

WINTER 2017

# CIVITAS

CENTRAL COLLEGE

1853

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

## PIECES OF CENTRAL

10 ARTIFACTS TELL  
STORIES ABOUT THE  
COLLEGE

12

WHY MAKE ART?

10

SAVING  
MOTHERS' LIVES

20

"IF I WAS AT A  
BIG UNIVERSITY,  
I DON'T THINK  
I WOULD  
EVER GET THIS  
OPPORTUNITY."

Kylie Gerstein, junior



# *The Relational Giants of Central College*

by Mark Putnam, Central College president

Central's 1981 English faculty included (L-R) Jonathan Pierce, Mildred Steele, Maxine Huffman, Mary Stark and Jim Graham.



# I

love a good story, which is why I like to spend time with Central College alumni. You are the best storytellers.

The tales you tell about your experiences at the college are very personal and deeply meaningful. While you make reference to various places, programs, events and activities associated with the college, inevitably your stories are reflections about people.

I often tell prospective students that one thing our alumni have taught me about the uniqueness of the Central experience is that this is a place where you develop a strong sense of belonging.

We sometimes refer to our campus as a place where we nurture a network of caring relationships. Students interested in Central are looking for an academic community where they can belong and thrive in all aspects of the educational and developmental journey. What they eventually realize is that the experience

they seek is rooted in relationships that will endure.

The names are familiar to generations of Central alumni ... Huffman ... Brunsting ... Mills ... Schipper ... Butler ... Bosch ... Martin ... Hinga ... Graham ... Vruwink ... Willis ... and the list goes on and on and on. Before you read further, I would encourage you to write down the names of those who have had an enduring impact on your life and reflect on the reasons you have for listing them.

What you may realize is that some of the names you have listed are those you rarely encountered after graduation. Yet they have endured as voices in your mind when you faced opportunities and challenges along the way. Their influence may have surfaced in your continuing or professional journey as you reference an insight offered years ago. Conversations of the past echo in your thoughts as you remember how a word of caution or encouragement helped to shape your thinking. These people are the

giants of relationship for Central College.

When we invite new faculty and staff colleagues to join the college community today, I can see a continuity that reaches back through time. The expectations when we hire are deeply rooted in the values and traditions of the past. For instance, the ideal that tells us we value teaching as the essential measure of faculty excellence. The commitment to student-athletes that reminds us we care about much more than wins and losses on the field of competition and see clearly the preparation for life our coaches emphasize. The engagement of students in co-curricular activities that guide personal and professional development and continues to be a high priority as we see the student as a whole person.

Today we stand on the shoulders of relational giants. Our calling is to become the giants for the next generation.

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



CENTRAL COLLEGE  
**CIVITAS**  
 ALUMNI MAGAZINE

Winter 2017 | Issue 3

EDITOR

Laura Billingsley '04

COPY EDITOR

Jenni Hodges

SPORTS EDITOR/DIRECTOR OF  
 CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS

Larry Happel '81

SENIOR GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Lindsey Maurer

EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS

Mary Benedict

Lisa Thurman Fyfe '87

Connie Aalbers Marlow '76

Lynne Petty

Peggy Johnson Van Den Berg '83

DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

Kevin Stittsworth '95

COMMUNICATIONS BRAND  
 AND PROJECT MANAGER

Steffanie Bonnstetter

Civitas (USPS 096-840) is published by  
 Central College, 812 University St., Pella, IA 50219-  
 1999. Periodicals postage paid at Pella, Iowa, and  
 additional offices.

Postmaster: send address changes (PS 3579) to  
 Civitas, 812 University St., Pella, IA 50219-1999.

Address changes also may be sent to  
[alumni@central.edu](mailto:alumni@central.edu).

Production notes:

Civitas is printed with a soybean-based  
 ink by Town Crier, Pella, Iowa.



MIX  
 Paper from  
 responsible sources  
 FSC® C012844

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## FEATURES



10

### PORTRAIT OF AN ARTIST

—  
 Mat Kelly, associate  
 professor of art, inspires  
 his students to pursue  
 originality.



12

### PIECES OF CENTRAL

—  
 Ten objects tell  
 stories of Central's  
 rich history and  
 traditions.



20

### A MOTHER'S LIFE

—  
 Student and professor  
 tackle maternal  
 mortality in a quest  
 for answers.

## 30 WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

CLASS OF  
 2016

AROUND THE POND	4
ATHLETICS UPDATES	6
ALUMNI NEWSNOTES	23
IN MEMORIAM	32
PARTING SHOT	35
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT	36

ALUMNI@CENTRAL.EDU  
 CIVITAS.CENTRAL.EDU

812 UNIVERSITY ST., PELLA, IOWA 50219  
 800.447.0287



Civitas is published quarterly by the Central communications office for alumni, parents and friends of Central College. For information on the Civitas mission, visit [civitas.central.edu](http://civitas.central.edu).



# AROUND THE POND



During MUCH, 24 Central students presented research and six student artists showed their original work.

## CENTRAL HOSTS MIDWEST HUMANITIES MEETING

Central hosted the Midwest Undergraduate Conference in the Humanities (MUCH) for the first time Nov. 12. Students from 10 colleges presented their research and creative work. Presentations explored areas including English, history, philosophy, religion, art, theater, Spanish, French, German, Russian and more.

Keynote speaker Aron Aji also presented. Aji is director of the Master of Fine Arts in Literary Translation program at the University of Iowa.

"It's really a celebration of student scholarship," said Kathy Korcheck, associate professor of Spanish. "It allows us to showcase the best of Central College student research and to help put our own students in contact with student researchers at other institutions."



The MUCH event offered students an opportunity to hear from peers and present their own ideas.

## DAY OF GIVING

The 24-hour Day of Giving initiative Nov. 29 supported the Journey Scholarship Fund.



# \$31,175

TOTAL DOLLARS RAISED

# +

# \$25,000

MATCHING GIFT EARNED

# =

# \$56,175

ONE-DAY GRAND TOTAL

THANKS TO ALL WHO  
CONTRIBUTED!



## FLYING PANS CELEBRATE 10 YEARS OF HOMECOMING ALUMNI CONCERTS

Central's Flying Pans steel drum band celebrated its 10th year performing with alumni members this year. The band, formed in 2000, has been joined by returning graduates for homecoming concerts every year since 2007. Each reunion features grads' favorite tunes from their time in the band — including Central's fight song finale.

The concerts are a great time for current students and alumni to connect, says director Stan Dahl. And most grads don't have access to steel drums after leaving Central, so reunions are especially fun. "I am always encouraged that people want to come back and get together," says Dahl. "It is great seeing students come home. That's the best feeling. When they're here, it is like they never left."

The next alumni steel band concert will be during Homecoming 2017.

## CENTRAL HOSTS MIDWEST SPORTS ANALYTICS MEETING

Central hosted students, researchers and ESPN The Magazine reporter Peter Keating for the Midwest Sports Analytics Meeting (MSAM) Nov. 19. The all-day conference featured sports analytics research presentations, networking and a keynote presentation by Keating.

Russ Goodman, associate professor of mathematics and assistant women's soccer coach, coordinated the conference. Goodman also teaches Central's senior seminar in sports analytics, and several Central students made poster presentations at the conference.

Goodman says sports analytics is an opportunity to showcase how math is used in the real world. "Importantly, this analysis process applies to many areas beyond the sports world," he says.



Peter Keating of ESPN The Magazine spoke to students about data and sports.



BY LARRY HAPPEL '81

# CENTRAL CAPTURES CONFERENCE WOMEN'S GOLF CROWN



Central rallied from 19 shots down to claim its first Iowa Conference women's golf crown since 1990. (left to right): Emily Opsal, Brittany Coppess, Alison Kretzinger, Molly Timmerman, Lexie Patton, Cierra Pulse, coach Tim Wilkinson.

**K**nocking off nine-time defending champion Wartburg on its home course, the Central women's golf team rallied for its first Iowa Conference title since 1990.

It's the program's ninth championship overall and the first under league coach of the year Tim Wilkinson. Central trailed by 19 shots heading into the final weekend of the 72-hole tourney at Prairie Links Country Club in Waverly, but whittled the gap to one after the third round and finished with an eight-shot victory at 330-317-331-322—1,300.

The win earns the Dutch a first-ever berth in the NCAA Division III national tourney next May in Houston.

Junior Molly Timmerman, sophomore Brittany Coppess and freshman Emily Opsal received all-conference distinction. Timmerman was fourth with 84-75-84-81—324 in the tourney, which included 36 holes at Pheasant Ridge Golf Course in Cedar Falls. Coppess was fifth with 82-84-81-79—326 while Opsal carded 86-81-80-83—330 for ninth.

Central had placed second behind Wartburg the past three years and seven times in the previous nine. The Dutch later cracked the NCAA Division III Midwest Region rankings at No. 6.

## LIDLAW CITED FOR MEN'S SOCCER TURNAROUND

The arrow is pointing up again for the Central men's soccer team.

After enduring a 4-13 campaign last year, a youthful Dutch squad surged to an 11-7 mark, including a 5-3 Iowa Conference record for the No. 4 seed in the conference tournament. Led by coach Garry Laidlaw, the Central staff was named the league's coaching staff of the year.

Sophomore forward Miguel Pina was a second-team all-league honoree.

## MOST WOMEN'S SOCCER WINS EVER FOR CENTRAL

The bar was again raised for coach Mike Kobylinski '03 and the Central women's soccer team as the Dutch posted a best-ever 15-4-1 record.

In another program first, sophomore midfielder Olivia Denham and freshman forward Erin Manion were both tabbed for the NSCAA Division III All-North Region squad. Manion notched a team-high 10 goals with three assists in her rookie season while Denham scored three. It's the fourth straight year Central's had an

all-region pick but the first time for multiple selections.

