

WINTER 2019

# CENTRAL

CENTRAL COLLEGE

**CIVITAS**

ALUMNI MAGAZINE



# 12

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LINDLEY  
'95**

ON TOUR WITH  
"PHANTOM"

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LIFELONG FRIENDSHIPS  
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**CAMPUS CAMPS**  
29 YEAR-ROUND  
OFFERINGS



# PHENOMENAL COSMIC POWER

BY MARK PUTNAM, CENTRAL COLLEGE PRESIDENT

## MARK: MY WORDS

Read more of President Putnam's writing at:  
[president.central.edu](http://president.central.edu)



P

art of my job is to free students from the expectations of others. It is one of the most rewarding aspects of my work.

On move-in day at the start of fall semester, we have a brief ceremony in Douwstra Auditorium we call "Turning Over the Class." Parents are excused, though a few still linger in the shadows. Our task is to formally welcome these fresh faces as a class and begin fostering a shared identity for the journey ahead.

They cross the threshold of Central Hall to the cheers of our student orientation leaders. The room is abuzz with conversation and laughter. Yet in the midst of a crazy day of activity, we quiet them for a few minutes of reflection. We offer a prayer of hope, encouragement and blessing and they are formally presented

to me as a class. I receive them into the care and keeping of the college with great enthusiasm. Then it gets very quiet.

Here is what I say to our new students:

*If I gave you each a marker and invited you to write on the walls of this auditorium all the expectations placed on you by family, teachers, coaches, neighbors and friends, we would cover the walls with your lists. Most of your lives have been about conforming to others' expectations. Now you are authors of your own story.*

*You are all fortunate that I have been endowed with phenomenal cosmic power. So by the authority vested in me, I hereby release you from all expectations and invite you to begin writing your own story. Whatever burdens you bear from the expectations of others are now gone.*

From time to time that brief moment will resurface in a conversation with a student, most often a senior, as we share a moment of reflection. Though their reactions vary, the common theme is a realization that they had to begin to think more deeply and listen more carefully to their thoughts and ideas.

The four critical years of college necessarily involves self-discovery that reaches beyond the expectations of others. Students set aside self-limiting ideas of the past as a new course stimulates previously undiscovered interests. Their self-assurance grows as study abroad, service learning and undergraduate research stretches them past comfort to grasp new competencies. Eventually students realize they hold their own phenomenal cosmic power: They become more than anyone expected.

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# HOO-RAH! HOO-RAH!

#HoorahDay

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

hoorah.central.edu

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# AROUND THE POND



## ▲ SCHOLARSHIP HONOREES

Central's Geisler Penquite scholars are exceptional students in the teacher education program. They receive approximately \$5,000 per year during their third and fourth years; in return, they represent the education department to prospective students, conduct research and/or develop new education department initiatives. Central's 2018 Geisler Penquite scholars are, *front row, left to right*: Shelby Casner '20, Mason Muur '20, Brittney Latcham '20, Elise Askelsen '20, Madison McDowell '20, Alaena Pelzer '20, McKenna Fiebelkorn '20 and Parker Majerus '20. The Geisler Penquite Committee that helped choose the scholars is, *back row, left to right*: Sheri Timmer Roslien '88, Dan Skokan, Gary Timmer '55, Maurine Timmer, Jean Schnell, Eric Sickler '83 and John Roslien. Not pictured: Noreen Otto and Eugene Knopf. The scholarship was established by Harold and Mavis Geisler and Cecil Geisler Penquite and Loren Penquite in honor of their parents, John Edward Geisler and Gertrude Setzer Geisler.



## ▲ FALL SERVICE DAY

For the first time in 12 years, Central's service day took place in October instead of the spring.

In this annual tradition since 2006, the college cancels classes, and students, faculty and staff serve Pella and central Iowa.

"Community partners needed help with fall projects [such as raking leaves, *above*]," explains Cheri Trout Doane '98, Central's director of community-based learning.

"We also wanted Intersections classes—interdisciplinary classes required of all Central first-year students—to use service as a bonding experience. Connecting with our regional community enriches civic life, augments student learning and fosters strong community relationships."

This year, 725 Central students, faculty and staff contributed thousands of volunteer hours—valued at approximately \$75,000—to projects that included:



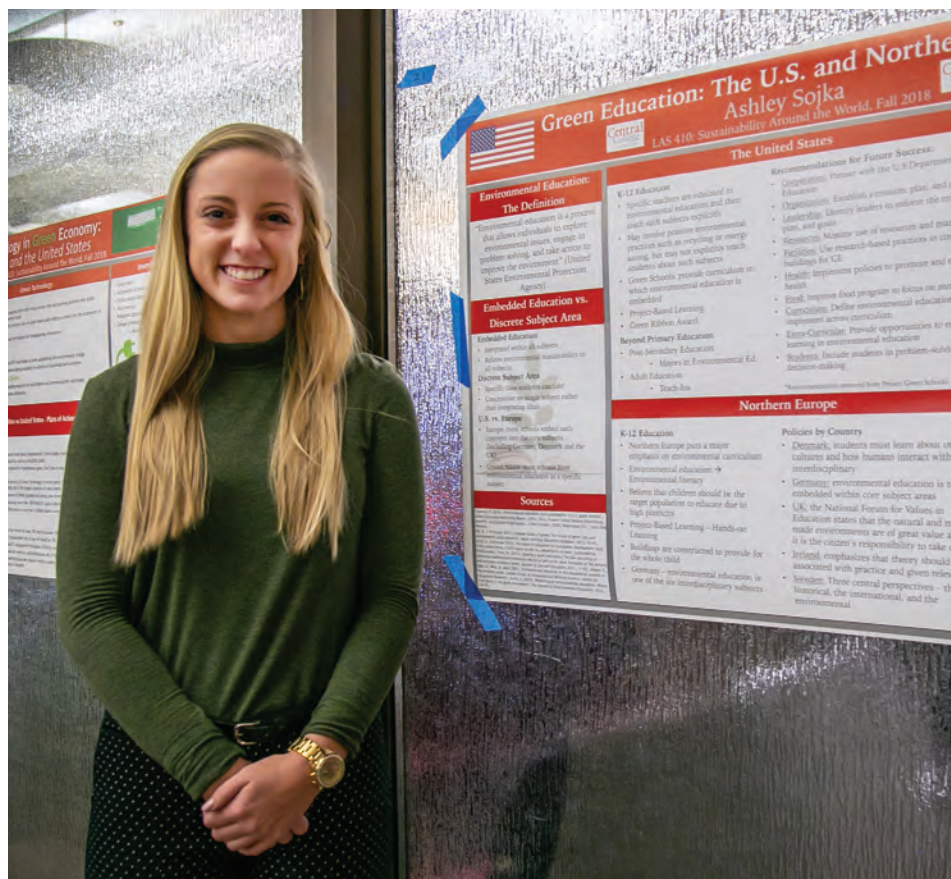
- + Teaching English-learning students in Des Moines to play steel pans.
- + Improving woodlands at Christie Park in Pleasant Hill.
- + Doing outdoor work at Pella Regional Health Center.
- + Supporting clients at the Pella Food Shelf.
- + Collecting oral histories of Upward Bound participants in Des Moines.

