

# Civitas

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Engineering is a new major  
option for students



# STEM

IN THE CLASSROOM, THE FIELD,  
THE BOARDROOM AND BEYOND

# STEM in the Context of the Liberal Arts

by Mark Putnam, Central College president



The leading conversation in educational circles these days is about STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Though the public policy discourse is mostly about jobs and the economy, educators approach this with a more nuanced perspective. We often hear that future jobs are in STEM fields. Analysts suggest STEM industries will drive our economy. There are likely some elements of truth in these statements, but should we simply train a legion of technicians?

I have the privilege of serving on the Executive Committee for the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council. It's a fascinating experience to be in conversation with business leaders, educators at all levels and government officials on promoting academic

programs, curricular innovations and educational activities in support of STEM.

The STEM Council's definition of STEM is: "an interdisciplinary approach to learning where rigorous academic concepts are coupled with real-world lessons as students apply science, technology, engineering and mathematics in contexts that make connections between school, community, work and the global enterprise, enabling the development of STEM literacy and with it, the ability to compete in the new economy."

There are three elements of this definition that have become most important for me. First, the definition begins with the word "interdisciplinary." An enlightened understanding of STEM acknowledges the creativity

and innovation we seek to foster in students cannot be achieved without a broad, liberal education. STEM education cannot be experienced in isolation from the humanities, arts, social sciences and professional fields of study. Everything has context, and if we expect our graduates to address global and societal challenges, then they need to understand humanity in the light of deeply held values, aesthetics and social and historical settings.

Second, the definition refers to the "connections" across the major sectors of society. Here again we task ourselves with avoiding isolation. The more perspectives we embrace, the better we will become at integrating and aligning interests. For many years, our Central College faculty have organized the curriculum around the concept of "Intersections." From beginning to end, we seek to draw students into a complex set of interactions that will enable them to see how interdependent we really are in the global context.

Third, our definition aims at the goal of "STEM literacy." The council realizes that not everyone can or should pursue a career in a narrowly defined STEM pathway. It's not only unrealistic, it would be incredibly unhealthy. That said, the argument for broadly defined STEM literacy is compelling. As a society, we will face many choices in the years to come in order to balance interests — economic, environmental and ethical. Everyone should be part of that conversation, even as some focus their efforts on specific applications.

Read more of Mark Putnam's writings in President's Corner at [civitas.central.edu](http://civitas.central.edu).





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Students interested in engineering can now earn a B.S. degree at Central.

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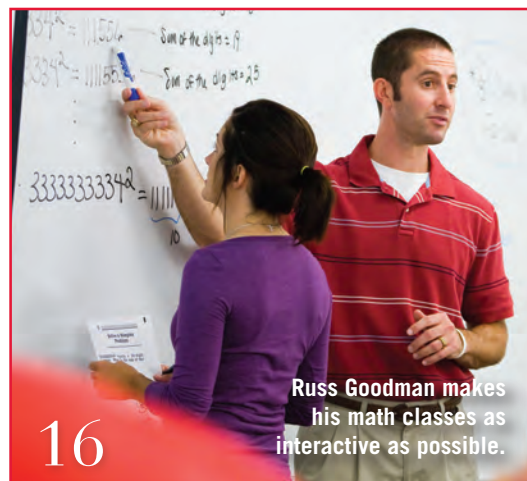
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## CAMPUS UPDATES UNDERWAY



Ron and Joyce Schipper Stadium received a facelift this summer, and the organic garden (right) expanded with more growing space.



Summer brought many changes to campus. The outdoor patio of Maytag Student Center was renovated through the Class of 2015's gift to the college. The patio was not included in a recent \$3.125 million renovation of Maytag Student Center but is attached to the new campus restaurant, Fred's. The renovation created a multi-faceted gathering place ideal for live music events, studying or connecting with classmates outdoors.

Central's organic garden was also refreshed. Ames Construction, which is working on the Lake Red Rock

Hydroelectric Project, donated employees' time and effort to enlarge the garden by removing a house, shed and trees, then re-grading a large section of land. In addition to more space for growing vegetables and herbs, plans include construction of an outdoor classroom.

Ron and Joyce Schipper Stadium was also the site of major improvements, including a new entrance. Athletics director Eric Van Kley said a brick-pillared entry that mirrors the entryways for campus will be installed at the southeast corner of the field, with an archway

similar to one near the college chapel. New fencing will surround the stadium.

The gravel drive at the south end of the stadium is being replaced by a paved path that will provide handicapped accessibility for the visiting team bleachers to the west. Gravel behind the east-side grandstand and bleachers will be replaced by a plaza featuring a combination of grass, trees and concrete.

The service drive for support and emergency vehicles, as well as visiting team buses, is also being reconfigured for easier access, with additional handicapped-accessible parking for Schipper Stadium



and the softball field. The softball field will also feature a new handicapped-accessible ramp, which will provide a smoother entrance for all fans. The upgrade is part of an ongoing series of improvements at A.N. Kuyper Athletics Complex.

## MOCK TRIAL CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Central's mock trial team celebrated 30 years on May 9 with a reception and dinner in Maytag Student Center. Special guest Don Racheter, former professor of political science and founder of mock trial, gave a presentation to former and current mock trial members.

## CENTRAL COMMUNITY GETS HANDS-ON FOR SERVICE DAY

Students, faculty and staff joined together to complete more than 60 community service projects in central Iowa on Service Day April 21. Since 2006, the college has set aside a day each year to connect members of campus to each other and dozens of community partners.

Organized through Community-Based Learning, the half- and full-day projects ranged from sorting food donations to planting flowers in a community garden. More than 700 volunteers participated.

Several professors led students in projects related to their fields. Students interested in special education visited Courage League Sports in Des Moines with professor of education Esther Streed to work one-on-one with adults with disabilities. First-year students who helped design murals for Homestead of Knoxville painted the assisted living facility library with associate professor of art Mat Kelly, and associate professor of exercise science John Roslien's angling class took local seventh graders fishing.

## TITLE IX INVESTIGATORS TRAINED AT CENTRAL

Central College hosted Title IX investigators from colleges across the country for Association of Title IX Administrators (ATIXA) training April

Photos by Mary Benedict



Rev. Ellen Nolte Racheter, Don Racheter, John Fisher '87 and Bill Northup '83 celebrated 30 years of Central mock trial.



Mock trial team members (back) Jordan Rouse '16, Michaela Van Dusseldorp '18, Skylar McCombs '18, Katelyn Gatzke '17, (front) Dan Dankert '16, Rachel Pearson '15 and Molly Ward '15.

13-14. Nearly 30 institutions, from Michigan to California, were represented by 175 administrators who participated, and 15 Central College representatives were certified.

Peggy Fitch, Central's Title IX coordinator and vice president for student development, said hosting the conference allowed Central to train a large team of responders for sexual and relationship misconduct cases and receive expert recommendations based on case studies. "Training people to investigate these cases thoroughly, accurately and

fairly is absolutely essential," Fitch said. "The reason we do this is to better serve students, and employees and the campus community."

At Central, Fitch was named Title IX coordinator in fall 2014 and accepted responsibility for training Central faculty, staff and students. She leads a team of 18 faculty and staff members trained to investigate any claims of sexual and relationship misconduct.

by Larry Happel '81

## A CENTRAL LIFE: EDWARDS RETIRES AFTER 43 YEARS



**John Edwards**

Transitioning from 43 years as a Central College staff member and a 47-year affiliation with the Dutch, associate athletics director for operations John Edwards retired in June.

But Edwards's passion for Central athletics will continue, as will some limited duties in which he will ensure that the A.N. Kuyper Athletics Complex baseball and softball fields are kept in pristine condition.

A 1972 Central graduate, Edwards earned eight varsity letters in football and baseball. He was selected three consecutive years to the NAIA District 15 all-area baseball team and to the NAIA all-America squad in 1970.

He was Central's head baseball coach for 25 years (1978-2002) and was an assistant football coach — primarily working with the offensive line — for 24 seasons (1973-96). Edwards was an admission office staff member for 23

years, eventually serving as associate director, before moving to the athletics department full-time. He was Central's interim athletics director for the 1996-97 academic year and 2005-06.

"For 43 years, John has been a tremendous ambassador for Central College and for serving our student-athletes," said athletics director Eric Van Kley. "He has a tireless work ethic and a deep commitment to Central students."

"It's people that have kept me here over the years," Edwards said. "The thing I still like and will miss the most is being around the kids. The relationships you build with them. You see these students grow and blossom into pretty good athletes and even better leaders and people."

*Read more about John Edwards at [central.edu/civitas](http://central.edu/civitas).*

### CENTRAL CAPTURES 32ND MEN'S GOLF TITLE

Never threatened over 72 holes, Central posted a 29-shot victory in claiming its 32nd Iowa Conference men's golf championship and its sixth in the past seven years.

That resulted in the program's 33rd appearance in the NCAA Division III tournament, competing at Greensboro, N.C., where the Dutch finished 16th, missing the 36-hole cut by just a shot.

But conference MVP senior Desmond Stoll advanced as an individual, tying for 34th at 73-73-75-

78—299. Stoll was the league medalist with 76-71-70-72—289, eight shots better than senior Adam Squires, the runner-up. Senior Jon Prescott was eighth and senior Clay Curwin was ninth. All four were named to the Ping Division III All-Central Region team.

It was a dominant season for coach Chad Green's squad, which took titles in tournaments hosted by Illinois-Springfield, Webster (Mo.), Loras and Central, while placing second in the 20-team Illinois Wesleyan Invitational.

### RECORD 27TH NCAA SOFTBALL BERTH FOR CENTRAL SOFTBALL

It was another top-10 finish for the Central softball team.

The Dutch were No. 10 in the final NFCA Division III poll after reaching the final 16 of the NCAA Division III tournament. Central, which gained a record 27th NCAA tourney berth by winning the league tournament at Decorah, captured the four-team Pella regional before falling in the super regional to Linfield (Ore.).

A 10-player senior class — the largest in program history — led an assault on the record books. Designated player Karlee Rock and second baseman Abbey Strajack were first-team all-America honorees. Rock shattered season marks for home runs (15) and RBIs (59). Strajack set season and career records for hits and runs and hit a career-best .410. Third baseman



Whitney Sowers set season and career on-base percentage marks.

Rock, Strajack, Sowers and pitcher Mallory Schulenberg were all-region picks. They were also all-conference honorees, along with junior shortstop Paige Schreiner.