Denham and Manion were both first-team all-Iowa Conference choices as well. Senior defender Kelsey Roxworthy, senior midfielder Kayla Sunvold and sophomore midfielder Lauryn Kramer were second-team honorees. Manion was the conference scoring leader in league games with seven.

The Dutch were 6-2 in recording a third-place league finish.



Sam Markham (right), celebrates a TD catch with P.J. Carey. He earned D3football.com all-America honors after leading Division III with a school-record 104 catches for 1,215 yards.

### RECORD-SETTING OFFENSE FUELS 8-2 FOOTBALL CAMPAIGN

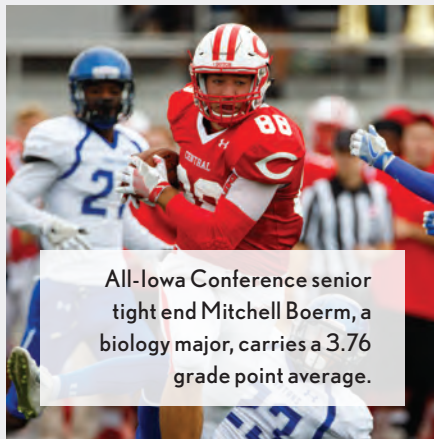
The Central football team rode one of the most productive offenses in school history to an 8-2 campaign.

Sam Markham was the Division III statistical champ with a school-record 104 pass receptions, good for 1,215 yards, also a school mark. Central's 535.3 yards per game of total offense was a school mark as was its 30.1 first downs average.

Senior quarterback Riley Gray was a record-setter as well, completing a best-ever 64.2 percent of his throws (205-319-5) for 2,478 yards and 29 touchdowns. He also was Central's second-leading rusher with 61.7 yards a game with a team-high nine scores.

A dramatic 50-49 overtime victory at nationally ranked Whitworth (Wash.) opened Central's second eight-win season in the past three years. The Dutch had a league-high eight first-team all-conference picks after tying for second place. Gray, Markham, tight end Mitchell Boerm, right guard Cole Tanner, linebacker Jessie Peterson, defensive tackle Corbin Blythe, free safety Zach Matter and return specialist Zack Martinelli were cited. All are seniors. Defensive lineman Wes Wheat and linebackers Drew Carlson and Sam Norgaard were second-team picks.

Markham was named Central's 36th football all-American by D3football.com, and the first Dutch wide receiver to receive the honor. Tanner, Martinelli and Matter were second-team D3football.com all-region selections.



All-Iowa Conference senior tight end Mitchell Boerm, a biology major, carries a 3.76 grade point average.

### BOERM AN ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICAN

Central senior tight end Mitchell Boerm was tabbed for the CoSIDA Academic All-America squad.

Boerm, a second-team selection, carries a 3.76 grade point average while majoring in biology. He was earlier named a first-team all-Iowa Conference choice with 25 catches for 383 yards and two touchdowns.

It's the 53rd time that a Central athlete has received the honor and the 13th time a Dutch football player was selected. Boerm is the first football honoree since Ben Bollard in 2006.

### FAIRLEY TO NCAA CROSS COUNTRY MEET

For the sixth straight year, the Central men's cross country team was represented at the NCAA Division III championships as junior Mark Fairley earned a spot with a fourth-place Central Region meet finish.

Fairley was 61st at the national meet in Louisville, Ky., Nov. 19, finishing in 25:12.3 over 8,000 meters. It was his third NCAA appearance, placing 154th as a freshman and 98th last year.

Central was just five points out of first place at the Iowa Conference meet, but had to settle for fourth place in the hotly contested event. The Dutch were seventh in the 32-team regional meet.

### PETER LEADS WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY SQUAD

Sophomore Rachel Peter's 15th-place showing was Central's best at the Iowa Conference women's cross country meet.

Junior Evie Kammeyer followed in 19th as the Dutch took fifth in the team standings. Central was 16th in the 32-team NCAA Division III Central Region meet in Northfield, Minn. The season was highlighted by the men's and women's squads' trek to the Connecticut College Invitational, run on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean in Waterford, Conn., Oct. 15.

### VOLLEYBALL TEAM MAKING STRIDES

Central shook off a disappointing 2015 volleyball campaign by rebounding to reach the Iowa Conference tournament semifinals this fall.

The Dutch, who should return all six starters in 2017, closed at 14-15 overall. Junior middle hitter Jenna Dille was a first-team all-conference selection, finishing second in the league in hitting percentage (.371) and blocks (0.97 per set).

### MALEY, WALTER LAND ALL-LEAGUE WOMEN'S TENNIS HONORS FOR CENTRAL

Junior Ashley Maley received all-Iowa Conference women's tennis distinction in both singles and doubles while her Central doubles partner, sophomore EmmaGrace Walter, was also cited. Central was 7-3 in dual action and 5-3 in conference matches to take fourth place.





CENTRAL SCENE

# CANDLELIGHT CONCERT

Voices soar in the annual Christmas Candlelight Concert, which featured two performances on campus and one in Des Moines. A Central tradition, the concert included the sounds of A Cappella Choir, College Community Orchestra, Kerstbellen Handbell Choir and the Chamber Singers.





Photo: Dan Vander Beek



# PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST

BY LAURA BILLINGSLEY '04

Get to know Mathew Kelly, associate professor of art

**D**uring more than 10 years teaching art at Central College, Mathew Kelly has helped countless students navigate the creative process. As a professional artist himself, Kelly knows that the first ideas usually aren't the best. In his classes he says, "We always go through the process of starting with sketches. Take your judgment hat off—write down lists, take notes, do sketches, make little models if you want to. The key to having a great idea is having many ideas. You've got to be willing to experiment."

Kelly, associate professor of art at Central, received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from University of New Hampshire and an MFA from Syracuse University. He came to the college in 2006 after stints teaching at Cayuga Community College, Syracuse University and Whitman College. As an artist, Kelly works in a wide variety of mediums but most prolifically in drawing, printmaking and book arts.

**"THE KEY TO HAVING A GREAT  
IDEA IS HAVING MANY IDEAS."**



## MY TOP FIVE PLACES TO EXPERIENCE ART ARE:

- 1 Des Moines Art Center
- 2 Frick Collection (New York)
- 3 Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York)
- 4 Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum (Boston)
- 5 Institute of Contemporary Art (Boston)

**A Poisonous Thought.**  
Ink, watercolor, graphite. 15" x 22"  
See more of Mat's work at  
[www.mathewkelly.wordpress.com](http://www.mathewkelly.wordpress.com)







## Q&A

### **Q: WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO CREATE?**

**A:** Making artwork is one of the ways I interact with the world. It is how I process ideas, deal with difficulties and explore new ways of thinking and working. It is how I shut out distractions and re-focus on what is important. Making art is how I maintain an intellectual curiosity. Life and all of its complexities motivate me to create because it is the best way I know how to make sense of it all.

### **Q: HOW LONG HAVE YOU WANTED TO TEACH ART?**

**A:** When I was a junior undergraduate student I started thinking about teaching at the college level very seriously. I was one of the only students interested in printmaking at the University of New Hampshire so I started helping my peers learn the process and enjoyed that kind of work. From there I started to maintain the studio as if it were my own, which helped me land an assistantship in graduate school as the studio technician for the Printmaking Studios.

### **Q: WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT DRAWING AND PRINTMAKING?**

**A:** Drawing is a very direct and simple process that does not tie you down to special equipment, space or materials. It is versatile and something that can be done anywhere with either traditional materials such as graphite and ink, or alternative materials like leaves, chocolate syrup and gun powder, such as the work of artists Andy Goldsworthy, Vik Muñoz and Cai Guo-qiang.

Printmaking takes drawing several steps further. There are quite a few steps in the process of printing an etching, lithograph or relief print

so one has opportunities at every step to either permanently or temporarily alter an image. It can be as simple as changing the color of the ink or as involved as multiple plates or blocks. Printmaking allows one to print multiples at each step so an idea can be fully explored.

### **Q: YOU TAUGHT IN MERIDA DURING SPRING 2016—WHAT STANDS OUT ABOUT THAT EXPERIENCE?**

**A:** I could talk for days about my experiences in Mérida but one of the most valuable experiences I had was staying with a host family in Tinúm. I had stayed with Susie and Julian two years prior to teaching in Mérida during a faculty development workshop and requested to stay with them a second time. They treated my wife Anne and my daughter Madeline as their own family. We saw so many similarities in our values, concerns and wishes for the futures of our children. Our last evening together was a dinner with the extended family. They sent us on our way with a small bottle of honey they harvested from their own bees “so we would remember them each time we had some tea.” This simple gesture meant a lot to us.

### **Q: WHAT PROJECT ARE YOU MOST PASSIONATE ABOUT RIGHT NOW?**

**A:** Right now, learning about the history of papermaking and books is very exciting. I have a series of small handmade books I am working on that are taking me in all kinds of directions, new and familiar. Additionally, I am revisiting some landscape ideas that I am equally excited about.

---

Mat Kelly shares more about teaching art in a video at [civitas.central.edu](http://civitas.central.edu).

# 10 OBJECTS WITH STORIES TO TELL

BY LAURA BILLINGSLEY '04 AND JENNI HODGES

When you think of artifacts, what comes to mind?  
Is it Indiana Jones holding an ancient figurine?  
Or perhaps an Egyptian mummy's tomb. Yet, artifacts  
are everywhere, and they help us remember the  
stories that are important to us. Here are 10 artifacts  
that tell stories of Central we never want to forget.



## 1 / CHOIR RECORD

This LP features 10 performances by Central's A Cappella Choir and Chapel Choir in 1954 — including Handel's Hallelujah Chorus and Hymn to Central Youth.

During Central's early decades, professors and students gave music concerts nearly every week, and music degrees were some of the first offered. Central's beloved A Cappella Choir was formed in 1932, and the college's unique, all-brass marching band performed for illustrious audiences throughout the 1950s — including President Dwight D. Eisenhower.