To learn more about service learning at Central: [central.edu/service](http://central.edu/service).



### ▲ HUMANISTS PRESENT

Five Central students presented original research at the eighth annual Midwest Undergraduate Conference in the Humanities in November at Wartburg College. **Adrienne Bergman '20** spoke on "The Hidden Racism of Desdemona in *Othello*" on the panel "Buried Desires? Women's Perilous Agency in Literature," chaired by Assistant Professor of English **Valerie Billing**. **Savana Henning '20** presented "The Influence of Passover on Christianity" and **Christian Warner '20** discussed "The Art of Rhetoric in Establishing a Conversation on the Origin of Law in Book I of Plato's *Laws*," both on the panel "Seeking Justice: On Earth as it is in Heaven" moderated by Professor of Religion **Terry Kleven**. **Miguel Piña '19** presented "Rebuilding Home and Memory in 'La Casa' by Paco Roca" on the panel "Reflections on the Contemporary Hispanic World." **John Searcy '19** presented "Chinese Language Education in Mérida, Mexico: Spanish, English and Mandarin Chinese in Mexican University and High School Settings" on the panel "Linguistic and Cultural Identity: From the Pragmatic to Personal."



### ▲ UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

**Ashley Sojka '19**, above, was one of more than 150 Central students representing 25 courses across 15 academic disciplines who presented research results to the campus community Dec. 4 in the Harry and Bernice Vermeer Banquet Hall.

Through oral presentations, poster sessions and demonstrations, Undergraduate Research Symposium participants shared what they learned through research for classes, honors symposia, summer projects and independent study.

Presentations ran the gamut: One computer science student built his own video game. Other students studied cultural controversies such as the treatment of confederate monuments or wilderness access or tested hypotheses in the experimental and social sciences. All projects featured researchers delighted to do out-of-the-classroom work with real-world applicability.

Elementary education major Sojka, for instance, studied how sustainability is taught in the United States versus Northern Europe. "The United States tends to offer specialized courses in sustainability; in Northern Europe, they embed green education in all classes. There's a broader approach, and knowing about it has influenced how I plan to teach," she says.

### TICKET CENTRAL

Now you can get tickets for virtually all Central public events from one source. With just a few keystrokes, you can register as a user, browse a comprehensive calendar of Central events and buy tickets online that you can print at home or download to your mobile device.

To get tickets: [events.central.edu](http://events.central.edu)



### ▲ POLLSTERS R US

Fifteen students in Professor of Mathematics **Russ Goodman's** first-year Intersections course (including **Sabrina Tallman '22**, above) turned exit pollsters on Election Day. They surveyed 165 residents in two Pella, Iowa, precincts about their vote and other demographic information as voters left the polling places. Then the mostly first-year students compiled results in real time—just like on TV. They built and executed every aspect of their survey, from designing the questions to coding the software to tabulating the data and analyzing the results. Their final step was to “call” elections in real time as soon as the data deemed it responsible reporting.

The students were continually surprised by what they learned. That included how much work goes into designing a survey, how effectively they managed to plan and execute the complex project, how accurate their predictions were, how complex the workings of democracy are, how pervasive data is in our culture and how many ethical issues attend its gathering and use.

Students' biggest fears were being rejected by potential survey participants. They role-played in advance how to deal with different personality types to help overcome shyness. But their biggest surprise was how well most voters treated them. One woman brought two pollsters hot chocolate on the unseasonably cold and windy election night, and some voters were so interested in the students' project that they started long conversations.

The students voted for Goodman to continue to offer the class and the exit-polling project—and for warmer election-night weather for students who undertake this worthwhile project in the future!

To read the Twitter feed on the project:  
[twitter.com/CC\\_Polling](https://twitter.com/CC_Polling)



### ▲ GO FORTH AND DO LIKEWISE

Philip E. Nelson, professor emeritus of Purdue University and 2007 recipient of the World Food Prize, presented Central College's 2018 World Food Prize Lecture in October in Cox-Snow Music Center. His presentation, “A Career with Unexpected World Impact,” discussed how he revolutionized the food industry by developing innovative technologies for large-scale “aseptic” packaging, storage and transportation of fresh fruit juices and vegetables. His bulk, sterile processing reduced food spoilage losses and provided millions of people worldwide with access to fresh, nutritious food. After describing the unexpected arc of his career, he urged Central students to seek to make a difference in whatever they chose to do.

**CELEBRATE HOO-RAH DAY!**

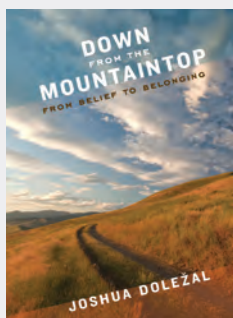
**HOO-RAH!**  
**HOO-RAH!**

**#HoorahDay**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10**

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED OR TO MAKE A GIFT:**  
[hoorah.central.edu](http://hoorah.central.edu)





### Ántonia Takes Him Home

Professor of English **Joshua Doležal**'s memoir, "Down from the Mountaintop: From Belief to Belonging," recently was excerpted by the Willa Cather Foundation as part of its centennial celebration of the publication of Cather's novel "My Ántonia." In the featured chapter, Doležal reflects on his experience as a college student struggling to choose a major and envision a career and how Cather's novel—"The first book I'd ever read that spoke directly to my family history"—helped him decide.

"Down From the Mountaintop" was published by the University of Iowa Press in 2014 and shortlisted for the 2015 William Saroyan Prize. Doležal's creative work has appeared in journals such as Shenandoah, Kenyon Review, Gettysburg Review and Fourth Genre. He also has published essays on the works of Willa Cather in Cather Studies, Literature and Medicine, Teaching Cather, and the Willa Cather Review.

Read the Willa Cather Foundation's excerpt:  
[central.edu/dolezal](http://central.edu/dolezal)



### A Memoir in Latin Jazz

Associate Professor of Music **Gabriel Espinosa** released his latest album, "Nostalgias De Mi Vida," in October.

