

SUMMER 2018

CENTRAL

CENTRAL COLLEGE **CIVITAS** ALUMNI MAGAZINE

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IT'S A BIT MESSY

BY MARK PUTNAM, CENTRAL COLLEGE PRESIDENT

MARK: MY WORDS

Read more of President Putnam's writing at:
president.central.edu



T

he State of Iowa has several well-intended programs to help students—some as young as 13—plan their futures. I'm all for talking with students early and often about educational and career opportunities. These conversations can serve them well. They gradually develop a sense of what interests them and where their aptitudes lie.

But I get concerned when some educators and parents believe a student so young must form a durable plan. Programs that try to lock a student into a fixed course for high school and college are misguided. Very few students in their early teens understand themselves or the world well enough to determine a reliable pathway.

Last year, during one of our visit days for prospective students, a parent asked

me what percentage of Central students change majors. At another institution she visited the number was above three-quarters. I said that in our educational setting that percentage is rather typical. A liberal arts education is a journey of exploration. Each student is on a unique path. Many students certain in their first year of college they had selected the correct major discover through time an alternate pathway is more desirable.

It reminds me of the proverb, "God writes straight with crooked lines."

The path can get a bit messy. But that's OK. It's part of the journey. I have a question for parents when these conversations emerge: "How many of us had it right when we were 17 or 18 years old?" At that point, most parents in the room look at their shoes.

We all know people who completed an educational course of study or an early career experience who decided the path they had chosen was not right for them. Rather than painting them a failure, we should celebrate them as a learner on a journey. Some of the most successful internships are those from which the student returns and says, "I never want to do that again!" They may have saved 10 years by disqualifying a potential career pathway after simply testing it.

Some policymakers might prefer students pick their educational and career pathway when they are 13 years old. That would be more cost effective, but far less human. The adversity we face, the twists and turns we encounter and the resilience we demonstrate all belong to our education. Even when it's a bit messy.

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Photograph of award-winning math teacher **Carol Mendez '09** by Dan Weeks.

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Des Moines entrepreneur and business innovator **Tej Dhawan '91** was elected chair of Central's board of trustees effective July 1, 2018. Dhawan succeeds chair **Lanny Little '74**.

Dhawan was student body president as an undergrad. He joined the trustees in 2002 after six years of service on the college's National Advisory Council. Dhawan chaired the board's finance committee from 2009-12 and has served on board committees for student development, executive compensation, investment and trusteeship and on the executive committee. He was also a board representative on the search committee that brought President Mark Putnam to the college in 2010. Dhawan is currently chief data officer for the Principal Financial Group.

"The amount of service to the college and number of leadership roles Tej has already filled is really impressive," Little says. "He has a deep, abiding commitment to Central and carries the right mindset to fulfill the role of the chair, cherishing the proud traditions of our past while planning for the innovations that will help the college thrive in the future."

During its April meeting, the Central College Board of Trustees also honored outgoing board chair Little by naming him chair emeritus. Although leaving the chair position, Little will continue to serve on the board.

Little, of Bonita Springs, Florida, has a long banking career. He currently serves as an independent consultant for Core Value Banking. He served as Central's board chair since 2011.



PRAISE BEE

Central recently has been certified as an affiliate of the Bee Campus USA program, designed to marshal the strengths of educational campuses for the benefit of pollinators. **Central is the only college in Iowa to earn the designation.**

The Bee Campus USA designation recognizes educational campuses that commit to a set of practices that support pollinators, including bees, butterflies, birds, bats and more.

Students **Molly Luzbetak '18** and **Madison Friedrich '18** led the effort. They constructed a "bee hotel" providing habitat for wild bees, and planned a series of bee education events connecting college experts with local school and community groups.



DEAN STREY SELECTED FOR NATIONAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Mary E.M. Strey,
Central's vice
president of

academic affairs and dean of faculty, is one of 20 senior college administrators selected by the Council of Independent Colleges to participate in a year-long Presidential Vocation and Institutional Mission program for prospective college and university presidents. Since 2005, 53 program participants (33 percent) have been named to college presidencies.



A STRONG PROGRAM

The National Strength and Conditioning Association announced in May that Central and its exercise science program are now recognized as an approved NSCA education program.

Many Central exercise science graduates already earn the Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist designation. NSCA certification of the college itself is a third-party acknowledgement of the rigor and quality of Central's program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE STORIES, VISIT OUR WEBSITE: NEWS.CENTRAL.EDU

CENTRAL FACULTY RECEIVE RECOGNITION AND TENURE

Ten Central faculty members received awards.

Keith Ratzlaff, professor of English, (B.A., Bethel College-Kansas; M.F.A., Indiana University) received the Dr. John Wesselink Award for scholarship with a direct impact on teaching. Ratzlaff has published poetry and essays widely in national magazines, authored three books of poetry, and won two Pushcart Prizes and inclusion in the 2009 edition of "The Best American Poetry." A colleague writes, "Keith's courses, Poetry Writing, Personal Essay and Travel Writing ... are all impacted and informed by Keith's active career as a poet."

Ashley Scolaro, associate professor of psychology, (B.S., Drake University; M.S., Ph.D., Iowa State University) received the David Crichton Memorial Teaching Award for excellence in teaching. Scolaro is a cognitive neuroscientist dedicated to helping students understand how the brain produces behavior. She recently added courses in clinical neuroscience, forensic neuroscience and social, affective and developmental neuroscience to the psychology course catalog.

Jim Shriver, professor of chemistry, (B.S., M.S., West Virginia University; Ph.D., University of Texas Austin) received the Frank W. Moore Faculty Award for promoting student learning in the natural sciences. He has done collaborative research with 35 students. Of these, 19 completed honors theses, 22 completed a terminal degree and six were published in "The Writing Anthology."

Amy Young, associate professor of German, (B.A., Simpson College; M.A., Bowling Green State University; Ph.D., University of Nebraska) received the Huffman Award for Outstanding Support of International Education. Young was



From left: Cynthia Mahmood, Ashley Scolaro, Shelley Bradfield, Amy Young, Kathy Korcheck, Linda Laine, Maggie Fisher Schlerman '02, Keith Ratzlaff, Andrew Green, Jim Shriver.

co-recipient of a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to develop a new, open-access, first-year curricular resource for German language and culture.

The **ad hoc Committee on Faculty Culture and Communication** received the Hutch Bearce Community-Building and Faculty Leadership Award for community building and mentorship or leadership. The committee surveyed faculty, helped clarify faculty communication roles and channels and energized faculty participation in Central's governance. Committee members included **Shelly Bradfield**, associate professor of communication studies; **Andrew Green**, professor of political science; **Kathy Korcheck**, associate professor of Spanish; **Linda Laine**, associate professor of communication studies; **Cynthia Mahmood**, Frank Moore chair in anthropology and professor of anthropology; and **Maggie Fisher Schlerman '02**, assistant professor of accounting.

Three faculty members were granted tenure and promotion to associate professor:

- **Ashley Garr**, (B.S., Truman State University; M.S., Ph.D., University of Minnesota) department of chemistry

- **George Nwaogu**, (B.A., University of Botswana; M.A., Ph.D., Western Michigan University) department of economics, accounting and management
- **Ashley Scolaro**, (B.S., Drake University; M.S., Ph.D., Iowa State University) department of psychology

Three Central faculty members were promoted to professor:

- **Mark Babcock '91**, (B.A., Central College; M.M., Westminster Choir College) department of music
- **Russell Goodman**, (B.S., M.S., University of Texas Arlington; Ph.D., University of Oklahoma) department of mathematics and computer science
- **Linda Laine**, (B.A., Abilene Christian University; M.A., Ph.D., University of South Florida) department of communication studies

Two Central faculty members were recognized for 25 years of service:

- **Peggy Fitch**, (B.A., Stevens College; M.A., University of Maryland; Ph.D., University of Kansas) professor of psychology
- **Jon Witt**, (B.A., Trinity College; M.A., Ph.D., Loyola University of Chicago) professor of sociology



LEADING IN INTEGRATIVE LEARNING

This past July, a seven-member team from Central explored how to help students better integrate everything they're learning in their classes, their co-curricular activities and in their service, work and life experiences. The team was invited to attend the American Association of Colleges and University Institute on Integrative Learning and Signature Work at Boston University. At the institute, Central's team explored "signature work:" capstone projects that integrate and apply student learning to complex problems and to projects that are important to both the student and society.

CHOICES GRANTED!

Central received a \$30,000 NCAA CHOICES Grant to integrate athletics into campus-wide efforts to reduce alcohol abuse. The grant supports projects that partner athletics with other campus departments to develop campus-wide alcohol-education projects that encourage personal alcohol-related choices that are legal, healthy, appropriate and safe.

With the help of the grant, the college plans to integrate alcohol education into its core curriculum, partner with Pella on alcohol abuse prevention, engage student-athletes in educational workshops, expand its Mentors in Violence Prevention training and more.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE STORIES, VISIT OUR WEBSITE: NEWS.CENTRAL.EDU

FAIRLEY RACES TO NCAA STEEPLECHASE CROWN

BY LARRY HAPPEL '81



Mark Fairley '18 came from behind to take the NCAA Division III title in the 3,000-meter steeplechase. Photo: d3photography.com

DUTCH TAKE LEAGUE MEN'S TRACK TITLE

Surging to the lead in the final lap, **Mark Fairley '18** sprinted to a four-second triumph in the men's 3,000-meter steeplechase for Central's second NCAA Division III individual title of the year at the outdoor track and field championships in La Crosse, Wisconsin, in May.

Fairley won in a school-record 8:57.39. It's the 15th individual track and field national championship for the Dutch and the school's 34th overall.

Teammate **Will Daniels '20**, who claimed the NCAA heptathlon crown at the indoor championships in March, finished third in the outdoor decathlon.

The Dutch tied for 12th in the NCAA team standings, the 14th top-20 national team finish in the program's remarkable history.

That followed a thrilling championship performance at the Iowa Conference meet in Pella May 10-12. The Dutch were a surprise, rolling up 144 points to outdistance the favored University of Dubuque by 28 points in snaring their third league outdoor crown in four years and their 18th overall.

Joe Dunham, who announced earlier he'll focus on his duties as men's and women's cross country coach next year after 10 championship-filled years at the helm, was named the NCAA Central Region

Coach of the Year. Daniels and Fairley were named the region's field and track athletes of the year, respectively. **Ryan Kruse '18** was a national meet qualifier.

Kyle Pape '19 (800 meters), **Nathan Fitzgerald '19** (discus) and **Kruse** (javelin) earned all-region distinction as well.

Meanwhile, **Evie Kammeyer '18** was an NCAA qualifier in the steeplechase for the women. A young Dutch squad was fourth at the league meet. **Gillian Streit '21** took the discus title while **Mary Gray '21** claimed the heptathlon, with **Kiki Pingel '21** and **Courtney Kruthoff '21** taking third and fourth, respectively. Kammeyer and Gray received all-region distinction.



Paige Dickel '18 and the Dutch stole 133 bases en route to another NCAA softball tournament berth.

CENTRAL GAINS RECORD 29TH NCAA SOFTBALL BERTH

Central advanced to the NCAA Division III softball tournament for a record 29th year, finishing second in the St. Paul, Minnesota, regional.