Photos: Paul Gates





### 3 / COLLEGE PHOTO

The clothes may have changed, but the curious spirit of Central students remains the same! In 1930, some students adopted bowler hats for a dapper look, while others sported their Central beanies. Many female students wear the “finger wave” hairstyle popular with flappers.



### 2 / OFFICIAL MACE

The Central mace (or staff) makes an appearance on stately occasions, such as commencement. Hand-crafted from cherry wood in the early 1980s, the mace is topped with a golden “C” surrounding a Bible and torch and the date of Central’s founding—1853—in the center. Bill Wesselink ’31 made the mace for the college. He was the son of former Central president John Wesselink, who served from 1925-34.

**During commencement exercises, the faculty marshal carries the mace.**







### MEMORIAL TO OLD CENTRAL

- 1855 BELLA CHOSEN AS THE LOCATION FOR CENTRAL COLLEGE
- 1854 THESE FOUNDATION STONES OF OLD CENTRAL WERE LAID
- 1857 THIS BELL FIRST CALLED TO CLASSES IN OLD CENTRAL
- 1914 THE BELL TOLLED FOR THE LAST TIME WHEN LIGHTNING STRUCK THE BELL TOWER OF OLD CENTRAL
- 1922 OLD CENTRAL WAS DESTROYED BY FIRE

THIS BELL, GIVEN TO OLD CENTRAL BY THE  
FDR FOUNDATION STONES AND DEFEATING THE BELL THAT SERVED HER  
FOR SEVEN YEARS, IS THE GIFT OF THE GRADUATES OF  
1913 - 1922 - 1924



## 4 / SAVING THE BELL

Though the bell sitting in front of Central Hall no longer tolls, it still has a story.

- 1854 • Foundation stones of Old Central were laid
- 1857 • Bell first called to classes in Old Central
- 1914 • Bell tolled for the last time when lightning struck the bell tower of Old Central
- 1922 • Old Central was destroyed by fire



## 5 / STATE SIGNS

It's Welcome Week, 1984. Get acquainted with classmates from your home state — or the other side of the country — thanks to these handy signs.

## 6 / BEANIE BONANZA

It wasn't just Central—beanies were a popular trend for first-year students at many colleges and universities starting in the 1920s. If caught without a beanie, the underclassman would be tasked with chores like carrying an older student's books.

Central's beanie use dates to pre-WWII and lasted until 1971, which was the last year new first-years wore beanies as part of "Freshmen Daze." In a Central Ray story from fall 1972, the Freshmen Daze committee says: "... this year it would re-work Freshmen Daze to make it relevant and helpful instead of degrading and useless." And so the beanie years came to a close on campus.



## 7 / CELEBRATING 150

Central celebrated its sesquicentennial year from 2003-04 with fireworks, alumni residencies, a huge cake modeling campus, the first Homecoming parade in decades, Happy Birthday Dear Central Gala, a Valentine's Day dinner for couples who met on campus, 150-year fashion show and more.



1860

In Central's first graduating class, three students received degrees. The following year, nearly all male students enlisted in the Civil War.

1929-32

Central's "Wonder Team," including Richard "Babe" Tysseling '32 and four other basketball starters, maintained a legendary 37-game winning streak.

1930s

During the Great Depression, students earned tuition through campus jobs in the Central College Student Industries factory, making toys, building furniture and cultivating tulip bulbs.

1941

The Sponsorship of Collegiate Private Flight Training program began training pilots at Central under supervision of the Civil Aeronautics Administration.





**1942**

Central began its cottage housing system in 1942, buying several homes surrounding campus while Navy Air Cadets lived in Graham Hall.

**1960s**

During the 1960s, Central's enrollment tripled — from 430 in 1960 to 1,355 in 1969.

**1962**

Central's first group of students study abroad in Merida, Mexico.

**1967**

Martin Luther King, Jr. speaks at Central. "Lubbers' Lagoon" — the campus pond — is dug, despite local grumbling.

**1973**

Women's sports are launched at Central after the 1972 passage of Title IX.

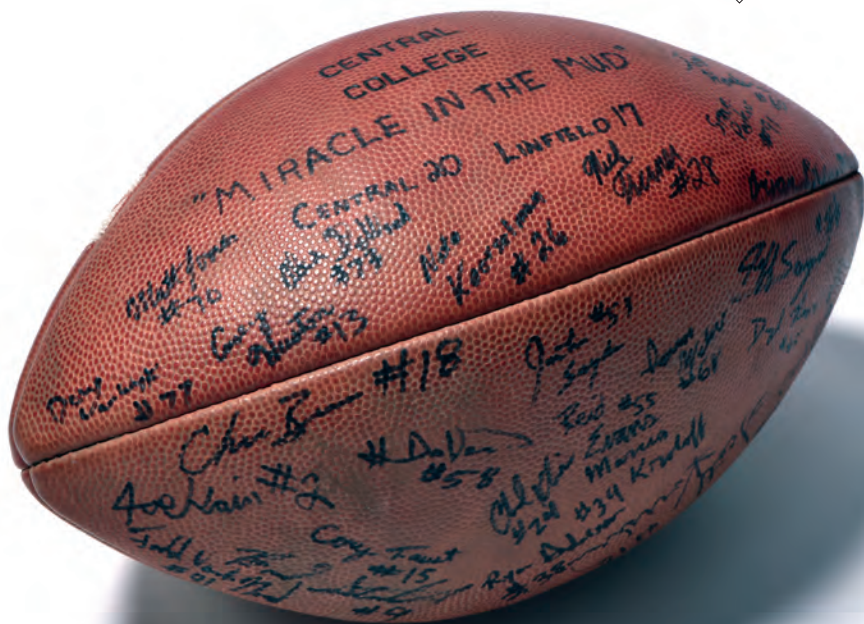
**1974**

Central wins its first NCAA Div. III national football championship.



## 8 / PENNANTS

The '70s were a big decade for the Dutch. Student population had tripled during the '60s and Central College became home to more fans and athletes than ever before. Women's athletics launched in 1973, and Central landed its first NCAA Div. III national football championship in 1974.



## 9 / MIRACLE IN THE MUD

It was a muddy day in Oregon in 2000. The football field in McMinnville at Linfield College was saturated with water and players were struggling to stay upright. Central trailed Linfield 17-14 in overtime, when a wild play resulted in the Dutch snatching victory from the Wildcats in a frenzy of flying mud on the final play, a botched kick.

After the win, Dutch players snagged the game ball—still covered in mud—and presented it to former defensive coordinator Don De Waard '82, who keeps it as a memento of the Miracle in the Mud.



## 10 / LEMMING T-SHIRTS

Urban legend sparked one of Central's most beloved traditions — the Lemming Race, celebrated in imaginative style since 1977. A small group of second-floor Gaass Hall men concocted the offbeat concept, never dreaming it would evolve into a near-sacred Central tradition, and dry-witted Jack Grubaugh '78 reigned as the first Grand Lemming. About 40 student lemmings staged separate men's and women's races to the pond in 1977. That number grew to 100 the following year. Central's Theta Kappa Alpha fraternity later took over the event and students continue their endlessly creative getups for the race each year.

A part of the race tradition since the first year, Lemming Day T-shirts incorporate pop-culture references from movies and current events.





# A MOTHER'S LIFE

SHAWN WICK AND KYLIE GERSTEIN  
INVESTIGATE THE SOCIAL INFLUENCES  
OF PREGNANCY-RELATED DEATHS.

By Jenni Hodges

Photo: Paul Gates

## EVERY DAY, NEARLY 830 WOMEN DIE

from pregnancy-related complications around the world. Health professionals across the globe know how to save nearly all their lives. So, why are these women dying? That's what Shawn Wick and Kylie Gerstein want to answer.

Wick, assistant professor of sociology, and Gerstein, junior sociology and Spanish major from Iowa Falls, are conducting original research on maternal mortality and its social influences. "We have the medical knowledge to prevent these deaths," says Wick. "The clinical and technical causes are well known, but maternal death rates are uneven and vary widely between and within countries. Why?"

Several factors are thought to influence maternal mortality, including economic and gender inequality, healthcare infrastructure and access, and the efforts of non-governmental organizations. But which factors matter most? Wick and Gerstein plan to publish their research answering this question. "Sociology has a lot to offer, to help societies take on significant and complex issues," says Wick. "Our primary focus in sociology is to explain and address real-world problems."

### DECODING THE DATA

The World Health Organization, World Bank, UNICEF and other international development organizations have drawn attention to alarming rates of maternal mortality, and reducing maternal deaths is part of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals outlined in 2015.

"Maternal mortality has been on the radar for some time, and progress has been made," Wick says, "but the global occurrence of maternal mortality remains alarmingly high and uneven across countries."

Gerstein first investigated this topic in one of Wick's sociology courses, where she analyzed causes of maternal mortality in Cambodia and developed a proposal to establish a non-governmental organization to address this problem. Last summer, she and Wick began the collaborative project, compiling data from



the World Health Organization, United Nations, Polity Project and other sources to conduct their analysis.

Wick and Gerstein have also worked to measure factors that affect maternal mortality factors by creating new variables covering more than 150 countries. For example, Gerstein created a new variable representing each country's capacity to train medical professionals, using previously neglected information from the World Directory of Medical Schools.

### NO EASY ANSWERS

Several factors seem to influence maternal death rates directly, Wick says, but his and Gerstein's findings show many more complicated patterns. As an example, Wick points to complex relationships between public health spending and economic inequality. Healthcare spending may seem to significantly lower a nation's maternal mortality rates. However, Wick and Gerstein find the effect of higher government spending disappears when they account for the level of economic inequality in a country. This indicates a country cannot fix its maternal mortality problems by focusing on health spending alone.

"Our findings indicate that economic inequality among a nation's population undermines access to healthcare systems and significantly affects the likelihood of maternal death," says Wick. "Improving health outcomes requires not only investment in national healthcare systems, but also investments in the social and economic well-being of individual citizens, families and communities."