## CENTRAL REGAINS MEN'S TRACK CROWN

It was a return to the top for the Central men's track and field team, and the Dutch women's squad was not far behind.

The men scored 213 points and regained the Iowa Conference outdoor crown, its fifth in the last seven years, while the women rolled up 147.75 points for second place.

Central was dominant in the men's distance events. Junior Cole Decker swept the 5,000- and 10,000-meter runs and senior Timothy Shepherd was the 3,000-meter steeplechase victor. Junior Dan Roerman took the 110-meter hurdles, senior Eric Larson won the long jump and the 4x800 relay team of freshman Mark Fairley, senior Jamie Vander Veer, senior Eli Horton and Jackson was first.

Junior Abi Davis again shined in the women's sprints, sweeping the 100 and 200 and teaming with senior Allie McBroom, junior Monica Ruiz and freshman Kate Patton to take the 4x100 relay, then joining senior Camie Kibbee, junior Ashlee Downs and McBroom to win the 4x400. McBroom also captured the 400.

Larson closed a spectacular career by overcoming injury to take sixth in the men's decathlon at the NCAA Division III meet in Canton, N.Y. A two-time national champ, he earned all-America distinction for the fifth time. Decker was also an all-American, finishing eighth in the 10,000 meters.

## THREE ALL-CONFERENCE IN MEN'S TENNIS

Junior West Adelman was named to the all-Iowa Conference men's tennis squad for the third time, earning the distinction in both singles and doubles.



Senior Drew Jackson celebrates crossing the finish line with senior Timothy Shepherd as Shepherd takes the Iowa Conference title in the 3,000-meter steeplechase.

Senior Tim Kahl was also cited in doubles while senior Josh Forst was tabbed in singles. Freshman Jimmy Cunningham received honorable mention.

The Dutch were 8-9 overall but 5-2 in league play for third place under first-year coach Ryun Ferrell.

## DUTCH RALLY FOR THIRD-PLACE BASEBALL FINISH

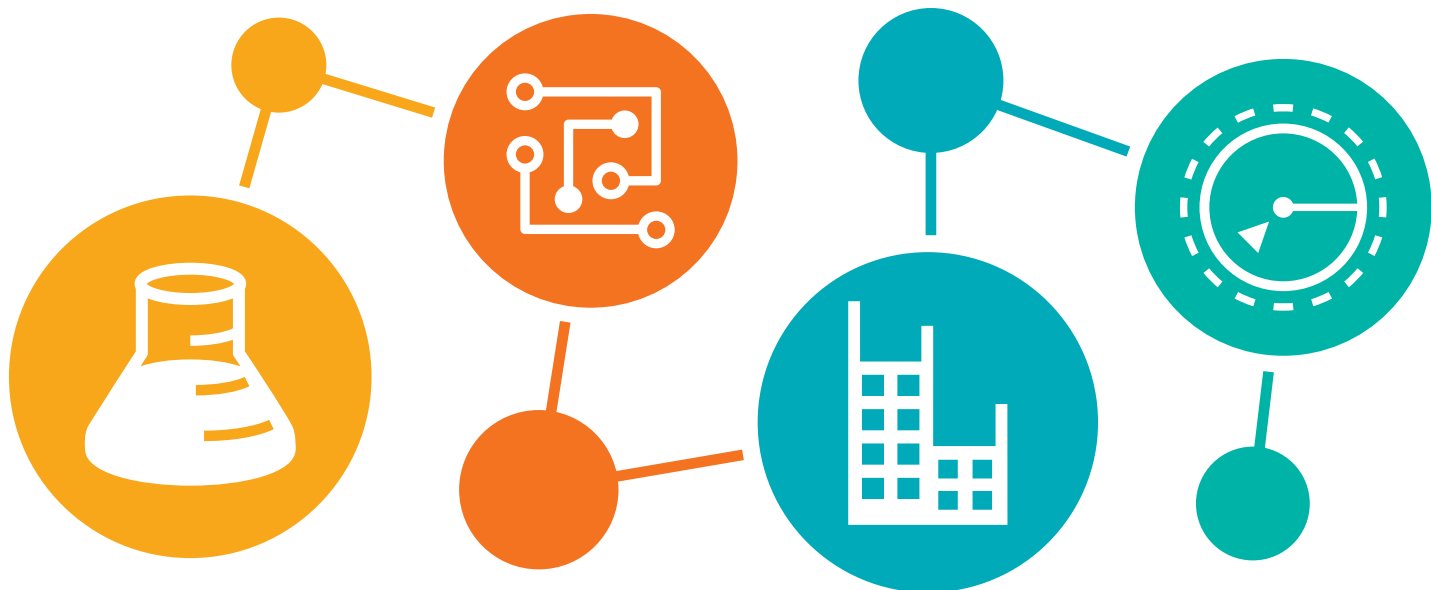
Overcoming heavy graduation losses and injuries, new Central baseball coach Matt Schirm piloted the Dutch to a third-place Iowa Conference finish.

Closing at 22-21 overall, Central was 16-12 in league play.

Freshman pitcher Dylan Diveney

made a big impression, winning league pitcher of the year honors. Senior outfielder Zach Zylstra joined him on the all-conference first team while junior designated hitter Adam Lindell and junior utility player Dakotah Wolken were second-team picks. Meanwhile Zylstra and senior pitcher Andy Carr were ABCA/Rawlings Division III All-Central Region third-team selections while Diveney was a third-team all-region pick by D3baseball.com.

Diveney was 5-4 overall and 5-2 in the league with a 2.23 earned run average. Zylstra hit a .351 with 17 doubles and 24 RBIs while Lindell batted .303 with 28 RBIs.



# ENGINEERING

## at Central

by Jenni Hodges





A tidal wave is about to hit Iowa colleges, says Jeff Weld — a flood of young students with passions for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Weld, executive director of the Governor's STEM Advisory Council, said the Council has spent years getting Pre-K-12 students interested in STEM. "Sooner or later, we're going to have this tsunami of interest, and I think it's starting to happen," Weld says. "Kids are going to come out of our high schools insistent on additional, exemplary STEM opportunities at the post-secondary level."

This surge of interest is promising, says Central College President Mark Putnam, because career opportunities abound for college graduates in STEM fields. For Central graduates, 98 percent who completed STEM degrees in the last three years were employed or in graduate school six months after graduation.

Now is the perfect time, Putnam says, for Central to seize a unique opportunity — this spring, the college announced a new Bachelor of Science in Engineering program.

"It extends a long tradition of excellence in science, technology, engineering and math education at the college," says Putnam. "STEM education has come to the forefront because of the advance of technology in society — and all kinds of things that are driving the economy in the U.S. Engineers who have seen the breadth of liberal arts disciplines will enrich our society."



Viktor Martisovits, associate professor of physics, explains the principles of physics laws.

Photo by Linda Stelter



Central announced its engineering major at a March event. Left to right: Jeff Weld, executive director of the Governor's STEM Advisory Council; Roger Brown, president and CEO of PPI; Mark Putnam, Central College president; Mary Andringa, CEO and chair of the board of Vermeer Corp.; and Pat Meyer, CEO of Pella Corp.

Photo by Dan Vander Beek



98% of Central STEM grads are placed within one year of graduation.

Photo by Paul Gates

## Why add engineering?

When Cory McCleary '18 came to Central last fall, he already had plans to leave. McCleary, of Linwood, Kan., wanted to study engineering. He had declared a physics major and planned to graduate early, moving on to an engineering graduate program.

"I love to invent things," McCleary says. "My father owned his own machine shop, so as a kid I was able to build things like an aluminum race car similar to those that run at Knoxville. In high school, I created a working prototype for a tool that could help bus mechanics save time changing the brakes. I would like to patent my idea and sell it to a manufacturer."

Now that Central has launched the new major, McCleary plans to be one of the college's first B.S. graduates. "An engineering degree was my one passion," McCleary says. "Now I can just do engineering all in one sweep."

For many years, Central graduates have completed master's degrees in engineering — or landed jobs with major companies like Pella Corp., Musco Lighting, Fisher Controls, Epic Systems Corp., Burns & McDonnell, Johnson Controls and Rockwell Collins.

Viktor Martisovits, associate professor of physics, said graduate school will, of course, remain an option for Central engineering students who are interested — but the B.S. degree will enable many more to secure engineering jobs immediately after graduation.

"I'm really excited that this new option is going to open doors," Martisovits says, "and make it easier for students straight out of Central to get many, many, many more engineering jobs with a variety of companies."

## What's in the program?

The engineering major includes coursework in electronics, thermodynamics, materials and dynamic systems, physics and mathematics. The program culminates with a two-semester Capstone Design course. Students will be able to complete the degree in four years, like every Central program, and gain practical experience through summer internships and co-ops.

Engineering graduates will have a strong foundation in physics and the basic sciences which, coupled with the Central College core curriculum, will prepare students broadly for careers or graduate school — and long-term success in mechanical and electrical engineering. Before adding engineering, Central has built a record of success in closely related programs like physics and mathematics. This strong science background will serve graduates well, Martisovits says, helping them adapt as engineering jobs change throughout their careers.

On campus, students have access to advanced technology in the Vermeer Science Center. Classrooms and laboratories are equipped with state-of-the-art instrumentation to support coursework, independent studies and research projects with faculty.

## Top-Notch Technology

Engineering students will take advantage of high-tech tools on campus.

A lab for the electronics course allows students to experiment with a variety of analog and digital circuits, and even build microcomputers. The advanced labs support a large variety of experiments including cloud chamber, Cavendish balance, laser optics, bomb calorimeter, Compton Effect, photoelectric effect, radioisotopes, Michelson interferometer and optical pyrometer. The engineering program is also supported by a mechanical shop with a mill, lathe and welding equipment.

The Central physics department is licensed by the state of Iowa to own and use a plutonium-beryllium neutron source and a cesium gamma-ray source for experiments in atomic and nuclear physics. The on-campus observatory with an 11-inch reflector telescope allows students to observe planets, stars and other celestial objects.

Students can use an X-ray diffractometer and a high-vacuum system with a mass spectrometer to conduct additional research projects.

In addition, engineering students will be strongly encouraged and supported to complete internships and/or co-ops in engineering at local, national and international locations. Students interested in study abroad are able to complete international internships during a semester or summer around the globe.



The design of Central's program is guided by ABET, a nonprofit organization that accredits college and university engineering programs. Central can only receive accreditation after its first engineering students graduate, but Martisovits says approval for the program should be straightforward.

