10
CENTRAL DNA
MEET CENTRAL’S OLDEST AND YOUNGEST ALUMNAE

13
ADULTING 101
PRACTICAL WISDOM FOR BEING A GROWN-UP

16
FROM DUTCH TO DREAM
A CENTRAL ALUMNUS CONQUERS THE MUSIC INDUSTRY

18
DEGREES OF ENGINEERING
CENTRAL GRADUATES ITS FIRST CLASS OF ENGINEERS
THE CENTRAL DIFFERENCE
BY MARK PUTNAM, CENTRAL COLLEGE PRESIDENT

MARK. MY WORDS
Read more of President Putnam’s writing at: 
president.central.edu

By Mark Putnam, Central College President

Central is special because of the people who share in this community. It was a proud moment for a president, and one that is repeated often as I have occasion to interact with visitors to the campus. The refrain from those who experience the Central Difference for the first time is typically a reflection of our intense relational quality. The level of care they receive, the attention to detail, the responsiveness to an interest or concern is a natural way of being for our campus. It is by no means perfect. And sometimes we get things wrong. But I can say with confidence that this is a safe place to be yourself and know you will be accepted.

Ours is a nurturing community. I often ask our students how much they knew about the student culture at Central when they were prospective students in high school. They routinely tell me that was a safe place where they can feel socially safe. Let’s be honest. Central College is a place where we have a lot of fun and enjoyment alongside the disciplined academic work that has made this a first-rate education for generations. But our culture is one that seeks to promote individual and collective wellbeing for all members of the campus community. This is a safe place to be yourself and know that you will be accepted. We remind ourselves of our best qualities when we authentically live out our values as an academic community. It makes a big difference.

Recently hosted visitors on our campus who were evaluating the college for a potential foundation grant. It’s always a unique privilege to see guests in our midst who have no prior experience with the college. Watching them as they observe the campus community and listening to their comments along the way provides fresh insights about how the college is perceived. In this case our guests spent a day with us, hearing from various groups about our work really hard to promptly make things right. One of our guests that day picked up on this pattern quite quickly. As a discerning visitor, she would not be impressed by bells and whistles. Her breadth of experience on campuses informed her conclusion that Central offered something different, something unique. It’s a natural way of being for our campus. This is a safe place to be yourself and know that you will be accepted.

EDUCATION
Eighty-five years separates them. Central connects them.

ADULTING
101
13
Students gain insight into going out into the world on their own.

CENTRAL SCENE
8

ATHLETICS UPDATES
6

ALUMNI NEWSNOTES
25

PARTING SHOT
39

Civitas is published by the Central communications office for alumni, parents and friends of Central College. For information on the Civitas mission, visit civitas.central.edu.
GRANT PREPARES LOW-INCOME HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE

For the second year in a row, Central received a grant from the John Deere Foundation to support the college’s longstanding Upward Bound program to help low-income, potential first-generation college students achieve academic success. Upward Bound supports eligible students to develop the aspiration, knowledge and skills to successfully enter college students to develop the aspiration, knowledge and skills to successfully enter.

The grant from John Deere Foundation funds four different opportunities within Central’s Upward Bound program.

The grant will:
• Allow 60 incoming high school juniors to participate in a career readiness course at John Deere offices in Des Moines and Ankeny.
• Provide common reading books for all Central Upward Bound participants and offset the costs of bringing a conviction speaker to the Central campus for the summer program.
• Support a field trip for 45 junior participants to explore careers.
• Underwrite a skill-building conference for high school seniors.

Central’s Upward Bound program serves 90 high school participants annually with academic advising, college preparatory curriculum, tutoring, college visits, ACT preparation and assistance with college and financial aid applications.

WHO’S RESPONSIBLE?
In February, David Timmer was installed as the Dr. Jacob ‘25 and Gela ‘27 Schnucke Sessler Chair in Philosophy and Religion. During the ceremony, Timmer, center, was publicly honored by Mary E.M. Strey, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty, and Mark Putnam, president. Timmer also gave a short speech on his research on Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German pastor, theologian and anti-Nazi conspirator. Timmer explored Bonhoeffer’s role confronting the Third Reich around the theme of responsibility. View Timmer’s lecture at https://civitas.central.edu/david-timmer.

PPF GIFT SUPPORTS SCHOLARSHIPS AND CAMPUS UPDATES
Precision Pulley & Idler (PPF) of Pella continues its longstanding support of Central with gifts in service of academics and athletics. PPI is providing an increased level of support for the Journey Scholarship Fund, which ensures students have access to a high-quality education. PPI also is providing funding for new athletics equipment and branding, including new external scoreboards for the soccer, baseball and softball fields, a variety of new windscreens and signage, and updating the logo on the football field to reflect the college’s new graphic identity. “This gift enhances the game-day experience for our students, parents and fans, as well as raises our athletics program’s profile,” says Eric Van Kley, director of athletics. “We’re really excited about the ongoing improvements we’re making in the A.N. Kuyer Athletics Complex and PPI is playing a critical role in that.”

CENTRAL TENNIS PARTICIPATES IN INTERNATIONAL MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT
Twenty members of Central’s men’s and women’s tennis teams traveled to Mérida, Yucatán, in January to participate in the Augie Lugo International Tennis Tournament. The tournament was created in memory of Augie Lugo ’84 by one of his tennis teammates, Pedro Gongora ’84.

Gongora and Lugo were both successful tennis players at Central. Lugo is the only tennis player in Central history to receive All-America recognition. Last year, Gongora began planning how to honor Lugo, who was killed in a car accident in 2004. With the help of other Central alumni and connections in Mérida, the tournament idea was born. Hosted at the Patricio Espinosa Tennis Academy, the venue had yet another connection to Central: Patricio Espinosa is a former Central language assistant and brother of Gabriel Espinosa ’79.

SAVE THE DATE TO CELEBRATE UPDATES TO DOUWSTRA

SHOWING CENTRAL LOVE
Philanthropy Week featured many engaging events for students to learn how philanthropy has shaped Central’s campus and its students. Paper hearts were hung by the Geisler Library Café where staff, faculty and students wrote what they love about Central. Signs hung in the Roe Center, Mytag Student Center, Douwstra Auditorium, Helen Jean Holop Center and F.H. Kuyer Gymnasium recognized donors who helped make those buildings and renovations possible. In addition, signs scattered around campus featured questions students could answer in a trivia game to win prizes. Journey Scholarship recipients signed thank-you letters to donors. More than 1,100 letters and notes were signed by more than 850 students.

The Augie Lugo International Tennis Tournament featured tennis courts from Central College and the Universidad Marista de Mérida. Central alumni, along with friends and family of the late Augie Lugo ’84, attended the tournament.
Adding to Central’s distinctive track and field legacy, Will Daniels ’20 captured the program’s 17th individual NCAA title, taking the heptathlon crown at the Division III indoor meet in Birmingham, Alabama, March 9-10.

Senior teammate Ryan Kruse was third in the event, while Daniels also took seventh in the high jump, vaulting Central to a tie for ninth in national team standings.

It’s Central’s seventh NCAA title in the multi-events, and the third indoors. Daniels’ 5,287 points rank as the fifth-highest in Division III history. Kruse scored 5,124.

The Dutch made a spirited run at the Iowa Conference indoor team title held at H.S. Kuyper Fieldhouse Feb. 23-24, placing second, seven points behind Dubuque. Central won seven individual events.

The Central women were fifth in the conference meet, highlighted by a 1-2-3 finish by three freshmen in the pentathlon, where Mary Gray ’21 took the team’s only crown.