"At age 66, [the] Mexican-born composer/singer/electric bassist is looking back fondly on his life in jazz, from his first days with his brother's band, Los Deltons, in Mexico to recording in NYC with world class Latin jazz musicians," writes Jim Hynes in a review in Making A Scene: The Independent Music Magazine. "As you'd expect, the music has a warm, tropical quality, full of upbeat passages. His joy comes through on every tune."

"I chose the title 'Nostalgias De Mi Vida' in honor of my life in music," Espinosa says. "I have great affection for this musical journey that I am still exploring with new challenges and sounds."

Zoho music calls the album "A gorgeous mashup of the music of his homeland and of Brazilian Samba Jazz, in six Espinosa originals and four Mexican Songbook Classics."

Sample the album:  
[central.edu/espinosa](http://central.edu/espinosa)



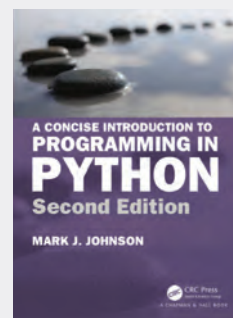
### Romancing Science

Professor of Chemistry **Catherine Hingst** '76 just published her third romance novel. "Wolves and Deer: A Tale Based on Fact," was released last fall by Rogue Phoenix Press. The science in the book, says Hingst, "is 100 percent realistic—based on 1832."

"A smart, funny book," writes one reviewer, "unlike anything else I've ever read."

Hingst also has written two other romances, both with science themes. "Natural Attraction" is a comedy about a female naturalist in 1871 who must take the guise of a man. "Mixed In" features a female chemist protagonist in a dystopian setting. In addition to teaching chemistry, Hingst teaches Short Story Writing at Central.

For more information:  
[catherinehasting.com](http://catherinehasting.com)



### Publishing on Python

Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science **Mark Johnson** has just completely reorganized and rewritten his textbook "A Concise Introduction to Programming in Python." The recently released second edition incorporates all that Johnson and his colleagues at Central and elsewhere have learned from teaching from the book since it was published in 2012.

Johnson says he wrote both editions to be read, not just used as a reference, and reviewers of the first edition agree.

"This book was a major part of what transformed me from a lost and confused college student into the programmer I am today," wrote one.

The book is published by Chapman and Hall and is available online or through any bookstore.

For more information:  
[central.edu/go/conciseintro](http://central.edu/go/conciseintro)

# 'SOME PEOPLE DON'T CALL IT BASKETBALL'

## INSIDE THE STRANGEST COLLEGE GAME OF THE YEAR

BY: JACOB BOGAGE, NATIONAL SPORTS WRITER AND BLOGGER, THE WASHINGTON POST

A quick glance at the box score might leave basketball fans assuming some horrible statistical malfunction. A second glance might produce a furrowed brow: Grinnell College took *how many* 3-pointers? And Central College didn't take *any*?

An even closer look would reveal one of the oddest college basketball games of the year: a Division III contest Tuesday [Nov. 20] between two teams in central Iowa in which the losing team attempted 89 3-pointers, equaling an NCAA Division III record, and the winning team attempted none. The box score reported an official attendance of 175.

The final score: Central College 105, Grinnell 96.

"Some people don't call it basketball," Central Coach **Craig Douma** said in a phone interview.

Grinnell has for years used a frantic, up-tempo style basketball aficionados affectionately call "The System." The Pioneers play a full-court press the entire game and take as many 3s as possible. Coach David Arseneault Jr., using a scheme developed by his father, utilizes hockey-style line changes every few minutes.

The Pioneers score a ton of points—they're averaging more than 120 points this season through four games—and run opponents into the ground. They've already attempted 302 3-pointers.

"The System" has generated plenty of wild statistics in the past. In 2012, for example, guard Jack Taylor scored an NCAA-record 138 points on 52-for-108 shooting, going 27 for 71 from 3-point range.

"They're playing the mathematics game on this thing," said Douma, whose Central team has played Grinnell each of the past three seasons. "If they can hit 30 percent of their 3s, they're going to have a good shot to win the game."

Central responded with a novel equation of its own: Don't try any 3-pointers. At all.

In fact, Douma told his players to forget all the schemes and plays they've worked

on all season. Central usually shoots a lot of 3-pointers out of its half-court offense. But that wouldn't work against Grinnell.

Just break the press, Douma said, and take as many layups as possible. Then get back on defense and rebound, and do the whole thing over again.

And again. And again.

"We've beaten Grinnell two of the last three times," he said. "Our players trust us and we know this is our formula for success."

While Douma paced the sideline shouting encouragement and reminding players to box out, his assistant coaches kept track of the team's substitutions so Central's players wouldn't tire out. During timeouts, he forced players to stay on the bench and rest for as long as possible until officials called the team back out onto the floor.

In practice, he ran drills with five defenders against three guards to force them to get open without the ball. They scrimmaged six against five, so Grinnell's frantic pace wouldn't seem so overwhelming.

Grinnell made 20 of its 89 3-point attempts, outscoring Central 60-0 from behind the arc. But Grinnell made just 28 percent of its field-goal attempts, while Central shot 58 percent from the floor.

"It's very intriguing," Douma said. "People come out just to watch this game and see how we're going to play the chess game and what our strategy is going to be."

The strategy is actually pretty simple: endure.

That extends beyond the annual meeting with the Pioneers, too. After Thanksgiving, Douma will try to coach his team out of the "Grinnell hangover," as he calls it. After such a weird and draining experience, he said, it's hard to play a normal basketball game again.

At least the next game, Saturday against Gustavus Adolphus (Central lost 81-74), will be easier on the statisticians.

*This story first appeared in "The Washington Post" Nov. 22. Reprinted with permission.*

### ▼ FALL HIGHLIGHTS

**Women's Golf:** Central walked off with its 10th conference championship and its second in three years. It gains a berth at the NCAA Division III tourney May 14-17 in Houston.

**Football:** Behind all-conference quarterback **Blaine Hawkins '20**, Central's football team was an overtime away from a share of a league title. The Dutch finished 8-2.

**Women's Tennis:** Jenna Stewart '19 and Karleigh Schilling '21 received all-conference distinction and placed fourth in doubles at the conference tournament.

**Volleyball:** Leaning on a freshman-heavy roster, Central's volleyball team bettered last year's season win total in a 12-19 campaign.

**Men's Soccer:** Goalkeeper Salvador Salado-Herrera '21, high-scoring forward Miguel Pina '19 and defender Taylor Petkovich '20 received all-conference distinction.

**Women's Soccer:** Midfielder Olivia Denham '19 and forward Erin Manion '20 were all-conference honorees for the third consecutive year for Central.