"We are in excellent shape," says Martisovits. "We are fortunate to be able to work with a very experienced consultant since the beginning. That's the reason that we are very optimistic that this program is indeed going to be accredited."

## Our partners

Three international corporations headquartered in Pella — Vermeer Corp., Pella Corp. and Precision Pulley & Idler (PPI) — have partnered to support the new engineering program. Putnam and Vermeer CEO Mary Andringa announced the new program at the Statewide STEM Summit in Des Moines and the iExplore STEM festival on Central's campus this spring.

Close proximity to these companies gives Central a unique opportunity to unite its liberal arts academic core, talented faculty in natural and engineering sciences, and the expertise of local, practicing engineers. Partnerships will include teaching, funding, shared equipment, real-world projects, internships, co-ops and career opportunities.

Pat Meyer, CEO of Pella Corp., says Central's commitment to innovative and exceptional higher education is critical to the success of Pella and its business community.

"We, at Pella Corporation, are pleased to be a part of that," Meyer says. "Central has a real opportunity to educate engineers in a unique way with strong corporate partnerships, personalized attention from faculty and engineering professionals, and focused preparation and skill sets that are adaptable over a lifetime."

Andringa, also chair of the board at Vermeer, says a successful future depends on leaders arming today's students with the right skills for tomorrow's workforce.

"I applaud Central College for introducing an engineering degree — and the opportunities it will provide to their future graduates and our workforce needs as a whole," Andringa says. "With only one



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qualified job seeker for every 3.4 STEM jobs today, and nearly a third of manufacturers citing insufficient reading, writing and communication skills in the workplace, a well-rounded education is one obvious solution to these growing, critical needs."

Roger Brown, president and CEO of PPI, said the partnership with Central will benefit everyone involved. "It's exciting to team up with a college community full of young and talented minds, who are eager to make a difference in the world," Brown says. "We look forward to the opportunities to teach, learn and work with students and faculty while connecting the classroom to the corporate setting."

Engineering is a practical discipline, Martisovits says, and practical experience is essential. By partnering with local engineers, Central will offer opportunities for students to participate in real-world projects and experiences. "It's going to make the program very strong," Martisovits says. "Students will be able to see what exactly is happening in real life — and not just to learn about it, but actually experience it."

## What about the liberal arts?

Central's commitment to liberal arts education hasn't diminished with the creation of an engineering degree. Rather, Martisovits says being grounded in the liberal arts makes the engineering program stronger — and Central engineering graduates more desirable.

"In addition to high-level technical skills, they also will have excellent background in writing, reading, public speaking," Martisovits says, "which are very important in engineering these days."

"We're doing it differently than most, and that's because we are seeking to develop a liberally educated engineer," says Putnam. "No engineering work is done in isolation. It's connecting all parts of our society. STEM training in the absence of a liberal education isolates students intellectually. With a liberal arts education, they can be better citizens."

According to Weld, interdisciplinary skills are essential across the world, but an engineering program that emphasizes them is unique.

"Woven into a liberal arts scaffold, Central's engineering degree will answer the clamor for critical and creative thinkers to drive our 21st-century economy," Weld says.

"An engineer that comes out of this institution is going to be a well-rounded citizen — a logical, humanistic, historically perspective graduate with some engineering know-how. That's the kind of people I want building my bridges and my cities."

Andringa agrees — that is the kind of candidate needed in the engineering work force. "To have individuals who are interested in the skills of engineering but also have a sense of the global world and communication skills will be a fantastic fit," she says.

All STEM majors at Central have unique opportunities for undergraduates. Many students conduct original research with Central faculty, present at national conferences and publish research findings.

"When I talk to my high school buddies who attend large schools, they tell me how full their classes are and how they can hardly see or hear their professors in the lecture halls," says McCleary. "At Central, I feel I am receiving an amazing education — I can see and hear my professors, and I can even go talk to them one-on-one as many times as I need."

In the engineering program, Martisovits says classes should average 15-20 students, making it possible for professors to give every student one-on-one attention. Students will also be able to pursue specialized, in-depth projects that support their career goals.

## Engineering Faculty

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Central's focus on sustainability includes everything from organic gardening to coursework on social justice.







# Sustaining our WORLD

by Laura Billingsley '04

**Central inspires students, faculty  
and alumni to make an impact.**

**W**hat do you do when a way of life becomes a buzzword? That's the case with the term "sustainability," which has become a trendy way of talking about a host of issues and initiatives. But at Central, sustainability has been part of the conversation since the beginning. "It wasn't called sustainability, but even back in the 1930s students and the administration were thinking about these issues. At that time some students grew produce that was accepted in lieu of tuition," says Brian Campbell, Central's director of sustainability.

Campbell was hired in 2015 to drive sustainability efforts at Central, his position partly funded by an award from the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation. Central's established tradition of conservation was a big part of what drew him to the college. "There's a clear recognition that we're already doing a lot," he says. The efforts are numerous and involve many areas of the college — so many that it's hard to even single out projects and say, "This one is about sustainability." The idea is woven into nearly everything that goes on.


In the academic world, every student takes a course related to sustainability, which can be based in a number of departments. They have titles like Globalization, Development and Social Change; Environmental Economics; and Community, Consumer and Global Health. Currently, about 40 classes qualify. Central also offers a minor in global sustainability, the first of its kind in Iowa.

But what is sustainability? Campbell says it's much more than recycling or biking to work. "It's not just caring about the environment," he says, "but it's also about social justice, the well being of different groups and how we take care of the places we live. Sustainability is a way to see those connections."

One of the challenges with so broad a topic is making the ideas tangible for students. Campbell

Photo by Linda Stelter





Planting trees on campus is just one of many ways students practice sustainability outside the classroom.

wants to bring sustainability into day-to-day life through questions such as: Where do we get our food? How are we connected to the energy grid? Where does our waste go? "In thinking through the details, we see how we are connected to much broader systems," he says. For example, Campbell recently took a group of faculty to tour a local recycling facility. The idea is that by seeing how a recycling plant actually operates, faculty will be able to better convey to students how what happens on a small scale — one person tossing a bottle into a recycling bin — connects to massive global systems that process and sell recycled material around the world.

Two of the areas Campbell is focusing on right now are food and energy. Departments across campus are working to educate students on where their food comes from and how to build a stronger local food economy. Campbell's office is partnering with dining director Richard Phillips to use more locally produced food and to bring farmers to campus once a month. Central's organic garden is also expanding, providing more space for teaching about how to grow and prepare healthy foods.

All of this work ties into the college's academic theme for 2015-16: Year of Global Sustainability. The common reading book, read across campus, is "Where Am I Eating: An Adventure through the Global Food Economy." The author, Kelsey Timmerman, will visit campus in September to participate in teach-ins and presentations.

Smart energy is also advancing on campus, as 80-90 connected energy meters are scheduled for installation in buildings. They will provide real-time data on energy use, which will be sent to a central website and presented for analysis. The hope is that detailed energy use statistics can be used to encourage awareness about usage patterns—perhaps even leading to competitions among dorms to see who can use the least amount of energy.

The list of sustainable projects could go on: LEED-certified buildings, green rooftop, student projects in the "green pods" aka McKee Hall, native flora plantings around buildings, a trayless cafeteria and energy-efficient vehicle fleets. It's all part of a commitment to being good stewards of the available resources.

"We're not just talking about it in the classroom," says Jim Zaffiro, professor of political science and a champion of sustainability on campus. "We are modeling our commitment to sustainability. It's fair to say Central is a national leader in sustainability education across the curriculum." He cites the many opportunities for students to go beyond class work, for instance conducting research on sustainability and working with community partners on issues related to social justice.

The idea is that students will take what they've learned and apply it in their chosen profession. Zaffiro says, "We're saying, 'go, become whatever you want, and use this extra training to make an impact.'"



# Solar Renaissance

A company forges a new path in renewable energy.

Everything in Gary Shaver's life seems to be preparing him for this moment. As president of Silicon Energy, a company near Seattle that manufactures high-quality solar modules, Shaver is facing a challenge: how to make people understand that not all solar is created equal.

Silicon Energy manufactures American-made solar modules and is a prime example of a company at the forefront of what Shaver calls enviro-economics — “the opportunity to draw environmental and economic causes together,” he says.

How did this 1989 Central grad end up at the helm of a solar company that wants to change the world? His path is in some ways extraordinary, but in other ways perfectly captures the essence of a liberal arts education that allows for lifelong learning and constant adaptation.

Shaver grew up in Ottumwa, Iowa, and majored in biology at Central. He studied abroad in Wales. After college, Shaver spent two years teaching English in China and studied Chinese, then moved to Japan where he lived for five years, again teaching English and studying Japanese. After returning to the U.S. he completed a law degree at Seattle University, also picking up a master's in international business at the same time. However, Shaver says, “It became clear to me that while the practice of law is an important thing, it wasn't going to be enough.” Shaver wanted to “do something that's good for the world.”

He was restless to make an impact, a feeling he remembered from his days back in college as president of SCATE (Students Concerned About The Environment). Shaver has always been drawn to environmental topics, and during law school he worked with a professor to write a paper for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on the protection of water facilities under international law. The paper focused on how, in the case of a pooled resource, like water, “historically very few people extract the wealth from that supply using the labors of the many,” Shaver says. He became interested in the idea of social justice and how resources are allocated and started asking the question, “What's a resource that can't be controlled by a small group to the detriment of the majority of society?”

He worked on legislation in the state of Washington to develop local renewable energy manufacturing,



**Solar modules from Silicon Energy are designed to fit into a structure's design.**

and it when it didn't pass he took a job as general manager of SunEarth, a solar thermal manufacturer in Southern California. Then, the legislation in Washington passed, and he got the call: "How would you like to run a solar company?" Shaver said yes.

His company, Silicon Energy, set to work building a highly durable and innovative PV (photovoltaics) module. Manufactured in the U.S., it has won international awards for innovation and contribution to the solar industry and outperformed all other modules in testing at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). It is also designed to be attractive, fitting into a home or business' setting through integration into things like awnings, patio covers or carports. The modules are very strong — they can withstand category five hurricanes.

But one of the challenges with solar is that today modules are viewed as a commodity, though they are not in fact all the same. Shaver is now seeking investors for the company as he tries to change the perception of solar. The industry is at a transition point, Shaver says, as people decide what matters more to them: getting solar extremely cheap, but accepting job losses in U.S. manufacturing, as well as having to buy solar from countries that produce the modules using dirty energy—or paying more for a U.S.-produced, durable product.

