Symtech Corporation.

“I knew starting as a political science major at Central that I was interested in foreign policy, especially focused in Latin America. And I knew from my study abroad experiences in Mexico and the Netherlands that I wanted international affairs to be the focus of my career,” Heiken says. Later, graduate study further solidified her career path. “My master's program developed a strong interest in national security and foreign policy development and implementation,” Heiken says.

Her experiences abroad proved helpful when it came time to apply to graduate programs. “Study abroad helped me enter grad school,” Heiken says. “The program that I recently completed is highly competitive, and study abroad helped me gain

relevant experiences and subject matter understanding to discuss in my application.”

While a Central student, Heiken studied in the Washington Center program in D.C. in fall 2010, in the Merida, Yucatan, program during spring 2010, and in Leiden, the Netherlands, in 2012.

“I had great advisors in Jim Zaffiro, professor of political science, and Eric Ladner, associate professor of Spanish, who encouraged me. I took a lot of initiative but Central faculty were very supportive and helped me find a way to make it all happen,” Heiken recalls. “I didn't know then that I could make study abroad into a career path.”

While on the Yucatan program, Heiken was encouraged by director Valerie Grimsley to consider a career in the Foreign Service with the Department of State. It was also in Mexico that Heiken became interested in international development and women's issues. She says, “I interned with a women's fair trade co-op in a small village

from Ireland, France, Belgium, Peru, China and other countries. There were also lots of opportunities to volunteer and get involved in the local culture.” One of her favorite assignments for the program was to explore a new city in the Netherlands and report on the experience to the class.

During her Washington Center semester, Heiken interned at Peace Corps Headquarters and saw first-hand how the federal government worked. “It was the perfect opportunity for someone interested in international affairs to gain real-world experience. I not only had the opportunity to intern with a federal government agency and take a course on international development, but I spent a semester with a cohort of similarly motivated individuals who continue today to shape my understanding of the world and the opportunities available for me.”

Heiken anticipates the next stop on her international career trajectory will be a position with the federal government. “I am currently a contractor so my next goal is to get a job with the federal government. I am particularly motivated by security and international policy analysis, so my heart is set on an analyst position with the Department of State, the Department of Defense or the Federal Bureau of Investigation.” Heiken also plans to take the Foreign Service Officer Test soon.

She says, “I am more passionate about international affairs and serving the federal government as a result of my study abroad and Washington Center experiences.” Each experience proved a stepping stone in a career path that is taking Heiken closer and closer to her dream job.

CONNECTING TO AN IDEAL INTERNSHIP

Experiences abroad act as a springboard for future career plans. Stephen Goethals, a 2014 graduate of Bradley University, recently spent spring semester abroad with Central's program in Vienna. As a television arts major, Goethals was interested in an internship that would provide

experience in his field as well as align with another of his passions: soccer.

Goethals explained to Ruth Verweijen, director of Central's Vienna program, that he wanted to intern with an Austrian soccer team. She made the connection, giving Goethals contact information for Peter Gretschhammer, the director of the youth academy for SK Rapid Wien, one of Vienna's two professional soccer teams. After meeting with Gretschhammer and showing him examples of his previous work, Goethals began attending youth team trainings to see how they could be filmed for use in promotional videos.

“After the Easter holiday I brought my camera to the trainings, spoke with the U9 trainers, and started collecting footage,” Goethals says. “After a couple of trainings I formed a general idea of how I wanted the video to be and decided to interview the coaches and kids. My German was really tested here and I really learned so much from it. I then edited the videos at home.”

“I PUT MY SKILLS TO USE THAT I LEARNED FROM GETTING MY DEGREE.”

Stephen Goethals

Through the process of making three videos, Goethals became experienced in molding raw footage into a film with a specific purpose. For instance, for the U15 team, a video featuring the international tournament had multiple objectives.

“When I got there on the first day, Gretschhammer talked to me and cleared up what exactly the new purpose of the video ought to be. The sponsors of the tournament have a contract with Rapid and he wanted the video to include all teams as well as the sponsors of this great event. The final product ended up being



snaps of footage from all teams that participated as well as giving credit to the sponsors accordingly,” Goethals says.

The internship has furthered Goethals' career goals by giving him the opportunity to create videos for a major sporting organization. “I was more or less given total freedom in how those videos turned out,” he says. “I put my skills to use that I learned from getting my degree.”

While he isn't yet sure exactly what career path he will pursue, Goethals' internship offered a great background in real-world media production, which is the field in which he hopes to work. “I have recently taken an interest in script writing and I have been looking for jobs and internships in radio because there is more of a focus on writing,” he says.

Goethals considers his internship the most valuable part of his study-abroad experience “because I was able to learn about Europe outside of the classroom,” he says. He encourages other students to seek out opportunities abroad that take them into the day-to-day life of the countries in which they are living.

“Travel, go on tours, learn about the history of other countries as well as the one you're studying in,” he says.