FOR MORE CENTRAL ATHLETICS UPDATES, VISIT OUR WEBSITE: ATHLETICS.CENTRAL.EDU.
CENTRAL SCENE

IMMIGRATION THROUGH THE LENS OF ART

“Where I come from is jungles filled with jaguars and pythons as thick as a grown man’s thigh. Where I come from … is tapir and okapi and electric blue butterflies with wings as wide as my arm.”

So begins the journey of Anon in Central College’s February performance of Anon(ymous) written by Naomi Iizuka and directed by Mary Jo Sodd, professor of theatre. More than 50 students participated in this thoughtful and chilling performance.

Throughout the show, we see hope explored against a backdrop of good and evil, lyrical and real. We witness a world where hate serves as a catalyst to find indescribable beauty and love. Anon(ymous) plays tribute to Homer’s Odyssey while examining immigration through a cacophony of voices, some kind and some dangerous and cruel. People from all over the world have always come to America to escape persecution and a better life. Anon is one of those people whose journey casts him from his war-torn native land in search of hope and family.
**Central DNA**

**By Denise Lamphier**

**THEY MEET—**

the centenarian and the 20-something. These women—two strangers from opposite ends of the generations—connect because they both claim Central College as their alma mater. Edna Boot Van Zee ’31 is a product of the Greatest Generation. Monica Powers ’18 is from the generation pundits call Gen Z. They are, respectively, Central’s oldest known and youngest known living alumnae. Seconds after they meet in the retirement home in Newton, Iowa, where Van Zee lives, they embrace. The hug spans a lifetime.

By the calendar, 85 years separate them. While their worlds are as different as telegrams and Instagram, there is much that melds their moments. In the warmth of a shared love of Central, nothing divides them. Despite the 85-year difference, they share Central DNA.

**EDNA BOOT VAN ZEE ’31**

**THE GREATEST GENERATION**

*Birthdate:* January 20, 1912

*Hometown:* Mitchellville, Iowa

*Family:* Van Zee was the daughter of a farmer. She and her twin sister, Ellen Boot Donaldson ’31, came to Central together. Donaldson died when the twins were 9 months old. The Boot family sent most of their six children to Central.

*Major:* Teaching

**GEN Z**

*Birthdate:* September 10, 1997

*Hometown:* Creston, Iowa

*Family:* Powers’ father is a funeral home director. Her mother is a superintendent at a Christian school. She has three sisters, all of whom are attending college.

*Major:* Communication Studies and Sociology

**WHY DID YOU CHOOSE CENTRAL COLLEGE?**

**EDNA:** “I love Central.”

**MONICA:** “I love it here. I always knew I would be at Central. I like the small-town community feeling and it was close but not too close to home.”

**WHAT WERE YOUR PROFESSORS LIKE?**

**EDNA:** “We went to Professor Liggett’s house and he taught us how to make chocolate candy and play the piano.”

**MONICA:** “In the communication studies department, we went on an annual cookout with the faculty. My advisor, Shelley-Jean Bradfied, has been one of the most influential people to me.”

**WHAT DORM(S) DID YOU LIVE IN AND WHAT STANDS OUT ABOUT IT?**

**EDNA:** “We lived in Graham Hall. The boys all roomed in houses because Cotton Hall had burned. Central had strict standards for dress and conduct. Chapel attendance was required at 9:30 a.m. every day. If you did not attend, a report went to your parents. Dancing was not allowed. It was a sin. We would serve as lookout for friends who would dance in the parlor. We had to be in bed at 10 p.m. A hall monitor would check our rooms. We would stuff paper by the door so it would look dark.”

**MONICA:** “I lived in every single female dorm: Scholte, Gaass and Graham. Gaass was my favorite. I met some of my best friends in the dorms.”

**HOW DID YOU PAY FOR YOUR TUITION?**

**EDNA:** “We were just fortunate our father could send us. Central was different then. We were there in hard times. My dad was wealthy enough he could send twin daughters.”

**MONICA:** “My dad is helping me pay for college. I also received an academic scholarship.”

Van Zee plays the piano at her home in Newton.

**GENERATIONAL PERSPECTIVE**

Profound changes have occurred in demographics and attitudes about social issues in the eight-plus decades since Van Zee was a student, says Lori Wirt, left, associate professor of history.

Van Zee was a child during World War I and lived through the Great Depression. She has seen radical social and technological changes over her lifetime. For Powers, the nation’s first African-American president is more a fact of life than a historic event. Her generation enjoys freedoms Van Zee could not have imagined.

Powers’ generation—the newest—has faced global tension, school violence and the mortgage crisis. She was just 4 years old when 9-11 occurred. She always has lived in a world with the Internet and, as a result, is a digital native. She never has lived in a time before TV existed like Van Zee did.

Yet, despite their differences, the two have more in common than might be expected. Both grew up in turbulent and changing times, in a world marked with hardships, global conflict and economic adversity. Of course, they are both women, too.

“In the 1930s, Edna was a bit ahead of her time as a woman in college. For women, too. In the 1990s, Monica was a bit ahead of her time as a woman in college. She was the first African-American woman to be elected to an elected position.”

While it is true every generation has unique expectations, history and lifestyles, it is also true a Central experience transcends time. Whether it is 1931 or 2018, memories are made here and Central delivers on its inspiring proposition of helping students discover and develop their greatest potentials.

Read on as these remarkable alumnae talk about their years at Central College.
WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY THAT OCCURRED WHILE AT CENTRAL?
EDNA: “My sister, Ellen, and I came back to campus from a weekend at home. We parked in our garage, which was about a block away from our dorm. We saw two boys we were crazy about. They were waiting for us and asked us to go for a ride. We stopped in Oskaloosa and got ice cream. That was so much fun.”

MONICA: “During my first year here, I celebrated my birthday in September. Twenty of my friends threw a surprise party and gave me a scooter to get around campus. Then they carried me to the pond and threw me in.”

WHAT WERE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE FOODS IN PELLA?
EDNA: “We had the best food. On Tuesday mornings the cook made Graham muffins. She also made pies and they were just incredible. We’d have cherry pie and snow pie, whose ingredients were sugar, boiling water and egg whites all whipped together. We also had roast, chicken and mashed potatoes and gravy. Everything was good. Sometimes we would go to a restaurant on the east side. I remember going there for dinner and having bologna and bread.”

MONICA: “I usually ate at Central Market. The food was pretty good. I love dessert and they have these early fries I really like. I also loved going to El Charro and my friends and I enjoyed half-priced appetizers at Applebee’s.”

DID YOU HAVE A JOB WHILE YOU WERE A STUDENT?
EDNA: “No. Ellen and I envied the kids who would go down and wash the dishes. They got 10 cents an hour.”

MONICA: “I worked in the cafe in the library making coffee for $9 an hour. I also worked in the admissions department.”

WHAT ACTIVITIES KEPT YOU BUSY?
EDNA: “My twin sister and I tried out for Glee Club, but neither of us could sing well enough. We belonged to Delphi Society and we always had a program each focusing on a different aspect of adulting. Read on for a few pointers on how to live successfully in the real world. And, yeah, don’t forget to eat your peas.

I also volunteered at Third Church and led a bible study for sixth-grade girls.”

TALK ABOUT CENTRAL’S HOMECOMING DURING YOUR STUDENT DAYS.
EDNA: “We would go to the football games, but we didn’t have homecoming then.”

MONICA: “Every year I participated in the Lemming Race. My friends and I dressed up and jumped in the pond. We also had a barbecue outside with alumni. It was a lot of fun.”