Most maternal deaths occur in developing countries, but Gerstein says many people are surprised to learn how relevant these findings are to the United States. Despite being one of the wealthiest nations in the world, America does not have one of the lowest rates of maternal mortality. The U.S. ranks 46th among the 184 nations with available data, and Gerstein says economic inequality must be a top consideration.

### WHAT DO YOU WANT TO STUDY?

Wick and Gerstein discovered their shared interest in global health topics through sociology courses at Central and a 10-day study abroad trip to the

Yucatan. Last spring, Gerstein returned for a semester in Merida, taking more healthcare classes and interning in a local hospital. By summer, she and Wick both received support for their collaboration through the Arthur J. Bosch Endowment for Student Research, Moore Family Foundation and academic affairs office. "If I was at a big university, I don't think I would ever get this opportunity unless I was really focused on the professor's interest," said Gerstein. "Shawn asked me what I wanted to do — we're treating it like grad school. I got to pick my area of interest, and I am invested in the outcomes of the project."

Wick says research grants give Central professors a chance to work one-on-one with exceptional students — and mentor them throughout the project. By completing this work, Wick says Gerstein will gain advantages beyond most of her peers: advanced research experience, confident presentation skills and an impressive final product.

"Central's unique funding opportunities for faculty-student research are excellent," says Wick. "We couldn't do this work in a focused way without such support. This project is a really important example of what can happen when these resources are available."

Based on her work so far, Gerstein received the top undergraduate research award at the 8th Annual Global Health Consortium Conference in Des Moines. This conference focuses on ways schools and community groups can improve sustainable global health through education.

"I know I want to be in women's health," says Gerstein. "Right now I'm trying to discern whether I want to be in practice or policy."

Next, Gerstein plans to spend another semester abroad — this time in Granada, Spain. After finishing her degree at Central — complete with a minor in global health — Gerstein plans to complete a nursing degree from Central's partner in Waterloo, Allen College.

Meanwhile, she's enhancing her international vocabulary by studying "What to Expect When You're Expecting" in Spanish.

## UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AT CENTRAL

- Over 100 students present their work each semester.
- Last summer, 17 students received funding for their research.
- Each year, dozens of students present research at conferences.

## RECENT COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH TOPICS

- American politics and policy
- History of sustainability at Central College
- Invasive plant species
- Political behavior
- Psychology of religion and morality
- Neuroscience
- Smartphone use and family cohesion
- Sustainable solutions (theater lighting, food sourcing and more)

## SUPPORTERS OF STUDENT AND FACULTY RESEARCH

- Arthur J. Bosch Endowment
- Margaret A. Cargill Foundation
- Monticello College Foundation
- David and Linda Wesselink
- Moore Family Foundation
- American Chemical Society
- Iowa Science Foundation
- Central College Dean's Office

Jordan Hall, 2016

# TIMES MAY CHANGE.

Irwin Lubbers  
served as Central's  
president 1934-45.



## **BUT THE ENDURING VALUE OF A CENTRAL COLLEGE EDUCATION STAYS THE SAME.**

Your gift can make that education a reality for incoming students.

The Journey Scholarship Fund plays a vital role in offering financial assistance to students who would otherwise be unable to afford college. Every gift helps to support this goal.

Join with other Central alumni, parents and friends by making your gift today:

**[WWW.CENTRAL.EDU/GIVE](http://WWW.CENTRAL.EDU/GIVE)**

**800-447-0287**

**MAIL THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE**

*Journey*  
**SCHOLARSHIP FUND**



## — ALUMNI —

### NEWSNOTES



◀ Kathleen Redeker Vande Berg '60 and husband Jim Vande Berg '60 of Saint Augustine, Fla., were joined by three other couples from the class of '60 for a reunion at Yosemite National Park during a week in September. The friends enjoyed the beautiful scenery and hiking while learning about the history and natural wonders of the park. Pictured (left to right): Erv Roorda '60, Andrea Boat Roorda '60, Jim Vande Berg '60, Kathleen Redeker Vande Berg '60, Judy Gosselink Grooters '60, Lou Dorang, Carol Dulmes Vruwink '60 and John Vruwink '58.

#### '50s

For information about Millie Ratmeyer Meyer '57 and Don Meyer '57, see the '80s.

#### '60s

Rosemarie Anderson '69 of Williams, Ore., is the recipient of the Abraham Maslow Heritage Award for her "outstanding and lasting contribution to the exploration of the farther reaches of the human spirit" by Division 32, Society for Humanistic Psychology, of the American Psychological Association. Rosemarie is professor emerita of psychology at Sofia University, author and an Episcopal priest.

#### '70s

For information about Sue Wetle Kelderhouse '75 and Paul Kelderhouse '74, see the '00s.



▲ A group of 1970s BKE fraternity brothers staged their fifth annual Beake reunion and enjoyed a three-day weekend playing golf, telling old stories and playing cards at Honey Creek Golf Course in Boone. Pictured in the front row (left to right): Don Orris '74 of Jefferson, Thom Summitt '74 of Pella, Bill Rollison '74 of Leawood, Kan., Don Robinette '74 of Highlands Ranch, Colo. and Craig Cochran '71 of Pleasant Hill. Back row: Steve Paris '73 of Boone, Ken Borgman '71 of Urbandale, Dave Gaulke '74 of Indianola, Dave Swanson '74 of Littleton, Colo., Warren Poldberg '74 of Adel, Kent Johnson '74 of Wapello and Don Ferneau '72 of Lenexa, Kan.

**Curry Pikkaart '71** authored his second book, *When the Going Gets Tough...Turn your Stumbling Blocks into Stepping Stones*, a study of the life of Joseph from the book of Genesis, published by Westbow Press. Curry and wife Barbara live in South Haven, Mich.

### '80s

For information about **Dean Chapman '86**, see the '90s. For information about **Cathy Snyders Gray '88** and **Dave Gray '87**, see the '10s.

**Raymond Beattie '82** teaches social studies at San Diego Unified School District in San Diego, Calif., where he lives with wife Linda.

**Dee Parker Marlett '83** is an investment counselor at Principal Financial Group in West Des Moines. Dee and husband Tom live in West Des Moines; they are the parents of three children.

**Michael Slaymaker '83** of Maitland, Fla., is vice president of grants and planned giving for Easter Seals Florida. Michael was this year's recipient of the Barbara Marion Award for Outstanding Leadership by the Association of Fundraising Professionals. Michael has been actively involved in many different facets of the association, from presenting and teaching to mentoring and outreach. In 2011, he was honored as the Outstanding Fundraising Professional for Central Florida.

**Lyle Van Wyk '84** is the sales manager at Pella Windows and Doors; he and wife **Kay Vermeer Van Wyk '85** are the parents of four children.



▲ A group of self-described "Dudes" from the class of '84 made a return trip to Central late in October to honor their fallen classmate **Jeff Pogemiller '84**, who lost a battle with ALS in April. The group posed under the scoreboard after the Central football game (left to right): **Lyle Van Wyk '84** of Lexington, S.C., **Kevin Lowary '84** of Grimes, **Kevin Vermeer '84** of Savage, Minn., **Curt Gunnink '84** of Saint Charles, Ill., **Mark Kooienga '84** of Urbandale, **Doug Veldhuizen '84** of Grand Haven, Mich., **Kent Schornack '84** of Johnston and **Dave Garland '84** of Elmhurst, Ill.

**Scot Storjohann '85** is senior vice president at GreatBanc Trust Co. in Des Moines. Scot and wife Marcia live in Elkhart.

**Chris Hyland '88** stepped onto a football field for the first time in 29 years, this time as a volunteer football coach at Assumption Junior High School in Walla Walla, Wash. Their season ended with a record of 5–1. Chris is executive director at the Walla Walla Watershed Management Partnership in Walla Walla, Wash., where

he lives with wife Lisa.

**Todd Hall '89** and **Dustin Calhoun** of Lakeland, Fla., were married March 28. Todd is medical director at Lakeland Regional Health – Orthopaedic S.

**Justin Kolenbrander '89** has assumed the duties of legal attaché for the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Warsaw, Poland. As the legat, he serves as the FBI Director's representative and senior FBI liaison officer in Poland responsible for all FBI investigative programs, maintaining



▲ **Sue Meyer '86** and **Gar Brown** of Renton, Wash., were married Oct. 7. Sue is the marketing director at Cadence3 LLC in Kirkland. They are pictured front row (left to right): **Lisa Wilkins Groharing '86**, **Jackie Flood '87**, **Karen Regal-Johnson '86**, **Sue Meyer '86**, **Gar Brown**, **Kathie Flood '86**, **Millie Ratmeyer Meyer '57** and **Don Meyer '57**. Back row: **Fred Koke '86**, **Mari De Jong Koke '86**, **Sara Meyer Phillips '88**, **Lucas Phillips '20**, **Tim Meyer '85** and **Rob Robinson '88**.



close bilateral working relationships with Polish law enforcement and governmental agencies. Justin and wife Angela are the parents of six children.

—

**'90s**

For information about **Zach Osborn '99**, see the '00s.

**Mark DeYoung '91** is teacher-on-special-assignment (TOSA) for the Edina Public Schools Next Generation Strategic Plan at three elementary schools, assisting building principals as they lead Next Gen efforts. He described his one-year assignment as a cross between a dean and an assistant principal. Mark and wife Tina live in Minneapolis, Minn., with their twin son and daughter.

**Donna Decker Hefner '91** received a paraprofessional license from the Illinois State Board of Education in June. Donna is a one-on-one aide in a Bridges Program classroom at Elim Christian Services School in Crestwood. Donna and husband Jeremy live in Park Forest with their three children.

**John Montgomery '91** is a hand spray operator at Seneca Millwork in Fostoria, Ohio, where he lives with wife Farrah and their son.