For Goethals, as well as other study abroad alums, their experiences have paved the way for a future as global citizens. Often, this mindset directly impacted their careers, taking them further than they dreamed was possible.

“IT WAS THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY FOR SOMEONE INTERESTED IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS TO GAIN REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE.”

Stephanie Heiken '12



Stephanie Heiken '12 works in Washington, D.C.



outside of Merida, where I gained an understanding of the relative position of women in rural Mexico for the first time.”

Heiken's interest in human rights was further fostered in Leiden, where she took a course in human rights, specifically the effect of conflict on children.

“I chose Leiden because it was advertised as a political science program. It was out of my comfort zone to study in Western Europe because most of my academic background was in Latin America,” Heiken says. “In Leiden you live in an international student dorm that is like a mini-U.N., with fellow students

WHERE ARE THEY NOW



ERIC SNEDDON served Central students as the London study abroad residential director from 2001 to 2009. Today, Sneddon still works in London—now as associate director for New York University's academic center.

Sneddon now oversees a much larger program—more than 450 undergraduates per semester—but said Central's small size is truly an asset.

"I am proud that I can still count former colleagues amongst my friends, and whenever

I meet (Central) program alums, there is an immediate happy bond through having a shared experience," Sneddon says.

Sneddon distinctly remembers the many different trips and excursions he led with students during his time abroad.

"I remember taking my Normandy 1944 class on their weekend field trip to France to visit the Norman beaches and battlefields," he says. "Lots of laughter and learning, mingled with somber reflections of what young men their age had endured in the cause of freedom—it added layers of emotional and factual comprehension to our textbooks and class-based learning."

To read the full Q&A with Eric Sneddon visit civitas.central.edu.

GEORGE ANN HUCK, professor emerita, served Central College students from 1968 to 2005 as the residential director in Merida, Yucatan. She experienced a number of changes to Central's program and within the country during those 37 years.

"From the moment of my first interviews with Central, I understood that curiosity and creativity were valued," says Huck. "Working abroad in areas of intercultural learning that were slowly integrated into academia also offered a career of endless learning opportunities and surprises."

Huck may have retired, but she has not slowed down. Her recent activities include directing the Association of Academic Programs in Latin America and the Caribbean (AAPLAC); founding the women's rights group Por Nuestros Derechos, Mujeres en Red; serving as vice president and climate change chairperson for environmental group Merida Verde; and writing a book, titled "Women of Yucatan: Thirty Who Dare to Change Their World," with Jann Freed '77, professor emerita at Central.

To read the full Q&A with George Ann Huck visit civitas.central.edu.



"From the moment of my first interviews with Central, I understood that curiosity and creativity were valued."

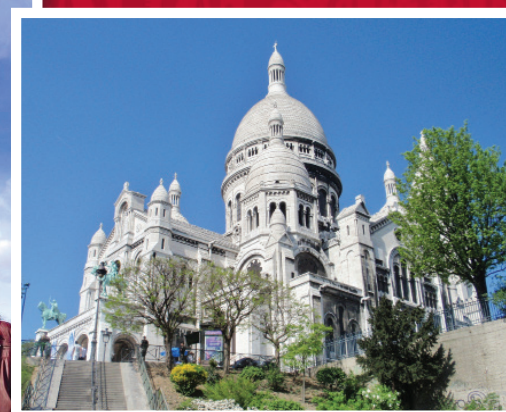
GEORGE ANN HUCK
CIVITAS.CENTRAL.EDU

"I am proud that I can still count former colleagues amongst my friends, and whenever I meet (Central) program alums, there is an immediate happy bond through having a shared experience."

ERIC SNEDDON

ALUMNI NEWSNOTES

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• **Ghana:** Summer 2018 • **China:** Summer 2018

THE '50S

Donald Bruggink '51 continues as senior research fellow at the Van Raalte Institute and gives overseas seminars for Western Seminary's Journey Overseas, which will take him to Venice, Tuscany and Umbria in September. As the general editor of the Historical Series of the RCA since its inception in 1968, Donald published its 80th title, the three-volume "Holland, Michigan From Dutch Colony to Dynamic City" by Robert P. Swierenga. Don and wife **Erma Van Roekel Bruggink '53** live in Holland, Mich.

John Hiemstra '52 credits Central College for giving a boy just off the farm the knowledge to take on the world—and he's

still doing it as minister of the Reformed Church in Closter, N.J. During his career in the ministry, John served as president of the General Synod of the Reformed Church, president of the New York State Council of Churches and president of the Classis of the Greater Palisades of the Reformed Church. This spring John was named the Bishop Wright Clergy of the Year by Christ for the World Chapel, a ministry of the Council of Churches of the City of New York. John and wife Norma live in West Nyack, N.Y.