The Dutch posted a 29-12 record and landed three players on the all-Midwest region squad. Speedsters **Sara Tallman '20** and **Shaye Witte '20**, outfielders at the top of the Central batting order, were first-team picks while catcher **Emily Walton '18** was a third-team selection.

Tallman, also a two-time first-team all-conference pick, hit .387 with 50 runs and a school-record 47 stolen bases, ranking fourth in the nation. Witte hit a team-high .404 while Walton, back after missing all of 2017 with injury, hit .372 with a team-best 38 RBI.

Central, which finished second in league play at 12-4, was No. 21 in the final NFCA Division III rankings under hall of fame Coach **George Wares '76**.

GOLFERS NARROWLY MISS LEAGUE MEN'S CROWN

Central surged into a tie for the 54-hole lead before settling for a second-place finish at the Iowa Conference men's golf tournament.

The young Dutch squad shot 303-303-299-299-1204 and placed second, six shots behind champion Nebraska Wesleyan. **Nash Bucher '19** shot 74-76-77-73—300 to finish seventh and earn all-conference distinction.

All five Central starters are slated to return next year.

CENTRAL THIRD IN CONFERENCE MEN'S TENNIS

Central reached the semifinals of the Iowa Conference men's tennis tournament and finished third in league play with a 6-2 mark.

Coach **Ryun Ferrell's** squad was 15-12 overall. **Garret Taylor '18** and **William Isiminger '21** received all-conference distinction at No. 1 doubles. **Jacob Logan '18** received honorable mention. Taylor and Logan are among six seniors on Central's squad, but 13 players return, bolstered by a promising recruiting class.



SAUNDERS RECEIVES ALL-REGION BASEBALL HONORS

Shortstop **Garrett Saunders '19** received multiple all-Central region honors.

Saunders was a first-team d3baseball.com pick and a second-team ABCA/Rawlings honoree. He hit a team-high .388 with 38 runs, 16 doubles and 21 stolen bases.

Pitcher **Zach Edwards '20** joined Saunders as a second-team all-Iowa Conference selection while pitcher **Dylan Diveney '18** received honorable mention.

The Dutch were 16-23 overall with a 7-16 league mark.



CENTRAL SCENE
PHOTO DAN VANDER BEEK

This Class of '18 graduate's mortarboard bids a fond farewell to Central and Pella.



THE UNBROKEN CIRCLE

FROM FIELDWORKER TO
TWO-TIME-AWARD-WINNING
FIFTH-GRADE MATH TEACHER,
CAROL MENDEZ '09 EMBODIES
THE AMERICAN DREAM.

BY DAN WEEKS
Photos: Dan Weeks



Carol Mendez '09 grew up picking produce in rural Cambridge, Iowa, alongside her immigrant parents Martha and Miguel. “Things do not have to be this way if you go to school and work hard,” they told her.

“It was said so often that I came to believe it long before high school. Despite the lack of their own education, they believed so deeply in ours and they were right,” says Mendez, a fifth-grade math teacher at St. Louis’ KIPP Triumph Academy, a free charter school embedded in the city’s public-school system.

Last year, Mendez received both the William T. Kemper Excellence in Teaching Award and the 2017 Missouri Charter Public Schools Teacher of the Year award for her work in ensuring that her inner-city students also have a path to college.

“This was only possible because of a

dream my family had,” Mendez says. “Their hard work and dedication set me up with an example of what I was meant to do.”

AN EXAMPLE, NOT A ROADMAP

Mendez was the first in her family to graduate high school, much less college. (Her younger brother, Miguel Mendez '10, followed her to Central.) How she got to Central is a study in parental sacrifice, personal ambition and the willingness of two generations of her family to make huge leaps of faith and figure out the details later.

“My parents migrated from Mexico and first settled in South Texas, 10 minutes across the border. We came north every year to do fieldwork in Iowa—detasselling, pollinating, strawberry picking. My whole family—grandparents, aunts, uncles,

cousins—were offered full-time jobs in Iowa. My parents were the only ones to make the leap. The schools were so much better here, and my mother knew if she could give us a good education it would open opportunities for us,” Mendez says.

“When my mother worked full-time she left sticky notes all over the house that told each of us what to do when we got home from school: clean the house, cook supper, do our homework,” Mendez adds. “They all had to be crossed off before she got home from work. She had the vision, the organization. At times my father worked three jobs so we could afford a place to live. If we complained about our chores, he’d sit with us and gently explain: ‘We need your help to make this work. We’re doing this for you.’ He was always understanding and loving.”

I ALWAYS FELT EQUAL

"When we got here, my family [Carol also has an older sister, Crystal] knew 25 words of English between us. I was 10. The school in Cambridge had no other immigrant kids. There were no English Language Learning teachers," she says. "But I knew I could learn just as much as the other kids if I just knew the language."

"My brother and I made a plan: we'd teach each other English. Anything we saw—newspapers, cereal boxes, the label on the back of the TV—we'd work to figure it out together. Eventually the school hired a bilingual college student and he'd come work with us. By the time we entered the next grade, we were virtually bilingual," Mendez continues.

"We were eager to learn, eager to make friends. I knew all along: I look different, I eat different foods, my parents can't afford some of the extracurricular activities other kids' could and we didn't have the nicest shoes," she says. "But I knew I was just the same as everyone else. I always felt equal. Many students were very friendly. My best friend introduced herself to me by saying: 'Want to play?' She just saw a new face. Others were borderline racist. But really, once we learned the language, it wasn't that hard."

WELCOME TO CENTRAL

"I knew I wanted to go to a small college, and in the fall of my senior year, my parents drove me to Central. Pella was so calming, so beautiful. As we walked into the admissions office, they had 'Welcome, Carol Mendez!' on the screen. The ability

to get a great education in a compact space just an hour from home seemed ideal. When I got in, my first thought was, 'Wow, those [tuition] numbers are big! But I'm going to find a way to pay this off,'" Mendez says.

Student Support Services helped her with some scholarships.

"It is a big deal in my culture for a Latina to leave home at age 17. It was hard. I remember sitting in the back seat of the car thinking, 'I can't cry in front of my parents.'"

Mendez tells her story sitting in her St. Louis classroom after she's walked her students to the school bus. "They all know who I am and where I come from," she says. "All are low-income. They know we share similar upbringings."

In college, Mendez felt called to a career that would allow her to share her story "to help those in need." She thought of teaching but loved science. At one point, she planned to study medicine. An organic chemistry course persuaded her otherwise.

Starting her junior year, she focused on her double major in education and Spanish and spent a semester at Central's Mérida, Mexico, program. "I knew the language, but I wanted to know the literature, the history, the culture," she says. The semester in Mexico "changed my life. My family was from Mexico, but a much different area. I realized there was so much out there in the world to learn." Mendez has since spent a summer vacation in Europe, soaking up the history and culture, and plans to continue to travel.

The most transformative thing about Central? "Feeling welcomed in a very affluent environment," Mendez says. "I missed one class meeting and my professor called my dorm room to make sure I was OK. I knew my profs by their first names. They pushed me, but in a different way, because they knew me."

Commencement, she says, was "probably the most emotional day in my parents' life. I'd made their dream come true."

IT TAKES A FAMILY

Now to make her own dream come true: teaching other kids from diverse, marginalized communities that they, too, can make it to college. She signed up for Teach for America and ended up in inner-city St. Louis.

Her Central education and her Teach for America training was invaluable. But what has made her an outstanding success as a teacher is the example of her mother, father and grandfather.

Paula Lee, a Central education advisory council member, told her that she had the makings of a teacher but warned her to focus on mastering classroom management "or they're going to eat you alive in St. Louis."

"My mother was the visionary and the disciplinarian. My dad was the loving, caring father. I realized if I could mesh both of their personalities I can give my students what they need," Mendez says. "I'm not going to lower my standards for them, no matter what their life circumstances—and some of them have it pretty rough. But I show them I love them, too. I channel both my parents every day. People tell me 'You have a very strong demeanor, but you're very easy-going.'"

Breaking with school practice, she made home visits to every one of her students. "At the first school at which I taught, my supervisors told me not to go. They said it wasn't safe. No one would come with me. But I knew I needed parents' buy-in. I told them, 'I will change your child's life, but you need to support me.' I actually had them sign a contract. The parents were shocked, but not one was offended. Some thanked me. Some cried. One said, 'You're the only teacher who has spoken to me in Spanish.' I learned where each of my kids came from and what they were dealing with," she says.

Her choice of teaching math came directly from her grandfather. "Working in the fields, we had to do a lot of math. He made it fun. We'd be picking strawberries,

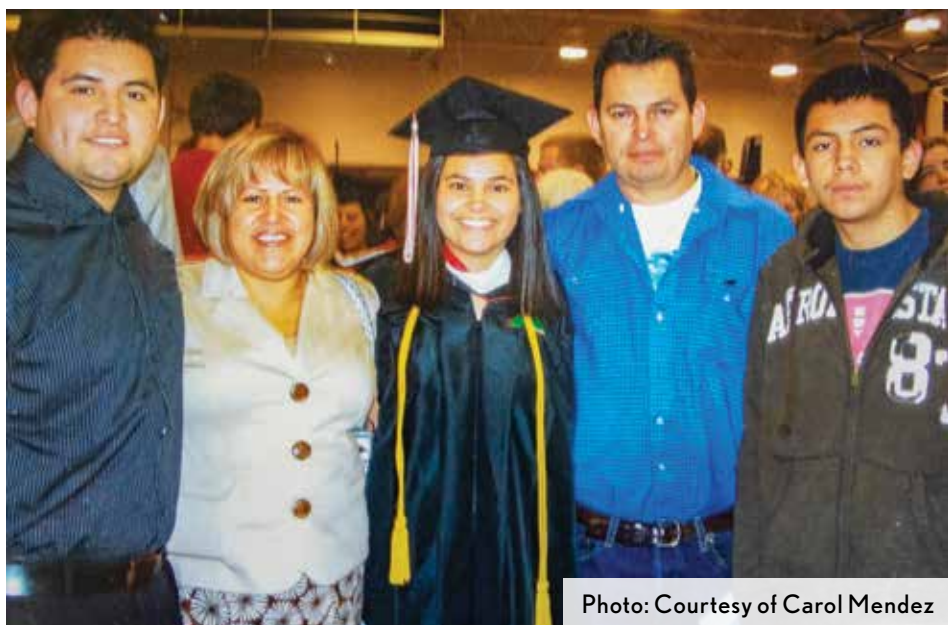


Photo: Courtesy of Carol Mendez

and he'd say, 'We get paid this much per pound. How many pounds can you pick per hour? How many hours will you work today? How much money will you make?' He taught us shortcuts for multiplying. He made our work a story problem. He made math seem so logical and natural to me. The way my grandfather taught me math in the field is the way I teach my students. I love teaching fifth grade math because it's the math you'll use every day, all your life," she adds.

DESTINATION: EXCELLENCE

Mendez doesn't talk much about her teaching awards. They're not on display in her classroom. Instead, she has a picture of her family flanking her at her Central graduation, radiating pride. "I could win 10 awards and not feel that I have lived up to their sacrifices," she says.

She also has pictures of her students on her classroom walls—studying, playing, on field trips. And, per KIPP practice, her room has a Central College banner over the door: Each homeroom class takes on the name and identity of the college from which the teacher graduated. It's a tangible connection to the world of higher education to which the students aspire.