In his efforts to change the conversation on solar, Shaver uses skills gained during his undergraduate education at Central, as well as his law and business degrees. "I draw on my biology," he says. "It's less about the content and more about the critical thinking skills you develop." He also says, "Central was a good school to go to — it was really about the professors who were there." He credits Don and Maxine Huffman for their support, including a summer job taking care of the couple's home in Pella. Shaver also says professors Alan Kopsky, John Bowles and Arthur Bosch are people "who really stick in my head throughout my life."

Shaver believes his background allows him to engage with a variety of people and topics, including the technical areas of his company. "I can go into an engineering meeting, and even though I'm not an engineer I can understand what's going on and be able to engage with it in a meaningful manner," he says. "In business there are some very intelligent, very engineering-focused people, but they may not have balance. And I think that's where the liberal arts come in. A good liberal arts education can provide a lot of balance that I've found valuable."

Similarly, it's the ability to balance economics and environment that makes Silicon Energy different from its competitors. And Gary Shaver is just the person to help America see it.



Melanie Louis

## Restoring Iowa

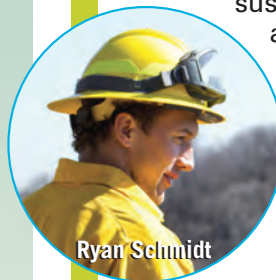
Grads get their hands dirty to maintain natural diversity.

You could call Melanie Louis and Ryan Schmidt outdoorsy. But that description really doesn't begin to cover it. The two Central alums, who both graduated in 2012, have made similar careers out of their love for the outdoors, for Iowa and for conservation.

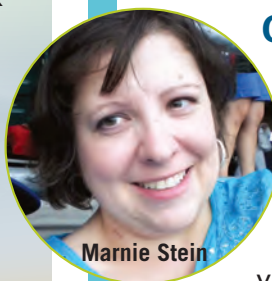
Louis and Schmidt work for the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, a non-profit land trust dedicated to protecting and restoring Iowa's land, water and wildlife. They work in the land stewardship department, where sustainability means preserving and stewarding Iowa's natural ecosystems.

Louis says, "We are focused on nature itself and restoring Iowa's natural landscape. We're sustaining the diversity of Iowa instead of allowing it to become overgrown with invasive and non-native species."

Experiences as summer interns with the foundation hooked both alums



Ryan Schmidt



Marnie Stein

## Climate Custodian

Helping Iowa reach its goals for emissions.

Marnie Stein '96 could be called the climate custodian of Iowa. She works independently to write the state's greenhouse gas inventory each year. This report is required by the Iowa legislature and calculates all the greenhouse gas emissions for the entire state of Iowa for the year. It's a mammoth task, requiring data from all sectors, such as agriculture, transportation, business and utilities.



and encouraged them to consider working with the organization full time. You could say the 12-week internship experience was a full immersion in the natural heritage of Iowa.

"We actually camped in tents and we cooked out at a fire ring with camping stoves," says Louis, who majored in biology at Central. "There were nine of us in my intern crew, and we slept, ate and worked together during the week." Work included prairie restoration such as cutting down trees and pulling invasive plant species. The teams worked to restore remnant prairies and open up oak savannas all over the state.

This sort of "roughing it" existence may not be for everyone, but Louis and Schmidt thrived on it. "It was absolutely a life changing experience for me," Louis says. "Knowing I was making an impact, both as an individual and as a group. You grow to love the land. I came to appreciate Iowa in a completely different way."

Schmidt agrees. "The internship solidified the path I'd been on track for," he says. An environmental studies major with a biology minor, he knew when he started at Central that he wanted a job connected with the outdoors, but he says before the internship, "I had no idea about this nonprofit world. I fell in love with the organization's function and the work."

Schmidt learned about the internship opportunity from professors Anya Butt (biology) and Russ Benedict (biology), who encouraged him to apply. He says throughout his time at Central, personal relationships made the difference in his education. "One of the biggest things I learned at Central, through work-study and spending time with Dr. Benedict, is the ability to build relationships and connections with the people around you," he says. "There's always somebody who's been down the same road as you who can give advice, so the more people you know and the more connections you make, the better off you'll be."

Schmidt puts this skill to work as he builds relationships with landowners around the state. He also specializes in prescribed fire for the foundation, working to plan and conduct fires as a natural land management tool.

One of Louis' favorite parts of her job is the chance to work with interns in the field. She says it's meaningful to see their work produce results in the landscape. "A lot of the work gets really hard and hot in the summer, but we come back to the idea that we're restoring Iowa and its natural integrity," she says.

"It's a series of small steps," says Schmidt. "We restore a little bit of land at a time. We're not going to save the world today or five years from now, but we're taking small steps in the right direction."

Stein works for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources as a senior environmental specialist. She's worked for the DNR since shortly after graduation, and over the years climate change has become her specialty.

Stein was among the earliest environmental studies majors at Central. "I was originally going to be a chemistry major," she says, "but as soon as they developed the new major while I was at Central I decided to switch." She became interested in environmental issues while studying abroad in London, where she interned for Friends of the Earth, a global organization dedicated to improving the environment.

Originally from Aurora, Iowa, Stein came to Central specifically for the study abroad program, but she also found opportunities to be involved in SCATE (Students Concerned About The Environment) and participated in writing an environmental plan for the college as part of her senior capstone class with professor Louise Zaffiro. The project was excellent training for her current role because, as Stein says, "We were working together with people of different points of view. We were coming together to meet the goals." Today her goal is to help Iowa stakeholders on their way to meeting federal carbon reduction targets.



# A THEOREM for Everyone

by Cindy Deppe

**In mathematics, a theorem is a statement that has been proven on the basis of previously established statements, such as other theorems — and generally accepted statements, such as axioms.**



Russ Goodman wants every student in his math classrooms — majors and non-majors — to understand logic, prove their solutions, communicate results and leave feeling successful.

It's all part of what drives him as a passionate associate professor of mathematics. It's also part of what led him to one of his areas of mathematical interest — math in pop culture.

"What many don't understand about math is the misconception that you solve a problem and move on. The real world doesn't work that way; why would math? You have to communicate what that answer or solution means. You have to explain why the right answer has meaning to the real world. Students live in a Twitter world of instant information and math isn't like that — it takes time to problem solve," Goodman says.

Goodman himself spent hours problem solving as a student and says his own struggles as a distracted undergraduate now help him identify with some of today's students. "Students struggle with devoting time to their studies because they live in an instant world. It's rewarding when they 'get it.' For me, the fog would eventually lift and I would know what I needed to do to complete the problem," he says.

Goodman originally wanted to be an astronaut, so he started in physics at the University of Texas-Arlington. "I drifted but took lots of math," he says. "I stayed at UTA for my master's and found my passion for teaching there."

He loves how teaching "combines my love of math and connecting with people. You can't be the stereotypical math nerd and teach at a place like Central. You have to connect with people," Goodman explains.

Faculty colleague Keith Jones, professor of psychology, says Goodman's "ability to connect so well with students reflects the genuine interest he has in them as fellow investigators of the world. Russ understands very well that successful teaching rests on the perspective that we are teaching students — people — rather than topics. His connection

leads to an agreement of sorts that together, they are going to tackle tough problems, work hard toward important and high goals, and do so with a sense of joy that makes doing hard work together valuable."

## Math in the real world

Goodman's zeal for connectivity motivated his research interest in mathematical applications in pop culture. "I want to know what's trending with students, so I use it as a connecting point. I don't want to be the old fuddy duddy who is out of touch with students' interests. So I file away examples for moments in teaching. For example, when "A Beautiful Mind" professor John Nash died recently, I pulled out that fact. I also learn from my students about websites and apps they use."

Goodman sometimes teaches Contemporary Mathematics for non-majors or those who may be math-phobic. "It's rewarding to teach them and to help them have success in math for possibly the first time. We talk about codes and numbers (like the validity and schemes behind security codes, for example); financial math and real-world decision-making; voting methods and techniques and sharing and apportionment (such as how 435 U.S. representative seats are awarded among the population).

"I didn't learn any of these topics in my own math classes, but I want my students to learn more about math in the real world," Goodman says.

Goodman also became interested in the dynamics of elections from a mathematical perspective — a timely topic with 2016 elections approaching. He has examined the mathematics of historical races and how history might have changed if candidates dropped out or different methods of vote counting were employed.

"There's a theorem — Arrow's Theorem — that says 'it is mathematically impossible to devise a vote-counting method that satisfies all reasonable fairness criteria.' So basically, every common vote-counting technique



▲ Goodman integrates real-world applications into his mathematics courses, such as math's role in decision-making and voting methods.

violates fairness. If you remove a candidate, for example, the votes could go elsewhere but don't necessarily reflect popular vote.

"The dynamics of vote-counting techniques gets interesting, along with the politics of it," Goodman explains, as he talks about the paradoxes of popular and electoral votes, majority and plurality, ranking and point systems.

Another timely research interest is sports analytics, which, Goodman says, "blends my two worlds in math and statistics and athletics." Goodman, who also coaches women's soccer, developed an honors seminar in sports analytics that has drawn many first-year students. "We analyze the data behind coaching and playing decisions," Goodman explains. "There's also a plan to

develop a service-learning component as students deliver data and analysis to Central's coaches to help them be even more strategic in allocating resources. The data also help connect students to teams and help the teams be even better."

Joe Eilers '18, a math and physics major from West Des Moines, enrolled in the Sports Analytics honors seminar and notes that Goodman "treats his students like adults. He is 100 percent willing to put as much effort into helping you as you are to help yourself. He is a great communicator, encourages student participation in class and gives out different types of assignments to adjust for different learning styles."