THE '60S

Leslie Diehl '65 of Morris, N.Y., self-published the semi-autobiographical mystery "Murder is Academic," set on a

college campus in upstate New York. One of her publishers, Camel Press, released the second in the Eve Appel mystery series in July titled "Dead in the Water."

Marjorie Postma Vander Wagen '66 is pastor of outreach at Downers Grove Community Church in Downer's Grove, Ill., where she lives with husband **Robert Vander Wagen '64**. Marjorie was ordained as an RCA Minister of Word and Sacrament on March 29. Robert is the evening manager at Center Ice of Dupage in Glen Ellyn.

THE '70S

Patrick Smith '76 owns and operates Max Muscle Sports Nutrition North Phoenix, Ariz.

Alumni are invited to submit Newsnotes online. We want to hear about recent promotions, degrees, honors, relocations, marriages and births to keep classmates and friends informed about important changes in your life. Update information online at civitas.central.edu or email alumni@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.





CENTRAL BASEBALL REUNION IN TUCSON

Teresa Kehoe Dusil '81 and **Shannon Peck Judkins '87** were in Tucson, Ariz., over spring break to cheer on their sons **Ryan Dusil '14** and **Blake Judkins '17** and the Dutch baseball team, when they ran into their former golf coach Maurine Timmer. They are pictured (L-R): **Ryan Dusil '14**, **Teresa Kehoe Dusil '81**, Maurine Timmer, **Shannon Peck Judkins '87**, **Blake Judkins '17** and **Jordan Judkins '14**.

Patrick and wife Chris live in Cave Creek, Ariz.

Lisa Shaffer Migl '77 is senior market service representative at Cameron International Corp. in Houston, Texas, where she lives with husband Timothy.

THE '80S

Rod Overlander '82 owns and operates The Overlander Agency in Denton, Texas. Rod and wife **Linda Thomas Overlander '84** live in Argyle.

Marty Langel '85 is the human resource safety manager at McLanahan Corp. in Cedar Rapids, where he lives with wife Jan and their daughter.

Jay Sunderman '87 is a strategic business unit manager at Vermeer Corp. in Pella, where he lives with wife **Deborah Robus Sunderman '90**. Deb is an educator for the Pella Community School District. Jay and Deb are the parents of three daughters.

Carol Faber Carder '88 is a young fives' teacher at Holland Public Schools in Holland, Mich., where she lives with husband Brian.

Michael Eilers '89 is the operational risk manager at Wells Fargo Bank Iowa in Des Moines. Michael and wife **Amy Dietrich Eilers '88** are the parents of two sons and live in West Des Moines, where Amy is an executive hospital representative at Merck & Co.

Lisa Beaman Harsh '89 is a career liaison for Liberal Arts College at Black Hills State University in Spearfish, S.D., where she lives with husband Douglas.

Kristen Heerema '89 of Reisterstown, Md., is a product manager at SECU in Linthicum.

Chris Nou Her Xiong '89 is the founder and executive director of Hmong American Peach Academy. Chris, who came to the United States as a refugee in 1976 with no English skills, was the first Hmong teacher employed by the Milwaukee Public Schools and the first Hmong principal in the city of Milwaukee. Chris and husband Tou Bee live in Milwaukee, Wis.

THE '90S

For information about **Chris Stone '96** and **Eric Forsberg '99**, see the '00s.

Matthew Reimer '91 is the head men's basketball coach at St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, Minn. Matt and wife Tracy live in Annandale with their two daughters.

Terri Thomas Schofield '91 is the elementary school principal in Centerville. Terri and husband Daryl live in Albia with their three sons.

Bo White '93 is interim director of Study Abroad at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. Bo and wife Tamara live in Champaign with their two children.

Pamela Krug Helfer '95 is a post-award administrator at Iowa State University in Ames, where she lives with husband Wade and their two children.

William Snyders '95 is the management and program analyst with the United States Department of the Treasury: Bureau of Fiscal Service in Kansas City, Mo. William and wife Souhir live in Leawood with their daughter.

THE '00S

Angie Irelan Forsberg '00 opened her own dental practice, Pleasant Dental PC, in Pleasant Hill. Angie and husband **Eric Forsberg '99** live with their son in Altoona, where Eric has his dental practice at Altoona Smiles PC.



WINDT AND SHEEHAN WED

Craig Windt '95 and William Sheehan of Bay City, Mich., were married June 12. Craig teaches history in the Bay City School District. Central College attendees (left to right): **Laura Dillon-Binkley '96**, **Dionne Wesley Makila '93**, **Craig Windt '95**, William Sheehan and **Stephen McWilliams '96**.

Megan Alvarado '01 of Bettendorf is a data coordinator at John Deere Headquarters in Moline.

Denise Barnard '02 of Iowa City is a senior academic advisor at the University of Iowa.

Krista Rankin White '02 is the ministry coordinator at Lutheran Church of Hope in West Des Moines. Krista and husband Kadin live in Ankeny with their daughters.

Clifford Houseman '04 is a neurosurgeon at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, in Nashville, Tenn.