**Kathy Rheinschmidt '93** of Des Moines is an office manager/account manager at Urban Flooring and Design in Grimes.

**Howard Feitel, Jr. '94** of Alameda, Calif., was promoted to a smart money financial coach with BALANCE/Consumer Credit Counseling Service, where he has

been employed for the past 20 years.

**Kevin Stittsworth '95** of Knoxville recorded his second album, *Joy to the World*, which features piano arrangements of favorite Christmas songs. Digital downloads are available at iTunes, Spotify and Google Play. A portion of the proceeds will go to the New Covenant End of the Month Meals, Knoxville High School Band Boosters and Marion County Humane Society.

**Michelle Zinke '95** of Lincoln is the training and resource coordinator for the Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence and is involved with several theatre companies in the area. In June, Michelle was awarded the 2016 Mayor's Art Award: ArtScene Backstage in recognition of the 15 years she has dedicated as a volunteer stage manager.

**Cole Adrian '96** has been promoted to divisional vice president of luxury at Pella Corp. Cole and wife Jaime live in Pella with their two children.

**Carrie McNeese Valster '96** is vice president of client services at ITAGroup in West Des Moines, where she lives with husband **Michael Valster '96** and their two children. Michael is president at MVAL FTC, Inc.

**Patrick Roland '97** of Phoenix, Ariz., has written a self-help memoir about grief and recovery entitled *Unpacked Sparkle* that has been published by azpublishingservices and is available for purchase through Amazon. Patrick is the content editor for Choice Hotels International.

**Brad Pluth '98** was named in Golf Digest's Best Young Teachers in America

2016. He was one of 100 instructors under 40 years old who were recognized with the prestigious honor. Brad is the PGA director of instruction at Bluff Creek in Chaska, Minn., where he lives with wife Rebecca and their four children.

—

**'00s**

For information about **Bob Hodges '03** and **Zach Benson '08**, see the '10s.

**Krista Determan Deur '01** is an employment coordinator at Hope College in Holland, Mich. Krista and husband Brian live in Zeeland with their three children.

**Katherine Vocolka Osborn '01** was named Missouri Young OD of the Year at the Missouri Optometric Association Convention Oct. 13 in Branson. Earlier this year she was named clinical director of the Opening Eyes program for Special Olympics. She practices optometry at the International Eyecare Center in Fulton. Katherine and husband **Zach Osborn '99** live in Columbia with their two sons. Zach is the staff psychologist at Harry S. Truman Memorial Veteran's Hospital in Columbia.

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

**Amanda Larsen '03** and Joshua Waske were married July 2. Amanda is a special education associate and cheer coach at Mount Ayr High School in Mount Ayr, where she and Joshua live with their two children.

**Michael Warden '03** is the lead application developer at University of Iowa Healthcare in Coralville. Michael and wife Olya live in Walford with their three children.

**Laura Billingsley '04** is writer/editor for Central College. Laura and husband Eric Kochneff live in West Des Moines with their two children.

**Breanne McCoy Garrett '06** is an assistant teaching professor of mathematics at William Penn University in Oskaloosa. Breanne and husband Corey live in Ottumwa.



▲ **Christine Epperly Ieuter '91** and four cohorts from Central College share office space at Essendant in Deerfield, Ill. They are pictured (left to right): **Hannah Johnson '18** – student intern, **Dean Chapman '86** – director of carrier relations/sales, **Jacob Logan '18** – student intern and **Christine Epperly Ieuter '91** – vice president, controller and chief accounting officer.



▲ **Lisa Kelderhouse '05** and **William Carroll** of Grayslake, Ill., were married April 23. Lisa teaches first grade at Big Hollow Primary School in Ingleside. They are pictured (left to right): **Zach Wagner '10**, Jackson Wagner, **Kristin Davis Wagner '10**, Sue Wetle Kelderhouse '75, Paul Kelderhouse '74, Lisa Kelderhouse Carroll '05, William Carroll, Stacy Bartelt Thompson '05, Cora Thompson, Zack Thompson '03, Noah Thompson, Janny Sunde Hanson '05, Lindsay Kelderhouse '08 and Tamara McLaughlin Williams '05.

**Curtis Hunt '06** is an X-ray field service engineer at General Healthcare in Overland Park, Kan. Curtis and wife **Alyssa Jones Hunt '08** live in Shawnee.

**Scott Sandberg '07** is the senior health informatics solution coordinator at Telligen in West Des Moines. Scott and wife **Catherine Conway Sandberg '07** live in Waukee with their two children.

**Rachel Wallace '06** is choir director at Kaffie Middle School in Corpus Christi, Texas.

**Scott Westphal '06** joined the faculty at University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha as a transplant nephrologist upon graduation from the nephrology fellowship program at Duke University. Scott and wife **Whitney Visser Westphal '08** live in Omaha with their two sons.

**Emory Dease '07** and Josie Price of Topeka, Kan., were married June 27, 2015.

**Nick Mulder '07** is the defensive coordinator for the Central College Dutch. Nick and wife **Kelsey Rethmeier Mulder '09** live in Pella with their two children.

**Nick Reed '07** is employed by iSPORTSi, an international sports organization in central Turkey, where he lives with wife **Lyndi Beeman Reed '08** and their two children.

**Sarah Benedict '08** of Des Moines teaches fourth grade at Fisher Elementary School in Marshalltown.

**Kristin Clague '08** of Des Moines is a communications specialist II at Iowa State University in Ames.

**Kari Hutchinson '08** and John Kovelan of Dallas, Texas, were married May 28. Kari is a recruiting manager at Highland Capital Management.

**Stephanie Liebe Liebhart '08** teaches Spanish at Sanford Middle School in Minneapolis, where she lives with husband Rob.

**Joshua Noonan '08** and Nonna Hassan of Shakopee, Minn., were married Aug. 27. Joshua is the North American MPS supply group manager at C.H. Robinson in Eden Prairie.

**Maria Hickie Rohach '08** is assistant director of Drake administered programs abroad at Drake University. Maria and husband **Matthew Rohach '06** live in Urbandale, where Matthew is a computer programmer at SourceHOV.

**James Arnett '09** of Sioux Falls, S.D. is an attorney at Woods, Fuller, Shultz & Smith P.C.

**Karley Stineman Sanders '09** is the information services specialist at Yuba County Health and Human Services in Marysville, Calif., where she lives with husband Joseph.

## '10s

For information about **Zach Wagner '10** and **Kristin Davis Wagner '10**, see the '00s.

**Derek McLaughlin '10** is the manager at Kosama Group Fitness Center in Coralville, where he lives with wife **Melissa Mount McLaughlin '10**. Melissa is a dietetic intern at the University of Iowa in Iowa City.

**Emily Anderson Walker '10** teaches music at Forest City Elementary School in Forest City, where she lives with husband Keith.

**Jill Anderson Schacherer '10** is a refugee mental health program coordinator with the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants in Des Moines. Jill and husband **Patrick Schacherer '10** live in Windsor Heights. Patrick is a case manager at Primary Health Care Limited in Des Moines.

**Steven Johnson '11** was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps.

**Nicholas Beukema '12** of Mitchellville is the Route 662 driver for Doll Distributing.

**Christine Lundgren-Williams '12** is a learning support teacher at The American School in Japan in Chofu-shi, Tokyo.



▲ **Sara Benson '13** and **Dominic Baldi '10** of Marburg, Germany, were married Aug. 13. Sara teaches English in the language center at Philipps University in Marburg. They are pictured front row (left to right): **Laura Burns '13**, **Andrea Kroeger Irwin '13**, **Sarah Benson Baldi '13**, **Dominic Baldi '10**, **Sara Phillips '10**, and **Zach Benson '08**. Back row: **Bryan Johnson '10**.



Christine and husband **Beau Williams '12** live in Mitaka-shi. Beau is the assistant varsity football coach and substitute teacher at The American School, where he will also coach middle school basketball.

**Kimberly Van Zee '12** of Pella is the assistant office manager at Kinetic Edge Physical Therapy in Pella.

**David Young '12** is the assistant strength and conditioning coach for the San Francisco 49ers.

**Joseph Binns '13** is an actuarial assistant at Principal Financial Group in Des Moines, where he lives with wife **Rhiley Huntington Binns '13**. Rhiley is a programs presenter at the Science Center of Iowa.

**Brandon Clough '13** is the natural resources technician at Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa in Tama. Brandon and wife **Jessica Riebkes Clough '13** live in Des Moines, where Jessica is an intern grant writer with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation.

**Perry Harrah '13** of Kerrville, Texas, is a medical consentor at K 'Star Emergency Youth Shelter in San Antonio, Texas.

**Austin Krause '13** and McKaylee Gregory of Franklin, Tenn., were married Aug. 2, 2014. Austin is an athletic trainer at Trevecca University in Nashville.



▲ **Morgan Gray '14** and **Robert Kreiser '12** of Omaha, Neb., were married June 25. Morgan is attending law school at Creighton University and Robert is an audit supervisor at RSM US LLP in Omaha. They are pictured front row (left to right): **Robert Kreiser '12** and **Morgan Gray Kreiser '14**. Second row: **Patrick Gray '19**, **Liz Clancy '13**, **Julie Wunder '14**, **Molly Potts '14**, **Kelsey Schippers '14**, **Greg Oldsen '13** and **Stephanie Hasken '13**. Third row: **Tyler Wivinis '12**, **Mike Kruse '12**, **Noah Stochl '17**, **Emma Grace Walter '18**, **Riley Gray '17** and **Emma Drees '17**. Back row: **Bob Hodges '03**, **Dana Baker Seeman '12**, **Max Seeman '12**, **Cathy Snyders Gray '88**, **Patrick Schroeder '12**, **Dave Gray '87** and **Drew Carlson '17**.