Mendez is slight, energetic, intense: a triathlete in the virtually non-existent spare time that wedges itself into her 70-80 hour weeks. That time includes lesson



preparation. "We have no textbooks, she says. "Everything I put in front of my students I've created." It also encompasses before-and-after school tutoring, participating in school and student events, school governance, mentoring colleagues as a team leader and just being a resource in the lives of her students.

One parent asked if Mendez would take her son to Mexico to see his grandparents. The parent couldn't go because of work and family obligations. Mendez went in her stead. The student is now attending a prestigious private boarding school in Philadelphia. Mendez and his mother took him there and Mendez helped him move in.

In her Excellence in Teaching Award nomination, Triumph Academy's principal, Elizabeth Valerio, wrote: "Carol's classroom is without a doubt the happiest place at

KIPP Triumph. You could sit for hours in there. If I'm having a rough day, sometimes I do. Kids are on task, working hard, all the time. Carol is constantly aggressively monitoring scholar work no matter what kids are working on. The room is always positive. Kids LOVE seeing Ms. Mendez and love going to math. She tracks data effectively and efficiently, and kids are super invested in seeing their results. ... Carol's scholars know that every problem matters and that she's going to stay with them until they get it."

The result: Mendez, "doubled, tripled and quadrupled her [students] proficiency scores for fifth grade math. The learning in her classroom this year increased by over 500 percent by the end of the school year," wrote Valerio. It was an astonishing achievement.

"She's smart, she's the best math teacher ever and she always respects how you feel, even when you're feeling sad or mad," says Aceland, one of Mendez's scholars. "She helps the students get more knowledge and education for math and helps them get their grades higher. She tells students how to respect each other."

"She's fun, she listens, she gives you lots of chances," adds another student, Sam. "She doesn't get mad at you right away. She's nice, she takes us on field trips. She will pick us up and surprise us, but our parents will know. She's a good teacher."



Photo: Courtesy of KIPP

A woman, Carol Mendez, stands in a school hallway. She is wearing a dark t-shirt with "JUST DO MATH" and blue jeans. Behind her is a large mural on the wall that reads "KNOWLEDGE IS POWER." in large, bold, blue letters. The hallway has a brick wall base and a blue carpet.

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER.

"THE WAY MY GRANDFATHER TAUGHT ME MATH IN THE FIELD IS THE WAY I TEACH MY STUDENTS."

— CAROL MENDEZ '09

WHAT NEXT?

Mendez knows her workload isn't sustainable. She's aware of the possibility of burnout. "This is my graduate school," she says. "It's the hardest thing I've ever done. Harder than organic chemistry."

But it's getting easier. For her four-week summer vacation, she typically sleeps for two weeks. Then she reflects and plans.

When asked what she'd like to do next, her snappy brown eyes lose focus a bit.

"I'd like to take my students to Central. They've never been out of the city, much less out of the state," she says.

She gazes out her classroom window, switches to present tense, as though she's already on the trip. "We arrive in Pella. I'm asking them: Why are there tulips?

Why is there a windmill here? Because people came here from a different place to make a new life and they are still proud of that—so proud that the town looks like a little town in Holland," she muses. "You can be just as proud of where you come from and who you are. This is where you make your dreams come true."



LEARN MORE ABOUT

Central's education major and teacher preparation:

Elementary: www.central.edu/elementary-education

Secondary: www.central.edu/secondary-education

Teach for America: teachforamerica.org

KIPP St. Louis, Triumph Academy's nonprofit affiliate: kipstl.org

Sponsoring a Journey Scholarship to help someone like Carol Mendez '09:
central.edu/alumni/journey-scholarship-fund/



STRONG

BY CINDY DEPPE

Photos: Joshua Edmonds

Adversity in college should mean too few Instagram likes, too little gas money or no weekend plans. It should not mean life-altering circumstances that require courage, strength and confidence to overcome.

Meet **Carlos Posas '21**, **Alexis Oldham '18**, **Jackee Jones '20**, **Jake Wegner '21** and **Sierra Illa '20**. They've each faced more than their share of challenges during their Central student years with determination, grace, gratitude—and the support of the Central community.

WRESTLING THE DREAM

Carlos Posas '21

Hometown: Madera, California

Major: Business (undeclared)

Co-curricular: Wrestling

Challenge: Heart surgeries

Carlos Posas '21 takes down change like a champ. He left his native California to wrestle in Iowa, "the wrestling state" he now calls home. In his first year at Central, he wrestled behind three-time all-American wrestler **C.J. Pestano '19** at 125 pounds. Even two childhood open heart surgeries and the prospect of a third don't stymie Posas' enthusiasm for the "eye-opening educational experiences" he's had living halfway across the country in a new climate while pursuing a degree in business.

"Having heart surgery has taught me so many ways to push through and prove people wrong. My parents told me to pick the college that was best for me because wrestling could be taken from me at any time," Posas says.

His early surgeries to fix leaky heart valves have allowed him to remain healthy and cleared for competition. But Posas also knows competition will come to an end for him sometime in the future after he has a needed heart valve replacement. Meanwhile, he says, he'll wrestle as long as he can.

"Carlos' perseverance speaks volumes about his character," says **Eric Van Kley**, athletics director and head wrestling coach. "He's found a home away from home at Central and models daily the values of our wrestling program."

The business major wants to own his own clothing brand or coach wrestling and eventually return to his West Coast extended family.

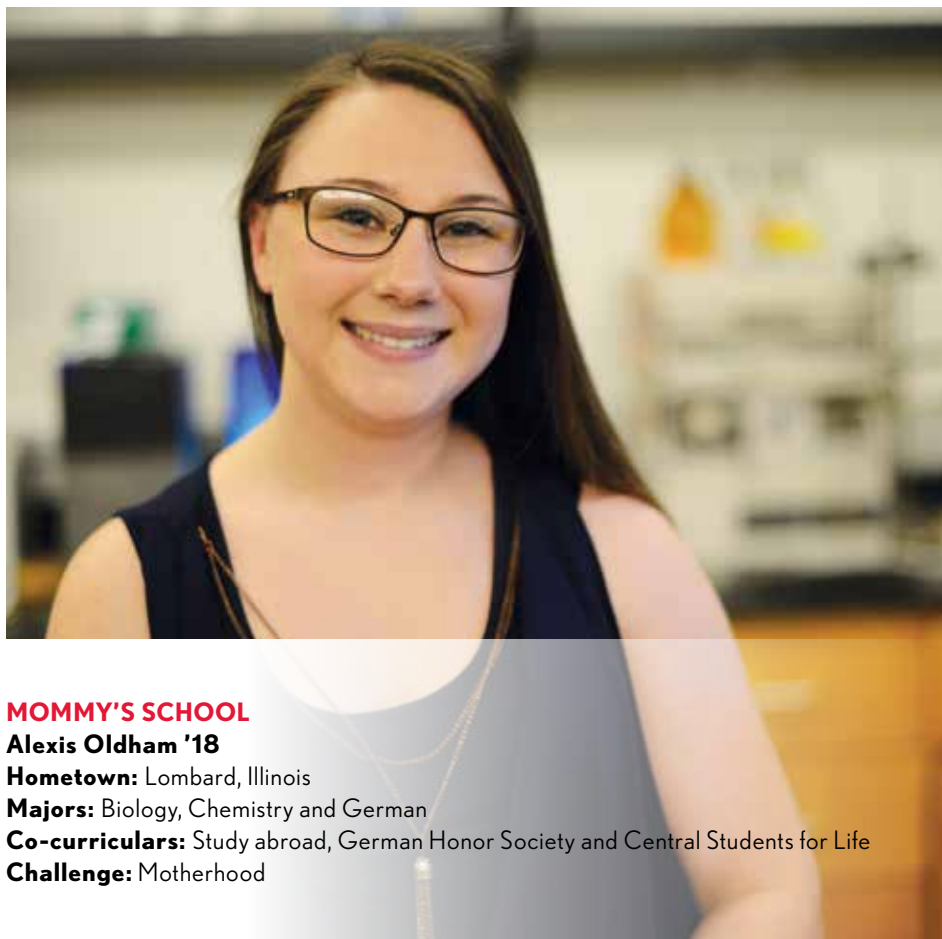
"My path here has been up and down, but wrestling has gotten me through a lot. I can try new opportunities here and the people are awesome. My Journey Scholarship makes attending college possible and helps fulfill my dream of wrestling at an Iowa college," he says.

**"WRESTLING
HAS GOTTEN ME
THROUGH A LOT."**

– CARLOS POSAS '21

"MY PROFESSORS ARE PROUD OF ME FOR RAISING MY SON."

— ALEXIS OLDHAM '18



MOMMY'S SCHOOL

Alexis Oldham '18

Hometown: Lombard, Illinois

Majors: Biology, Chemistry and German

Co-curriculars: Study abroad, German Honor Society and Central Students for Life

Challenge: Motherhood

A triple major became a quadruple challenge when **Alexis Oldham '18** added parenting duties two weeks into her second year. "I thought I would have to leave Central because there was no way I could afford college and raise a baby without my family nearby. Central reassured me it would do anything in its power to help me stay in school," she says.

She and fiancé **Carlos Hernandez '14** began to raise their son, Liam, while Alexis continued classes and Carlos worked at Pella Christian Opportunity Center.

Time management was a constant struggle. "I wanted to make sure I had time with Liam and still maintain my course schedule," Oldham says. "I made it work with the help of many people at Central."

Liam, now 2, has been a regular at what he calls "Mommy's school," where

professors and students recognize him.

"My professors are proud of me for raising my son. That's motivated me to stay. The financial aid office helped, and my parents have been very supportive too."

Amy Young, associate professor of German, credits Oldham's determination for making it work. "Obstacles don't stop her. If something doesn't work the way she planned, she makes a new plan," Young says.

Hernandez agrees. "She's a really determined person. She did her best, even when she had doubts, and I'm really proud of all she's accomplished."

"With the scholarship I received, I decided to accomplish another of my college goals—a meaningful abroad experience," Oldham says. "A two-week spring break option to study in Germany

WE LIFT THEM UP

"We don't want our students to fall before we lift them up," says **Charlie Strey**, dean of students. Whatever challenges they may face "the level of collaboration and cooperation across campus helps us identify student needs early," he says. "We know our students and know if changes need to be addressed—maybe even before the student knows it. Often, at larger schools, students have to take the initiative to identify the problem and find the services."

"Our student staff is often the first level of contact, followed by professional staff in counseling and Student Support Services," Strey adds.

Two licensed professional counselors, who are part of the student development staff, provide mental and emotional health counseling as part of student fees. A robust Campus Ministries program also plays a role, and campus safety services help support students with disabilities.

and Poland made that last box on the checklist possible."

Oldham, Hernandez and Liam live in Leighton, Iowa, near Pella. Hernandez, a biology graduate from Phoenix, is a blending technician at Ajinomoto in Eddyville, Iowa. The couple is planning a Mexico wedding in November and a career—and eventually, graduate school—in chemistry for Oldham.

She smiles broadly as she sums up her four years: "I haven't missed out on anything I planned to do. And I will raise my son to be beyond appreciative of generous people like those who have helped me along the way."