Katie Vander Linden Hughes '04 is the marketing analytics manager at Farm Bureau Financial Services. Katie and husband Robert live in West Des Moines.

DeAnne King Negley '04 and husband **David Negley '04** live in Winterset. Her debut novels, "Love Always," "Kate" and "The Spirit," published by Limitless Publishing, were released in April. DeAnne writes under the pen name d. Nichole King.

Rebecca Hedges Pospisal '04 is the director of quality improvement at Easter Seals in Des Moines. Rebecca and husband Andrew live in Clive with their daughter.

Kelli Debeer Stravers '05 is a compliance analyst at Sammons Annuity Group in West Des Moines. Kelli and husband Justin live in Clive with their daughter.

Laura Van Utrecht Anderson '06 is an audit team administrator at TD&T CPA's and Advisors in Oskaloosa, where she lives with husband **Nicholas Anderson '06** and their daughter. Nicholas is a product analyst at Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Co.

Andrew Axt '06 of Seattle, Wash., is a sales manager at Endura Technical Cycling Apparel.

Adam Gregg '06 announced his candidacy for attorney general for the State of Iowa and received the nomination at the Republican State Convention. Adam was a member of the senior staff handling legislative liaison duties from the governor's office. Adam and wife **Cari Rehder Gregg '07** live in Johnston. Cari is employed by Wells Fargo Bank.

Matthew Harre '06 is a product support specialist at Commerce Bank in Kansas City, Mo. Matthew and wife Rhonda live in Lee's Summit with their son.

Joshua Wignall '06 of Nixa, Mo., is a planning manager at EFCO in Monett.

Dan Buis '07 of Des Moines is an account manager at Marsh and McLennan Co.'s.

Sarah Butterfield '07 and Carlos Diaz of Columbia, South America, were married Dec. 1, 2013. Sarah and Carlos are involved in missionary and volunteer work in the area.

Emily Markey Manuel '07 teaches English at Legend High School in Parker, Colo. Emily and husband Eric live in Denver.

Brandon O'Neill '07 and Jordan Jesse of Pawtucket, R.I., were married July 10, 2010. Brandon is the director of strength and conditioning at Brown University in Providence.

Trenton Blythe '08 is associate director of advancement at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Trenton and wife **Molly Lehr Blythe '08** live in Oak Park. Molly teaches music education at St. John Berchmans School in Chicago.

Lindsay Kelderhouse '08 of West Lafayette, Ind., is an odyssey postdoctoral

fellow at MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Allison Klett '08 and Adam Cooke of Sanborn were married March 8. Allison is the chamber director and coordinator for the City of Sheldon.

Katie Petty '08 graduated from the Aveda Institute Des Moines in January with a degree in cosmetology. Katie is a cosmetologist at Shear Genius in Pella, where she lives with her son.

Masse Carr Poetting '08 is an athletic academic coordinator at Iowa State University in Ames. Masse and husband **David Poetting '09** live in Ankeny. David is an associate hvac sales engineer at Johnson Controls Inc. in Urbandale.

Lacey Ritscher '08 of Royal Oak, Mich., is a registered nurse at St. John Hospital and Medical Center in Detroit.

Drew Wilson '08 is a technology solutions senior associate at McGladrey Pullen in Eden Prairie, Minn.

Kapil Chugh '09 of Iowa City is a computer programmer at the University of Iowa.

Bryanne Hensley '09 of West Des Moines is a minister for children at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Ankeny.

THE '10S

Keeley Carson '10 of Milwaukee, Wis., handles the social media and content marketing for Best Online Universities, based in Chicago.

Anshul Kumaria '10 of West Des Moines is the systems engineer at Meredith Corp. and tech guy at Digmaa.

Sara Mouw '10 and Greg O'Brien of Muscatine were married May 17. Sara is an eMarketing specialist at The HON Co.

Jenna Vik '10 and David Bonofiglio of Milwaukee, Wis., were married Oct. 12, 2013. Jenna teaches Spanish at Dominican High School and musical theater at Final Stage Children's Theater Co. Recently Jenna appeared in the stage production of "Jesus Christ Superstar."

Caitlin Dau '11 accepted a position with the Cultural and Intensive English Program at the University of Northern Iowa. Last summer Caitlin spent four weeks in Dongguan, China, with a group of UNI teachers exploring the culture and teaching English at summer camps.

Rachel Davy '11 of Evans, Ga., is a mortgage loan processor at First Bank Mortgage in Augusta.

Ashley Ellingson '11 of West Des Moines is an account services executive at Performance Marketing.

Curtis Hobbs '11 accepted a position as

juvenile court specialist for the Iowa Judicial Branch in Fort Dodge.

Jonathan Lindstrom '11 is a first delivery coordinator at Williams Co.'s in Tunkhannock, Pa. Jonathan and wife **Rachel Jordan Lindstrom '10** live in Bellefonte.