◀ **Melissa Ketcham '15** and **Sean Robbins '15** of Cedar Falls were married May 21. Melissa is a developer analyst I at Henderson Products in Manchester and Sean is attending graduate school at the University of Northern Iowa. They are pictured front: **Elizabeth Keeney '14**. Second row: **John Sheldon '15**, **Grace Hove '15** and **Jennifer Walter**. Back row (left to right): **Sean Robbins '15**, **Melissa Ketcham Robbins '15**, **Ethan Bonde '15**, **Rachel Lindhart '14**, **Ashton Mayer Johnson '15**, **Abby Paul**, **Amanda Kahl '15** and **Brandon Mennenoh '15**.

**Regan Jamieson Minaudo '13** is a middle school ministry associate at Olathe Bible Church in Lenexa, Kan. Regan and husband Philip live in Leawood.

**Shivani Kharbanda '13** and **Braden Rea '13** of Pella were married July 1, 2015. Shivani is an economic and risk analyst at Vermeer Corp.

**Elsie Rankin '13** is a CLS chemist at Kemin Industries in Des Moines.

**Kelly Spavin '13** is an administrative associate in the department of applied behavioral science at the University of Kansas in Lawrence.

**Jazmyn West '13** and Josh Baker of Mingo, were married Aug. 6. Jazmyn is a project manager at Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Co.

**Amanda Higgins '14** of Titonka completed her boards to become a radiology technician from ICCC in July and is an athletic trainer and radiology technologist at the Center for Specialty Care in Fairmont, Minn., where she covers various sports throughout the states of Minnesota and Iowa.

**Emily Hutchison '14** of Martinsdale is the assistant manager at the Valley West Hy-Vee in West Des Moines.

**Amanda Jacobson '14** is a first-year law student at Creighton University School of Law in Omaha.

**Anne Dillon Youngman '14** of Washington is on the marketing/events team at Mercy Hospital in Iowa City, where she is the backup spokesperson for the hospital's foundation.

**Conner Freeman '15** of Urbandale is an operations billing analyst at Businessolver in West Des Moines.

**Stephanie Griffith '15** and Mitch Roush of Newton were married Sept. 17.

**Matt Guinane '15** is the assistant athletic trainer at Central College. Previously Matt was a personal trainer at Anytime Fitness in Pella.

**Grace Hirl '15** and Preston Sereg of Clinton Township, Mich., were married April 23. Grace is the marketing and estimating assistant at Grabill Windows and Doors in Almont.

**Lucas Lazenby '15** is the senior plasma center technician at Biolife Plasma in West Des Moines.

**Kaitlyn Matzen '15** and Brendan Ehlke of Manly were married July 23. Kaitlyn is a human resources generalist at Winnebago Industries, Inc., in Forest City.

**Makaye Smith '15** and **Lucas Hamilton '16** of Brunswick, Ohio, were married Oct. 15. Lucas is a graduate assistant at Cleveland State University in Cleveland.

—

### Advanced Degrees

**Joseph Jefferson '07**, masters of arts, counseling psychology-marriage and family therapy, Minnesota School of Professional Psychology, Aug. 20, 2012.

**James Arnett '09**, juris doctor, highest honors, Drake University Law School, Dec. 2015.

**Dominic Baldi '10**, master's degree, modern languages, University of Mississippi, May 2013.

**Emily Anderson Walker '10**, masters of arts, education, Morningside College, Aug.

**Sara Benson '13**, master's degree, German, University of Missouri, May.

**Austin Krause '13**, master's degree, athletic training, Indiana State University in Terre Haute, 2015.

**Kelly Spavin '13**, master's degree, library science, Emporia State University, May.

**Rachel Church '14**, masters of arts, criminal justice, Mount Mercy University, July 16.

—

### New Arrivals

**Marc '98** and **Ellen Gallinger Poortinga '04**, daughter Audrey Lee, Aug. 9

**Cole '01** and **Sarah Wood Van Vark '02**, twins, son Connor Weston and daughter Claire Ann, Sept. 16

**Nic** and **Abby Gonzales Larson '02**, son Grant Emmett, Oct. 16

**Bob** and **Katie Vander Linden Hughes '04**, son Xavier Robert, Sept. 6

**Marty '05** and **Kathy Pilling Hagewood '04**, twins, son Martin Lyn III and daughter Willow Roslyn, July 8

**David** and **Kristy Penning Jahraus '05**, daughter Allison Grace, Aug. 8

**Jason** and **Alex Costigan Ehrenberg '06**, twin daughters Colleen Sue and Cora Grace, Nov. 6

**Katie** and **Adam Duerfeldt '06**, son Hank Ripken, Sept. 12

**Bryan** and **Kelsi Ver Ploeg Vander Meiden '06**, son Henry Rylan, July 1

**Scott '06** and **Whitney Visser Westphal '08**, son Elijah Scott, Dec. 4, 2015

**Adam** and **Allison Klett Cooke '08**, daughter Brynley Lynne, Jan. 22, 2016

**Nick '07** and **Lyndi Beeman Reed '08**, son Abraham Austin, Sept. 1

**Dave '10** and **Danielle Larimer Baker '10**, son Trenton Robert, Oct. 14

**Blake** and **Andrea Heisterkamp Kruger '10**, son Brady Lee, June 15

**Brent '12** and **Teresa Beiermann Goodenow '11**, daughter Cecelia Jean, July 26

**Andrea** and **Austin Hill '11**, daughter Nora, June 18, 2015

**Brett '12** and **Erin Sondag McKenzie '12**, daughter Claire Elizabeth, Nov. 19

**Jake '14** and **Molly Ammerman Mollman '14**, son Gavin Daniel, April 6

—

### In Memoriam

**William Hardin '42** of Knoxville, Sept. 18

**Wilbur Ivins '42** of Cobleskill, N.Y., Sept. 23

**Margery Van Heukelom Van Hemert '44** of Pella, Oct. 13

**Blanche Van Donselaar Deal '46** of Bellevue, Neb., March 21

**Henrietta "Joy" Rozendaal Janssen '47** of Pella, Sept. 23

**Doris Smith De Wild '49** of Rockford, Ill., Sept. 30

**Jackie Vander Lugt Voss '50** of Ann Arbor, Mich., Nov. 28

**Chrystal Ebert Lehfeld '52** of Des Moines, Oct. 4

**Lyola Goeman Logterman '53** of Greenwood Village, Colo., Aug. 25

**Judith Mentink Brasser '54** of Manitowoc, Wis., Sept. 12

**Walter Henrichsen '56** of San Diego, Calif., Aug. 29



**Wallace Osland '58** Lanesboro, Minn.,  
Sept. 9

**John Rozendaal '58** of Carroll, April 16  
**Alvin Clevenger '60** of Davenport,  
Sept. 3

**Jan McLeland '62** of Oskaloosa, Sept. 7  
**Mack Gabrielson '72** of Clear Lake,  
Oct. 18

**Dennis Simpson '79** of Montezuma,  
March 2

**Nathaniel LeGrand '07** of Monroe,  
Nov. 4

**Megan Sloss '14** of Coralville, Sept. 18

## JOHN BOWLES

John Bowles, professor emeritus of biology, passed away Nov. 22 in Greensboro, N.C., where he lived with his wife Gay '76 (Grace Chawner).

Bowles was born in Kariuzawa, Japan, on July 29, 1933. In 1936 the family moved to Honolulu, Hawaii. He graduated from Earlham College in Richmond, Ind., where he received a B.A. degree in biology in 1956. He and Gay were married in 1958 and moved to Seattle where Bowles completed a master's degree in ornithology from the University of Washington. They moved to Honolulu where Bowles first taught high school biology at Punahou and later became the assistant director of the Waikiki Aquarium in Honolulu.

In 1963, Bowles took a job at William Penn College in Oskaloosa teaching biology. A Ph.D. in zoology from the University of Kansas preceded a career move to Central in 1969 where Bowles taught for 24 years before taking early retirement in 1993 as the result of being diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. In 1993, Bowles and Gay moved to Austin, Texas, and later San Marcos, Texas, where he was involved with Bat Conservation International.

## LILLO RITTER

Lieselotte (Lilo) Ritter, professor emerita of German at Central, passed away Nov. 24. Ritter taught German at Central from 1979-1997. Born in August 1929 in East Prussia, Lieselotte Traute Eleonore Schachner fled the Red Army with her family in 1944 to eventually settle near Hamburg, Germany.

In 1960 she immigrated to the United States. She received a B.A. degree in German from Oakland University in 1967, a Master of Arts in German from Michigan State University in 1977 and a doctorate in German Language and Literature from Michigan State University in 1981.

Following her retirement in 1997, Ritter focused on researching and writing a book about her ancestors, the "Salzburg Germans."

## ELDON SCHULTE

Eldon Schulte '58 passed away Nov. 17 in Pella. A member of Central's Athletics Hall of Honor, Schulte, 80, lettered in football, basketball, baseball and track while also earning a B.A. in physical education. After graduating, he spent time in the U.S. Army and on his family's dairy farm before coaching two years at Central. He then signed with the Chicago Bears and was a member of the taxi squad for the 1963 NFL champions.

Schulte returned to Central in 1969. He was head baseball coach for nine years, and was also a long-time football assistant, equipment manager and fields caretaker until retiring in 2005. Schulte and wife Mary have three children who each attended Central.

## TELL US YOUR NEWS

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 St., Campus Box 5200, Pella, IA 50219.

# 2011

## CLASS OF

### WHERE ARE THEY

For information about **Lucas Hamilton**, see the '10s.

**Walker Adams** of Osceola teaches fourth grade for the Clarke Community School District.

**Angie Allgood** of Oakville is the assistant to the lead pastor at the Bridge Church in Ottumwa.

**Chris Askren** of Polk City is a retail pharmacy technician at PRHC Pharmacy while attending graduate school at the University of Iowa.