WHAT DID YOU DO FOR FUN AS A STUDENT?
EDNA: “In the spring, we would all clean up the college yard and we would play tug of war. We would also go to ball games and other happenings at the college.”

MONICA: “I loved to go on walks at Red Rock. I’m a people person so I liked hanging out with my friends. Sometimes we would swing at the wooden park.”

DID YOU HAVE A CAR?

MONICA: “I still can’t believe that I’m 106. You know, I still color my hair.”

EDNA: “My first salary was $85 per month at a country school in Prairie City. Life shifted to domestic pursuits after marrying Bill Van Zee, a Prairie City farmer, and having two children.”

MONICA: “I’m exploring my options. I didn’t go abroad while I was a student, so I have applied for a nanny position in Italy. I’ve also considered working in hospital communications.”

YOUR REACTION ABOUT BEING THE OLDEST AND YOUNGEST CENTRAL COLLEGE ALUMNAE?
EDNA: “I still can’t believe that I’m 106. You know, I still color my hair.”

MONICA: “I can’t believe it.”

ADULTING 101
Practical Wisdom for Being A Grown-Up
BY MARIN HARRINGTON ’21

If you ask any college student what preoccupies them on a typical day, the answers probably will range from the 10-page paper that needs to be completed by tomorrow to wondering what’s for dessert.

College is such a hectic universe in itself—full of exams and classes and extracurriculars—that it’s easy to forget about the future beyond the nearest weekend. Enter Central’s Adulting 101: Career Wellness Conference, coordinated by the student development/wellness and career/professional development offices. The day-long program Saturday, Feb. 17, provided students with insights into the ways of the world—so they can go out into the world on their own.

Adulting 101 consisted of various panels and workshops featuring experts and alumni panelists, each focusing on a different aspect of adulting. Read on for a few pointers on how to live successfully in the real world. And, yeah, don’t forget to eat your peas.

ALUMNI ADVICE INTERNSHIPS JOB SEARCH

BY MARIN HARRINGTON ’21
ADULTING 101 | February 2018

Recent Central graduates formed an alumni panel that discussed life after Central. The panel addressed job searching, living independently, financial realities and the first few months on the job. Pictured (L – R): Mitchell Phipps ‘17, Jessica Butters ’17, Beth Dillon ’17, Katie Douglas ’17, Aaron Anderson ’16, Evan Fischer ’16 and Collin Strickland ’17.

ALUMNI ADVICE

More than 70 students attended the Adulting 101 program in February. The program offered practical details for students about what to expect after graduation.

1. THERE'S NO ONE RIGHT WAY TO SEARCH FOR A JOB.

Some people enlist hiring companies like Aerotech or Midwest Professional Staffing to aid their search. Others rely on building a system of connections through job fairs, alumni contacts or faculty referrals. Central’s career development office posts jobs online and forwards announcements directly to students according to their major. In the end, students need to enlist a variety of strategies to discover opportunities, use their network to aid in searching and follow up on all leads.

2. INTERVIEW ONLY AS YOURSELF.

Knowing about the company you're interviewing with is important, but so is personality and passion. Interviewers know that no one they hire goes into a job with all the necessary skills perfected. What matters is that you bring your own passion to the table and are the kind of dependable, authentic person with whom people want to work.

3. WHEN DONE RIGHT, SOCIAL MEDIA CAN HELP YOU.

If your social media is littered with photos of some less-than-stellar college decisions, your presence can do no harm. For entrepreneurs, social media is a way to create a personal brand. If your social media is littered with photos of some less-than-stellar college decisions, your presence can do no harm. For entrepreneurs, social media is a way to create a personal brand.

4. RELIANCE ON OTHERS IS NOT A WEAKNESS.

Adulthood is a process. Living alone is expensive, especially when you're also paying for student loans. Living at home or with roommates at the start of a career does not diminish your hard work. Sometimes, it's better to have a sensible start and gradually build independence than to get in over your head by trying to go it alone.

5. OWN YOUR IGNORANCE.

The work world is an entirely new place. Being around a group of coworkers from a larger demographic might be difficult, especially as the new person who knows the least. Rather than trying to keep up, take a step back and listen. As an employee, be patient and willing to learn your duties well, and ask questions about your progress and how you can best contribute. Slowly discover your role as a team member and how others function.

LEARNING ON THE JOB

Internships—short-term supervised work experiences—allow students to immerse themselves within a specific company. They offer students the opportunity to either learn what they want to do for a career—or realize what they don't want to do. Here are just some of the ways Central offers its support:

1. Build and maintain a strong professional network now because that network will work for you later.
   — Mitchell Phipps ’17, financial analyst, Technical Solutions and Services Inc.

2. What makes me happy at work is that what I'm doing makes a difference. If it doesn't make a difference in your heart, then my question for you is why are you doing it?
   — Collin Strickland ’17, park ranger, Benton County Conservation

3. The best thing you can offer in the future is what you have learned and the skills you've gained from your experiences because that makes you unique.
   — Evan Fischer ’16, event coordinator, Hoyt Sherman Place

4. “Students are equally successful in ending up with a fabulous internship by both applying for a position that they see posted and by contacting a company or organization they’re interested in themselves.”
   — Jessica Klyn de Novelo, associate director of community-based learning and director of internships

5. There is a Central alumni network on the college’s LinkedIn page. Students can see where and in what fields alumni work, allowing them to proactively connect to potential internships across the country.

6. Central has relationships with 150 nonprofits and an even greater number of for-profit employers in a 60-mile radius, allowing immense diversity in internship opportunities for students.

7. Some internships also can be completed for academic credit under the guidance of a site supervisor, faculty supervisor and the center for community-based learning. Contact Jessica Klyn de Novelo at klynj@central.edu to learn more about internships or to tell us about an internship opportunity.
"I took one music theory class my freshman year and I just hated every second," Weaver says. "I love to sing, but I realized I didn't need a degree in music to perform."

Weaver pursued multiple courses at Central. He eventually created his own general studies major. Looking back, he feels his major captures the spirit of the college and himself.

"My interests have always varied. At Central, I was able to explore who I was as a person—and not just in the classroom," he says. "I was involved in every music ensemble at Central as well as with the London Community Gospel Choir while I was abroad in London."

His tenure in Central's jazz vocal combos ignited his passion for songwriting and turned his life to performing.

"It was during preparations for a combos concert that Sonny Cutler '09, the piano player, and I decided to write a song," Weaver explains. "I wasn't the piano player, and I decided to write the lyric."

At Central, I was able to explore who I was as a person—and not just in the classroom," he says. "I was involved in every music ensemble at Central as well as with the London Community Gospel Choir while I was abroad in London."

"This was eight to 10 years ago. He has worked very hard for his dreams—that's what you have to do—and he just knew it needed to involve music. "I got a job at Subway," he laughs. He also landed an internship as a worship leader at Hope Church in Des Moines with the help of John Cheatham (Meris), who would later find himself on the same season of "The Voice" as Weaver.

Meanwhile, a friend suggested Weaver try performing in drag after seeing him dress up as Tyler Perry's Madea for Halloween.

"It is a creative outlet, and a lot of fun to be on stage," Weaver says of performing as his drag persona, the gorgeous and sassy Nedra Belle.

And then came the defining moment of his career: "The Voice," America's top singing competition. The show's format features live stages of competition: The first begins with the blind auditions, then the battle rounds, knockouts, playoffs and, finally, the live performance shows.