## The proof is in the progress

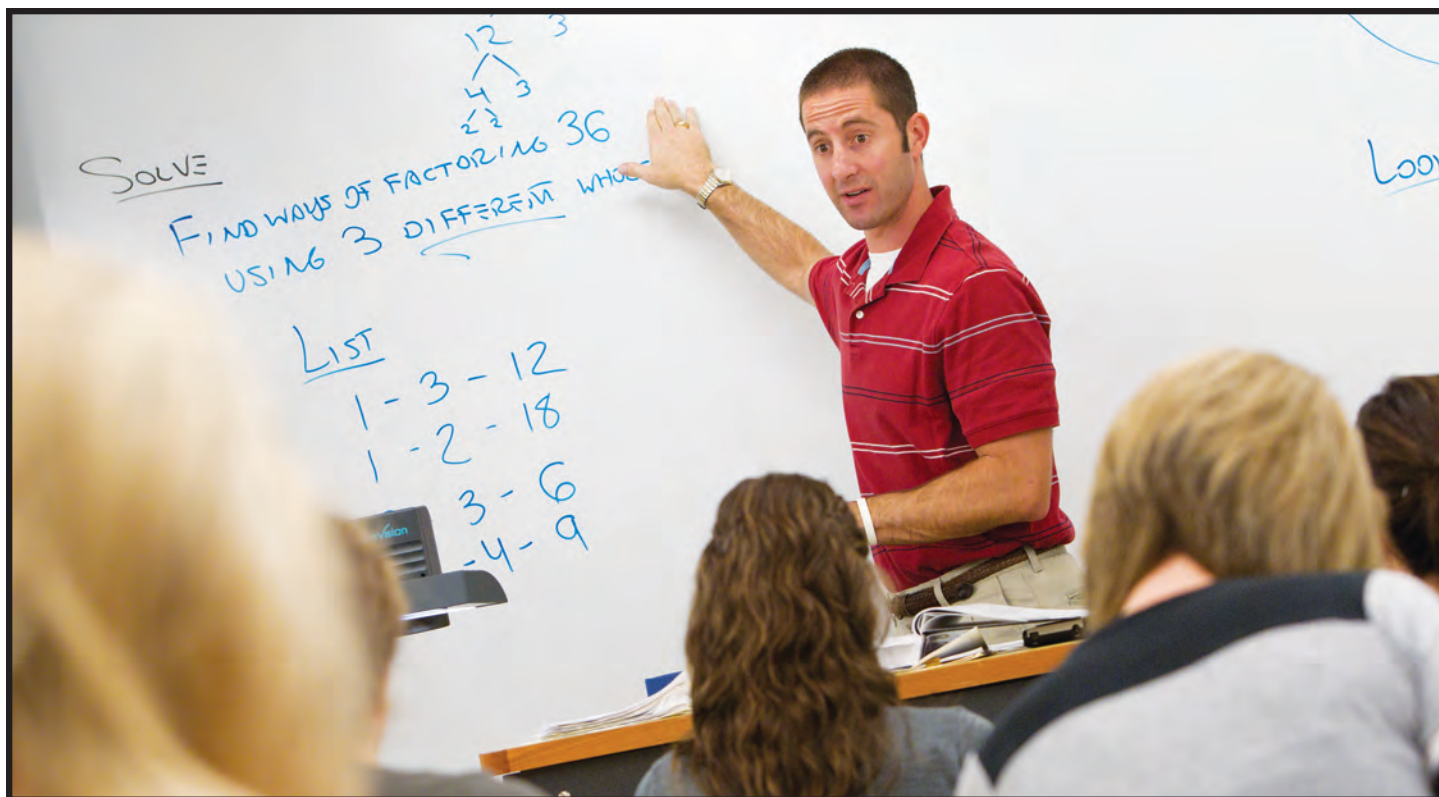
Goodman's own enthusiastic interpretation of why he thrives on his work is this: "My three main passions are family, soccer and math. I want to have fun with what I'm doing. My mentor told me 'like what you do, who you do it with and how you do it.' Central met all three of these criteria when I finished my Ph.D. at the University of Oklahoma."

The mathematics and computer science department, which Goodman currently chairs, graduates eight to 10 majors each year. "Most students start with calculus and then move to more abstract courses. They need to know how to effectively express conceptual thoughts. As the semesters pass, it's fun to see their progress toward becoming mathematicians."

Mathematics major and 2015 honors graduate Ashley Hulsing took five courses from Goodman, including Intro to Computer Algebra Systems, Probability, Statistics, Differential Equations and Abstract Algebra.

"Dr. Goodman is very passionate about his job and makes learning from him easy," she says. "He would always give a good knowledge base in class, where he would start with definitions and then work his way into examples, giving us activities and examples to work through in small groups. He always encouraged us to ask questions during instruction but especially outside of class, during office hours if we needed further explanation." Hulsing plans to teach secondary math in the BGM School District in eastern Iowa.





## Teacher as coach

For Goodman, serving as an assistant coach is just another form of teaching. “When I first came to Central, I wanted to be part of something, so I volunteered to be an assistant coach — and I have coached women’s soccer for 10 of the 13 years I’ve taught here. Coaching meshes well with my role as a professor and the number of student athletes that are in my classroom. It gives me another level of credibility with the students, on and off the field. We’ve seen the worst of times and the best of times together.”

The best of times was this past season when the team ranked No. 8 in the region, made it to the championship match of the Iowa Conference tournament and won the National Soccer Coaches Association of America Silver Team Ethics and Sportsmanship Award, while holding a 3.4 team GPA.

## His theorem for everything

In 2010, Goodman’s passion and devotion was recognized by faculty colleagues with the Dr. John Wesselink Award for Outstanding Performance in Institutional Service. “I want to serve. I will take every opportunity to serve. I get impatient with others who don’t,” he admits.

“There is no challenge that the college faces where Russ would not roll up his sleeves and say, ‘Let’s get to work!’” Jones says. “Russ is what I call a pragmatic idealist. He understands the positive and negative realities of a situation and will strive for the best possible outcome, always with an eye on the college being its best self.”

Part of Goodman’s service has involved outreach to area elementary and secondary math teachers. “It’s fun to connect with classroom teachers. My wife teaches, so I’ve also volunteered in the local schools.”

In his rare downtime, Goodman chooses to grade Advanced Placement calculus exams, saying “It makes me a better teacher.” That’s also the reason he plans to sit in on Computer Science 109 Intro to Information Management class this fall. “It gives me credibility to teach sports analytics with an information systems background, and it’s another opportunity to connect with colleagues and students.”

Goodman sums up with his Theorem for Everything: “I love what I do, love the people I work with in math, love the people I work with in athletics. It’s the people who make Central a meaningful place to be.”

# The Journey Scholarship Fund

## *Supporting Academic Success*

Central led the state this year in football players named to the National Football Foundation Hampshire Honor Society for academic achievement. The society recognizes senior football players who are starters or significant reserves and carry a cumulative grade point average of 3.20 or higher.

Five out of the nine Hampshire Honor Society members received Journey Scholarships. The Journey Scholarship Fund provides an opportunity for alumni and friends of Central College to assist students in achieving their goal of a Central education.



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by calling 800-447-0287  
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*Journey*  
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# ALUMNI NEWSNOTES



TEXAS REUNION

**Kristi Block Godfry '84** hosted a reunion at her home in Colleyville, Texas, for friends who hadn't been together for 26 years. They came from as far away as Iowa, Minnesota, Michigan and Kansas for a weekend of sight-seeing, shopping and catching up. Although miles separated them, the former classmates stayed in touch over the years through Round Robin letters. Thanks to technology they were able to Skype with their only missing member **Lisa Lundy Korver '84**. They are pictured (left - right): **Andrea Busker Van Wyk '84**, **Norma Stursma Kuiper '84**, **Susie Gustafson Smidt '84**, **Lisa Verdoorn DeJong '84**, **Kristi Block Godfry '84** and **Beth Roorda Cole '84**.

## THE '40S

**Wilbur Ivins '42** celebrated the 70th anniversary of his ordination to the Gospel ministry on June 6 with family and friends. Wilbur and wife Martha live in Cobleskill, N.Y.

## THE '60S

**Doug Schakel '64** completed his sixth season as skill development coach for the Johnson County Community College women's basketball team. The Lady Cavaliers (34-2) won the 2015 NJCAA Division II national championship in March. Doug and wife **Sharon Kreun Schakel '64** live in Olathe, Kan.



CONNECTING OVER LEADERSHIP

**Deann Wiebensohn Cook '91** of Johnston found a Central connection when she attended ABI's 2014-15 Leadership Iowa class. Pictured (left to right): **Bob Hodges '03**, **Aaron Pearce '05**, **Dee Wiebensohn Cook '91**, **Ashley Watts Aust '06** and **Jessi Steward '10**.

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](http://civitas.central.edu) or email [alumni@central.edu](mailto: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.





## THE '70S

**Leah Schroeder Gerhard '70** volunteers at her church, the Midland Children's Rehab Center, Meals on Wheels and tutors dyslexic children. Leah and husband Gary live in Midland, Texas.

**Joyce Anderson '71** of Mason City retired from many years of teaching in gifted education, classroom teaching and as a media specialist. Her career spanned four decades in two states and three countries. Her next challenge involves working as affiliate director for the Iowa Future Problem Solving program and playing with her seven grandchildren.

**Allen Reynen '76** of Fort Pierce, Fla., announced the birth of his first grandchild, a girl born to his daughter Elizabeth and her husband Rodrigo.

**Randal Caldwell '77** was inducted into the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC) during its recent annual meeting in Marco Island, Fla., making him one of 46 ACTEC Fellows in Iowa. Randy practices law at Caldwell, Brierly, Chalupa & Nuzum, PLLC. Randy and wife **Margaret Chancellor Caldwell '77** live in Newton,

where Margaret is the talented and gifted teacher at Newton Senior High School.

**Steven Eau Claire '78** works as a technical writer at the U.S. Census Bureau in Suitland, Md., where he is a government contractor through Prime Source Technology. Steven and wife Anna live in Gaithersburg.

**Cynthia Arnold Kramer '79** is coordinator at Community Connections in Harbor Springs, Mich.

## THE '80S

For information about **Kevin Azinger '85**, see the '90s.

**Patricia Riemersma '82** was named CEO of Westport Weston YMCA in Westport, Conn. Patricia began her YMCA career in 1984 and was vice president of youth development at the YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities prior to accepting this position.

**Sharon Covert Rose '85** of Indianapolis, Ind., is a software development consultant at Tek Systems.

**Mary Lee Ince Schrader '87** of Jordan, Minn., is a marriage and family therapist at Schrader Counseling in Burnsville.

**Jennifer Eggers '89** joined the law firm of

Arthur Chapman – Kettering Smetak and Pikala in Minneapolis, Minn. A graduate of Drake University Law School, Jennifer represents rail equipment manufacturers and owners and provides clients with regulatory compliance counseling. Jennifer and husband Steve Heidtke live in Stillwater with their two children.