COURAGE

Jackee Jones '20

Hometown: St. Louis, Missouri

Major: Theatre

Co-curriculars: The CALM, Fred's and APO

Challenge: Losing her parents in ninth grade



Jackee Jones' '20 dream to open her own theatre company seemed distant from her south St. Louis roots. Even college appeared out of reach when both her parents died during her ninth-grade year. Jones moved in with older siblings and even lived on her own for awhile as she transitioned between public high school and Grand Center Arts Academy, a performing arts high school where she was among the first graduates.

"I come from a very poor background," she says. "I didn't think I could afford college. The Journey Scholarship to Central was the deciding factor."

Jones' love of theatre—"where I can be anything I want"—started with an interest in television and production. At Central she has been a hair and makeup person, prop master, assistant stage manager, stage manager and actor. Soon she'll direct as well. She's also a student manager at Fred's in the Maytag Student Center, involved in intercultural and Greek life, Campus Ministries and The CALM.

"You have to look past difficulties," she says. "Anything is possible but you have to make it possible."

Jones' grit reminds **Mary Jo Sodd**, professor of theatre, of **Bette Brunsting '56**, a legendary communications professor. Brunsting was known for challenging students with "Courage!"

"Jackee shows phenomenal fortitude and grace. She's one of three or four students I've taught who embodies courage," Sodd says.

Jones hopes to pursue her 10-year dream to open her own theatre company with a social justice emphasis. Eventually she plans to earn a master's of fine arts and help people find a love for theatre and the arts.

"I wouldn't be where I am without Central's professional advice and support. I am so grateful I am able to follow my dreams and make my parents proud," she says.

"I CAN BE ANYTHING I WANT."

— JACKEE JONES '20

"NEVER GIVE UP."

— JAKE WEGNER '21



BACK WHERE HE BELONGS

Jacob "Jake" Wegner '21

Hometown: Bloomington, Illinois

Major: Exercise Science

Co-curricular: Fellowship of Christian Athletes

Challenge: Cancer

Jacob "Jake" Wegner '21 battled cancer as a high school senior when doctors discovered and removed a 10-pound abdominal tumor before his senior baseball season.

The 6-foot-plus CrossFit fan was diagnosed with neuroblastoma, a type of nerve tissue cancer, that returned with its own game plan after Wegner's first semester at Central.

"I finished my first semester strong, went home for Christmas break, and during a check-up learned the cancer had relapsed in my right pelvic area and spine. I had to withdraw from Central and begin treatment right away," he says.

For the next 15 months, Wegner endured chemotherapy, stem-cell

transplants, proton radiation and antibody treatments, leaving him physically weak but still upbeat.

"I have a strong faith, a loving family, amazingly smart doctors and nurses and very supportive friends. I have been away from Central for awhile, but my friends, coaches, teammates and faculty have been with me through the entire journey," he says.

The 21-year-old returned to campus in January 2018. The **Curt '88** and **Mary Holden Blythe '90** Scholarship, which assists students in adverse circumstances, continued when he returned to campus.

"I am back where I belong. Everyone at Central has been so incredibly helpful

YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE

Donor generosity made each of these students' educations possible. Three of the students featured here received Journey Scholarships. The other two received endowed scholarships. Both types of scholarships are funded entirely by alumni and friends of the college.

"A Central education is the best gift any student can receive—our alumni are evidence of that," says **Sunny Gonzales Eighthmy '99**, vice president for advancement. "Donors literally change their lives."

Journey Scholarships are funded by annual gifts and are awarded to students with financial need. The average scholarship is about \$1,000. The college invites Journey Scholarship donors who contribute \$1,000 or more to an annual campus scholarship dinner to meet the recipients. To support a Journey Scholarship, visit www.central.edu/give. Every bit of your contribution will go immediately to students.

Endowed scholarships are established with contributions of \$50,000 or more and generate proceeds that are disbursed annually. Endowed scholarships are often named for individuals and designated for specific purposes. To establish an endowed scholarship, contact **Kathy Cashen Thompson '87**, major gifts officer, 641-628-5186 or cashenthompsonk@central.edu.

to get me back to this point in my life. I still have some leg strength issues, but I do physical therapy and work out all the time," Wegner says.

He's adjusted to many things since treatment, including not playing baseball this past season due to health complications. Still, he says, he always has felt like a member of the team, which held a fundraiser for him, and has found a "loving family on campus," as a member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

"God has a plan. There's a purpose to it," he says. "I have a friend at home going through treatment. I tell him never give up—have a positive outlook."

For the latest on Wegner: civitas.central.edu/wegner



FIRST-GENERATION SUCCESS

Sierra Illa '20

Hometown: Hastings, Minnesota

Majors: Biology and Spanish

Co-curriculars: RA, study abroad, Campus Ministries and The CALM

Challenge: First-generation college student

MIND (SET) OVER (ALMA) MATER

Why do students like **Carlos Posas '21**, **Alexis Oldham '18**, **Jackee Jones '20**, **Jake Wegner '21** and **Sierra Illa '20** succeed at Central when nationally only half of students at four-year colleges graduate within six years?

Larry Happel '81, Central sports information director, and **Chris Hulleman '93**, a research associate professor in the Department of Educational Leadership, Policy and Foundations at the University of Virginia, address that question in an article in the online journal Behavioral Scientist.

The two used Happel's award-winning story about **Jaime Miranda '18** and his journey from homeless youth to Central wrestling star as a case study. They credit Miranda and his family members, professors, coaches and teammates with cultivating a mindset of growth, purpose and a social connection in Miranda. Those qualities, they say, helped him overcome extraordinary challenges.

The parallels between Miranda's story and the students featured here are striking. They suggest that Central's success in cultivating such a mindset while imparting knowledge can be transformative.

IT IS ONE OF THE THINGS THAT MAKES CENTRAL STRONG.

+ "Help Students Navigate Life's Transitions with a Mindset GPS,"
civitas.central.edu/mindset-gps

+ From homeless youth to Central wrestling star,
civitas.central.edu/wrestling

Sierra Illa '20 puts her experience as a big sister to good use as a resident assistant in Graham Hall. The oldest of four daughters found her transition to college "intimidating at first" because, like about 30 percent of Central students, she is the first in her family to attend college.

"This was a big transition for my family," she says. "The generous C.V. Starr Scholarship helped make the cost more affordable."

Illa enrolled in Introduction to College Success, a course offered by Central's Student Support Services, where she is now a student leader. SSS is a federally funded program for first-generation/low-income students. SSS services include academic tutoring, advice and assistance for courses, information on scholarships and financial literacy, mentoring and individualized coaching.

Nancy Kroese, director of Student Support Services, says Illa's first-generation status "has not limited her ability and desire to achieve and be successful. Sierra is the young woman anyone would want as a daughter or as an employee. She is kind, considerate and willing to share her talents. She is intelligent, responsible and has great integrity."

The biology and Spanish major is interested in working in children's physical therapy and injury rehabilitation. She's testing her interest this summer by job-shadowing a physical therapist in her home state of Minnesota before investigating graduate schools.

Her warm smile reassures others but she admits she felt lost at first. She soon found that "professors want to get to know you and want you to succeed."

"Classes have been challenging," she says. "But not beyond what I expected. Central makes it so easy to accomplish all that you want to."

**"PROFESSORS WANT
YOU TO SUCCEED."**

– SIERRA ILLA '20



CHOCOLATE, CULTURE AND CAPSTONES

BY CYVANNAH VECCHIO

PHOTOS: JOSHUA EDMONDS
AND MELODY VANDERLEEST

CENTRAL STUDENTS CAN CHOOSE TO TEMPER CHOCOLATE OR TEMPER DEBATES DURING THEIR FINAL YEAR.

EITHER WAY, THEY WILL ENTER THE REAL WORLD WITH GANACHE—OR IS THAT PANACHE?

The cornerstone of Central's liberal arts curriculum is the Core, a combination of course and proficiency requirements that ensure a student's Central education is grounded in an understanding of the breadth of human thought and experience.

Central's seniors are required to take a Liberal Arts Seminar (LAS), commonly referred to as a capstone course, to metaphorically tie a bow on their Core curriculum. Seminar topics seek to engage students through writing-intensive projects that explore independent inquiry, critical thinking and persuasive communication.

Every academic year, the college offers approximately 15 capstone courses on a wide variety of interdisciplinary subjects. In the past, offerings have included:

- Buddhist Tradition: Tibet and Himalaya
- Community Participation: Political Engagement/Media
- Faith and the Search for Meaning
- Food for Thought
- Food Justice
- Peace, Justice and Social Change
- Science Fiction and Empire
- Sport in America
- Sustainability Around the World
- The Bowling League: An Inquiry into the Meaning of Disability in America
- The Future of the Past
- Where Science and Fiction Collide

On the following pages, we dive into two recent classes.



Foreground: Calvin Bill '18
Background: Monica Powers '18

Through the history of chocolate, students witnessed how religion, colonialism, trade and the mixing of cultures converge. Although the majority of solid chocolate produced today is consumed by Western Europeans and Americans, chocolate's story grew from ancient Mesoamerican roots. Chocolate made its way from the rituals of the Aztecs to the European continent.

"This class definitely earns its global sustainability credit," says **Calvin Bill '18**, a biochemistry and Spanish major. "I learned a ton about why chocolate isn't necessarily the most sustainable because of the process of harvesting for a better yield. Most people who grow the cacao have never even tasted chocolate, which is something I never thought about before when eating a chocolate bar. It definitely made me want to buy fair trade goods."

Chocolate scholarship is inherently interdisciplinary. In addition to the history of chocolate, students examined approaches as varied as sociology, global economics and human geography. The class even hosted guest faculty speakers from those related fields.

"I was interested in the class because I thought, 'Chocolate seems cool,'" Powers says. "We ended up learning about slavery that is involved in chocolate, and I'm passionate about stopping human trafficking and social justice, so it ended up being a really great fit for me."

The class also offered some hands-on opportunity.

"Chocolate is more than a commodity and product: it is an art," Krenzel says. "So students receive basic instruction

CAN CHOCOLATE BE COLLEGIATE?

Behind Bars: Revealing Chocolate's Bitter Sweetness, the newest senior capstone course, made its debut this past spring. The course is designed to give students perspective on an indulgence many take for granted: chocolate.

"I researched and designed this course after taking a chocolatier class," says **Cynthia Krenzel**, associate professor of music. "I was very interested in teaching a global sustainability class, so it all just started coming together. That, and I love chocolate!"

The course examines chocolate as a reflection of our world—both the sweet and the bitter. Students encounter the beauty of fine chocolates. They also learn about often-unethical labor practices surrounding the harvesting of cacao—seeds from small tropical American evergreen trees from which cocoa, cocoa butter and chocolate are made.

"I didn't know what cacao was or that it came from a seed," says **Monica Powers '18**, a communication studies major. "It was helpful for me to learn about the background. Professor Krenzel challenged us to think of chocolate as something other than ordinary. While we can enjoy and appreciate chocolate, there are repercussions that come along with it.



Cynthia Krenzel



Jeffrey Bass

in, and a healthy respect for, the art of chocolate-making.”

Students worked with white chocolate, milk chocolate and dark chocolate to make truffles, molded pieces and designs.