"I went to open call auditions twice, once in Chicago and once in New York," Weaver says.

Weaver was selected to perform in front of "The Voice" judges, he just "blurted out to America" that he is a worship leader by day and drag queen by night.

Weaver continued to impress the judges over several performances, including a cover of "I Put a Spell on You" in the knockout rounds. He was eventually dropped from Jennifer Hudson's team, narrowly missing the top 12.

"I continue to be inspired by the show," Weaver says. "I had an amazing experience and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I am so thankful to have made it as far as I did."

"He'll put a spell on you" While that was the end of "The Voice" for Weaver, it was just the beginning for Nedra Belle. Producers invited Belle to perform on the season finale, making the artist the only contestant to be invited to perform on the season finale, making the artist the only contestant to be invited to perform on the season finale, making the artist the only contestant to be invited to perform on the season finale.

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The reviews poured in and they were overwhelmingly positive.

"There is nothing like performing on a live stage like "The Voice," Weaver says. "Some part of me wondered how a drag performance would go over, and thankfully, there has been very little negativity. I was shocked and wonderfully surprised to see such support for me and what I do."

Since performing on "The Voice," Weaver's life in New York City has boomed. He continues performing weekly and serving as a worship leader.

"I was so honored to represent the LGBTQ community during my time on "The Voice," Weaver says. "My performances opened up a conversation across the country. I am humbled I could be a part of that."

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CENTRAL'S FIRST ENGINEERING GRADUATES WERE AMONG THE MORE THAN 320 NEW ACCOUNTANTS, TEACHERS, CHEMISTS, SOCIAL WORKERS AND TRAINERS WHO GRADUATED FROM CENTRAL COLLEGE MAY 19.

THE ENGINEERING GRADUATES ARE THE FIRST FROM THE COLLEGE’S NEW MAJOR PROGRAM LAUNCHED IN 2015.

For many years, Central students interested in engineering first earned degrees in physics or mathematics before continuing to graduate school to complete master’s degrees in engineering. By offering the engineering major at the undergraduate level, Central allows students to complete and compete in four years, instead of five in the traditional 3-2 engineering programs.

Central’s four-year engineering program addresses the recruitment and retention interests of students and families and the bigger-picture issue of supporting the need for graduates in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

“We knew when committing to the program that there were increasing levels of student interest in engineering. What Central adds is that we are small and the right fit for someone who wants to attend college at a place with more interaction with faculty as a capstone to their academic career,” says President Mark Putnam, who also serves on the Iowa Governor’s STEM Advisory Council Executive Committee.

“The students we’ve brought in are talented and want to be in a place like Central College. They do not want to be denied an experience of exploration and discovery,” he adds.

Central’s engineering program “is a mix of mechanical and electrical engineering. The final year brings together what may be called control engineering,” Martisovits says. “The program coursework can be supplemental for those who want to expand into graduate programs in other engineering areas.”

Being grounded in the liberal arts also makes the engineering program stronger.

“STUDENTS GAIN SKILLS IN CRITICAL THINKING, WRITING AND PUBLIC SPEAKING, WHICH ARE IMPORTANT, TRANSFERABLE SKILLS IN ENGINEERING TODAY.” — VIKTOR MARTISOVITS

Puneet Vishwakarma, lecturer in physics, previously taught in a pre-engineering program in Florida. He concurs with Martisovits.

“Central’s program is as rigorous as any other. The capstone design course is comparable in intensity to engineering universities. The internship opportunities are accessible and provide excellent hands-on experience,” Vishwakarma says.

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“Central’s program is as rigorous as any other. The capstone design course is comparable in intensity to engineering universities. The internship opportunities are accessible and provide excellent hands-on experience,” Vishwakarma says.

PRACTICAL PARTNERS: REAL WORLD PROJECTS FOR REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE

Central strongly encourages engineering students to complete internships under/with co-ops at local, national and international locations. In fact, corporate partnerships have contributed to the program’s rapid growth.

When the engineering program was announced just three years ago, three local, global corporations—Pella Corporation, Precision Pulley & Idler (PPI) and Vermeer Corporation—stepped up to support future engineers by offering real-world projects and internships, supporting teaching, sharing equipment and providing funding.

“The corporate community has been enthusiastic,” Putnam says.

“Corporate partners tell us, ‘We know what comes out of Central. Central graduates think critically, communicate well and know how to be part of a team.’ At Central, you are not only with other engineering students all the time. You might be playing a sport or serving on student government. These opportunities help create something much bigger. That is the outcome a place like Vermeer is looking for—engineers who are technically competent but also have the full measure of a liberal arts education.”

By partnering with local engineering companies, Central students can work on real-world engineering examples, not just classroom models.
Leon Durivage, senior engineering manager at Vermeer, volunteered to supervise this year’s senior capstone project based on his previous experience working with University of Minnesota engineering students. He proposed three project options for McCleary and Challen to choose from.

“I play two major roles in working with students—one, to act as the customer for the product by helping the students define and refine the product requirements, and two, as an engineering manager, advising them on design and helping them to make connections with other engineers and technologies,” Durivage says.

“My goal is for them to understand the realities of making trades-offs in business, such as trading off time, features and cost, and for them to apply their engineering skills developing a product based on requirements like they would in business,” he says.

Durivage and Vishwakarma meet with students weekly to monitor plans and progress.

“This was part of Vermeer’s initial commitment to the partnership, to have on-site engineer instruction. This is how engineering works in the real world. All good engineering programs have similar models of bringing an engineer on site,” Martisovits says.

PROOF OF CONCEPT: STUDENTS

Christian Daniel ’19 of Iowa City, transferred to Central from the University of Oklahoma before the second semester of his second year. Since then, he’s become involved in A Cappella Choir, Ultimate Frisbee Club, Central Students for Life, ALIVE Catholic Ministries and Drone Club.

He’s also completed a semester-long paid internship at Vermeer in Pella where he worked on research projects for administration and operations, developing metrics “on how to better design-efficient ways for workers to accomplish daily tasks,” he says.

Study-abroad opportunities were also among the Central attractions for Daniel. He chose to study in Yucatán, where he’s now involved as an intern for Vermeer Mexico.

“The Vermeer Mexico location is not a plant but a distributorship, so all of our work is after the manufacturing process, focusing on renting, selling, customer service, maintenance and repairs,” Daniel says. “I have been going on trips throughout the state of Yucatán visiting clients of Vermeer for rentals and repairs and learning about why Vermeer products are needed. I am always working with another employee because otherwise the language barrier would make it difficult to communicate.”

Cory McCleary ’18 came to Central to major in physics, with plans to return home to Kansas University to complete his final two years in engineering. He wanted to play football and wrestle so the smaller college had appeal. He also participated in Physics Club and helped start the Engineering Club.

“Engineering is the most challenging thing I’ve ever done,” he says. “Engineering is understanding every detail of every part of every process that makes anything work. It’s complicated, but awesome to learn what 95 percent of people don’t know.”

Through his studies, McCleary has learned that engineering is not all hands-on.

“You are often handing off calculations and paperwork to a drafter or designer or technician who will do the hands-on. If you want more hands-on, then you should probably look into alternative professions,” he says.

McCleary took his own advice and spent last summer as a mechanical design intern at Kiewit in Kansas City. As soon as the internship was over, Kiewit offered him a full-time position, which he will start in June.

“The biggest thing I’ve learned is that just because something works in your head or on paper doesn’t mean it works in real life. I’ve learned from mistakes. Failure is the best way to know you’re making progress. I have learned that there is always a solution, it just may take a handful of tries to find it. My new job is the perfect fit for me. I may pursue a graduate degree later but right now, I want a break from school,” he says.