Tara Prine '11 and Sean Kelly of Minneapolis, Minn., were married June 21. Tara is a training and documentation specialist at Target Corp. in Brooklyn Park.

Ashley Tapper '11 is a physical therapist assistant, ATC and LAT at 21st Century Rehab at Greene County Medical Center in Jefferson.

Hunter McGee '12 of Okazaki, Japan, teaches English in Yamanashi through a company called AEON Amity, which specializes in teaching children and teens.

Chelsea Grieger Toppin '12 is writing and editing for Jackson's International Auctioneers and Appraisers of Fine Art and Antiques in Cedar Falls, where she lives with husband **Curt Toppin '11**. Curt is a software analyst at Overland Conveyor.

Tyler Wentworth '12 of Muscatine is the digital marking and branding manager at the Geneva Golf and Country Club and emarketing specialist at The HON Co. in Muscatine.

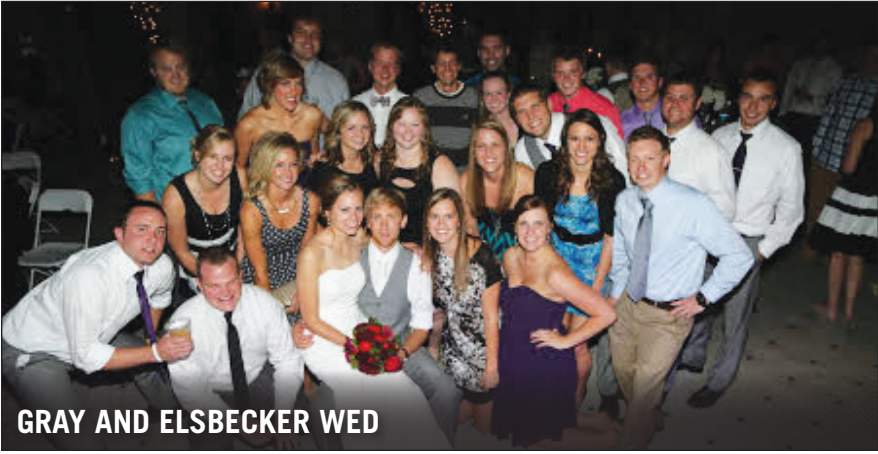
Sarah Benson '13 has begun graduate school at the University of Missouri majoring in German.

Heather Binkley '13 of Johnston is a girl services manager at Girl Scouts of Greater Iowa in Clive and a secretary and committee member for the Metro Arts Alliance.

Jordan Foreman '13 of Ankeny is a full-stack web developer at Meredith Corp.

Travis Hook '13 of Clifton Park, N.Y., is an underground/HDD specialist for the Vermeer Northeast dealership in Albany, where he covers the entire New York and New England area.

Allison Jensen '13 of Waterloo is a student



Megan Gray '12 and **Zach Elsbecker '11** of Ankeny were married Sept. 14, 2013. Zach is the assistant sports director at Iowa Sports Foundation and Megan is a supported community living specialist with On With Life, working with people who survived brain injuries. Pictured first row (left to right): **Tanner Vander Weerdt '11**, **Max Miller '11**, **Megan Gray Elsbecker '12**, **Zach Elsbecker '11**, **Courtney Van Wyk '12** and **Sarah Shimon '12**. Second row: **Devin Delvaux '11**, **Kristen Borcharding '11**, **Sadie Siefken Meints '11**, **Amanda Tower '12**, **Melanie Hopkins '12**, **Tyler Halcomb '11**, **Jill Ziskovsky Halcomb '11**, **Kyle Craig '11** and **Spencer Meyer '12**. Third row: **Elizabeth Cook Ellingson '12**, **Greg Ellingson '13**, **Billy Boyle '11**, **Joe Russell '11**, **Kaurie Kincaid '13**, **Marko Marinkovich '11**, **Ricky Boyle '14**, **Brad Rulon '11**, **Jake Gillespie '12** and **Quinn Adair '11**.

life and alumni coordinator at Allen College-Unity Point Health.

Emma Putnam '13 of Des Moines is a freelance photographer and artist at Four Fish Studio.

Cameron Van Kooten '13 of Schenectady, N.Y., is administrator of the Lunn Cooperative, funded by the First Reformed Church of Schenectady.

ADVANCED DEGREES

Marjorie Postma Vander Wagen '66, masters of divinity degree, McCormick

Theological Seminary, May.

Patrick Smith '76, certification, sports nutrition, International Society of Sports Nutrition, May, 2013.

Laura Van Utrecht Anderson '04, master's degree, business administration, Drake University, Dec. 2009.

Rebecca Linacre Tenckinck '04, master's degree, early childhood education, Northcentral University, Feb. 2013.

Dan Franson '07, master of industrial design, North Carolina State University, May.

Lindsay Kelderhouse '08, doctorate, chemistry, Purdue University, Feb. 2014.