## THE '90S

For information on **Christopher Gentry '98**, see the '00s.

**David Eilderts '90** is process trainer at Hydrite Chemical Company in Waterloo. David and wife Diane live in Dike with their three daughters.

**Jason Christenson '91** is head wrestling coach of the Southeast Polk High School Rams, where he has coached for the past 14 years. According to former Central College wrestling coach **Kevin Azinger '85**, Jason has set the coaching bar very high. Under Jason's tutelage, along with his staff, his teams have a dual-meet record of 386-104-6. In February the team captured both the dual meet state championship and the individual tournament state

# Do something for yourself and for Central College

Did you know you can earn an excellent rate of return if you establish a Central College Charitable Gift Annuity with cash or appreciated securities? Today's low interest rates offer great incentives to open a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) at Central College. For as little as \$10,000, you can ensure a fixed income during your lifetime (or even that of your spouse or child), a charitable tax deduction during the year in which you make the gift, and the pleasure of knowing you will provide support for future generations of Central College students.

### One Life Annuity

AGE	RATE
60.....	4.4%
65.....	4.7%
70.....	5.1%
75.....	5.8%
80.....	6.8%
85.....	7.8%
90 and over .....	9.0%

Rates as of April 13, 2015.  
Subject to change.

### Two Life Annuity

AGE	RATE
60 & 60 .....	3.9%
65 & 65 .....	4.2%
70 & 70 .....	4.6%
75 & 75 .....	5.0%
80 & 80 .....	5.7%
85 & 85 .....	6.7%
90 & 90 .....	8.2%

Rates as of April 13, 2015.  
Subject to change.

For more information regarding Charitable Gift Annuities and other forms of charitable planned giving, please contact Don Morrison (641)628-5280 or email [morrisond@central.edu](mailto:morrisond@central.edu).



championship in Des Moines. The team was ranked No. 8 nationally. Jason has been selected twice as the Class 3A coach of the year, Developmental Coach of the Year and Junior Division Coach of the Year. He was also selected as the inaugural recipient of the Bob Siddens Coaching Excellence Award. Jason and wife Jean live in Altoona with their son.

**Jeffrey Wooten '91** is principal at Raymond S. Kellis High School in Peoria, Ariz., where he lives with wife Lara and their two children.

**Joe Sample '92** was named executive director at Heritage Area Agency on Aging, which affords him the opportunity to work with the elderly, disabled and family caregivers. Joe and wife Nicole live in Pleasantville with their three children.

**Darci Wilson Belair '93** is financial specialist at UW Credit Union in Madison, Wis., where she lives with husband Kurt and their two daughters.

**William Pooch '93** is principal and lead learner at Wellman Elementary School in Wellman. William and wife **Jill Piittmann Pook '94** are the parents of three daughters and live in Kalona, where Jill is a title one reading teacher at Kalona Elementary School.

**Jason Reynolds '93** was named assistant superintendent of instruction for the Paradise Valley Unified School District in Phoenix, Ariz., where he lives with wife Mara and their two children.

**Brooke Vandermyde Sterenberg '93** is school counselor at Snyder Elementary School in the Conroe Independent School



**Amanda Terrell-Orr '98** received the Darcell Palmer Award for Integrity on Behalf of Children from Kidpower of Colorado, a nonprofit organization located in Colorado Springs. Through her role with the Colorado Springs Police Department, she was pivotal in creating a partnership between the two entities. Through her relationship with Kidpower, Amanda met **Natalie Vander Broek Yungner '99**, senior instructor at Kidpower. Amanda and husband **Chad Orr '01** live in Colorado Springs with their son. Natalie and husband **Matthew Yungner '96** live in Colorado Springs with their two children. Matthew is a senior member service specialist at USAA Insurance. They are pictured here, **Amanda Terrell-Orr '98** and **Natalie Vander Broek Yungner '99** at Kidpower's Chocoholic Frolic, where Amanda received her award.

District in Spring, Texas, where she lives with husband Doug and their two children.

**Brett Figgins '94** is channel development manager at John Deere in Olathe, Kan., where he lives with wife **Jennifer Roll Figgins '95** and their three children.

**Sheila Grebert '94** of Des Moines is assistant director of training and development at Principal Financial Group.

**Deano Pape '94** manages collegiate and organizational partnerships for the National Speech and Debate Association. Dean and wife Vicki live in Clive.

**Mike Williams '94** is principal research chemist at Air Products and Chemicals in Madison, Wis.

**Robyn Loeffler Kraus '96** is an instructional writer at Breakaway Group; a Xerox Company. Robyn and husband Josh live in Elizabeth, Colo.

**Julie Wiley Weinstein '96** is an information assurance manager with the United States Navy in Capodichino, Italy. Julie and husband Brian are the parents of two sons.

**Tamara Brown Daniels '97** is a learning and performance consultant at Nationwide Insurance. Tamara and husband **Preston Daniels '91** live in Altoona with their three children.

**Heather Sandholm Kleis '97** is senior vice president of continuous improvement in the department of Human Resources at Voya Financial. Heather and husband Darren live in Johnston with their two sons.

**Cory Alexander '99** is a lecturer and choral director at the University of Florida School of Music in Gainesville. Cory and wife Bethany live in McIntosh with their daughter.

**Shawn Callahan '99** of Kansas City, Mo., is the engagement leader at Netsmart Technologies.



**Kristi Leonard '97** along with three former classmates enjoyed a reunion weekend in New York City. They are (left to right): **Jodi Fisher Joslin '97** of Cedar Rapids, **Anita Miller Beachy '97** of Parnell, **Heather Sandholm Kleis '97** of Johnston and **Kristi Leonard '97** of Forest City. Kristi is an associate professor of wellness at Waldorf College in Forest City, where she lives with husband Terry Oliphant.

**Sunny Gonzales Eighmy '99** gave the 2015 commencement speech at Guthrie Center High School, her alma mater. Sunny is director of college relations at Central College and lives in Pella with husband **Nathan Eighmy '99** and their four children. Nathan is a sales manager at Pella Corp.

**Cynthia Rider Reeh '99** has worked independently as a global health editor since 2010 when she started her own editing business – Cereed Editing. Cynthia and husband Brian live in Seattle, Wash., with their two daughters.

## THE '00S

**Amanda Hansen Fletcher '00** is director of planned giving at Orchard Place in Des Moines. Amanda and husband **Justin Fletcher '02** live in Norwalk with their three children. Justin is an investment accounting supervisor at EMC Insurance Companies.

**Melissa Vink Gentry '01** is a psychiatric physician assistant with Behavioral Health Services at Mahaska Health Partnership in Oskaloosa. Melissa and husband **Christopher Gentry '98** live in Ollie with their three sons.

**Lindsay Rowell-Boeke '01** is director of fitness at Centegra Health System in Huntley, Ill., where she lives with husband **Lucas Boeke '01** and their two daughters. Lucas works at Boeke and Assoc. as an accountant in Rockford, Ill.

**Nicholas Brougham '02** is associate director of business intelligence at TSYS in Columbus, Ga. Nick and wife Emma live in Phenix City, Ala., with their three children.

**Angela Willis Carlson '02** was promoted to financial aid director for Capri College with locations in Dubuque, Davenport, Cedar



**Garra Williams '08** and **Tim Wilmes** of Lincoln, Neb., were married May 30. Garra is quality management tester at World's Foremost Bank. Pictured first row (left to right): **Kelli Olson Welp '08**, **Taryn Krug Shropshire '08**, **Garra Williams Wilmes '08** and **Danielle Brillhart Steinkamp '08**. Second row: **Christine Lundgren-Williams '12**, **Nicole Brooks '08**, **Elizabeth Miller '08**, **Bekah Mackay '08**, **Amy Zellmer Enevold '08**, **Lauren Weitzell Fridley '08**, **Allison Ripperger Scherff '08** and **Justin Scherff '08**. Third row: **Beau Williams '12**, **Robert Cedillo '09**, **Dasha Ternavska '08**, **Traci Dyer Townsend '08**, **Drew Wilson '08**, and **Kevin Fridley '06**. Back Row: **Michael Chauvin '09**, **Alex Keller '08**, **Chris Lehn '10**, **Ryan Brandt '08**, **Katie Johnson '08**, **Jenn Laughlin '08**, **Whitney Taylor Baethke '08** and **Tyler Baethke '05**.

Rapids and Waterloo and Stewart School in Sioux Falls, S.D. Angela and husband Leif live in Dubuque with their two sons.

**Jeff Gray '03** of Cave Creek, Ariz., is senior underwriter at Nationwide Insurance in Scottsdale.

**Anna Swanson '03** of Minneapolis, Minn., is principal at Hardwick Day in Bloomington.

**Kate Hietbrink Hemming '04** is marketing communications manager at Pella Corp. Kate and husband **Phil Hemming '02** live

with their two boys in Pella, where Phil is owner of the Sports Page Team.

**Briana Kuyper '05** of Johnston is the social media communications consultant at Wells Fargo in West Des Moines.

**Michael Reeder '05** of Salt Lake City, Utah, is clinical pharmacist on the internal medicine team at Intermountain Medical Center, the flagship hospital of Intermountain Healthcare located in Salt Lake City.

**Quinn Stamp '05** is facilities coordinator at MidWestOne Bank in Iowa City.

**Matt Lynch '06** is area defense counsel with the United States Air Force.

**Kerri Salow Hays '07** and her father Kelly Salow spent 12 days this spring photographing and participating in the third annual World Wood Day in Eskisehir, Turkey. As a Des Moines-based professional photographer, Kerri was granted a press pass and covered the entire event. Her father was one of only two American artists invited to participate in the event. Kerri and husband **Tyler Hays '07** live in Des Moines, where Tyler works in the marketing department at The Integer Group.

**Alicia Moore '07** and Kevin Krasko of Saline, Mich., were married May 1. Alicia is a flight attendant with Southwest Airlines.

**Callie Carstens '08** is the owner and broker at Commodity Services, Inc., in Des Moines. Callie lives in Urbandale with her son.





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**Carissa Kelly Pickar '09** is an accounts receivable specialist at Croell Redi Mix in New Hampton. Carissa and husband Chad live in Lawler with their son.

## THE '10S

**Kyle Bales '11** of Chamberlain, S.D., is resource biologist at South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks.