McCleary teamed up with fellow engineering student Jacob Challen ’18 for their capstone project to build a remote-controlled snow blower under the supervision of Durivage and Vishwakarma.

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Jacob Challen ’18 from Jefferson, Iowa, knew Central had a well-respected physics program with small classes. He assumed he would transfer to Iowa State University’s 3-2 engineering program.

“Engineering was my main goal, but I decided five years was too much. I could save money by doing the Central program in four years. Engineering here is high-level, demanding and technical. The professors will challenge you in areas where you may not be the strongest but they want you to learn and succeed. I have definitely felt the benefit of getting personal, one-on-one time with professors,” Challen says.

The strength of Central’s engineering program was confirmed for Challen last summer when he tutored Iowa State engineering students while taking summer classes. He tutored student-athletes who needed to catch up after being overloaded during their sports season. That’s a challenge Challen could appreciate since he participated in wrestling his first two years but chose to focus on academics once he switched his major.

“It was cool to have another view of what we’re taught and how it’s covered. I was surprised that we were all getting the same level of education. It was confirmation that I made the right decision to be at Central with small classes,” he says.

His tutoring experience may also influence his future.

“I’ve been told I’d be a good teacher but I’m not sure yet if I will pursue that with grad school. I’m taking a gap year to get work experience in electrical engineering, which is what I want to do. Having the combination of mechanical and electrical here makes us more versatile. We don’t have to specialize. With the future in industry having more robotics, Central’s combination is the best for getting hired,” Challen says.

Challen, like McCleary, says the capstone design course “has been one of the high points of my college career—getting to apply all you’ve learned, dive in deeper to what you are learning, literally building on your knowledge is one of the coolest things.”

The capstone project was building a prototype for proof of concept,” McCleary says. “We altered purchased products and modified the robotics.”

The students first purchased a manual snow blower and began to add parts—some recycled, some purchased and some from a motorized wheelchair. The resulting Ankle Biter is run by two 12-volt batteries and a microcontroller that “talks” to the machine.

“It should run for 60 minutes at two miles per hour and will easily clear a 50-foot by 10-foot driveway with one charge,” McCleary explains. “Based on what we have in it, it would retail for $700-800,” not accounting for their labor costs.

McAleery and Challen determined the product development schedule and met weekly with Durivage and Vishwakarma who offered guidance on technical issues, assessed design progress and monitored performance. Vermeeer also offered equipment use as part of the partnership.

“The design is all done on campus and the students build may be at industry or other locations.”

The pair compromised and chose the snow blower project. Each had the opportunity to work in his area of interest. With weekly guidance from Durivage and Vishwakarma, the students worked together to build the Ankle Biter, their nickname for the remote-controlled snow blower.

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“The design is all done on campus and the students build may be at industry or other locations.”

The joint project also had another outcome: The two friends enjoyed working together to solve a real-world problem.

“We’re pretty proud of it,” Challen says.

Vishwakarma says, “The intellectual build is here on campus but sometimes the physical build may be at industry or other locations.”

“Ultimately, we want to hire graduates of this program. The capstone project makes them hireable. Our goal as a company is to hire top talent, so it’s good for us to share our knowledge too,” Durivage says.

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MAJOR: Elementary Education  
HOMETOWN: Lake Crystal, Minnesota

CAREER PLANS? 
I have accepted a job as a first-grade teacher at Winterset Elementary School in Winterset, Iowa. I look forward to having my own classroom!

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MAJOR:  
HOMETOWN:  
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ALUMNI NEWSNOTES

For information about Arlys Van Zee Verdoorn ’56 and Bob Verdoorn ’56, see the ‘10s.

For information about Shirley Tuinstra Verdoorn ’61 and Don “Butch” Verdoorn ’60, see the ‘10s.

For information about Thom Summit ’74, Janice Decker Verdoorn ’75, Tom Verdoorn ’75, George Wares ’76 and Patty Joy Price ’78, see the ‘10s.

For information about Elaine Johnson ’72 retired after 14 years at the University of Baltimore, where she taught and was director of graduate programs in counseling psychology. She is a psychologist in private practice in Columbia, Maryland. Elaine and husband, Tim James, plan to retire to State College, Pennsylvania, in the near future.

Rich Schleier ’72 is senior pastor at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Mesa, Arizona, where he lives with wife Jan Shawshin Schleier ’71.

Donald Gano ’74 of Geneseo, Illinois, retired from his full-time position as associate professor and program director for the criminal justice program at Black Hawk College in Moline. This is his second attempt at retirement. Ten years ago, Don retired after 32 years with the Davenport Police Department with the rank of lieutenant. Don plans to travel and check off all the items on his bucket list.

Dennis Groenenboom ’75 retired in January after 26 years with Iowa Legal Aid, where he spent his entire legal career providing free legal services to low-income families. At the time of his retirement, Dennis was executive director. Dennis and husband, Scott Hartsook, live in Des Moines.

Marv Sorensen ’77 of Benson, Arizona, completed his 25th year teaching social studies at Benson High School.

Deb is the pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Spencer, where she lives with husband Dean Mechler ’79. Dean is account manager and agronomist with Agriliance.

Alan Van Zee ’79 of Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii, is director of music at St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church. Alan was able to convince his former classmate, Gabriel Espinosa ’79, to appear with his band at the 12th annual All Angels Jazz Festival at St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church in Lihue. They were joined at the concert by Jay Tanimoto Kouchi ’82, a Kauai native who came to support their Central connection. They are pictured (left to right): Associate Professor of Music Gabriel Espinosa ’79, Jay Tanimoto Kouchi ’82 and Alan Van Zee ’79.

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Penny Sullivan '83 is general manager and director of sales and customer care at ColorX at Mittera Group in Des Moines. Penny and husband, Kevin, live in Urbandale.

Pedro Gongora '84 is president and owner of Moda Enrico SA in Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico. He was one of 52 companies that manufactured thousands of shirts and jerseys for students ranging in age from 4–11 for the state school wellness program. During a recent presentation, Governor Roland Zapata Bello thanked Pedro for his work and leadership with the Apparel Manufacturers of Yucatán. Pedro is in his fifth year as president of the Apparel Manufacturers of Yucatán.

Albuquerque, New Mexico, is the home of Terry Cooney '82 who lives with husband, Doug. She was one of the nation’s young leaders and an active member of the association’s mission to advance collaborative research and strengthen the scientific community.

Dave Long '80 and Tanis '80, Paul Tanis '80, Verdoorn Draheim '80, Ned Verdoorn De Jong '84, Beth Verdoorn '87, and Leslie Weidenaar '82, all retired after 27 years as director of the Sioux City regional office of the Iowa State Education Association, where he led the bargaining units for Sioux City teachers and other area educators. Bruce and wife Jo live in Sioux City, where in retirement Bruce plans to read, walk, travel and play with his two grandchildren.

Scott Selsker '84 is senior project manager at Anthem, Inc. Scott and wife, Katie, live in Cottage Grove, Minnesota, near their son.

Mark Walther '78 is senior executive partner at Gartner. Mark and wife, Kim Eastburn Walther '79, live in Gambrell, Maryland. Kim teaches at Anne Arundel Public Schools in Annapolis.

Bruce Lear '79 retired after 27 years as director of the Sioux City regional office of the Iowa State Education Association, where he led the bargaining units for Sioux City teachers and other area educators. Bruce and wife Jo live in Sioux City, where in retirement Bruce plans to read, walk, travel and play with his two grandchildren.