Ask an Alum:

How did studying abroad influence your career path?



Angela Sanger '95 always knew she wanted to travel abroad, but she didn't seriously consider living abroad full-time until she experienced life in two other countries. She studied in London and spent two years teaching English in Japan as part of the JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching) program. Today, Sanger lives in Italy with her Italian husband and works in IT.

Sanger says her study abroad experience helped her land her first job—at an IT company. “I knew nothing about IT,” she says. “I was hired, they said, because I was a certain type of person and that I could learn the rest. Still today, I am hired for the same reason—thanks certainly to my experiences living abroad, my liberal arts education and my upbringing. I am still in IT and get to work with teams of people from all different corners of the world.”

As a general studies major at Central, Sanger focused on business management and communications, but says “my love was theater.” Today, her job requires her to use the problem-solving and communications skills she learned during her Central education. Her job involves organizing website creation, and she says, “The next time you go online to buy your favorite clothes or something for your house, think about the army of people who put those sites together. I work in that army helping to organize and get the job done.”

The aspect of living abroad that has most surprised Sanger is “how little we as Americans know about the rest of the world, while the rest of the world knows quite a lot about us.” She likes the pace of Italian life. “People take time to visit, cook meals from scratch, walk for hours with no particular destination and sit to watch the farmers trim the grapevines,” she says. Sanger also finds it interesting to see big American celebrities in foreign advertisements. She says, “In Italy, Kevin Costner does commercials promoting canned tuna, while Penelope Cruz promotes fizzy water.”

son Daniel Mason, March 6
Cole '01 and **Sarah Wood Van Vark '02**, daughter Paige Blakely, May 12
Leif and **Angela Willis Carlson '02**, son Shane Alexander, March 11
Ashley and **Patrick Sawyer '02**, son Russell Joseph, March 7
Ryan '02 and **Bethany Berkenbosch Thompson '05**, son Isaiah Ryan, March 17
Kadin and **Krista Rankin White '02**, daughter Zoe Isabel, March 19, 2013
Zack '03 and **Stacy Bartelt Thompson '05**, daughter Cora Kathleen, Feb. 16
Adam and **Krystle Bosch Allison '04**, son Leo Samuel, Nov. 12
Dan '04 and **Jaime Anderson Caffrey '04**, son Bryce Anderson, May 15
Matthew and **Raven Vos Cross '04**, daughter Sophia JoAnn, April 14
Andrew and **Rebecca Hedges Pospisal '04**, daughter Noel Skype, Nov. 22
Michielsen and **Rebecca Linacre Tenckinck '04**, daughter Mikah Louise, April 1
Jordan and **Laura Kercheval Wagner '04**, daughter Wren Willamae, Dec. 30
Wes and **Laura Petty Wickham '04**, daughter Hadley Grace, April 16
Nicholas '06 and **Laura Van Utrecht Anderson '06**, son Wyatt James, July 5, 2013
Stephanie and **Ben Bollard '07**, son Cooper Paul, April 18
Nick '07 and **Kelsey Rethmeier Mulder '09**, son Kase Larry, March 3
Haley and **Greg Altmaier '08**, daughter Willow Marie, May 12

Keith '08 and **Mary Swanson Pedersen '08**, daughter Samantha Mae, March 27

IN MEMORIAM

Esthermae Wierman Ehler '42 of Sheboygan, Wis., June 5
Edmund Gardiner '42 of Eugene, Ore., March 27
Dorothy Vander Ploeg Kallemyn '43 of Des Moines, June 8
Virginia Kempkes Vermeer '43 of Pella, March 20
Virgil Vander Linden '46 of Pella, March 9
Lois Vander Kooi Lubbers '49 of Connersville, Ind., June 30, 2013
Louis Branning '50 of Bradenton, Fla., May 30
Eugene DeWild '50 of Belmar, N.J., June 7
Julia Koehler Boekelman '51 of Fort Dodge, May 3
Kenneth Abbas '54 of Knoxville, Tenn., Jan. 17
Raymond Den Adel '54 of Pella, April 25
Richard Evers '54 of Citrus Heights, Calif., March 2
Arnold Ver Hoef '55 of Sioux Center, March 14
Mary Howard Van Wyk '69 of South Plainfield, N.J., May 10
Barbara Stob '74 of Warrenville, Ill., May 19
Mark Lebeck '91 of Eldridge, March 9
Andrea Parrott-Ondarza '00 of Fort Worth, Texas, May 3

Masse Carr Poetting '08, master's degree, higher education, Iowa State University, 2011.
Jessica Clark Cewe '09, doctorate in osteopathic medicine, Des Moines University, May 25.
Lauren Setterdahl '12, associate of science, physical therapist assistant, Mercy College of Health Sciences, April 25.
Caitlin Dau '11, master's degree, teaching English to speakers of other languages, University of Northern Iowa, May.