**Alli Balk** of Pella teaches kindergarten for Pella Community Schools.

**Latasha Baugher** of Albia is a library reference assistant at Central College.

**Kristen Blair** is attending graduate school at Mercy College of Health Science.

**Alex Bleadorn** of Waverly is an express claims service representative 1 at Iowa Farm Bureau Federation.

**Anna Bowser** is an agroforestry volunteer with the United States Peace Corps.

**Alex Breiholz** of Iowa City is the assistant store manager at Dry Goods.

**Riley Burkart** is a graduate student at the University of Arizona.

**Brittany Carlson** of Pella is the assistant director of annual giving at Central College.

**Elizabeth Carman** of Jefferson is a campus intern with Intervarsity Christian Fellowship at Drake University in Des Moines. In addition, Elizabeth is the communication and events coordinator for Beza Threads in Des Moines, a non-profit organization.

**Rachel Cassens** is a graduate student at the University of Iowa.

**Ashley Cliff** is working toward a master of science degree in energy science/engineering at the University of Tennessee.

**Carolyn Corson** is an English facilitator with the United States Peace Corps.

**Taylor Cox** is attending Mayo Graduate School.

**Kendra Cranston** is an entry level sales and marketing manager at Oryx Nashville.

**Chris Davis** is an accountant 1 at Terex Cranes.

**Samuel Davis** of Fort Collins, Colo., is a creative specialist at No Barriers USA.

**Kristina DeGroot** is the librarian and teaches high school English for Clarion-Goldfield Schools.

**Randie Dixon** of Oskaloosa teaches seventh and eighth grade special education at Twin Cedars Jr. – Sr. High School in Bussey, where she coaches middle school volleyball and track. Randie is ninth-grade softball coach for Knoxville Community Schools in Knoxville.

**Jeremy Dolder** of Iowa City is serving in the National Guard.

**Mark Dykstra** is a graduate student at Allen College.

**Kimberly Eddy** of Osceola teaches third grade in the Clarke Community School District.

**Susan Elder** of West Des Moines is an associate account manager for the ITA Group Inc.

**Ben Field** of Urbandale is on the enrichment programming support staff at The Village Community.

**Trevor Finders** of West Des Moines is a contract bond underwriter at Merchants Bonding Co.



# 6 NOW?

**Evan Fischer** of Altoona is an event coordinator at Hoyt Sherman Place in Des Moines.

**Tyler Folkerts** of Des Moines is a graduate student at Des Moines University.

**Andrew Fritz** is a graduate student at the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

**Katelyn Fry** teaches fourth grade in the Fairfield Community School District in Fairfield.

**Madison Gause** of Grinnell is a professional development program representative at Businessolver.

**Priscilla Deho deSouza** of Marion works in the food service department at Hy-Vee, Inc.

**Lauren Goodlove** of Cedar Rapids is an intern at Children and Family of Iowa.

**Spencer Gritsch** of Pella is an assistant football coach at Central College while working toward a graduate degree from the University of Iowa.

**Joe Heath** of Taylor Ridge, Ill., is an actuarial student at Modern Woodmen of America.

**Heidi Heckenberg** of Algonquin, Ill., is a GoCorps volunteer.

**Austin Heims** is an instrumental music teacher for Storm Lake Community Schools.

**Sarah Holtz** of Pella is an office manager at Hopkins Roofing, Inc.

**Jill Huffman** of Pella is an admission representative at Central College.

**Kaitlyn Huisman** teaches second grade at Sheldon Community Schools.

**Jack Huxley** is a graduate student at Texas A & M in College Station.

**Matt Imoehl** is a pricing analyst with Nationwide Insurance.

**Lauren James** teaches second grade at Oskaloosa Christian School.

**Jenn Jansen** of Pella is a graduate intern admission representative at Central College.

**Kirsten Johnson** of Altoona is the customer care representative at ColorFX in Des Moines.

**Stephanie King** of Des Moines is an administrative generalist at ICE Technologies.

**Shelby Klumpers** of Waukee is a graduate student at Mercy College of Health Science.

**Liz Koele** is a graduate student at the University of South Carolina working toward a degree in public history.

**Amanda Kuhn** of Glen Ellyn, Ill., is a service retreat leader at Nazareth Farm.

**Keely Lanaghan** is an education animal presenter at Blank Park Zoo in Des Moines.

**Clarissa LaPlante** is a graduate student at the University of Northern Iowa.

**Emily Larkin** is an administrative assistant at Iowa Motor Truck Association.

**Drew Lindaman** of Ankeny is an assistant residential construction supervisor at Hubbell Homes.

**Adam Lindell** of Centennial, Colo., is a tax associate at RubinBrown.

**Natalie Long** of Urbandale is a residential youth service worker at Children and Families of Iowa.

**Seth Marburger** of Pella teaches at Pella Community Schools.

**Ian McNees** of Pella is a virtual sales consultant at Pella Corp.

**Bryan Mejia** is a graduate student at Minnesota State University at Mankato.

**Joe Morrett** of Pella is a bio lab technician at Ajinomoto North America Inc. in Eddyville.

**Leah Mouw** is a graduate student at the University of Iowa.

**Ellen Murphy** of Harbor Springs, Mich., is a graduate student at Western Theological Seminary.

**Destiny Romberg Nekola** is a BHIS provider with Healthy Homes Family Services in Grinnell, where she lives with husband Doug.

**Courtney Nelson** of Ankeny is a pricing analyst at Nationwide Insurance in Des Moines.

**Tiffany Nguyen** is AmeriCorps VISTA in the office of Community Based Learning at Central College.

**Ashley Oblander** is a graduate student at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

**Tess Ory** is a graduate student at Mercy College of Health Science.

**Kirstie Overton** of West Des Moines is the assistant cheer coach at Central College while working toward a master's degree at Des Moines University.

**Zane Peters** is attending graduate school at Iowa State University working toward a degree in biology.

**Anna Pierce** is attending graduate school at the University of Northern Colorado.

**Jaemin Powell** is attending graduate school at the University of Iowa.

**Ashley Radig** is an emergency medicine department research intern at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

**Dan Roemerman** of Pella is a graduate intern admission representative at Central College while working toward a master's degree in healthcare administration from the University of Iowa.

**Brett Rozeboom** is attending graduate school at the University of Iowa.

**Cisco Ruiz** is a brand specialist for Oscar Mayer while pursuing an advanced degree at Luther College.

**Monica Ruiz** is a strength and conditioning graduate assistant at the University of New Haven in West Haven, Conn.

**Jessica Ryals** of Pella teaches second grade at Oskaloosa Community Schools.

**Gen Scholtes** of Lansing is a wellness specialist at Black & Gold Chiropractic & Wellness.

**Lakota Smith** is a claims adjuster trainee at Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company.

**Parker Smith** of Ankeny is a pricing analyst at Nationwide Insurance.

**Trisha Smith** is attending graduate school at the University of Missouri at St. Louis.

**Emily Stanley** of Muscatine is a second through fourth grade instruction strategist 1 teacher in the Louisa-Muscatine Community School District.

**KateLynn Steen** of Mesa is attending graduate school at Arizona State University.

**Tyron Steere** of Clarksville is a natural resource manager at Floyd County Conservation.

**Kelsey Stender** is attending graduate school at the University of Nebraska – Omaha.

**Abby Stier** of Avon is attending graduate school at Western Illinois University.

**Shelbi Stimpson** of Trenton, Mo., teaches elementary physical education at La Plata R-II Schools.

**Blake Thingstad** and Chelsey Bernhagen of Pella were married July 11, 2015. Blake is a programmer/developer at Pella Corp.

**Hunter Thorpe** of Ankeny is attending graduate school at Drake University.

**Matt Van Sant** of Pella is the worship ministry team coordinator at Central College.

**Jennie Voss** of Ryan teaches in the West Delaware Community School District.

**Jake Wassenaar** is on the Fulbright Taiwan Foundation Scholarly Exchange.

**Curtis Weeks** is a group life and disability claim analyst at Principal Financial Group.

**Nelson Wiese** is working toward a master of science degree in mechanical engineering from Iowa State University.



## BETTE BRUNSTING

Bette Brunsting, age 81, associate professor emerita of communication at Central College, died Jan. 6 at Hospice of Pella Comfort House. Brunsting, a 1956 Central graduate, served 34 years as dean and faculty member after returning to Central in 1964.

At Central, Brunsting was known for her rigorous public speaking classes, vivid personality and charge to students: “go forth and do great things.” According to Harry Smith ’73, former student and NBC correspondent, “Bette was ‘old school’ in the best possible way. She set high standards for her students. To not achieve those standards was unacceptable.”

Brunsting grew up on a farm in northwest Iowa with three sisters who also attended Central: Evelyn Kuyk ’47, Joyce Vander Well ’50 and Lucille Nordhoff ’48. Brunsting went on to spend nearly all her life in higher education. After graduating from Central, she became a high school speech teacher in Waverly. She continued to teach in Barrington, Ill., while completing a master’s degree from Northwestern University. Then Brunsting returned to Central for the rest of her memorable career.

“Central was her community and her life. It was the solar system that she orbited for most of her life,” said Brunsting’s nephew Steve Mathonnet-Vander Well, pastor of Second Reformed Church in Pella. “She was incredibly grateful always for what she considered the gift of a lifetime, getting to come back to Central.”

Besides her work with students, Brunsting served on the college advisory board, as well as the board of trustees as faculty representative. She received the David Crichton Memorial Award in 1997 and the Alumni Stewardship and Service Award in 1998. In 2001, she was presented the Iowa Communication Association Citation Award, the organization’s highest award.

Upon her retirement, associate professor of communication studies Dennis Doyle told Central’s student newspaper, “One doesn’t ‘replace’ Bette Brunsting — one simply tries to get along without her. I regard Miss B as a master teacher and a Central College legend.”

Brunsting is honored on campus with Central’s Brunsting Fireside Lounge in Graham Conference Center. In addition, the Bette Brunsting Student Project Fund provides for student-faculty collaborative research projects, cultural travel and professional meetings.

Brunsting is survived by one sister, Lucille, as well as 13 nieces and nephews.