THE '80s

For information about Jo Tanis Tanimoto '82, see the '70s. For information about Lisa Verdoorn De Jong '84, Beth Verdoorn Draheim '80, Ned De Jong '85, and Ann Sammon Long '80, Jill Blasius '80, Maureen Frisker Tanis '80, Paul Tanis '80, and Dave Long '80, see the '70s.

Pam Sagraves Soltis '80 received the Southeastern Universities Research Association’s Distinguished Scientist Award, given annually to a scientist whose extraordinary work fulfills the association’s mission to “advance collaborative research and strengthen the scientific capabilities of its members and the nation.” Pam is a plant biologist at the University of Florida in Gainesville, where she lives with husband, Doug.

This photo, taken around 1969–70, shows the Fraternity during its early days.

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Michelle Zinke ’95 of Lincoln
is a training and resource
coordinator with the Nebraska
Coalition to End Sexual and
Domestic Violence, where she
has worked for more than 17
years. She continues to spend
her free time working with
various theater companies as
stage and production manager.
In June 2016 Michelle received
The Artscene Backstage
Award for the city of Lincoln.

Monica Zinke ’95 of Lincoln,
Nebraska, is executive director
of Fresh Start, a transitional
living program for adult
homeless women. In 2016,
Monica and Fresh Start were
honored for their work in the
community. That same year,
Monica became a foster parent.
She currently provides foster
care to a 6-year-old girl who
has been with her for almost
two years.

Kevin Carroll ’96 is vice
president of behavioral health
at University of Health. Kevin is
a fellow in the American
College of Healthcare
Executives, serves on the
West Des Moines Chamber
Board and the Des Moines
Pastoral Counseling Center
Board. Kevin and wife, Julie
Wagemans Carroll ’96, live
in West Des Moines with their
two children. Julie teaches
English in the West Des
Moines Community
School District.

Matthew VanZetten ’96 was
promoted to assistant county
administrator for the county
of Kent in Michigan. Matthew
has been part of several major
initiatives related to health,
human services and education
integration since he began
working for the county in
2015. Along the way he and
Don Lubbers, former Central
College president, have become
colleagues working closely with
the Grand Rapids Community
Foundation. Matthew and wife,
Amy, live in Holland with their
two children.

Christine Greenen
Jorgensen ’97 joined Hancorn
Park United Methodist Church
in Omaha, Nebraska. She is
honored to be the first female
pastor in its 130-year history.
Chris calls herself a fourth-
career pastor, after working as a
librarian, stay-at-home mother
and academic administrator.
Christine was ordained in
June 2017 and appointed to the
Urban Abbey United Methodist
Church as their associate pastor
and campus minister before being
called to her new assignment.
Chris and husband, Matthew, live
in Omaha with their daughter.

Michelle Meyers ’97 teaches
at Warner Elementary School
in Nashville, Tennessee, where
she lives with her daughter.

Jason Metzger ’98 is senior
vice president and head
of risk management at
PURE Group of Insurance
Companies in New York.
Jason and wife, Vanessa, live
in Ridgefield, Connecticut,
with their two daughters.

Jennifer Ellingson ’99 and
Evon Poe ’99 of Adel were
married at Hotel Patte in
Jennifer is senior branch
service manager at RBC
Wealth Management in West
Des Moines. Evon is an
implementation consultant
with Wells Fargo Home
Mortgage in West
Des Moines.

Travis Turnball ’99 was
named executive director of
information technology at
Pella Corporation. Travis and
wife, Sarah Fosdick
Turnball ’99, live in Pella
with their three children.

Christina Weber ’99 of
San Francisco is regional
vice president of global
and strategic accounts at
Interface Flooring Systems. She
was presented the 2017 Ray C.
Anderson Sustainability
Award along with a $2,500
grant to the charity of her
choice at this year’s Interface
sales meeting.

Krista Sjaardeman Grant ’98
was named executive director
of Conrad Chamber-Main
Street. Krista and husband,
Marc, live in Conrad with
their two daughters.

Max Eckstein ’00 of
Evergreen, Colorado, is vice
president of The Forbes M&A
Group in Denver. Max serves
on the Denver Advisory Board,
Legal Marketing Association
Southwest Chapter Board, and
has been a guest lecturer at
the University of Colorado School
of Law and the University of
Denver Sturm College of Law.

Shannon Hoekstra ’00 is
director of information
system and member
and customer
technologies at the College
of American Pathologists
in Northfield, Illinois.
Shannon and wife, Jeanna
Redman
Hoekstra ’01, live in Crystal
Lake with their two children.

Charles Fortin ’01 of
Savage, Minnesota, is analytics
consultant at Wells Fargo in
Minneapolis.

Carrie Lund Viel ’01 returned
to teaching after working as a
stay-at-home mother for eight
years. In addition to teaching
speech at Central DeWitt High
School, Carrie is co-director of
the high school musical,
assistant speech team coach
and director of the high school
play. Carrie and husband,
Jason Viel ’01, live in DeWitt
with their two sons. Jason is director
of athletic training services at
Rock Valley Physical Therapy
and athletic trainer at
Pleasant Valley High School. He
was elected president of the Iowa
Athletic Trainers’ Society.

Jill Pirkl Vande Noord ’02 is
the lean competency manager
at John Deere in
Oshkosh. Jill and husband,
Todd Vande Noord ’01, live
in Mardin with their three
children. Todd owns and
operates DogPro Kennels in
Des Moines.

Brad Clark ’03 of Denver
was named president and CEO
of the Gill Foundation, one of
the nation’s leading funders of
efforts to secure full equality
for LGBT Americans. Brad
previously led the campaign
to protect marriage equality
in his home state of Iowa,
and secured civil unions, same
schools and trans-incclusive
healthcare in his adopted
state of Colorado.

Scott Bohner ’01, D.D., was recently installed
as president of the Iowa
Academy of Family
Physicians, a statewide
professional association
founded in 1948. The IAFP
includes more than 90
percent of Iowa’s doctors
who specialize in family
medicine, which encompasses the health care continuum on
both an individual and family basis.

Bohner earned a bachelor’s degree in exercise science
from Central. Bohner completed his medical degree at
Des Moines University, and is board certified in family medicine.
He provides full-spectrum family medicine care, from birth to
retirement, at Waverly-Medical Center DesDra Clinic,
with special interests in sports medicine and pediatrics.

For information about Sarah
Fosdick Turnball ’99, see the
90s. For information about
Andrea Caquelin Draheim ’03,
Clint Draheim ’03, Lisa
Lindsey Osborne Castle ’06,
Catie Rueler Brand ’04 and
Thom Mahler ’08, see the
10s.

UPDATE YOUR INFO: WWW.CENTRAL.EDU/ALUMNI-UPDATE

The book in hopes that by
sharing his experience and
strength with readers, they
will find hope.

THE ‘90s

ENRICH THE LIVES OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

Help our students achieve their full potential. Leave an estate gift to Central College.

Whether helping to offset the cost of tuition or ensuring cutting-edge classroom resources, your estate gift is an investment in students’ academic and economic futures.

To learn more, visit plannedgiving.central.edu or contact Doyle Monsma ’83 at 800-477-0287, 641-628-5181
or monsmad@central.edu.
Laura Billingsley ‘04 is an IT audit consultant at UnitedHealthGroup in Hartford, Connecticut. She is a certified information systems auditor. Marcia and husband, David, live in New Hampshire with their three children.