Alison Van Vark '01, M.B.A., University of Chicago Booth School of Business, June 2014. Pictured with **Kris DeWild '90** and **Dale DeWild**.

ARRIVALS

Marcus Krolloff '01 and **Lyndsay Kooistra '02**,

Study Abroad Alum: Leiden Adventure Leads to Job

Studying abroad is often the catalyst to a career. That was the case for Luke Ridout, an alum of Central's Leiden program who graduated from Calvin College in 2011. Ridout, an English and Dutch language and culture major, studied with Central in spring 2010. His experience abroad led directly to a job in the Netherlands soon after graduation.

“Due to the international experience and language skills I built while studying abroad, I got the opportunity to teach secondary school full-time back in the Netherlands,” Ridout says. He taught at Wartburg Secondary School near Rotterdam, where he instructed in English.

While studying abroad with Central, Ridout made connections that enabled him to achieve the teaching position. He says, “I gained international experience and contacts that I can use in international business and interacting with international clients. Additionally, learning to be adaptable in new circumstances has

endless applications in all types of professions, no matter what field you're in.”

In addition to his professional connections, Ridout values the small aspects of Leiden living he experienced. “Simply learning how to live daily life in the country that I had intensively studied, but never visited, was unforgettable,” he says. “I still remember the magical feeling of my first view of Leiden's canals on a snowy winter's day.”

The Dutch art scene also thrilled Ridout, and he says, “Having Steef (Eman, director of Central College in Leiden) be your personal art history guide in the Rijksmuseum and Mauritshuis was enthralling for me, a Dutch culture major. Having the top paintings from the 17th century within a half-hour train ride was unbelievable!”



ANSWER THE CALL, IT COULD BE ME!

The annual Central College phonathon kicks off September 7 to raise funds for the Journey Scholarship Fund. Our student callers are looking forward to speaking with you and hearing about your Central experience.

I truly appreciate the generous donations to the Journey Scholarship Fund. Thanks to support by friends and alumni, Central is opening doors for me that I didn't even know were possibilities.

Darcy Baker '16, Indianola, Iowa

THE GIVE IT TWICE TRUST

Looking for a way to help secure your family's future while making a gift to Central College? *The Give it Twice Trust* is a popular option that allows you to transfer your IRA at death to a term of years unitrust. The unitrust will pay income to your family for a set number of years and then distribute the balance to Central.

BENEFITS OF A GIVE IT TWICE TRUST

- Full value of IRA invested to produce income.
- Payments made to your children for up to 20 years.
- Estate and income tax savings for your gift.

HOW IT WORKS

- A typical estate plan will first transfer a portion of the estate outright to children.
- Then the IRA or other assets are transferred to fund a term of years charitable remainder trust at death.
- Because the unitrust is tax-exempt, no income tax is paid when the IRA is distributed to the trust.
- Full value of IRA is invested and pays income to children up to 20 years.
- At the end of this time, the trust remainder is distributed to Central as a charitable gift.

HOW THIS PLAN MEETS YOUR GOALS

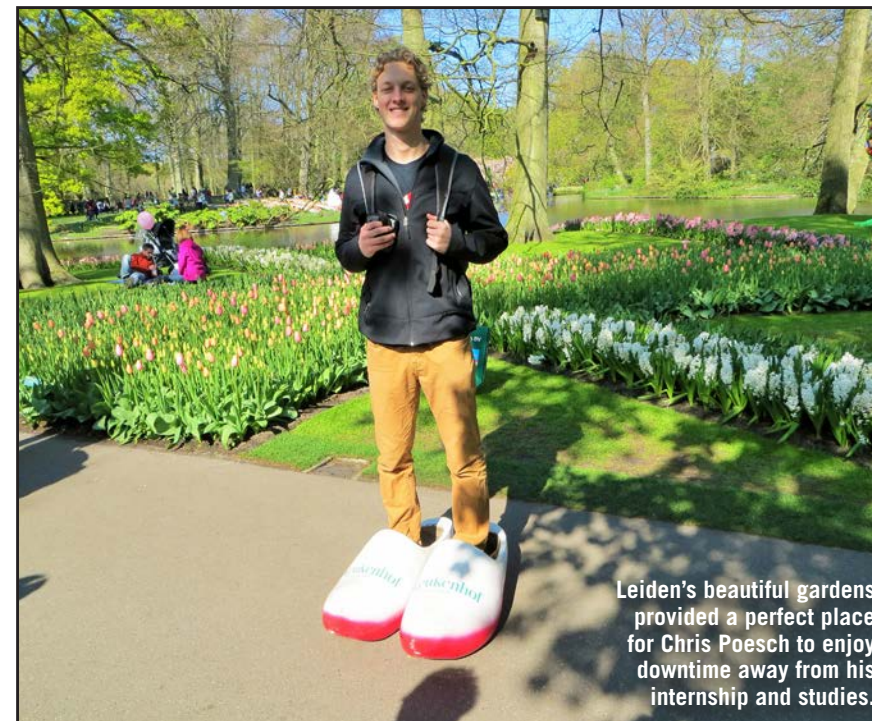
- Provides way to help secure your family's future while also making a charitable gift. In effect, the property is used twice.
- Provides valuable savings on income and estate taxes.
- Transfers equal value to your children over a number of years through regularly scheduled payments.
- Ensures the value of your IRA will not be spent down quickly.