**Kathryn DePenning '11** of Pella is international student program coordinator at Central College.

**Melissa Dunlap '11** of Oskaloosa is director of accounts payable and loans at Central College. She is working toward a master's degree in business leadership from William Penn University.

**Matthew Gronewold '11** is a chiropractor at Browne Family Chiropractic in Pella, where he lives with wife **Jill Sorensen Gronewold '11**. Jill is a counselor at Integrative Counseling Solutions in Knoxville.

**Kaylee McElree '11** and Jonathan Parsons of North Richland Hills, Texas, were married Dec. 19. Kaylee is an ESOL tutor and instructional assistant at Tarrant County Junior College NW in Fort Worth.

**Emily Thompson Miltenberger '11** is a registered nurse at UnityPoint Health. Emily and husband **Jacob Miltenberger '11** live in Des Moines where Jacob is site manager for G4S Security.



**ELLINGSON AND GRABER WED**

**Ashley Ellingson '11** and **Matt Graber '11** of West Des Moines were married Nov. 1. Ashley is account manager at Performance Marketing and Matt is underwriter at The IMT Group. Pictured first row (left to right): **Shayna Jacobs '12**, **Ashley Ellingson Graber '11**, **Matt Graber '11**, **Nichole McGrew Baethke '11**, **Brianne Crill Williams '10**, **Brad Williams '11**, **Cody Jandik '11** and **Trevor Hixon '11**. Second row: **Kurtis Brondyke '11**, **Jeff Rosien '80**, **Alexandra Kleis Rosien '12**, **Caitlin Kouba '12**, **Jameson Rosien '11** and **Andrea Heisterkamp Kruger '10**. Third row: **Emily Huegel Flaherty '13**, **Mallory Sturtz '13**, **Ashley Pedersen '13**, **Katie Huff '11**, **Tess Reinig '13**, **Ali Woods '13**, **Joel Mudd '11**, **Sara Mouw O'Brien '10**, **Dena Christian Boyd '10**, **Allison Ripperger Scherff '08**, **Samantha Retz Smith '13**, **Jack Flaherty '13**, and **Kenny Berry '10**. Fourth Row: **Ann Hayes Isgrig '81**, **Jeff Isgrig '81**, **Amanda Nichols '11**, **Morgan Darrow '12**, **Kiley Meyers '12**, **Matt Samson**, **Ryan Isgrig**, **Doug Frazell '99**, **Michelle Ripperger '10**, **Lindsay Jennings Montague '10**, **Kyle Wood '12**, **Connor Daily '11**, **Travis Smith '11** and **Phillip Miller '12**.

**Allison Moeller McKibbin '11** is client advisory associate at Avalon Advisors in Houston, Texas, where she lives with husband Taylor.

**Amber Voss '11** of Greenfield, Wis., is production management support coordinator at Tower Machining in Milwaukee.

**Jackie Boat '12** is energy efficiency community coordinator with the City of Newton.

**Spencer Meyer '12** of Chicago, Ill., is accounts receivable manager at Advanced Healthcare Solutions.

**Samuel Parker '12** of Des Moines is strategic marketing manager for Carrier Access, Inc., in Clive.

**Mathew Patten '12** is associate software engineer at Rosetta in San Luis Obispo, Calif.

**Jessica Baker '13** and **Esteban Serrano '14** of Marshalltown were married March 14. Esteban is a pharmacy technician at Hy-Vee. Jessica teaches high school special education math in the Marshalltown Community School District.

**Jenna Broghamer '13** of New York, N.Y., is program associate with Beespace NYC.

**Ben Schornack '13** of Brooklyn, N.Y., is program manager with NYC Metro at Up2Us.

**Palmer Scott '13** of Hudson teaches high school special education in the Creston Community School District.

**Adam Clark '14** is the GIS coordinator for Hamilton County in Webster City.

**Kyle Maynard '14** of Des Moines is bilingual income maintenance worker II at State of Iowa Executive Branch.

**Mercedes Rutherford '14** of Atascadero, Calif., is receptionist at Central Coast Pet Hospital and Emergency.

**Hillary Stintsman '14** is clerk at Lucas County Treasurer's Office in Chariton.



**TEAS AND HARVEY WED**

**Emily Teas '11** and **Jason Harvey '11** of Des Moines were married Oct. 4, 2014. Emily teaches special education at Capitol View Elementary in the Des Moines School District and Jason is quantitative specialist for Principal Financial Group. They are pictured (left to right): **Drew Osier '13**, **Joe Teas '14**, **Emily Teas Harvey '11**, **Jason Harvey '11**, **Taylor Hallengren**, **Teresa Beiermann Goodenow '11**, **Jill Ziskovsky Halcomb '11**, **Nikki Landt Ness '11** and **Liz Arentsen Brondyke '10**. Row two: **Natalie Hobt Vegter '11**, **Amanda Meacham '13**, **Travis Havens '12** and **Max Miller '11**. Row three: **Jamie Tichelaar Crawford '81**, **Karen Rozeboom Vollmar '83**, **David Vollmar '82**, **Bo McBee '12**, **Brent Messmore '12**, **Sydney Williams '10**, **Shannan O'Bryan '11**, **Amanda Nichols '11**, **Carissa Bentz '10**, **Don Tichelaar '59**, **Dianne Gluen Van Gorp '61**, **Lory Gluen Tichelaar '56**, **Carol Gluen Wesselink '68** and **Jan Tichelaar Teas '83**. Row four: **Emily Stueckrath '09**, **Randy Crawford '82**, **Brian Phillips '13**, **Tim Harvey '72**, **Matt Vegter '12**, **Will Pawlowski '11**, and **Ben Bohlender '11**. Row five: **Shane Hallengren '11**, **Zach Marks '10**, **Matt Patrick '10**, **Kelsey Peterson '11**, **Luke Bolander '10**, **Morgan Parker '00**, **Justin Livingston '14**, **Brent Goodenow '12**, **Drew Ness '11**, **Tyler Halcomb '11**, **Kurtis Brondyke '11**, **Jill Wesselink Parker '11**, **Dirk Van Gorp '62** and **Mike Teas '83**.



**Christine Lundgren '12** and **Beau Williams '12** of Pella were married April 18. Christine teaches special education in the Pella Community School District and Beau is assistant director of annual giving at Central College. Pictured first row (left to right): **Jessi Steward '10**, **Kelli Ziskovsky Holan '13**, **Christine Lundgren-Williams '12**, **Cheri Gilderbloom Stamp '04**, **Beau Williams '12**, **Taylor Bryant '12** and **Whitney Halder '12**. Second row: **Chantelle Wilson Broome '10**, **Ellaine Watkins '12**, **Kayla Swartzendruber Tadlock '12**, **Mark Holan '10**, **Karen Jansen Vander Horst '88**, **Rick Vander Horst '87**, **Ashley Lippincott Schueler '10**, **Austen Schueler '08** and **Colten Moore '13**. Third row: **Garra Williams '08**, **Emily Ciha '12**, **Betty Balder Bollard '84**, **Jeff Bollard '89**, **Mary Popson-Klein '95**, **Nick Corbin '11**, **Mike Furlong '12**, **Alyssa Schwartz '13**, **Regan Nelson '18**, **AJ Baker '12** and **Ellie Bryant '15**. Back row: **Mick Wiederin '12**, **Ashley Wiederin '09**, **Max Miller '11**, **Billy Boyle '11**, **Mark Visser '11**, **Ted Dirx '11**, **Brandon Caldwell '11**, **Cody Wiederin '14**, **Brandon Wagner '12**, **Chris Schissel '14** and **Liberty Wickman '12**.

## ADVANCED DEGREES

**Mary Lee Ince Schrader '87**, master's degree, marriage and family therapy, Argosy University, 2012.

**Tamara Brown Daniels '97**, master's degree in education, emphasis on instructional design, University of Wisconsin at Stout, May.

**Chad Kuhse '98**, master's degree in business administration, emphasis in finance, University of Iowa, 2013.

**Cory Alexander '99**, doctor of musical arts in choral conducting, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, 2011.

**Michael Reeder '05**, doctorate of pharmacy, Roseman University of Health Sciences, June 2014.

**Justin Schultz '09**, juris doctor, University of Denver, 2014.

**Kyle Bales '11**, master's degree, biology, Southeast Missouri State University, May.

**Matthew Gronewold '11**, doctorate of chiropractic, Palmer College of Chiropractic at Davenport, May.

**Allison Moeller McKibbin '11**, paralegal certificate, Rice University, January 2012.

**Samuel Parkers '13**, master's degree in corporate communications, Northeastern University at Boston, May.

**Palmer Scott '13**, master's degree in education, specialization in special education, University of Northern Iowa, May.

## ARRIVALS

Kristen and **Chris Haeck '96**, son Ryan Vance, March 19

**Joe and Ellen Friis Ehle '99**, son Milo Joseph, April 7

Michael and **Alyssa Harrington Clabaugh '00**, daughter Harper Grace, Dec. 2  
Brian and **Josie Mahan Irlbeck '00**, daughter Ivy Rae, Feb. 21

Alper Guclu and **Emily Plum-Guclu '00**, son Charlie Ozan, April 21

Josh and **Julie Wisse Lautenbach '01**, daughter Marlie Jean, Nov. 14

Tad and **Marissa Foell Lincoln '02**, son Emmitt Douglas, Feb. 21

Katie and **Mathew Petty '02**, son Eli Mathew, May 24

Andrew and **Rebecca Hedges Pospisal '04**, son Flynn Aero, Feb. 18

Russel and **Jessica Klyn de Novelo '05**, daughter Raegan Victoria, April 23

**Steve '06** and **Kristin Billingsley Cooper '06**, son Elliott Lee, Feb. 10

Nicholas and **Jessica Robinson Simpson '06**, daughter McKenna Dean, Nov. 8

Chris and **Lidija Mustic Geest '07**, son Kayden George, Feb. 21

**Callie Carstens '08**, son Beckett Ross, March 27

Jeff and **Ashley Rottinghaus Keen '08**, son Noah Henry, Nov. 30

Laura and **Jake Nero '09**, daughter Lily Mae, Feb. 27

Chad and **Carissa Kelly Pickar '09**, son Cale James, July 26, 2013

**Caleb '10** and **Amanda Roggemann Bonjour '10**, son Lincoln Mitchell, Nov. 8, 2013

Adam and **Laurel Sargent Olson '10**, son Camden Kenneth, May 19

## IN MEMORIAM

**Gertrude Van Niewaal Sawyers '36** of Cedar Rapids, April 19

**Ota De Winter Champagne '41** of Grand Rapids, Mich., April 17

**Mary Renaud Vriezelaar '41** of Pella, May 21

**Dorothy De Boer Furda '42** of Dubuque, March 1

**Pearl Bruining '48** of South Holland, Ill., May 9

## JAMES SMALLEY

James Gray Smalley passed away March 12 in Cohoes, N.Y., at age 87. Smalley was a professor of foreign languages at Central, where he taught from 1957-87 and served as department chair for many years. Dedicated to the teaching of Spanish language and literature, he also enjoyed the study of German, Italian and Russian. Smalley instilled a love of Romance languages in several generations of Central students. A gifted translator, he produced several translations of the short stories of the Uruguayan writer Horacio Quiroga. Smalley was also a passionate body builder, who maintained a rigorous weight-lifting and exercise regimen throughout most of his life. He loved the outdoors and enjoyed target shooting, hunting, traveling, taking care of his Kentucky log cabin and spending time with family and friends.