## “GO FORTH AND DO GREAT THINGS.”







### LARRY MILLS

Larry Mills, age 93, professor emeritus of art at Central College, passed away Jan. 5 in Des Moines. Mills was a faculty member at Central for more than 40 years after joining the college in 1950. Following his retirement in 1993, Mills continued to serve in various roles on campus.

Hired as an instructor for a one-year appointment in 1950, Mills quickly became part of campus life. His artistic talent

and quick wit were well known, and throughout the years he contributed many original artworks to the college and surrounding community. He was instrumental in establishing the college's study abroad program in the Mexican state, the Yucatan, and his contributions to Central's art department were recognized in 1975 with the creation of the Mills Gallery, named in his honor.

Mills was born in Marshalltown in 1923. He received a B.A. degree from Drake University in 1947, a Master of Fine Arts from University of Georgia in 1950 and completed further graduate work at Columbia University in 1958-59. He earned a Ph.D. from the University of Iowa in 1963.

Mills progressed quickly at Central, becoming an assistant professor in 1953, associate professor in 1958 and professor in 1964. During his tenure at the college he presented numerous shows of his own work both on campus and off. Mills's extensive body of artistic work included drawing, painting and sculpture.

In 1955 he visited the Yucatan to explore the possibility of a summer student program. This trip led to the creation of Central's study abroad program in the Yucatan. In addition to serving on many college committees during his employment, Mills served as chair of the art department, taught courses abroad and assisted with summer Upward Bound programs at Central. He was an active community volunteer, serving with various organizations in Pella.

Those who knew him remember Mills's deep curiosity and unrelenting kindness. Joline De Jong '55, Central College assistant professor emerita of art, took classes with Mills as a student and then worked with him in the art department until his retirement. "His classes were fascinating," she says. "As a student, I noticed his interests were so broad, he always had stories to tell about different topics, to get us thinking."

Mills and wife Evangeline Lubbers had three children, Lisa LaValle '74, Marc '74 and Thad '77. Evangeline passed away in 1961.

Mills is remembered on campus with the Mills Gallery in the Lubbers Center for Visual Arts, which plays host to student, faculty and visiting artists' works. In 1997, the ceramic sculpture "Kan Kal" by Des Moines artist David Dahlquist was installed at the front entrance of the gallery to honor Mills's years of service.

**"AS A STUDENT,  
I NOTICED HIS  
INTERESTS WERE  
SO BROAD, HE  
ALWAYS HAD  
STORIES TO TELL  
ABOUT DIFFERENT  
TOPICS, TO GET  
US THINKING."**



Larry Mills teaches  
a class in 1967.

# “WE WANT AND NEED CENTRAL TO STAY STRONG.”

When Jim Brandl and Sue Spaans Brandl met as students at Central in the 1960s, little did they know the kind of lasting impact the college would have on them or their shared future. “We knew we had great experiences at Central—dedicated faculty and staff, challenging classes and the development of lifelong friendships, but we didn’t fully understand the scope of those experiences until we entered the work place and began our own family.”

Jim was on Central’s faculty for several years before eventually founding his own highly-successful IT company. Sue is an emeritus member of Central’s Board of Trustees, where she served as secretary, and is a volunteer in the Pella community and her church. One of their daughters, Jennifer, is a 1992 alumna of Central. Recently Jim and Sue informed the college that it will receive a gift through a bequest in their will.



“Central had a significant impact on our lives, and sharing a portion of our estate to support the college's future work really leaves us with a good feeling of being able to share our blessings in this way. We want and need Central to stay strong. We want to help ensure that Central continues to provide the kind of educational experience we enjoyed for generations to come. We hope others will join us in this endeavor to support students.”

**To learn more about making a charitable gift to Central through a will bequest or other types of planned gifts go to <http://plannedgiving.central.edu> or contact Don Morrison in the Advancement Office at (641) 628-5280 or [morrisond@central.edu](mailto:morrisond@central.edu).**



# Wheels up

*Career pilot delivered wheelchairs around the world.*

by Cindy Deppe

## *Phil VanderWilt '63*

may be among Central's most globally traveled alumni but he'd rather talk about his Iowa roots, values learned at Central and the need for more care and compassion in today's world.

He casually mentions having visited 125 countries, flying in and out of an estimated 80 percent of the world's largest cities, yet talks animatedly about a driving trip on Election Day to the Pacific Coast from his long-time home in Vacaville, Calif.

The career pilot has met many heads of state and dignitaries throughout the world including the King of Spain and members of Jordan's royal family, yet quickly diverts the conversation to Central legends who left an impression on him or fellow alumni who, in his view, have accomplished much more.

An economics and business graduate, VanderWilt describes his time at Central as non-traditional in that while a student he was already married to his Lynnville-Sully High School sweetheart, Carol. He entered the U.S. Air Force four years after graduation, training as a pilot and serving deployments for the next 20 years.

After his military retirement, VanderWilt flew domestic and international flights for American Airlines until the Federal Aviation Administration's mandatory retirement age of 60. He then worked as flight manager for Intel Corporation, the company behind most of today's computer chip power.

Through connections at Intel, VanderWilt became known to Ken Behring, the founder of the Wheelchair Foundation, as well as a successful real estate developer and former owner of the Seattle Seahawks football team. VanderWilt was hired as chief pilot to plan and fly the foundation's missions to deliver



For 15 years, VanderWilt traveled the world bringing wheelchairs to those in need.

wheelchairs to the disadvantaged throughout the world for the next 15 years.

"As chief pilot, I had a unique position among foundation representatives and was very involved in planning trips to more than 125 countries," VanderWilt says. He and wife Carol—who was first a foundation volunteer and then employee—flew throughout Europe, Africa and China, often returning multiple times to familiar locations.

"I remember being in a Jordanian village helping disabled kids with wheelchairs when I saw a father with little kids. I asked if I could give them candy. He was skeptical at first of course but later invited me into his home for tea," VanderWilt recalls. "That stood out for me because he had never met an American."

During the VanderWilt's 15-year association with the Wheelchair Foundation, the non-profit distributed more than one million free wheelchairs, and although the foundation is less active now, VanderWilt still answers the occasional call to fly a mission.

"We did a lot of good in the past," he recalls, "It was very rewarding to help poor people, in jungles and in a variety of conditions, all over the world."

VanderWilt relied heavily on management skills throughout his long aviation career, skills he says he learned at Central from the late professor of economics Don Butler, Hall of Honor athlete and coach Eldon Schulte '58, and of course, the legendary coach Ron Schipper.

"Football was my sport," says the 1962 winner of the Richard Mentink Award for Leadership and Sportmanship. With tongue in cheek, he also says, "Coach Schipper came to Central when we were juniors. We trained him to be successful and were instrumental in his development."

Today, VanderWilt loves to fly fish, play tennis and participate in church activities in Vacaville, located midway between Sacramento and San Francisco, where he first entered the Air Force and went wheels up in the late '60s.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

# A Googler For Good

by Cindy Deppe



'99 grad leads community impact programs for IT giant.

Erica Swanson '99 recognizes her privilege as a Googler, working and living in Silicon Valley with husband Brian Smith '99 and their two children. She also knows it's a rare privilege to not only live and work your passion and values but to literally see your work in action across the country.

As head of community impact programs for Google Fiber, Swanson leads a cross-functional team of Googlers who build, launch and drive programs to reach non-Internet users, primarily in large metropolitan areas.

"Google Fiber is our response to digital inclusion, a move toward digital equity. It's very data-driven (who uses, for what, what works, what doesn't). It's all deeply correlated

with income and color so we look at 'why?' Most often, affordability is the core issue," Swanson says.

Google Fiber launched as a pilot in Kansas City in 2012 "to see what innovations could be unleashed in an economic development project," Swanson says. "I was intrigued by the local, physical work, and with putting a face on Google in those neighborhoods, to inspire and innovate with intention." Google Fiber services have since expanded to Atlanta, Austin, Charlotte, Raleigh-Durham, Nashville, Provo, Salt Lake City and San Antonio.

"Our most sustainable work is done in coalitions, across sectors, with elected officials, other providers, homeowner groups and community leaders," Swanson says. "The work takes many forms, from literally digging up yards in public housing projects to install fiber networks, to thought leadership and in-kind financial support."

Swanson was recruited by Google in 2011 as outreach and partnerships manager for public policy in Washington, D.C., where she earned a master's degree in public policy and women's studies from George Washington University. While deputy director of field operations for The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, also in D.C., Swanson developed public education and strategies to advance such issues as economic security, transportation equity, education reform and voting rights. In her first digitally-focused project, she led a \$3-million campaign to help the hardest-to-reach make the transition from analog to HDTV.

"My career pattern has been in deep public policy and community engagement and investment. I work with those who know the area and can assess the needs for technology as a positive force for good," says Swanson. "At Google Fiber, my double

major in political science and sociology makes perfect sense. I came to Central expecting to major in communication, having edited publications in high school, but my parents—a lawyer and a teacher—encouraged me to be open-minded."

Swanson found herself pushed at Central to consider how issues impacted real people. "So many people at Central helped me to think about the world in healthy ways, to question 'why do I believe what I believe?' For example, an honors class with Don Maxam on 'The Social Movement of the '60s.' He was an activist himself and asked us 'what would you do to effect change?' In a Social Problems class, sociology professor Jon Witt framed up issues of inequality and injustice that made me think 'I can devour this.' I was intrigued. The light bulb went on."

Swanson turned her passion for these topics into a career. She says, "I've made a profession out of social issues and change. It's rewarding when I get to be there and talk with residents and see, hear and feel the work and how it helps people."

To students interested in social change, she says, "Know what you are most interested in and why and apply your skills to that cause, because that's what you will be best at. The liberal arts foundation is really key. That's who I hire because a liberal arts education makes you think critically about how to tackle issues."

"In Silicon Valley, it's the big ideas and optimism that get the attention. My job is to close that gap between the big ideas and the users' reality. We Googlers are motivated by problem-solving, so I'm always pushing myself to do new things." And to do good.