“We had lessons on how to make truffles and molds and different fillings,” Bill says. “We had to learn how to temper the chocolate, and that’s been the most challenging part of the class. You have to be very precise, because there’s a small temperature range to do it correctly. Tempering is how you make it look good—it becomes shiny.”

Students had to spend two-hour increments in the kitchen tempering chocolate and practicing making chocolate delicacies to prepare for their final.

“I call it chocolate lab,” Powers says. “We have to write 500- to 600-word journal entries after each lab explaining what we did, what it was like and showing pictures of our processes.”

CULTURE AT CENTRAL AND BEYOND

Writing-intensive subjects are common in LAS-410: Human Rights, Politics and Culture, taught by **Jeffrey Bass**, associate professor of anthropology.

The course examines how philosophers and social scientists think about a range of human rights issues while at the same time trying to figure out what human rights are. Students look at a series of human-rights case studies. Some topics include the rights of women, children,

minorities, gays, animals—even the hypothetical rights of artificial intelligence. Students also debate democratic citizenship, the use of torture and the rules of war.

“It’s so valuable to understand where people are coming from,” Bass says. “Understanding why people view the world the way they do and being able to put one’s self in others’ places is something I hope these students take away from this course.”

Helping students become informed citizens and well-rounded individuals are additional goals of the course. Though students can write their position papers from any side of an issue, they must also develop the strongest argument they can against their own position and respond to that argument.

“As a liberal arts college, we are about creating well-rounded students,” Bass says. “Central’s mission is to graduate citizens who are locally, nationally and internationally engaged.”

Bass is currently adapting Human Rights, Politics and Culture into an introductory course for first-year students that will explore topics such as the movement to grant personhood rights to apes and whether sports teams with potentially offensive mascots should be required to change them.

A SPRINGBOARD

College is a place to explore, learn as you go and grow from what you know. Capstone courses aren’t designed to “cap off” a Central education, but to springboard students into the next phase of their lives.

“Something I appreciate about capstone courses, and a liberal arts education, is that learning about things that aren’t necessarily directly about our majors challenges us to learn from a different perspective. I think that’s a skill I’ll use outside of college,” Powers says.

Powers offers one last piece of advice to those struggling to decide on a capstone course: “Even if a class isn’t directly applicable to your major, there are transferable skills you’ll learn and practice—such as public speaking, teamwork and improving written and oral communication—that can be applied to life in general. So, pick a class that interests you and be open to what you can learn.”

COMMENCEMENT

2 p.m. Saturday, May 19, 2018

H.S. Kuyper Fieldhouse

THE COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS IN NINE WORDS

"I came to Central from South Dakota as a shy, frightened, naïve 17 year old without a clue as to what it meant to earn a college degree. All I knew for sure was that I wanted to be a high school math teacher," said **James L. Muyskens '64** in his address to graduates.

Muyskens (B.A., Central College; M.Div., Princeton Theological Seminary; Ph.D., University of Michigan) never did become a high school math teacher, but instead a professor of philosophy and religion, a university chancellor and a transformational president of Queens College in New York City. Currently a professor at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, he has written two books and many articles on the philosophy of religion, ethics and higher education. In 1989, he received an honorary doctorate from Central College.

For Central's graduates, he boiled a lifetime of philosophical study to nine words:

"Know yourself." – Socrates

"Control yourself." – Cicero

"Give yourself." – Jesus

How's that for pith?



OVERHEARD

"The pond, built the year I graduated, is still here!"

— **Commencement speaker James L. Muyskens '64**

"You are surrounded world-wide by people who care about you. Wherever you go, Central's network of caring relationships will guide and support you. Share with us your progress so we can continue to celebrate with you." —**Sunny Gonzales Eighmy '99, vice president for advancement**

"Graduates, I confer upon you the degrees, Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science, and entitlement to all the rights, privileges, honors and responsibilities appertaining thereto; on this 19th day of May, in the year of our Lord 2018."

—**President Mark L. Putnam**

Seen on a mortarboard:

"Suma Cum Laude
Magna Cum Laude
Cum Laude
Thank Ya Laude!"

THE CLASS OF 2018 BY THE NUMBERS

322 graduates from 14 states completed 36,990 credits and majored in 33 different subjects.

56

double majored.

2

triple majored.

111

had one minor, 25 had two.

2

were engineering majors—Central's first!

4

were twins.

2

were husband and wife.

111

studied abroad.

48

were in music groups and ensembles and 33 took private music lessons.

About 160

competed at least one season in an intercollegiate sport, racking up seven all-America recognitions, 78 Academic All-Iowa Conference honors, six Iowa Conference team championships and competed in NCAA postseason events 27 times.

The class donated more than

\$10,000

toward renovating a veterans' memorial marker on the soon-to-be-updated Peace Mall.

COME BACK TO CAMPUS

2018 HOMECOMING

Featuring Douwstra Auditorium Renovation Reveal
Sept. 28 – 30, 2018

This year's event will be filled with many celebrations, family-friendly events, musical performances, Dutch football and, of course, the Lemming Race.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 28

- 9:30 a.m. 10th Annual Schipper Memorial Golf Tournament.
4:30 – 6 p.m. Happy Hour on the Patio, Maytag Student Center.
6 p.m. Lemming Race, Peace Mall.
6 – 7:30 p.m. Street Festival: Alumni and Family Barbecue, Pep Rally, Coronation and Street Party, Graham Hall lawn by Broadway Street.
6:30 p.m. Athletics Hall of Honor Banquet, Harry and Bernice Vermeer Banquet Hall, Graham Conference Center.
7:30 p.m. Theatre Central. "Blithe Spirit" by Noel Coward, Pella Opera House.
7:30 p.m. Douwstra Renovation Celebration, Douwstra Auditorium.
Come celebrate the completion of Douwstra Auditorium Renovation Phase I with ALMA (previously Vocal Combos) and alumni talent featuring The Voice contestant, **Chris Weaver '10**.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 29

- 8 – 10 a.m. Pancake Breakfast, Maytag Student Center – Atrium and Fred's.
10 a.m. Athletics Hall of Honor Induction Ceremony, Schipper Fitness Center lobby.
11 a.m. Tailgate Under the Big Tent, on the grassy area behind H.S. Kuyper Fieldhouse.
1 p.m. Football, Central vs. Buena Vista, Schipper Stadium.
Postgame –
6:30 p.m. Post-Game Party, Pacha Family Lower Lobby in P.H. Kuyper Gymnasium.
Join us for happy hour and enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres. Class pictures will be taken during this event. All present for their class picture will receive a coupon for a free drink from the bar.
7 p.m. Reunion Gatherings, Various locations.
7:30 p.m. Douwstra Renovation Celebration, Douwstra Auditorium. Come celebrate the completion of Douwstra Auditorium Renovation Phase I with the A Cappella Choir; the Alumni Choir featuring **Liz Calisesi Maidens '10** and **Jared Fritz-McCarty '09**, soloists; and the Symphonic Wind Ensemble featuring **Emory Dease '07**, **Justin Von Ahsen '11** and **Dick Redman '76**.
7:30 p.m. Theatre Central. "Blithe Spirit" by Noel Coward, Pella Opera House.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 30

- 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Sunday Brunch, Central Market.
1 p.m. 12th Annual Flying Pans Alumni Steel Band Concert, Douwstra Auditorium.
All past Pans members are invited and encouraged to participate.

For more information: www.central.edu/alumni/homecoming.

TELL US YOUR NEWS!

We invite you to submit Newsnotes online. Tell us about recent promotions, degrees, honors, relocations, marriages and births so we can keep classmates and friends informed about important changes in your life.

Update information online at civitas.central.edu, www.central.edu/alumni-update or email alumni@central.edu. We also welcome news items by phone at 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.

NEWSNOTES

THE '50s

Leonard Kalkwarf '50 has released his newest publication, "Daily Devotions," published by WestBow Press. Leonard served as a Reformed Church in America parish minister for 50 years and continues to preach, teach and write. He is the author of a number of books and produced a video program on U.S. presidents for fellow residents of his retirement community. For six years he served as a White House volunteer in the Presidential Correspondence Department. He and wife, Beverly, reside in Springfield, Virginia.

Kenneth Vos '52, along with a few local friends, created a group for fellowship and sharing ideas and named it ROMEO's, for Retired Old Men Eating Out. The group's philosophy club recently discussed Sarah Bakewell's, "At the Existentialist Café." A professor emeritus of philosophy from Lyndon State College, Ken presented a lecture entitled "Openings to the Sacred in the Thought of Plato" at the Unitarian Universalist Church in St. Johnsbury, Vermont. Ken and wife, Frances, live in Sheffield, Vermont.

THE '60s

For information about **Carol Boerefyn Brickley '68**, **Jennifer Boerefyn Hart '69**, see the '00s.

Marjorie Postma Vander Wagen '66 is the pastor at St. Peter and St. Paul Lutheran Church in Blue Island, Illinois. Her duties include Sunday



▲ **Bruce Anderson '70** presented Central Teaching Academy graduates with a gift from the Bruce and [late wife] Susan Berical Anderson Endowed Grant. Bruce is pictured with his wife, Bev, on the right.

preaching, pastoral care and special services.

David Chown '69 retired from his position as chancellor of Penn State York, effective August 1, 2018. Previously, David was chief academic officer and senior vice president at Upper Iowa University. David and wife, Peggy, live in York, Pennsylvania.

THE '70s

For information about **Sue Brunscheen Cerwinske '74**, **Sherill Whisenand '78**, **Denise Dykstra '79**, **Vicki Newendorp Jones '78**, **Paul Jones '79**, see the '00s.

Judy Muyskens '70 was named interim vice president of academic affairs and dean at Hiram College in Hiram, Ohio.

Beth Vermeer Clarke '73 retired after 37 years working with dancers who passed through her dance studio in Ames. Beth opened her first studio at the age of 18 in

Pella, which helped subsidize her Central education. After graduation she worked as a teacher in the speech and English departments at Ames High School until the desire to blend teaching and her love of dance took over. Beth and husband, Gary, live in Ames, Iowa.

Dan Martinez '73, the longtime boys and girls tennis coach at Red Oak High School, retired after 39 seasons with over 1,000 combined basketball and dual tennis wins. He completed his sixth season at the helm of the girls basketball program in late February. He previously served as Red Oak's head boys basketball coach from 1978 to 2001 and head boys and girls cross-country coach from 1979 to 1983. Dan and wife, **Juanita Wade Martinez '73**, live in Red Oak, Iowa.

Gerald Piester '73 is head of the physical education department at Harmony High School in Saint Cloud, Florida. Gerald and wife, Pamm, live in Saint Cloud.

Mike Gardner '75 retired in April as operational vendor manager with DuPont after a 38-year career in the IT department. Mike and wife, **Rita Heemsbergen Gardner '80**, live in West Des Moines, Iowa. Rita is an accountant with Des Moines Performing Arts.

Dennis Groenenboom '75 retired in January after a 40-year legal career with Iowa Legal Aid providing free legal services to low-income families. He served as executive director for almost 26 years. Dennis and husband, Scott Hartsock, live in Des Moines, Iowa.

Patty Casimiro Tomaszewski '76 of Newton, New Jersey, was named top real estate agent from the Davis R. Chant Realtors during the months of January and February. Patty is an active member of her community and participates in many social and cultural events year-round.