Marcia Ellsworth Elliott ‘04 is a fitness consultant at Johnson Fitness and Wellness in Clive.

Justin From ‘06 is an attorney at Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP, where he specializes in insurance and healthcare fraud litigation. Justin and wife, Tara, live in Chicago.

Matt Lynch ’06 is deputy staff judge advocate with the United States Air Force. He was selected for Air Command and Staff College (July 2016–June 2019), the U.S. Air Force’s intermediate professional military school, where he will work toward a master’s degree in military operational art and science. Matt finished a deployment to the Combined Air Operations Center in Qatar at the end of January. He is currently on assignment at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama, where he lives with wife, Kristen.

Joel Mellinger ‘07 of West Burlington is an artist who works with trash. Joel is a hash-cheem center lab technician at the Des Moines County Regional Landfill. Many of the pieces that inspired him to create began as discarded objects found on the job.

Kaitlin Huff Pech ’07 is a business analyst at John Deere in East Moline, Illinois. Kaitlin and husband, Cody, live in Davenport.

Kathryn Obermeier Phelan ’07 teaches mathematics and is an instructional specialist at Abraham Lincoln High School in Council Bluffs. Kathryn and husband, Michael, live in Council Bluffs with their daughter.

Tom Tjaden ’07 is a quality assurance manager at Test America in Cedar Falls, where he lives with wife, Jennifer, and their daughter.

Jessica Bever ’08 is working as a dietitian at Lincare in Omaha, Nebraska.

Kristin Clague ’08 of Ames is a communications specialist II at Iowa State University.

Jared Greenfield ’08 is senior managing director at Equity Trust Company in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where he lives with wife, Micaela, and their three sons.

Shelley DeWeerdt Kallbach ’08 recently purchased Widner Drug and Gift, an independent pharmacy/gift shop/ู่or in Manchester with husband, Jonathan, who is the pharmacist.

Rebecca Mino ’08 of Austin, Minnesota, is manager of applied research and public policy at Second Harvest Heartland in St. Paul.

Samantha Winebrenner ’08 is a realtor at Dream Street Realty in Urbandale, where she lives with her two daughters. Samantha earned her real estate license in 2011 and her loan originator license in 2017.


Shayna Jacobs ‘11 and Cedy Thia ‘11 of Virginia Beach, Virginia, were married Oct. 7, 2017, on Mount Diablo in the Bighorn Mountains of Wyoming. Shayna and Cedy were married July 9, 2016. Shayna is the network operations analyst at Aetna in Urbandale. Maggie Paris Viggers ‘10 is the network operations analyst at Aetna in Urbandale. Maggie and husband, Jacob Viggers ‘11, live in Des Moines, where Jacob is a quality traffic controller.

Robert Britton ‘11 of Des Moines is a document analysis associate at Bankers Trust.

Peter Fegly ‘11 of Tiffin is an urgent care physician at UnityPoint Clinic in Altona. Peter and husband, Nathaniel Nees ‘10, live in West Des Moines. Nathaniel is the area manager for Enterprise Rent-a-Car.

Patrick McElyea ‘04 is a military school, where he will enter the Intermediate Professional Staff College (July 2018–May 2019) with the United States Air Force. He is currently on loan to the Central Command’s 20th president, is currently on loan to Gregg and is displayed in his formal office at the Iowa State Capitol. The portrait is on loan for the duration of his tenure as lieutenant governor, to which he was appointed by Gov. Kim Reynolds May 25, 2017. Gregg’s Central football helmet also is on display in his office. “The people of Central College—including Dr. David Roe himself—played a major role in preparing me for a life of service,” Gregg says. “I also admire Dr. Roe, not only for his leadership of the college, but also for his selfless military service to our country. I’m proud to honor Dr. David Roe and Central College by hanging this portrait in my formal office, where it can serve as a daily reminder of the power of education, of service and of leadership.”

Roe served as Central’s president from 1998 to 2010. His leadership of the college, but also for his selfless military service to our country. I’m proud to honor Dr. David Roe and Central College by hanging this portrait in my formal office, where it can serve as a daily reminder of the power of education, of service and of leadership.”

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ANOTHER DAYTONA 500 FOR WAUGH

Camron Waugh’s ’09 journey to the Big Horn Mountains of Wyoming may have seemed adventurous until his post-graduation route took him from Iowa Conference football fields to the big leagues of NASCAR’s pit rows.

Waugh’s football focus meant he watched more NFL than NASCAR growing up. So, when a Central coach suggested that Waugh investigate a developmental pit-crew program for former college athletes, he was curious but only because his roommate was a Jeff Gordon fan.

Waugh, however, quickly adopted the new sport and began following crews across the country, starting first with low-budget teams at less-known series and gradually earning spots on support teams at All-Star races for NASCAR greats Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Jimmy Johnson.

Eight years and thousands of tire changes later, Waugh now sports NASCAR rings and spends half of each week away from his Colorado home in the pits of the nation’s fastest speedways. In mid-February, he supported NASCAR great Kyle Busch at the Daytona Motor Speedway.

Central College celebrated its Second Annual Hoo-Rah! Day Friday, April 6. This year the college added a giving component to the day’s activities, and with more than $191,505 donated from 482 gifts, the day was a huge success!

Donors gave to a variety of programs and needs at Central, including the Journey Scholarship Fund, Forever Dutch, undergraduate research programs, Douwstra Auditorium renovation and more. Donors helped spread Central pride across the nation—and all around the world—with gifts from as far away as Japan and Wales!

Social media played a significant role in reaching Central supporters across the globe, and Central’s Hoo-Rah! Day ambassadors helped stretch the reach even further. On Facebook alone, more than 65,000 people engaged with #HoorahDay.

From on-campus participation to a host of online #HoorahDay activities, Central’s alumni, students, parents, faculty and staff rallied to make the day a resounding success.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this Hoo-Rah Day the best one yet. See you next year to continue the tradition!

HOO-RAH! HOO-RAH! CENTRAL! CENTRAL! RAH! RAH! WOO!
Shanna O'Bryan ’11 of West Des Moines is senior personnel lines understeward at Nationwide in Des Moines.

Jena Jenison Stokesbury ’11 is director of external engagement at Central College. Jena and husband, BJ, live in Pella.

Tyler Aails ’12 of Cedar Falls was named district executive for the Thre Rivers District within the Hawkeye Area Council Boy Scouts of America.

Zach Jacobs ’12 and wife, Katelynn, were married Aug. 22, 2015. Zach is senior regulatory and community liaison at YSS of the Mississippi Valley.

Dana Baker Seeman ’12 is the human resource manager at the Iowa Department of Administrative Services in Des Moines.

Jared Hottle ’13 was named offensive coordinator at the University of Minnesota-Crookston. Jared spent the previous five seasons at Dakota State University, where he was assistant coach of the American Football Coaches Association Assistant Coach of the Year the previous two seasons.

Megan Joy ’13 is a programmer at Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines.

Cameron Van Kooten Laughd ’13 was named associate director of Research Affairs at The Babson College.

Joe Kots ’13 of Pleasant Hill is a corporate accounts at Ziegler Caterpillar in Altoona.

Dann Law ’13 and Kevin Templeton ’13 of Chicago were married Oct. 14, 2017. Dann is a utilities engineer at HBK Engineering in Chicago, where Kevin is project administrator at SAC Wireless.