To learn more about how the Give it Twice Trust may work for you, please contact Don Morrison at (641) 628-5280 or morrisond@central.edu.

Diving into Dutch Insurance Company

Chris Poesch '15 combined studying in a new country with his first internship and found insight into his career path.

by Jenni Hodges



Leiden's beautiful gardens provided a perfect place for Chris Poesch to enjoy downtime away from his internship and studies.

The first weeks of a new job can be stressful for anyone, and interns often learn this as part of their first work experience. For Central College accounting major Chris Poesch '15, these first weeks on the job were combined with his first time in a new country—the Netherlands. "It was kind of scary at first," Poesch says. "It was my first internship; I was in a new country, and the project was really tough to complete."

Poesch, a Central senior from Waverly, Iowa, worked in the finance department for insurance company Aegon in spring 2014. His assignment,

after two weeks of intensive Dutch language study, was to simplify Aegon's corporate cost sharing program. After learning the existing files thoroughly, Poesch spent two months designing a new version that was easier to understand.

Stormi Peterson '15, also an accounting major at Central, helped Poesch land the internship. Peterson worked for Aegon the previous spring and referred Poesch to her internship supervisors in the Netherlands.

According to Poesch, the opportunity to study and work abroad presented a tough decision, but the

benefits were overwhelming. "I was concerned about falling behind," Poesch says, "but I think the skills I gained from studying in a completely different country can't be matched."

The highlight for Poesch was experiencing the everyday realities of a business environment. He worked at Aegon's corporate center and said it was eye-opening to work with many experienced and intelligent people. "It was my first time in a professional environment," Poesch says. "I think I grew a lot."

Poesch also enjoyed getting to know Dutch coworkers and experiencing their

"I think the skills I gained from studying in a completely different country can't be matched."

Chris Poesch '15

unique work environment. Poesch said he was surprised how relaxed the workplace could be, recalling a day when corporate leaders gathered everyone to celebrate the fourth quarter report and ended the workday at noon to eat and drink together.

Poesch said the internship also enlightened his thinking about a future career. "Before this, I wasn't sure if I wanted to get a job in accounting," Poesch said. "This showed me that I really do enjoy my major."



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Alumni Spotlight

Bilingual and Loving It

by Cindy Deppe

Katie Huff '11 uses her
language skills on the job.



Her French skills, honed through language exchanges during a semester abroad in Paris with Central College, got Katie Huff '11 her first job and recently a promotion, with opportunities to travel internationally.

The business management major with minors in French and economics is currently pursuing an M.B.A. while working as a bilingual dealer service representative for John Deere Financial in Johnston. Soon, she will become a John Deere Financial credit analyst, "getting

to work on the construction and forestry side."

In her current work, the Loveland, Colo., native is the main point of contact for John Deere dealers who sell John Deere equipment and have billing issues to resolve. "I was hired because I spoke French and they were transitioning the group that supports the Quebec dealers from the Canada office to the Johnston office," Huff says. "There are so many aspects of the business, like exchange rate differences and pricing, that you just don't think about. It really interests me to learn about the cultural differences in all of these countries."

Huff has travelled to Ontario and India for John Deere and says having previous travel experience was a key factor in getting selected for those opportunities to travel abroad for work.

"My study abroad experiences help me to not make assumptions about people and cultures. I wouldn't have felt confident in my French speaking abilities without the Central abroad experience. It definitely helped me to get the job," Huff says.

"Study abroad makes you more well-rounded. You mature and learn about yourself and your interests. Having a

native French roommate and taking a variety of classes in French with other international students was the most memorable part of the experience for me—you interact with native speakers who want to improve their English and you gain so much by spending time with them."

Huff's only regret is that she couldn't fit another study abroad experience into her busy schedule. "I wish I could go back and do a second semester abroad. You never get another opportunity to immerse yourself in the culture and study. The next time you go, you will be working so you can't explore the way you can as a student. When you study abroad, you make the most of the opportunities."

Huff managed to make the most of her own travel experience while completing a major and two minors. She also played volleyball, worked in the admission office, tutored fellow economics students and balanced three internships, including one for the Central College Abroad office.

"I was very busy as a Central student, but you can do it all and still fit in study abroad," Huff says. "It's about the whole experience, and I wouldn't trade that experience for anything."

Huff's ambitions continue—she expects to finish her M.B.A. in three years, while learning her new job and, not surprisingly, also plans to take advantage of an international educational experience offered through the graduate program.