◀ From left to right, front row to back row: **Lynn Hinga Branderhorst '79** is collaborating with **Callie Gardeman '18**, **Ann Hinga Klein '80**, Professor of Chemistry **Cathy Hinga Hausteine '76**, Professor of Art **Treva Reimer**, Michelle Stam and **Sarah Purdy '16** to create a children's picture book. Branderhorst wrote the text, Gardeman produced illustrations and Reimer connected the two women. Branderhorst's sisters Hausteine and Klein offered editorial suggestions. Stam and Purdy of The Write Place in Pella served as the book's designer and editorial facilitator, respectively. The collaborators plan to offer the book, "Not-A-Care Island," via online outlets and local bookstores in Fall 2018.

Jim Bollard '77 was presented the Volunteer Lifetime Achievement Award in January at the Des Moines Park and Recreation board meeting. He was honored for his many years of service and leadership to the community. Jim and wife, Susanne, live in Des Moines, Iowa.

Don Koolmees '77 of Paramount, California, is self-employed as a counselor. Two of his four children are Central graduates.

Linda Lee Grunenhagen '78 retired after 35 years as an elementary school teacher. She continues to teach piano in her home studio in Pismo Beach, California, where she lives with husband, Steven.

Greg McCulla '78 is a financial advisor at Main Street Advisory Group and Raymond James Financial Services Inc.,

in Pella, Iowa, where he lives with wife, Barb.

THE '80s

For information about **Rita Heemsbergen Gardner '80**, see the '70s. For information about **David Dykstra '80**, **Kim Dykstra '83**, **Mary Whisenand '86**, **Vaughn Newendorp '83**, **Monica May Newendorp '85**,

Todd Sutphen '85 and **Valerie Newendorp Sutphen '85**, see the '10s.

Matthew Sojka '80 is vice president of medical affairs and chief medical officer for Wheaton-Franciscan Iowa in Waterloo, Iowa. Matthew and wife, Kim, live in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Linda Probasco Cummins '81 of Hot Springs, North Carolina, is working toward advanced degrees from the University of North Carolina-Asheville and the University of Southern California-Berkley.

Daniel Gomez '82 of Glendale, Arizona, retired from the United States Navy. Daniel is the father of three children and two grandchildren.

ONE IN A MILLION

In September 2017, **Jeff Menary '80**, president of Grinnell Mutual, was bitten by a mosquito. The bite caused a debilitating case of the West Nile Virus in spite of vanishingly small odds.

In his president's message in Grinnell Mutual's spring publication, Menary explains that only 2 percent of mosquitos are carriers, only 5 percent of those bitten by those 2 percent become ill, and only 1 percent of the 5 percent who become ill become critically ill. Menary was one of those extraordinarily rare individuals. He experienced total paralysis, spent seven weeks in the hospital (three of those in intensive care) and only was able to return to work limited hours nearly six months to the day after the onset of his symptoms. He wrote that he's optimistic he'll continue to beat the odds and become one of the one out of three critically ill West Nile patients to make a full recovery.

Dawn Fish Scholtens '82 was honored in April for her work with Shower Strike. Well Aware, an international nonprofit that provides innovative and sustainable solutions to water scarcity and contamination in Africa, honored Dawn, a retired second grade teacher, with the Teaching Inspiration Award. Dawn and husband, **Gary Scholtens '81**, live in Green Lake, Wisconsin.

Mary Joan Wilhite Dougherty '83 of Sioux City, Iowa, retired after 34 years in public education. She spent 16 years as a vocal music teacher and the remainder as a high school counselor in west central Iowa. Following her retirement in June 2017, Mary Joan began a new career as a student success advisor for the Iowa College Access Network in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, before being transferred this winter to Sioux City.

Kevin King '83 was named market president for Ohnward Bank & Trust in Marion and Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he lives with wife, Anne.

Sue Poppens '85 of Allen, Texas, was promoted to senior SDI with USAA Financial Services in San Antonio, Texas.

Liz Mateer Roth '85 of Des Moines, Iowa, is senior client manager at Cigna Healthcare. Her 20-year career as account executive for mid-market employers has taken her to several locations in the western half of the United States. After a recent transfer, Liz is happy to be back home in Iowa.

Tom Koos '86 was named president and CEO of PrimeSource Building

Products, Inc., an international distributor of residential and commercial building products in Irving, Texas. Previously, Tom was employed by Weber-Stephen Products as the company's strategic and global operations leader.

Don Brandt '87 is senior director of sales effectiveness at USG Corp. in Chicago. Don and wife, Susan, live in Downers Grove, Illinois. They are the parents of four children.

Scott Gire '88 is director of human resource operations at Aureon HR in West Des Moines, Iowa. Scott and husband, Steven Linn, live in Des Moines, Iowa.

Sue Osland Holst '88 and husband, Tom, operate their dairy farm near Lanesboro, Minnesota. Sue enjoys running, biking, reading and knitting. She plays the organ and accompanies their church choir in Lanesboro. She also volunteers as an usher at the Commonwealth Theater in Lanesboro. Eric, the youngest of their two sons, won the hammer throw contest at the Division III National Track and Field Championships with a toss of 64.42 meters.

Terri Snyders Crumley '89 was named vice president for enrollment management and marketing at Mount Mercy University in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Terri and husband, Tim, live in Marion, Iowa, with their two children.

Tim Larsen '89 was promoted in June to senior vice president of community banking at TS Bank in Treynor, Iowa. Tim will continue in his role of leading the business process improvement team. He is entering his third year with

TS Bank after serving in public education for 26 years. Tim and wife, Justine, live in Treynor. They are the parents of five children.

Alan Law '89 was named chief pilot for Principal Financial Group in Des Moines, Iowa. Alan and wife, Chris, live in Newton, Iowa.

THE '90s

Niki Green '90 is senior retirement and sales executive at T. Rowe Price in San Francisco, California.

Shannan Mattiace '90, a professor and chair of the political science department at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania, received the 2018-19 Fulbright Award to teach and conduct research on Mexican politics at the Catholic University of Chile in Santiago.

William Conger '93 of Johnston, Iowa, is president and owner at Fifty Eggs, Inc.,

which specializes in healthcare analytics, program management and mortgage operations.

Kyle Munson '94, senior writer at Principal Financial, is building the organization's content studio from the ground up. Previously, Kyle wore many hats at the Des Moines Register, where he began his writing career shortly after graduation from Central. Beginning as a news assistant, Kyle became the Register's movie critic before taking over the reins as the Iowa columnist. Kyle and wife, **Ann Sobiech Munson '91**, live in Slater, Iowa, with their son. Ann is an architect at Substance Architecture in Des Moines, Iowa.

Kevin True '95 is a sales representative at Empire Today in Seattle, Washington. Kevin and wife, **Heidi Chobar True '95**, live in Woodinville, Washington. Heidi is the senior program manager at Microsoft in Redmond, Washington.



▲ **Ann Hackfort Danner '98** of West Des Moines, Iowa, **Jaime Rumpp Fageroos '98** of Urbandale, Iowa, **Jen Sporrer McGee '98** and **John McGee '96** of Perry, Iowa, and **Laura Hendricks Vannorsdel '98** of Long Grove, Iowa, have taken annual camping trips together since 2000. They took their 19th trip this summer.

Erin Demichelis Bailey '96 of West Des Moines, Iowa, is assistant vice president of industry relations and sports marketing at Hy-Vee, Inc.

Dan Zimmerman '96 is director of corporate relations at NCMIC Insurance Co. in Des Moines, Iowa. Dan and wife, Chelsy, live in Van Meter, Iowa.

Heather Sandholm Kleis '97 is the executive vice president and chief human resources officer at Venerable in Des Moines, Iowa. Heather and husband, Darren, live in Johnston, Iowa, with their two sons.

Candi Olson Patras '97 is an instructional coach in the Des Moines Public Schools. Along with husband Casey, she has opened C2-K2 Toys and Sales,

a Lego store in Des Moines, Iowa. Candi and Casey live in Urbandale, Iowa, with their two daughters.

Ryan Van Haaften '99 is a healthcare marketing consultant at Creatis in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he lives with wife, Tisha.

THE '00s

For information about **Matt Den Hartog '03, Amy Jones Den Hartog '04, Elizabeth Jones '07, Jeremy Hinkel '08, Thom Mahler '08 and Danielle Newendorp Hinkel '09**, see the '10s.

Francisco Hernandez '00 is a customer service representative with Vermeer Corp. in Pella, Iowa.

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

Jon Huitink '00 is chief operating officer for National Middle Market Banking at CIBC Bank US in Chicago, Illinois. Jon and wife, Melissa, live in La Grange Park, Illinois, with their two children.

Naomi Greelis '01 of Omaha, Nebraska, is the coordinator of international student services at Metropolitan Community College.

Hannah Pinkerton McLaughlin '01 and husband,

Coy, recently relocated to Salisbury, North Carolina, where Hannah homeschools their four children and is senior ambassador for Plexus Worldwide.

Carrie Lund Viel '01 returned to the work force after staying at home with her two sons for eight years. Carrie teaches high school speech, is director of drama and assistant speech team coach for the Central DeWitt Community School District. Carrie and husband, **Jason Viel '01**, live in DeWitt, Iowa, with their children. Jason is director of athletic training services and athletic trainer at Pleasant Valley High School in Bettendorf, Iowa. He is president-elect of the Iowa Athletic Trainers' Society.

INCLUDE CENTRAL IN YOUR ESTATE PLAN

Giving a percentage of your estate, trust or retirement fund through a bequest can be a great way to support Central College.



- Support Central's future—without using any of your assets during your lifetime.
- Balance your support for the college with your benefit to loved ones.
- Invest in specific Central programs—or make an unrestricted gift. It's entirely up to you.
- Change your mind at any time, for any reason.
- Set an example for others to follow.
- Tailor your gift to fit your circumstances and charitable goals.

To learn more about the benefits of establishing an estate gift, contact **Doyle Monsma '83** 641-628-5181 or monsmad@central.edu.

Tony Brownlee '02 was named executive vice president, chief strategy officer at Kingland Systems in Des Moines, Iowa. Tony and wife, **Amy Olson Brownlee '03**, are the parents of two.

Jen Evans Buck '02 is the event manager at Athene USA in West Des Moines, Iowa. Jen and husband, Jason, live in State Center, Iowa, with their son.

Brady Johnson '02 of West Des Moines, Iowa, is a school counselor in the West Des Moines School District.

Amanda Lemon Nuzum '02 is chief development officer at Blank Park Zoo in Des Moines, Iowa. Amanda and husband, Aaron, live in Des Moines with their three sons.

Justin Van Wyk '02 is the customer sales manager at Lamb Weston in Kansas City, Missouri. Justin and wife, Jolene, live in Lee's Summit, Missouri, with their two children.

Austin Bonnema '03 is commercial business manager at Vermeer Corp. in Pella, Iowa. Austin and wife, Michelle, live in Mitchellville, Iowa.

Andrea Enyart Dana '03 is executive director for the Iowa State Dance and Drill Team Association. Andrea and husband, Chris, live in Pella, Iowa, with their two children.

Dustin Roland '03 of Des Moines, Iowa, teaches in the Des Moines Public School District.