**Cross-country:** Miranda Kruiswyk '22 earned a berth in the NCAA Division III Championships.

FOR UP-TO-THE-MINUTE NEWS  
ON CENTRAL ATHLETICS:  
[ATHLETICS.CENTRAL.EDU](http://ATHLETICS.CENTRAL.EDU)









## CENTRAL SCENE

PHOTO: PAUL JOY

**Isaac Ramos '18** studies for finals in the newly remodeled—and decorated for the holidays—Global Café in Geisler.









# AN ACTOR AND A GENTLEMAN

**ROB LINDLEY '95 WASN'T  
A STANDOUT ON THE  
CENTRAL COLLEGE STAGE.  
THAT MAY BE ONE REASON  
HE'S SO SUCCESSFUL—AND SO  
GENEROUS-SPIRITED—NOW.**

STORY AND PHOTOS  
BY: DAN WEEKS

**CENTRAL  
COLLEGE**





**“AT CENTRAL I HAD ALL THESE OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE MY OWN PATH.”**

In the nationally touring production of “The Phantom of the Opera,”

**Rob Lindley ’95** is, in stage parlance, “M-3” or “Male 3:” the third most prominent male actor in the cast.

“I’m actually a little bit important,” he says with self-deprecating humor.

### **“HE’S FUN!”**

In fact, his role as Monsieur André—an owner of a haunted theatre—is lynch pin to the plot. He must cope with a vain prima donna who thinks she runs the show. A totalitarian ballet mistress who DOES run the show. A possessed female lead. Plus fickle critics, an overbearing patron—and of course the Phantom, who plagues the whole lot with gothic horror and mayhem. Meanwhile, André desperately, hysterically tries to hold the opera company together.

Lindley was in high school and college when “Phantom” originally toured, but he wasn’t initially attracted to the production in spite of his longtime dream of performing in a Broadway show.

“Phantom” is quite dark at times,” he explains, sitting by the gas fire in the lobby of the Magnolia Hotel across from Omaha’s Orpheum Theatre during the production’s tour. In contrast, “There’s a bit of a happy, shiny vibe to me,” he says. “I’m a musical comedy guy.”

But when he was asked to audition, the part of André won him over.

“He’s *fun!*” says Lindley, eyes alight.

“He’s comic relief. When I finally saw the show I thought, ‘Wow! No wonder the casting director wanted me for this.’ André has just enough singing that I can use some of my choral training. I get a couple money notes out there. I have some great dramatic moments, and I get a few good laughs—it’s perfect for me. Plus I get to wear the most *fabulous* costumes. Every coat I put on in the production is amazing!”

He sips coffee and muses a bit on the paradox of Rob Lindley playing Gilles André.

### **SINGING FOR ALTA**

Lindley grew up the son of a minister in Alta, Iowa, a tiny hamlet of about 500 families in northwest Iowa. He started singing in church at 5; by middle school he was soloing at weddings and funerals. “I was brought up that the ability to sing was a gift from God. If you had it, it was your duty to share it,” he says.

He added speech to his repertoire in high school—“one of those great small-town schools where winning speech competitions gave you the same amount of street cred as being a quarterback,” he says. By the time he graduated, he held a school

record for the number of all-state speech entries in choral reading and individual categories—double entries every year but one, he recalls.

But it wasn’t all roses: “I was struggling with my sexual identity. I wasn’t popular. I was bullied. But from early on I knew what I was good at and so did everybody else.”

Lindley visited Central the summer before his senior year. His trip coincided with an acting workshop and he was introduced to Assistant Professor of Theatre **Fred Nelson** and two theatre alumni, **Bruce Green ’91** and **Julie Schanke ’90**. The next fall he visited again and caught a production of “The Visit.” “The performance was stunningly beautiful. I got to witness a group of hungry students get feedback from a professional critic. And the Kruidenier Center blew my mind. I’d never seen anything so high-tech.”

He was also charmed by Pella. “It’s like an Epcot Netherlands!” he says. “I’ve always thought it was so cool.”

He returned home to Alta with a new goal—to act—and a college destination: Central. “My parents nudged me to keep looking, but I had decided,” he says. “My high school graduating class was 45. I would have been swallowed up at a state school. Central was a logical next rung—a place where I could learn a lot and still be a big fish.”



# PHANTOM OF THE



## THE VIEW FROM BACKSTAGE

He did learn a lot at Central, but the big fish part came later.

"I didn't act in many main stage shows on campus," he recalls. "I auditioned and lost roles all the time. Central was doing a lot of Ibsen and Brecht then—dark dramas. There was no 'Guys and Dolls' for me. I didn't become the star at Central that I thought I'd gone there to be."

Instead, he says, "My advisor was Professor of Art **Treva Reimer**, who was more in charge of the technical and design side, so I got trained in every aspect of the theatre. I did set design, lighting design, costume design. I managed the costume shop from sophomore year on. Some weeks I nearly lived there. I was determined that I was going to do theatre for a living, so every time I didn't get a part in a main stage show, I'd say 'Fine. I'll do this, then!'

I wrote proposals to produce my own shows, with the blessing of Professor of Theatre **Bob Schanke**. He was the head of the theatre department then and an excellent director. By my junior and senior years I was directing a lot, too."

Lindley pauses and takes another sip of coffee. "It was frustrating at the time, but I value it now," he says. "It taught me the kind of tenacity and inventiveness that has sustained my whole career. At Central I had all these opportunities to make my own path."

He was also an enthusiastic member of the A Cappella Choir. "That was so much fun," he smiles. "I met my best friends there and really think Central's A Cappella Choir takes its place firmly in the Midwest tradition of great college choirs. Honestly, except for a little coaching now and then in professors' offices, the choir was as

much formal vocal training as I've ever had. And it has been enough, even for a Broadway tour," he says.

Nevertheless, by senior year, Lindley was a bit anxious about his prospects after graduation. He took heart from Tony Campolo, a minister, writer and international speaker he helped bring to campus as a member of the campus Church Board. "At one point, Campolo started quoting 'Man of La Mancha,'—you know, 'To dream the impossible dream'—during his presentation in Douwstra Auditorium. He said, 'Don't you want to be like Don Quixote? If you don't achieve your life's dream, at least die trying!'"

**Photo credit (right):** David Benoit as Monsieur Firmin and Rob Lindley as Monsieur André in the spectacular new production of "The Phantom of the Opera." Photo by Matthew Murphy.