Lauren Settlerdahl ’12 and Andrew Barton of West Des Moines were married Sept. 23, 2017. Lauren is a physical therapist at UnityPoint Health in Des Moines. Pictured front row (left to right): Megan Strait Eeling ’12, Alayna Schutte ’12, Lauren Settlerdahl Barton ’12, Trish Le Couture ’12, Alyssa Cobie-Nuss ’12, Cynthia Walker ’12 and Tiffany Ahrenholts Wood ’11. Back row: Mick Wiederin ’12 and Jake Eiling ’12.


Taryn Pennington ’13 of Colorado Springs, Colorado, is a high-performance health care services provider at the Colorado Center of Orthopedic Excellence, a contractor for the United States Olympic Committee.

Samantha Scheckel ’14 is a conversation assistant at Junta de Extremadura in Don Benito, Spain. Previously, Alex was the foreign expert at Southwest University of Political Science and Law in Chongqing City, China.

Loney Baugh ’14 of Orlando, Florida, is an athletic trainer at Preferred Physical Therapy in Orange Park.

Amanda Higgins ’14 of Des Moines is a radiologic technologist and athletic trainer at UnityPoint Health in the Des Moines area. Amanda goes on ambulance runs with the Clarks and Buffalo Center Ambulance.

Trevor Koelmel ’14 is a product specialist at Vermeer Corporation in Cedar Rapids.

Rachel Lindhurt ’14 of Lincoln is an international student engagement coordinator at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Jordan Overland ’14 and Koby Pritchard of Boone were married May 21, 2016.

Carson Claypool ’15 is assistant vice president at the Bank of Fairport in Maysville, Missouri.

Jordan Lanzer ’15 of Fitchburg, Wisconsin, is a program coordinator of engagement programs at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Foundation and Alumni Association.

Michael Mackin ’15 of Johnston is assistant manager of email marketing operations at Meredith Corporation in Des Moines.

Wes McLaren ’15 of Johnston is staff accountant at ChildServe.

Mollery Schublenberg ’15 and Anthony Caldwell of Kansas City, Missouri, were married Dec. 10, 2016. Mallory is an account administrator at Lockton Companies.

Blake Smith ’15 of Orlando, Florida, is sales development representative at Fatmacher.

Joseph Handley ’16 is a high school cultural ambassador at IES Ramon y Cajal in Madrid, Spain, through the Auxiliares de Convencion Program.
Minneapolis is a tax associate for the Humane Society.

Jane McKown ‘17

Auburn, Washington, is a special programs coordinator for a new business case coordinator at Principal Financial Group in Des Moines. She is pictured front row (left to right): Kirby Rock ’12, Curtis Hobbs ’11, Karlee Rock Schneider ’15, Andrew Schneider, Jr., Mitch Schroeder ’15 and Bret Bell ’12.


Third row: Abbie Voas ’17, Thom Summitt ’74, Mallory Schulenberg holding daughter Addison, Marjorie Giles, Paige Schreiner ’16, Katie Canney Fyfe ’15, Drew Kleis ’15.

Front row (left to right): Andrew Schneider, Jr., Andrew Schneider of Pella were married Dec. 16, 2017. Karlee is a graduate of Iowa State University, May 2017. "The happiest moment in my life was watching my father walk my daughter down the aisle," said Andrew Schneider.

"I’ve been a great listener for my daughter and have always been there for her. I am most proud of her," said Schneider.

ADVANCED DEGREES

Craig Windt ’95, master’s degree, U.S. history and government, Ashland University, Dec. 2017.

Christine Greenen Jorgensen ’97, master of divinity, Drew Theological School, 2015.


Kaitlin Huff Pech ’07, master of business administration, University of Iowa, May 2017.

Jenny Baier ’08, master’s degree, diet and exercise, Iowa State University, 2017.

Thom Mahler ’08, master’s degree, music education, University of South Dakota, 2014.

Kayla Schipper Mahler ’10, master’s degree, communication studies, University of Iowa, 2017.

Abigail Sparks Rock ’12, master of business administration, University of Iowa Tippie College of Business, Dec. 2017.

Erica and Dan Applegate ’08, twin daughters Lana Mae and Molly Elizabeth, Dec. 19, 2017.


Micaela and Jared Greenfield ’08, son Noah Matthew, April 8, 2016.

Cassandra and Derek Roorda ’09, son Finnick Allan, Sept. 16, 2016.

Christian and Chandra Benes Huffman ’10, daughter Allison Marie, July 13, 2016.


Katelynn and Zach Jacobs ’12, daughter Elizabeth Ann, June 2, 2017.

Jenny and Michelle Keller DeBoer ’13, daughter Addisyn Hope, Nov. 5, 2017.


Derek and Meghan Cain Newton ’13, daughter Evelyn Elise, Feb. 11, 2018.

Caleb and Katie Tolk Fox ’14, son Callen Gene, March 6, 2018.


In Memoriam

Keeley Lanaghin ’16 of Auburn, Washington, is special programs coordinator at Auburn Valley Humane Society.

Jane McKown ’17 of Minneapolis is a tax associate at Eide Bailly, LLP.

ALLEN MOEN

Allen Moen, 84, professor emeritus of physics, passed away Jan. 24, 2018, in Lake Stevens, Washington. Moen served Central for more than 30 years as a professor in the physics department.

Born in Badger, Minnesota, Moen received a B.A. degree from Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington, and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in physics from Washington State University in Pullman. Moen was drafted into the U.S. Army during graduate school and served at Fort Lewis, Washington, and White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico. Following his military service, Moen arrived at Central in 1963 as assistant professor of physics. During his years at Central, Moen was promoted to associate professor and professor of physics, and he served as chair of the physics department and the natural sciences division. He conducted summer research at Battelle Northwest Laboratories in Richland, Washington, and at NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia. Moen also taught physics and English in China for three semesters. He retired from Central in May 1998.
College roommates come from all walks of life and in a plethora of personalities. Random roommate assignments can produce curious conversations, hilarious hijinks and flat-out spectacular stories.

We want to hear your college roommate memories in all their glory--tell us about the two roomies who shared your space at Central College and how they may have affected your time here.

Send your stories along with a photo of you and your roomie to vecchioc@central.edu with the subject line “Roomies” by June 15, 2018. Selected stories will appear in the summer issue of “Civitas.”

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A PARTING SHOT

SPRING 2018 | 39

WILLIAM M. WIEBENGA

William M. Wiebenga, 80, former Central president, died Feb. 19, 2018, in Carmel, Indiana.

Wiebenga was appointed the 19th president of the college in 1990 and served in that position until 1997. While at Central, he also held the title of professor of philosophy.

Wiebenga graduated from Calvin College with a bachelor’s degree in philosophy and English. He also earned master’s and doctoral degrees in philosophy from Yale University. He began his career teaching at American University. He later served as dean of the college of arts and sciences at American University and Texas Christian University. Immediately prior to his role at Central, he was the provost of Wittenberg University.

During his tenure at Central, Wiebenga initiated several important efforts. According to a news release at the time he left Central, Wiebenga developed a comprehensive five-year strategic plan to support the college’s systematic growth. In addition, during his presidency the college implemented a semester calendar, established a new core curriculum and put into affect a different residence life program structure. He also created a revised fundraising agenda for the college and the Central Market, the college’s innovative campus dining facility, was constructed during his service to the college.

While living in Pella, Wiebenga was active in several community organizations, including Pella Opera House, the Pella Area Development Corporation, the Pella Chamber of Commerce and the Pella Rotary Club. He also served on the Hawkeye Bank of Pella board of directors.

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GRAD FINALE
Central seniors celebrate and pick up their caps and gowns in March in preparation for commencement.