**Helen Steininger Stults '48** of Roseville, Minn., March 30  
**William Brostrom '50** of Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., May 13  
**Glenn Kastein '51** of Eagle, Idaho, March 9  
**Marcie Valster Vander Leest '52** of Pella, May 6  
**Margaret Johanson Hanko '53** of Fortson, Ga., March 18  
**Gilbert Blom '56** of Silverdale, Wash., April 13  
**Doris Burkhart Wiarda '56** of Rock Rapids, Feb. 12  
**Harold Alderks '58** of Stillman Valley, Calif., Jan. 31  
**Larry Icenbice '63** of Greenfield, March 6  
**Robert Hall '65** of Waterford, Mich., Nov. 30, 2012  
**Richard Herwig '65** of Southampton, Pa., Jan. 4  
**Dennis Malamon '70** of Stuyvesant, N.Y., May 8  
**Rose Altena '72** of Astoria, Ore., May 7  
**Gary Blackman '72** of Santa Rosa, Calif., May 11  
**Craig Jordan '75** of Aurora, Ill., April 14  
**Ann Rowe '84** of Roebling, N.J., June 28, 2014

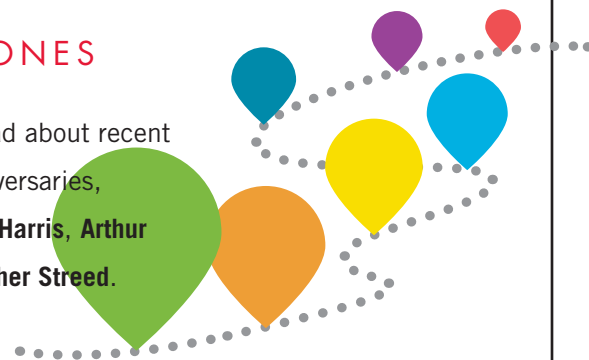
## Ruth Tervelt '34

Ruth Tervelt passed away Feb. 21 in Austin, Texas. Formerly of Quincy, Ill., Tervelt was two months short of 101 years old. Her father was Dr. Henry Pietenpol, academic dean and mathematics and physics professor at Central for 36 years. Pietenpol Hall is named in his honor.

Tervelt graduated from Central in 1934 and began teaching high school Latin in Iowa at age 20. In 1938, she married Alvin Tervelt (now deceased) and moved to Washington, Iowa, where they were teacher and principal in the public school system. A few years later, the couple moved to Quincy when Alvin became principal of Jackson School. Tervelt had a long career of volunteer work, including nearly three decades volunteering for the Red Cross and many years as a docent at the Quincy Museum. She was also an outstanding pianist and organist.

## FACULTY MILESTONES

Visit [civitas.central.edu](http://civitas.central.edu) to read about recent faculty retirements and anniversaries, including stories on **Michael Harris, Arthur Johnson, Joy Prothero** and **Esther Streed**.



# WHERE ARE THEY NOW

**DON LUBBERS**, Central's president 1960-69, was the nation's youngest college president when he took the position at age 29. Under his leadership, Central's enrollment grew to 1,355 and international programs started in France, Austria, Mexico and Spain. His father, Irwin J. Lubbers, was Central College president from 1934-45. Later, Lubbers was president of Grand Valley State University for 32 years and became the longest-serving state university leader.

**Q.** What was it like becoming president of Central at 29?  
**A.** That got a lot of attention — I got clippings from all over the country, and that was good for Central. I loved my father's career, so I was very fortunate at an early age to do exactly what I wanted. I was three years old when my father became president, and it was a real advantage to me to have grown up on the Central campus and then become president. As an old man, it makes me very grateful for the career I've had.



Don Lubbers spoke at an event at Grand Valley State University.

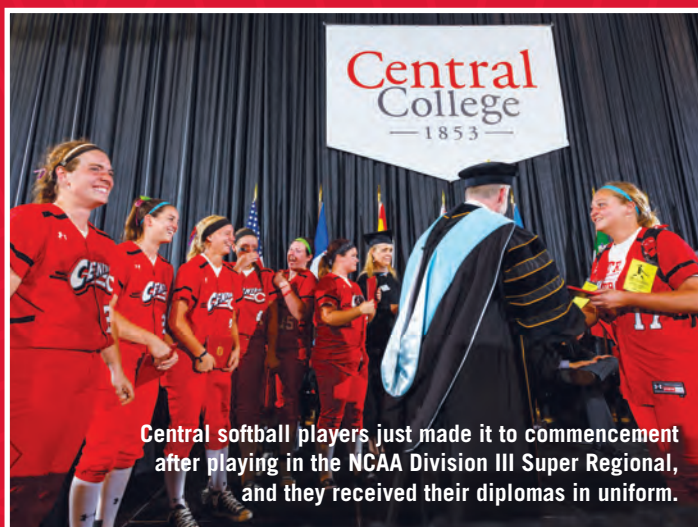
To read the full Q&A with Don Lubbers, visit [civitas.central.edu](http://civitas.central.edu).

# 2015 Commencement

Photos by Dan Vander Beek



President Mark Putnam received a bear hug from a happy student.



Central softball players just made it to commencement after playing in the NCAA Division III Super Regional, and they received their diplomas in uniform.



# Local Internship Builds Skill Set

Hands-on experience brings classroom lessons alive.

by Laura Billingsley '04



Aaron Eiseler visited Pompeii, Italy, with Central's football team this summer.

In many ways, Aaron Eiseler '15 is a great example of a student of the liberal arts. A physics major with a math minor, he cites the skills he developed in problem solving and working with people from various backgrounds as key things he learned while at Central. He's had an internship with a major manufacturing company, was a student representative on the board of trustees and was also the quarterback for Central's football team.

Eiseler came to Central from Mesa, Ariz., drawn by a conversation with a football coach. He found his physics and math classes to be great places to learn about people from different backgrounds. "I came from a big city, the Phoenix metro area, and at Central I was able to learn to work with people from a variety of backgrounds," he says. "As physics majors, we had many people in our classes who were majoring in other areas, not

necessarily just physics, so we needed to learn how to communicate with them effectively as well."

Those communication skills benefited Eiseler in his job as an intern at PPI (Precision Pulley & Idler) in Pella. "In a manufacturing environment you have people with entirely different backgrounds and expertise that you have to communicate with regularly," he says. "Not everybody will understand all the same things as you do, so you've got to be able to communicate across different barriers."

A Central connection made Eiseler aware of the opportunity at PPI. "Jeff Bollard '89, one of the assistant football coaches, is an IT manager at PPI. I was asking around to see if any company locally was looking for interns, and Jeff let me know about the possibility of applying at PPI."

Through the internship, Eiseler has learned how the manufacturing process works from a variety of angles. In addition to seeing how products are designed, he's experienced how the company operates day-to-day, from the factory floor to quality control.

This experience will be useful to Eiseler in his ultimate career goal of working as a mechanical engineer. "One great thing about Pella, especially for STEM majors, is that there are three big manufacturing companies in town that are always looking for interns," he says.



# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## Living the Dream

by Cindy Deppe

Greg Nichols '02 is living every kid's dream: working all day, every day with computer graphics technology — for Disney — on some of the studio's biggest screen hits. And all just a bike ride away from his home in Burbank, Calif.

To realize this dream, Nichols first earned his computer science degree from Central, where he took full advantage of liberal arts classes and experiences that, he says, benefit him today in his work with film artists. "Professor Mark Johnson's computer graphics class really got me interested in this field," Nichols says. "I hadn't planned on a career in computer graphics, but I found I really liked it."

After a year working in his hometown of Dubuque as a software developer, Nichols earned a Ph.D. in computer graphics at the University of Iowa. His research there reinforced his career interest and his love of the academic environment where he believed he would remain as a professor.

Along the way, a coveted Disney internship "fell out of the sky. I happened to be in the exact field they needed — rendering — and they found me," Nichols says.

Today, the senior software engineer for Walt Disney Animation Studios is credited in five feature films and has shared Oscar "Best Animated Feature" winnings on two of those films: "Frozen" and "Big Hero 6."

In Nichols' world of computer graphics, his specialty in rendering means that he builds the technology to add realism to images on screen. These include believable snow for "Frozen," realistic hair for "Tangled" and vivid materials for "Wreck-It Ralph," to namedrop a few to his credit.

"When working on a film that's three to four years out, I may know the character that they want to look a certain way or in a certain environment. So I talk to the artists at the outset, then work with them through revisions, and in the end, it's all-hands-on-deck."

For example, Nichols is currently working on "Zootopia," due out in 2016. "Zootopia" has lots of furry characters — badgers and sheep — so I decide how to encode the fur into film."

In his work today as part of a large production team, Nichols says he thinks often of how he "learned to work on a team at Central. I took art classes. Even



**Greg Nichols works in the computer graphics field.**

though I wasn't talented, I enjoyed it. Now I appreciate and can talk to artists who do it every day. We use my rendering tools to refine their concepts and together, we create amazing things."

For today's Central students, Nichols encourages involvement and pushing the limits. "Central encouraged lots of involvement in a variety of things," Nichols says, recalling his days in Symphonic Wind Ensemble and InterVarsity. "I find in my work today that if you have interesting things you want to do, you can. If you can find a way to be 'in the room,' you can learn a lot."

"I get to work on challenging and interesting problems here in L.A., in a climate I love," he concludes. "I'm happy being paid to work on really cool projects." And an Academy Award is nice, too.