# THE ANTHONY OPERA

**"THE ACTOR'S CRAFT IS  
ARTIFICE AND MAKE-  
BELIEVE, BUT I THINK  
IT HAS TO COME FROM  
SOME PLACE REAL."**





## “WHERE DID YOU GO TO COLLEGE?”

“Students auditioning for college theatre programs ask me where I went to school. They see success, they want to follow. I say, ‘I went to a tiny Christian college in rural Iowa and I learned a lot about theatre there. Even more important, I learned how to be a really good person and I made the best friends of my life. Those things are the best theatrical preparation you can have.’”

— ROB LINDLEY '95

### THE ACTOR

That proposition may have helped motivate Lindley to attend a mass audition in Kansas City with a number of fellow Central theatre majors—some of whom he'd lost roles to for years.

“I was going mostly as a techie and a timekeeper,” he says, but at the last minute decided to audition as an actor.

To everyone's surprise, Lindley ended up with the most callbacks. “I kind of swept the auditions,” he says. “There were more roles there that I was suited for. The next year I was on the road with the Missoula Children's Theatre, and I've been working in the theatre ever since.”

“Some of the people who were stars at Central no longer act. They didn't get told ‘no’ in college, so in the real world it hit them hard,” Lindley says sympathetically. “They tell me ‘I admire you for sticking it out.’ But they had a plan B, and they now have beautiful, enviable lives of their own. I knew this is all I really wanted to do.”

Also, he says, “I was used to hearing ‘no.’ So when I got turned down I'd turn around and do standup or become a cabaret singer in small nightclubs. It felt just like doing my own shows at Studio B in the Kruidenier. That's a real skill of mine—any time I'm in a lull, I come up with my own thing to do.”

In 1997 a director told Lindley, “You're so funny! You should go to Chicago,” where the legendary The Second City company had created a focus for comedy. He's been in Chicago since. He is a graduate and former instructor at The Second City Training Center and a longtime member of the musical improv ensemble Baby Wants Candy. In Chicago, he's acted, directed, recorded and taught.

His performances have won him the 2010 Jeff Award for Actor in a Revue for “Oh Coward” at the Writers' Theatre in Chicago. He was nominated for a 2008 Equity Jeff Award for “Carousel” (opposite Broadway's Jessie Mueller) and a 2013 Equity Jeff Award for “James Joyce's ‘The Dead’” at the Court Theatre in Chicago. Most recently, he was nominated for another Jeff Award for “Fun Home” at Victory Gardens Theatre and won Best Supporting Actor in a Musical in the 2018 Chicago Theatre Awards presented by The Hawk Chicago.

It all led to this, his first nationally touring Broadway role in the most popular musical of all time. The part of Monsieur André is one of a man who earnestly

wants for all to go well and for everyone to be happy in spite of overwhelming evidence that things are well out of his control. Lindley performs it with deftness, panache and a deep-yet-comic empathy that seems to come from something far more personal than just a close reading of the script. There is, perhaps, a good deal of Rob Lindley in this Gilles André. And the audience—judging from the laughs and applause he gets—loves him.

### THE GENTLEMAN

But the greatest impression you get from Lindley—on stage or off—is that of intense sincerity. That quality inspires one last unscripted question—not about his path, but about his purpose. He answers without a blink, as though it is something that informs everything he does.

“I want to enter a room and make it better,” he says. “I believe in being known for kindness. That's my deeply-ingrained, church-boy Christianity. For a trade that deals in emotion, it is astonishing how many people in the theatre lose sight of that. Also, I want my acting to be authentic. The actor's craft is artifice and make-believe, but I think it has to come from some place real.”

He continues: “For a while in my life, I wasn't being fully honest with myself about who I was. I hadn't come out; I wasn't standing in my truth. It's hard to be an actor if your life already has a couple layers of acting on it. You end up presenting something that you just aren't. But if you are living in the middle of God's will for you, nothing can touch you. It's no accident that the summer I came out was the summer I never stopped working again. I am authentic now.

“I love about theatre what I love about church, about sports, about prayer: People assembled in one place, all doing and feeling something together,” he says. “The power of that is profound and noble and worth doing.”

For a schedule of Central's theatre productions: [departments.central.edu/theatre](https://departments.central.edu/theatre)

To learn more about Central's theatre major: [central.edu/academics/majors/theatre](https://central.edu/academics/majors/theatre)



## WINNING THE ROOMMATE

# LOTTERY

FEW COLLEGE EXPERIENCES ARE AS LIFE-ALTERING AS SHARING A 200-SQUARE-FOOT ROOM WITH SOMEONE. THAT'S EXACTLY WHY CENTRAL COLLEGE MAKES IT PART OF THE COLLEGE EXPERIENCE.

BY: CHELSEA TOPPIN '12



Former roommates: **Melanie Hopkins '12** and **Abby Lukensmeyer Bobst '12**





Roommates **Alison Redman Westfall '13** and **Sarah Rankin Folkerts '13** at a Central College Dutch football game during their student days.

**M**any Central College students arrive never having shared a room. That changes quickly—by design. “Life with a roommate helps students better learn how to communicate their wants and needs and to deal with conflict productively,” says **Melissa Sharkey**, assistant dean of students. “It isn’t always easy, but the benefits of having someone to share their Central experience with and the potential for amazing, lifelong relationships are worth it.”

Four pairs of roommates who ended up best friends talk about what they gained in the process.

#### PAIRED PERFECTLY

**Allison Redman Westfall '13** and **Sarah Rankin Folkerts '13** were wary strangers when they moved into Graham Hall together.

“First we divided the room so we would each have our own side,” Westfall says. “Halfway through the year we started combining our things. By senior year, we didn’t even know what belonged to whom!”

Westfall and Folkerts became inseparable. Each loved Campus Ministries, mission trips, Ultimate Frisbee, Dutch dancing during Tulip Time and Charity Balls. To relieve stress during finals week, they would host dance parties in their room during the designated “loud hour.”

“We were paired perfectly,” Folkerts says. “One of my favorite memories was being thrown into the pond along with Allison for her birthday.”

Now the two have husbands and live 160 miles apart. That hasn’t stopped them from celebrating graduation with a Florida vacation or participating in each other’s weddings. After Folkerts gave birth, Westfall visited her best friend in the hospital.

“Sarah has been a constant friend, especially when I lost three of my grandparents while at school,” Westfall says. “We encourage one another in our faith walks and build each other up.”

Folkerts agrees: “I went to college knowing only a few people, and I left with a lifelong best friend.”





Left to right: **Pat Davis '86**, **Brian Boersma '87**, **Stephen Fyfe '87** and **Ron Fadness '87**

## TENT MATES

Roommate bonding takes on a new meaning when it starts with living without a shower. Just ask **Stephen Fyfe '87** and **Brian Boersma '87**.

"Vance townhouse wasn't quite finished when we moved in," Boersma says. "We had to shower at Kupyier [athletic complex] the first week."