Janet Bailey '05 and Chris Bulger of Marion, Iowa, were married March 10, 2018. Janet works part-time as a library page at Marion Public Library and is a companion/caregiver with Right at Home in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Daira Hoegh Driftmier '05 is director of Hy-Vee KidsFit and Hy-Vee Fitness. She jumpstarts wellness efforts in schools and communities in eight states. She has reached nearly 200,000 children in more than 350 schools since the 2016 launch of the program. Daira and husband, **Clint Driftmier '07**, live in Norwalk, Iowa, where Clint teaches elementary physical education in the Norwalk School District.



▲ **Kyle Dykstra '06** and Sara Schoenberg of Windsor Heights, Iowa, were married November 1, 2017. Kyle is a fire fighter for the Ankeny and Windsor Heights fire departments in Iowa. Front row (left to right): **Carol Boerefyn Brickley '68**, **Jennifer Boerefyn Hart '69**, Marjorie Giles and **Denise Dykstra '79**. Back row: **Kim Dykstra '83**, **Mary Whisenand '86**, **Chris Williams '10**, **David Dykstra '80**, **Sherill Whisenand '78**, **Kyle Dykstra '06**, Sara Schoenberg Dykstra and **Annie Giudicessi '06**.



▲ **Lindsay Miller '06** and Kent Thoreson of Pella, Iowa, were married July 8, 2017. Lindsay teaches kindergarten through third grade title I reading at North Mahaska Elementary School in New Sharon, Iowa. Pictured (left to right): **Katie Fuelling Kregel '06**, **Elizabeth Miller Thompson '08**, **Kerri Korporal Kent '06**, **Emily Gruenwald '06**, **Sue Brunscheen Cerwinski '74**, **Lindsay Miller Thoreson '06**, **Derek Klopfenstein '07**, **Lindsey Culver Yoder '06**, **Jill Huffman Russell '16**, **Melissa Miller Brock '05** and **Molly Thomas Pregon '06**.

Stephanie Van Ommeren Bosgraaf '06 has been promoted to graduation and academic record manager at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. Stephanie and husband, Matt, live in Lafayette with their daughter.

Matthew Harre '06 is vice president of co-brand card sales at UMB Bank in Kansas City, Missouri. Matthew and wife, Rhonda, live in Lee's Summit, Missouri, with their three children.

Amanda Wood Kurtz '06 was promoted in February to associate director of athletics for academics and compliance at Pepperdine University in Malibu, California. Amanda and husband, Nicholas, live in Los Angeles, California, with their son.

Carrie Romo '06 received a 2018 Mixing it Up Community Leadership Award at the annual Engaged Campus Awards and Summit May 9, 2018, at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. While a student at Central, Romo mentored students and led diversity discussions as a peer leader in the Office of Intercultural Student Life. Romo is a board member of The Privilege Institute, a nonprofit social justice organization and a program coordinator for Dream to Teach, an initiative to increase teacher diversity in the Des Moines Public Schools where she teaches middle-school Spanish.

Josh Wignall '06 of Monett, Missouri, is director of marketing with EFCO Corp., a Pella company through Apogee Enterprises, Inc., in Monett and marketing manager at their Springfield location.

Jayme McMurray Braida '07 was named principal and building administrator of Monroe Elementary School in Monroe, Iowa, beginning with the 2018-19 school year. Previously, Jayme was the instructional coach for the Oskaloosa Community School District. Jayme and husband, Michael, live in Knoxville, Iowa, with their two children.

Ashley Van Zee Reif '07 is the parallel program/teacher librarian at Montezuma junior and senior high school in Montezuma, Iowa. Ashley and husband, Michael, live in Grinnell, Iowa, with their two sons.

Jenny Baier '08 is a dietitian at Lincare in Omaha, Nebraska.

Kristin Clague '08 of Ames, Iowa, was promoted to communications specialist III in the College of Engineering at Iowa State University.

Trevor Jones '08 is an external affairs policy analyst at Corteva Agriscience in the agriculture division of Dow DuPont in Johnston, Iowa. Trevor lives in Des Moines, Iowa, and is the parent of two daughters.

Shauna Woebeking Smith '08 was named director of curriculum and student services for the Tama School District in Tama, Iowa. Shauna and husband, Ben, are the parents of two children.

Garrett Hill '09 is the national underwriting production evaluation manager at Wells Fargo in Des Moines, Iowa. Garrett and wife, Emily, live in Waukee, Iowa, with their son.

THE '10s

For information about **Jill Huffman Russell '16**, see the '00s.

Zach Cooper '10 is director of scouting and video for Atlanta Dream WNBA in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Kayla Schipper Mahler '10 is operations manager at U.S. Rehab, a division of VGM Group, Inc., in Waterloo, Iowa. Kayla and husband, **Thom Mahler '08**, live in Parkersburg, Iowa, where Thom is the 7-12 grade director of bands at Aplington-Parkersburg Community School District.

Kristin Anderson McElhinney '10 is a middle school teacher in West Branch, Iowa, where she lives with husband, **Marshall McElhinney '10**, and their two daughters. Marshall is the SOLO intervention counselor for Linn County Juvenile Detention and Diversion Services in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Chantel Babcock Boyd '11 is director and manager of community relations and community programming at Church World Service in Des Moines, Iowa. Chantel and husband, Andrew, live in Grimes, Iowa, with their daughter.

Curtis Hobbs '11 is the logistics manager at XPO. Curtis and wife, **Holly Von Fumetti Hobbs '12**, live in Pella, Iowa, where Holly is the associate product specialist at Pella Corp.

Allison Moeller McKibbon '11 was promoted to client advisor senior associate at Avalon Advisors, LLC. She obtained the Claritas Certificate

through the CFA Institute, which covers the essentials of finance, ethics and investment roles of the global investment industry. Allison and husband, Taylor, live in Houston, Texas.

Shannan O'Bryan '11 and Greg Burgess of West Des Moines, Iowa, were married Sept. 23, 2017. Shannan is the senior personal lines underwriter at Nationwide in Des Moines, Iowa.

TJ Duff '12 of Ankeny, Iowa, is resource manager at MidAmerican Energy Co. in Des Moines, Iowa. He is NERC-certified as a reliability coordinator, a pre-requisite for coordinating Iowa's energy generation.

Travis Havens '12 of West Des Moines, Iowa, is a bariatric exercise specialist at Iowa Weight Loss Specialists in West Des Moines.

Emily Phillips '12 is a media specialist and library para specialist at Fulton High School in Fulton, Illinois.

Taylor Schuelke '12 and Lucas Pappas of Washington, D.C., were married May 27, 2016. Taylor is a video producer and editor for National Geographic.

Liberty Wickman '12 of Chiapas, Mexico, is the operations and volunteer coordinator at Partners in Health in Chiapas.

Joseph Atwell '13 of Waukee, Iowa, is assistant manager at Fresh Fit Meals.

Jason Breon '13 is a talent acquisition recruiter at UnityPoint Health in Des Moines, Iowa.



▲ **Jeana Newendorp '13** and **Samuel Parker '13** of Baltimore, Maryland, were married Sept. 22. Jeana is a travel and expense administrator at Lupin Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Sam is a marketing insights manager at Stanley Black & Decker. First row (left to right): **Donna Newendorp**, **Samuel Parker '13**, **Jeana Newendorp Parker '13**, **Vaughn Newendorp '83**, **Danielle Newendorp Hinkel '09** and **Jeremy Hinkel '08**. Second row: **Emily Sullivan Feldman '12**, **Lauren Newendorp '15**, **Kelsey Moes '13**, **Garrett Simpson '13**, **Rachel Purdy Eash '13** and **Zac Eash '13**. Third row: **Monica May Newendorp '85**, **Emily Arrendell Robinson '16**, **Anna Higgins '13**, and **Deanna Chapline '12**. Fourth row: **Jade Van Reese**, **Amy Jones Den Hartog '04**, **Elizabeth Jones '07**, **Aric Klyn '13**, **Daniel Lohman '13**, **Todd Sutphen '85**, **Valerie Newendorp Sutphen '85**. Back row: **Kyle Van Rees '12**, **Matt Den Hartog '03**, **Vicki Newendorp Jones '78**, **Paul Jones '79**, **Alice Claypool**, **Collin Tjepkes '13**, **Aaron Fuller '14** and **Courtney Fuchs Fuller '14**.

Sara Gregory '13 of Des Moines, Iowa, is working toward a master of divinity degree from Fuller Theological Seminary with plans to be ordained in the RCA. She was featured in the Spring 2018 issue of RCA Today.

Christina Lee '13 of West Des Moines, Iowa, is a financial systems accountant at Meredith Corp. in Des Moines.

Kristin Look '13 of Dubuque, Iowa, is the assistant director of financial aid at Clarke University.

Taryn Pennington '13 of Colorado Springs, Colorado,

is the high-performance health care services provider at the United States Olympic Training Center.

Palmer Scott '13 and **Tasia Scott** of Greenfield, Iowa, were married Sept. 16, 2017. Palmer is the severe and profound special education teacher at Creston Community School District in Creston, Iowa.

Theron Stewart '13 of Altoona, Iowa, teaches health education in the Waukee School District.

Kevin Templeton '13 is the engine room sub-lead at SAC Wireless in Chicago, Illinois,

where he lives with wife, **Danielle Law Templeton '13**. Danielle is the utilities engineer at HBK Engineering in Chicago.

Lindsey von Gillern '13 and **Samuel Roach** of Fuquay Varina, North Carolina, were married Feb. 25, 2018. Lindsey is a recruiter with Aerotek.

Rachel Connelly Atherton '14 is a resident physician at Cedar Rapids Medical Education Foundation. Rachel and husband, Grant, live in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Morgan Baustian '14 of Tipton, Iowa, is the branch

manager at QPS Employment Group in Davenport, Iowa. **Alexis Folkerts '14** and **Austin Riley** were married April 23, 2016. Alexis teaches language arts, mentors teachers from schools participating in the Missouri Writing Project and is the sixth through ninth grade ELA curriculum writer in the Green City R-1 School District in Green City, Missouri. Alexis and husband, Austin, live in Kirksville, Missouri, with their son.

Chris Hallinan '14 of Waukee, Iowa, is the energy manager at Impact Community Partnership.

Freddy Koke '14 of Des Moines, Iowa, is the project manager at Electrical Power Products.

Reba Jongeling Landon '14 is the children's ministry coordinator at Harmony Bible Church in Fort Madison, Iowa, where she lives with husband, Jeremiah, and their son.

Austin O'Brien '14 is the learning and development consultant at Holmes Murphy and Associates in Waukee, Iowa, and profile coach at Profile by Sanford in Clive, Iowa. Austin and wife, **Callie Aunan O'Brien '15**, live in Waukee. Callie is a new business case coordinator at Principal Financial Group in Des Moines, Iowa.

Keeley Orvis '14 and **Bruce Behrens '13** of Templeton, Iowa, were married May 27, 2017. Bruce is a physical therapist assistant at Blum Physical Therapy in Manning, Iowa.

Mercedes Rutherford '14 and **Mathew Patten '12** of San Luis Obispo, California, were married April 5, 2018. Mercedes is a library services specialist III for instruction and reference support in academic services at California Polytechnic State. Mathew is the senior software engineer at Sapient Razorfish.