Pre-shower grumbling was common, Fyfe says. Perhaps it prepared them for later camping trips.

About 10 years after graduating and while starting families, Fyfe, on a whim, proposed a camping trip—with kids but sans wives, to give the latter a break from childcare.

"It started as a great way for us to catch up. Many years that would be the only time we would see each other," Fyfe says. "In the past 20 years, we have camped all over in Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska."

Experiences included retreating to a minivan when the tent flooded and fending

off a raccoon that clawed its way in for a bite of Jaarsma Bakery hamburger buns.

The first trip involved three kids under age 5. Today, those three are out of college. They still come to roast s'mores, listen to Boersma tell stories around a campfire and talk late into the night. Vance housemate **Pat Davis '86** occasionally joins them.

"Pat's kids are younger, so ours take them under their wing," Fyfe says. "Brian and I just laugh as Pat goes through what we went through years ago."

After sharing a room, standing up for each other at their weddings and yearly outdoor adventures, there isn't much the two haven't shared.

"Stephen was one of my first friends who didn't make fun of me as the primary mode of communication and didn't lecture me about what I was doing wrong when it came to studying," Boersma says. "He always accepted me for who I am, and I'm thankful."

Former roommates **Stephen Fyfe '87** and **Brian Boersma '87** on a recent camping trip with Tim Boersma, high school exchange student Tsukasa Yano, Josh Boersma, Rebekah Fyfe, **Abby Fyfe '18**, Rachel Fyfe, Claire Boersma and Stephanie Boersma.





## AWKWARD BEGINNINGS

Not much says “trust” like showing your first-year roommate your hidden knife collection. **Melanie Hopkins ’12** had embraced **Abby Lukensmeyer Bobst ’12** as one of her best friends already, but it’s still nice to know when your roommate has a knife stash.

“We reached a point in our friendship where I knew she wouldn’t tell on me!” Bobst laughs. “Before he unexpectedly died a few years ago, my dad, Randy, bought me a knife each year as a Christmas tradition. I still always carry one.”

During the first days on campus, highly organized Bobst printed Hopkins a copy of her schedule, in case of emergency.

“I told her, ‘Abby, I will literally never use that!’” Hopkins says. Things were awkward. But it quickly dissipated.

“We were both playing sports. Basketball for Mel; golf for me,” Bobst says. “We also knew **Sarah Paulson ’12** who played for both teams. The three of us are still best friends.”

The pair has hiked Red Rock’s cliffs, ventured to Earlham and Hampton, Iowa, Hopkins and Bobst’s respective hometowns and consumed rivers of Smokey Row shakes — “the ones with espresso in them!” Hopkins says. They also studied abroad together in Granáda, Spain, a highlight of their friendship.

Now, the pair, along with Paulson, **Regan Jamieson Minaudo ’13** and **Katie Kepford ’13**, get together during their self-proclaimed “#MonthofFriendship” each September. They have road-tripped from the East Coast into Canada, hiked Longs Peak in Colorado and even were a part of Minaudo’s wedding during “their” month.

“Mel has given me invaluable wisdom, support and love,” Bobst says, especially following the death of her father. “My friend traveled hundreds of miles to support me during his funeral. I had never felt so loved. Mel is all I could hope for in a sister and friend.”

Bobst and Hopkins traveling together during their study abroad semester in Granáda, Spain.



## CENTRAL RESIDENCE HALLS



# 1918

Graham Hall, Central’s first residence hall, featured “pleasant, homelike” surroundings and a dining hall with a “happy family” atmosphere according to this college brochure.



# 1940s

The college’s laundry facilities were located in Graham’s basement.



# 1945

Roommates in Graham Hall favored décor that leaned heavily on military-themed romantic pinups and photos of a boyfriend in uniform.



**Sarah Paulson '12, Katie Kepford '13**  
and **Regan Jamieson Minaudo '13**  
with **Bobst** and **Hopkins** during a 2017  
get-together.



## A CENTURY OF HISTORY

Central's Residence Halls from Oldest to Newest

### Graham Hall

Graham Hall, built in 1918, was first called "the dormitory" and initially housed only women—plus the college's dining hall and laundry in the basement. The building later was named for **Elizabeth Graham**, an English professor (1905 - 1914) and dean of women (1914 - 1932). The hall switched genders during World War II when it was occupied by Navy cadets. It since has been heavily updated, with capacity at 151 students, and is now the only all-female residence hall on campus.

### Gaass Hall

Gaass Hall is named for longtime Central supporter and former board member (1957 - 2002) **Peter Gaass '39**. It was state-of-the-art when built in 1951 and originally housed 167 men in 80 rooms—each equipped with \$300 worth (that's nearly \$3,000 in today's money!) of contemporary Carrom Company furniture. To qualify for these luxe accommodations, men agreed to live by certain standards: no profanity, beds made by noon and no women allowed after 7 p.m. Gaass was modernized and switched to coed living in the mid-1990s thanks in part to **Eric Jones '87**, director of academic resources and class dean.

### Scholte Hall

Scholte Hall bears the name of Pella's founding father, Dominie Pieter Scholte. The 330-student residence hall is the college's largest, built in three sections from 1964 - 1969 and became coed shortly thereafter. The building got a \$7 million update—including air conditioning—in 2008.

### Pietenpol/Hoffman Halls

Pietenpol and Hoffman Halls, built in 1961 and 1964, respectively, are Central's only remaining all-male residence halls. Pietenpol Hall ("Piet" for short) houses 96 men and honors **Dean Henry W. Pietenpol**. Hoffman Hall, named for former Central president (1917 - 25) **Rev. Milton Hoffman**, houses another 47 men—and features balconies in the common areas. Before a major renovation in 2000, hall residents were limited to one room arrangement: the furniture was fixed to the walls.

### The Townhouses

Starting in 1970 with Mentink, named in honor of Central professor of Latin and Greek **Herbert Mentink**, townhouses became a haven for upperclassmen. Fourteen were built over the next three decades—including six in 1972 and three in 1988. Firth is the newest and only one to be built in the 21st century. Townhouse sizes vary but hold an average of 32 students. Townhouses initially offered independence to honor students; residents had to maintain a collective GPA level. The honor designation has been shed, but the coed townhouses are self-governed, making them popular with upperclass students.

### McKee Hall

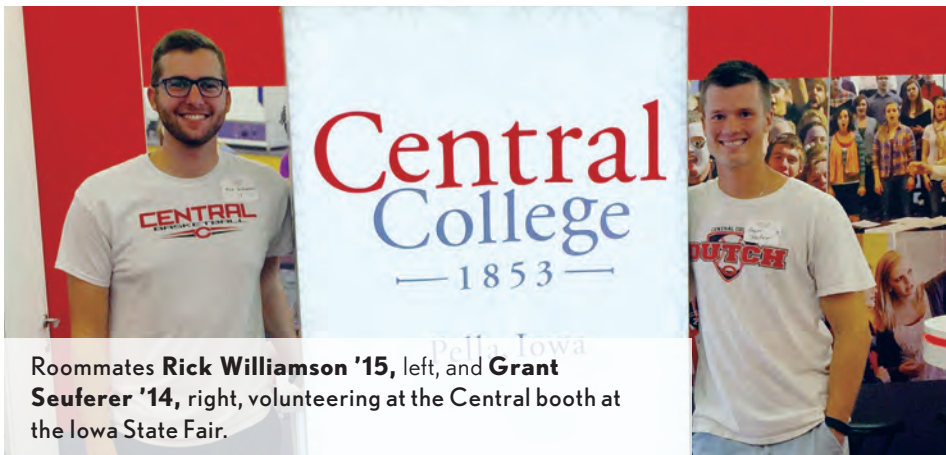
Howard McKee Hall is named for **Howard Alexander McKee '38**, a generous Central benefactor. It was built in two phases in 2003 and 2005 and is affectionately known as "The Pods." Primarily for upperclass students, it features individual apartment-style living units comprised of four bedrooms, two bathrooms, laundry and a common area for up to 120 students. McKee reflects Central's commitment to sustainability. The building is Gold LEED rated, with solar energy and water-saving features.



# 1947

"The men find the new dormitory serviceable and comfortable. They make their rooms homey," according to the photo caption in a postwar Central College brochure.





Roommates **Rick Williamson '15**, left, and **Grant Seuferer '14**, right, volunteering at the Central booth at the Iowa State Fair.



Seuferer and Williamson after completing the Dam to Dam half marathon.

## COMPETITIVE BOND

What do you do when you hit it off with your roommate so well that you're loathe to part at graduation? You don't.

**Richard Williamson '15** and **Grant Seuferer '14** were randomly assigned as roommates, but you wouldn't know it.

"I transferred in as a junior and didn't know anyone, so I took a chance," Seuferer says. That "chance" lasted six years.

As students, the duo competed in tennis, intramurals and video games. Their intense rivalry seems to have cemented their friendship.

"Neither of us like to lose," Seuferer says. "We enjoy competing with each other anywhere we can find a game—golf, bowling, volleyball, basketball, softball, fantasy football leagues, Nerf basketball."

They even challenged each other to will themselves awake to view Seuferer's final CPA score. (Williamson fell asleep minutes before it was released, and hasn't lived it down.)

Despite always finding a way to one-up the other, they are thankful Central brought them together.

"Grant quickly became my brother,"

Williamson says. "He's more extroverted, and has helped me push my boundaries. I'll always want him on my team."

Seuferer agrees. "After we graduated, we continued to room together for another two and a half years until I moved in with Kyleigh, who is now my wife. Rick was the best man at our wedding and I cannot thank him enough for everything he has done for me."

The two are still close—literally. They live in the same apartment building in Des Moines just a few doors down from one another.



## 1951

Gaass Hall, then the college's largest, was built to accommodate a postwar boom in students.



## 1957

Men's accommodations much improved after Gaass Hall was built. Each room was equipped with stylish, midcentury-modern Carrom Company furniture.



## 1961

Pietenpol Hall for men featured 1960s-modern architecture, with lots of straight lines and a cantilevered entrance canopy.



Seuferer and Williamson on Suerferer's wedding day.



Left to right: **Mark Stauffer '80**, **Lori Fegley '80**, **Larry Happel '81**, **Al Wather '81**, **Diana Stauffer**, **Brian Fegley '80**.

### WINNING THE ROOMMATE LOTTERY

**Brian Fegley '80** and **Mark Stauffer '80** were paired by Central's roommate compatibility survey. "The dean of students used this information to match us," Fegley says. "I must have done a really good job answering the questions, because I won the roommate lottery! Thanks, **Dean Giles!**"

Fegley's favorite roommate memory? "Celebrating Central game wins with friends by watching Monty Python and sharing homemade chili and ice cream," he says.

"We also played rounds of winter golf around campus in the snow—our generation's version of gennis (golf played with a tennis ball, now popular on campus)," he says.

Another great memory is running around campus to find the keys of my wife [then girlfriend], **Lori Humphrey Fegley '80**," Fegley says. "Mark and **Larry Happel '81**, (Central's longtime sports information director) absconded with them and sent us on a treasure hunt. We finally found them on the island. Did you know flip flops get stuck in the mud at the bottom of the pond?" Fegley says the memories are great, but he most values learning a different approach to life.

"Mark is unflappable," Fegley says. "He helped me learn to take things as they come and not stress out over things that might happen. Mark has walked through life with Lori and me. Our Central friends have been our most endearing and enduring friendships."



## 1964-1969

Scholte Hall was built in three sections and with a capacity of 330 students it is the college's largest dorm. It houses both men and women.



## 1971

Mentink, clad in classic 1970s vertical cedar siding, was the first of more than a dozen townhouses Central built during the last three decades of the 20th century.



## 2003-2005

McKee Hall reflects Central's commitment to sustainability and carries a Gold LEED rating.



# CAMPS, CONFERENCES, CLINICS

CENTRAL'S CAMPUS HOSTS MANY EDUCATIONAL EVENTS FOR A VARIETY OF YOUNG AUDIENCES IN ADDITION TO ITS REGULAR CURRICULUM. HERE'S A ROUNDUP OF SOME OF THE MOST POPULAR OFFERINGS.

Hundreds of Iowa's most gifted and engaged high school and middle school students find their way to Central's campus each year. Here they participate in learning experiences that sharpen their athletic and musical performance, further develop their interests in sustainability and business and engage with academic subjects such as history and math.

While they're here, they also get acquainted with the college campus, have a chance to meet and be mentored by Central faculty and students, and get a tantalizing glimpse of what Central has to offer.

Many of them would otherwise have no knowledge of Central. A good number of them become Central applicants because of their camp experiences. Some become some of the college's top students and most successful alumni.

**Kathleen Connelly '18**, for example, got to know Central as a participant in Business Horizons, an Iowa Association of Business

and Industry Foundation program, while she was in high school. She loved what she saw of the college, applied, was admitted and enrolled. Now she's parlayed her business management degree from Central into a job as a marketing specialist at Mercer, a global personnel consulting firm with offices in Des Moines, Iowa.