Jordan Youngman '14 is the activity coordinator at Lantern Park Nursing and Rehab Center in Coralville, Iowa. Jordan and wife, **Anne Dillon Youngman '14**, live in Washington, Iowa. Ann is the public relations and digital marketing coordinator at Mercy Hospital in Iowa City.

Aaron Eggers '15 is vice president of sponsor and partner relations at National Investor Relations Institute in Washington, D.C.

Hillary Hotz '15 is assistant director of admissions at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Kaitlyn Matzen '15 and **Brendan Ehlke** of Manly, Iowa, were married July 23, 2016. Kaitlyn was recently promoted to employment specialist at Mercy Medical Center–North Iowa in Mason City, Iowa.

Kalli Schamberger Offenheiser '15 teaches at Stockton School District #206. Kalli and husband, Eric, live in Stockton, Illinois.

Jakob Steenhoek '15 is a survey technician at Shive-Hattery in Des Moines, Iowa. Jakob and wife, **Alicia Huegel Steenhoek '15**, live in Ankeny, Iowa. Alicia teaches in the Des Moines Public School District.

Aaron Anderson '16 of Ankeny, Iowa, is general manager at Fresh Fit Meals.

Cole Decker '16 of Des Moines, Iowa, is the territory manager for Hormel Foods of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Miranda Ebeling '16 of Muscatine, Iowa, is an athletic trainer at Rock Valley Physical Therapy.

Anna Pierce '16 of Denver, Colorado, is an AP and honors chemistry teacher at Rangeview High School in Aurora, Colorado.

Jay Pike '16 of Fairfield, Iowa, teaches fifth grade special education in the Fairfield Community School District.

Joe Kotz '17 of Indianola, Iowa, is an associate claims specialist at Nationwide Insurance in Des Moines, Iowa.

Austin Little '17 of Des Moines, Iowa, is a field sales representative at A-Plus Medical Equipment.

A.J. McBroom '17 of Grimes, Iowa, is a rehab technician at Mary Greeley Medical Center in Ames, Iowa.

Jane McKown '17 of Independence, Minnesota, is a tax associate at Eide Bailly LLP in Mankato, Minnesota.

Zach Moss '17 is attending graduate school at the University of Idaho.

Sam Norgaard '17 is attending Palmer Chiropractic School in Davenport, Iowa.

Ryan Vandall '17 of Phoenix, Arizona, teaches in the Glendale Union High School District.

ADVANCED DEGREES

Candi Olson Patras '97 master's degree, education leadership, Viterbo University, 2016.

Ashley Van Zee Reif '07 master's degree, library and informational sciences, University of Iowa, 2018.

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

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

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

Kristin Anderson McElhinney '10 master's degree, teaching-professional educator, Morningside College, 2017.

T.J. Duff '12 master's degree, global management, Thunderbird School of Global Management, 2013.

Taryn Pennington '13 doctorate, athletic training, Still University, 2018.

Palmer Scott '13 master's degree, education, University of Northern Iowa, 2015.

Rachel Connelly Atherton '14 master's degree, medicine, University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine, 2018.

Fred Koke '14 master's degree, mechanical engineering, Iowa State University, 2016.

Austin O'Brien '14 master's degree, sport and exercise psychology, Minnesota State University, Mankato, 2016.

Aaron Eggers '15 master's degree, public administration, Drake University, 2017.

Anna Pierce '16 master's degree, chemistry education, University of Northern Colorado, 2018.

Nelson Wiese '16 master's degree, mechanical engineering, Iowa State University, 2018.

NEW ARRIVALS

Jeremy and **Amy Frederick Parrott '02** daughter Alanna, Jan. 22, 2018.

Jessica and **Jeremy Dittmer '03** son Paul Charles, May 17, 2018.

Justin '05 and **Jill Williams Van Soelen '06** son Beckett Oliver, Dec. 7, 2017.

Chris '06 and **Becky Wells Borgman '07** daughter Gracie Michelle, June 4, 2018.

Rhonda and **Matthew Harre '06** daughter Amelia Jean, April 7, 2018.

Nicholas and **Amanda Wood Kurtz '06** son Gabriel Nicholas, March 3, 2018.

Zach Miller and **Megan Reinders '06** son Theodore Jay, June 28, 2017.

Emily and **David Counts '10** daughter Chloe Lynn, Nov. 2, 2017.

Marshall '10 and **Kristin Anderson McElhinney '10** daughter Sadie Maeve, Nov. 9, 2017.

Keith and **Emily Anderson Walker '10**, daughter Hannah Lynn, March 6, 2018.

Marko '11 and **Kaurie Kincaid Marinkovich '13** son Luka Marko, Aug. 7, 2017.

Randy and **Heather Borgman Reineke '11** daughter Emma Elaine, Dec. 18, 2017.

Tyler and **Sara Hugley Rolffs '11** son Theo Louis, Nov. 14, 2017.

Jeremiah and **Reba Jongeling Landon '14** son Harvey John, Jan. 15, 2018.

Austin and **Alexis Folkerts Riley '14** son Maddox, July 14, 2017.

Taylor '15 and **Tayler Kisley Jansen '14** son Walter Andrew, April 11, 2018.

Blake '15 and **Rachel Boertje Rozendaal '14** daughter Eliza Quinn, Nov. 1, 2017.

DECEASED

Hildegard Gruis Pals '44 of Belmond, Iowa, April 2, 2018.

William Kroon '45 of Mason City, Iowa, March 27, 2018.

Elise Buitenwerf Horsfall '49 of East Haven, Connecticut, March 17, 2018.

Thyrza Hackert Steward '50 of Pella, Iowa, March 29, 2018.

Frances Brand De Cook '51 of Newton, Iowa, April 1, 2018.

Arthur DeCross Jr. '51 of Staten Island, New York, May 16, 2018.

Donna Veenstra Tonda '54 of Knoxville, Iowa, April 30, 2018.

Marjorie Primus Mulder '56 of Pella, Iowa, May 17, 2018.

Elaine Rozeboom Kaus '57 of Overland Park, Kansas, May 7, 2018.

Robert Kruizenga '57 of Spokane Valley, Washington, Jan. 1, 2018.

Mari Vanden Oever Savery '58 of Pella, Iowa, April 26, 2018.

Peter Van Soest '59 of Denver, Colorado, April 11, 2018.

Robert Feldt '65 of Fulton, Illinois, March 6, 2018.

IN MEMORIAM

EDWIN GEORGE MULDER '51



Edwin George Mulder '51 of Holland, Michigan, died May 1, 2018. A history and philosophy major at Central, he was later awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity in 1979 and an Alumni Award in 2001 by the college for his service to the church and world. He graduated from Western Theological Seminary in 1954 and was awarded that institution's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2003.

A major figure in global Protestantism in the 20th century, Mulder served the Reformed Church in America as president of the General Synod, president of the Regional Synod of the Mid-Atlantics, minister of evangelism and general secretary. He also held positions as chair of religion in American life and chair of U.S. church leaders. He served on the executive committees

of the World Council of Churches, the National Council of Churches and the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. In addition, he served as interim president of New Brunswick Theological Seminary.

As a pastor, he served the English Neighborhood Reformed Church in Ridgefield, New Jersey, the Marble Collegiate Church in New York City, Second Reformed Church in Hackensack, New Jersey, and founded the Christ Memorial Reformed Church in Holland, Michigan.

During his career he worked for women's ordination in the RCA, a conclusion of apartheid in South Africa and the Reformed Church there, nuclear disarmament and inclusion and respect for LGBTQ community within the church.

IN MEMORIAM



PROFESSOR EMERITUS GEORGE LAUBER, JR.

George Lauber, Jr., associate professor emeritus of sociology/anthropology, died May 6, 2018, in Johnston, Iowa, at age 97. Lauber served Central College for more than 30 years.

Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1921, Lauber studied at The New School for Social Research in New York City, received a Master of Arts degree in international relations, history, political science and social science, a diploma from The University of Stockholm in 1954, and completed additional studies at the University of Heidelberg. He began his career at Central in 1956 as instructor of sociology. In 1959, he became assistant professor of sociology. He received tenure in 1960 and was promoted to associate professor of sociology/anthropology in 1963. He retired from that position in 1987.

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COME TO HOMECOMING EARLY AND SHOP LOCAL!

Central College is excited to partner with Pella businesses and restaurants during Homecoming week. Ten percent of each purchase you make at participating businesses will go directly to the Journey Scholarship Fund. Shopping passports are valid from Thursday, Sept. 27 – Saturday, Sept. 29.

**Shopping passports will be available for pick up
Thursday, Sept. 27, in the advancement office.**

**Passports also may be picked up during
Welcome Center hours on Friday and Saturday.**

OR

**YOU CAN PRINT YOUR SHOPPING PASSPORT
FROM OUR WEBSITE.**

www.central.edu/homecoming



BY THE NUMBERS CENTRAL SERVICE DAY

Service Day, organized by the Office of Community-Based Learning, has been a cornerstone of the Central experience since 2006. Project sites include schools, food banks, churches, community gardens, parks and senior centers.

During 2018's service day in April:

- 7 communities were served.
- 12 years had passed since the event was founded.
- 63 service projects were completed.
- 625 students, faculty and staff participated.
- \$75,000 worth of work was done.

In addition:
45 academic courses across 15 departments include semester-long service-learning components.

The next Central Service day is set for October 30, 2018.

SUPER-SELFIE

SCOTTIE YANG '18 DRAWS ON A POWER WITHIN

BY DAN WEEKS



Brian Peterson



Scottie Yang '18



Drawing by
Scottie Yang '18

Brian Peterson is Central's associate dean for curriculum and faculty development and holds a doctorate in economics.

Scottie Yang '18, from Oskaloosa, Iowa, just received his bachelor's degree in art. Both love caped crusaders who make it their mission to save the world.

Peterson taught a Central class about superheroes. Yang—well, by Peterson's definition—he might *be* one.

Peterson muses about the significance of superheroes in a July 17, 2017, article "The Super-selfie: What Superheroes Say about Us" in the online magazine Medium.

"Superheroes give us confidence to be the people we want to be," he suggests.

Peterson writes that in his first-year seminar, Everyday (Super)Heroes, "one

of the last essays I ask students to write answers the prompt, 'Is there a superhero in you?'"

Yang didn't take Peterson's class. In fact, the two have yet to meet formally. But one of Yang's drawings in a collage titled "Comical Life of a College Student" seems to answer Peterson's question. The piece was featured during Yang's senior art showcase this spring in Mills Gallery in the Lubbers Center for Visual Arts.

"My artwork focuses on narrative illustration in ink of problems and everyday life of ... an Asian-American ... dealing with being a first-generation college student and the weight that the student carries from his own life at home and through college," writes Yang in his artist's

statement. He describes many of his images as "comical relief," but adds, "some darker images display ... challenges I've gone through in the cycle of college life."

In one of those darker images, above, a figure reaches up the face of a sheer cliff. It grasps a tenuous fingerhold with an incredibly long arm and a look of fear-conquering hope and determination.

The first time he sees the drawing, Peterson is visibly moved. "Wow!" he says. He pauses, taking it in. "That's really good."

Super-selfie indeed.



THE BOAT RACE

This annual spring tradition fills the pond with competitors.

From left: Conor Hehli '18, Jacob Hay '18 and Nick Drucker '18.