**Brian Campbell**, Central's director of sustainability education and coordinator of three sustainability-oriented summer camps, says he sees all of his camp attendees as potential Central students. "We get a mix of participants that range from faculty and alumni kids to first-generation immigrant and minority students from Des Moines," he says. "At camp, they meet Central faculty and students and they get a taste of what a highly personalized, hands-on higher education looks like. No matter what their background, they end up feeling right at home here and seeing college—and

particularly Central—as a very real possibility for them."

If you're looking for a great way to introduce your middle- or high school-aged children, grandchildren, or other talented young students to the promise of college and the special place that is Central, don't overlook these opportunities.

For more information on upcoming camps, conference and clinics, please visit:  
[central.edu/camps](http://central.edu/camps)





# ATHLETICS



Athletics camps led by Central's coaching staff focus on skills and fundamentals in sports, including baseball, boys basketball, girls basketball, cheerleading, dance, football, girls golf, boys soccer, girls soccer, softball, tennis, track and field, volleyball and wrestling.

For more information on athletics camp dates, contact and registration information: [athletics.central.edu/camps](https://athletics.central.edu/camps).





## Central College Honor Band Festival, Jan. 31

A Central College Honor Band composed of approximately 85 of the most advanced student musicians from high schools across the region spend a day in woodwind, brass and percussion ensemble rehearsals. That's followed by an evening concert performed by each ensemble, the entire Honor Band and the Central College Symphonic Wind Ensemble. This year's festival is led by Senior Lecturer of Music **Stan Dahl**.

## Singfest Honor Choir, Feb. 14

Similar in format to the Honor Band Festival, Singfest is an opportunity for selected students to participate in an extraordinary choral honor choir experience. The evening concert includes Central choirs, the Singfest choir and concludes with a combined selection. This year's festival is led by Assistant Professor of Music Education **Sarah Van Waardhuizen**.

## Iowa Days of Percussion, March 29 - 30

Sponsored by the Iowa Chapter of the Percussive Arts Society, this two-day festival is for percussionists at the middle school, high school and college and university level. It includes master classes and guest artists from around the country in drum set, mallets, world percussion, steel drum and marching. Concerts featuring all performers take place both days. The event is led by Senior Lecturer of Music **Stan Dahl**.

## Brass And Winds Camp, June 9 - 13

Attendees perform in ensembles and develop individual skills and techniques through master classes and lessons. Unique to the Central Winds and Brass Camp is the chance to explore, rehearse and perform on Caribbean steel drums. No prior experience necessary! Students also receive hands-on training in music notation and sequencing programs of Finale and Garage Band. The camp culminates with campers performing an evening ensemble concert in Historic Downtown Pella for "Thursdays in Pella." The camp is directed by Associate Professor of Music **Cynthia Krenzel**.

## High School Percussion Camp, June 9 - 13

Percussionists explore, perform and develop skills and techniques on mallet percussion (marimba, xylophone, vibes), concert percussion (snare drum, cymbals, tambourine, timpani, etc.), world hand drums (congas, djembes) and Caribbean steel drums. They receive hands-on training in music notation and sequencing programs Finale and Garage Band and experience a variety of percussion-related activities each evening. The camp culminates with campers performing an evening ensemble concert in Historic Downtown Pella for "Thursdays in Pella." The camp, *top right*, is directed by Senior Lecturer of Music **Stan Dahl**.



## All-State Clinic and Vocal Camp, Aug. 1-2

This two-day camp offers advanced high school vocal musicians sectionals and large group preparation for Iowa All-State music, private and group vocal technique instruction with guest clinicians, ear training and basic musicianship classes with professionals, opportunities for solo singing, a night on Central's campus with evening activities and an evening concert. The camp is led by M. Joan Kuyper Farver Endowed Chair in Music, Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities **Mark Babcock '91** and is open to both commuter and residential campers, *below*.

For more information on music camps and festivals:  
**641-628-5236 or [abeld@central.edu](mailto:abeld@central.edu).**

# SPORTS ANALYTICS

## Midwest Sports Analytics Camp, July 16 - 19

The four-day camp offers students currently in grades 8 - 10 the chance to develop math, stats and data skills through sports-related contexts. Campers will engage in experimental data collection (free-throw shooting), problem-solving (when a football coach should go for two?) and working on open-ended projects (such as creating a predictive model for March Madness). The camp runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day and cost is \$180. Transportation is available from Des Moines. The camp is coordinated by Professor of Mathematics and Assistant Women's Soccer Coach **Russ Goodman** and **Greg Kapusinski '07**, a math teacher and assistant girls track and field coach at Southeast Polk High School.

For more information: **[goodmanr@central.edu](mailto:goodmanr@central.edu) or [Gregory.Kapusinski@southeastpolk.org](mailto:Gregory.Kapusinski@southeastpolk.org)**



# SPORTS ANALYTICS (CONT.)

## Midwest Sports Analytics Meeting, Nov. 23

This day-long conference promotes faculty, graduate and undergraduate research in sports analytics. It includes guest speakers, poster presentations and networking opportunities for professionals, faculty and students of all levels and is coordinated by Professor of Mathematics and Assistant Women's Soccer Coach Russ Goodman.

For more information: **Twitter (@MWSprtAnalytics), facebook.com/MidwestSportsAnalyticsMeeting/, central.edu/msam, or email MWSportsAnalytics@central.edu.**



# SUSTAINABILITY

These week-long day camps for 8-12-year-olds each explore elements of sustainability using the resources of Central's faculty, students and facilities. Camps run from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., with transportation available from the Des Moines area. Registrants for all three camps get a discount. These camps are coordinated by Director of Sustainability Education **Brian Campbell**.

## Wild Iowa, July 15 - 19

This camp explores Iowa's rare and endangered species and the wild places around us. Campers venture to prairies and forests, wade in streams and marshes and spend an optional evening trying to catch endangered bats.

## Positive Energy, July 22 - 26

Campers learn about energy conservation and renewable energy through field trips to solar, wind and hydroelectric power facilities, plus make their own small-scale versions of each. Teams will compete to construct their own energy-efficient model homes as well.

## Fun with Food, July 29 - Aug. 2

Campers grow food in Central's campus garden, take field trips to meet local farmers, taste foods from around the world and cook healthy, delicious meals each day. The week culminates with a cooking competition pairing campers with professional staff from Central College Dining Services.

To register for the above sustainability camps, please visit: **central.edu/camps**

## ▲ CENTRAL'S NEW CAMP SITE

The college's new Garden Cottage dramatically enhances a variety of sustainability courses, camps and events by providing a much more efficient space for harvesting, preparing and eating fresh garden foods, says Director of Sustainability Education **Brian Campbell**.

The house at 1111 Peace St., just a block from the library and adjoining the college garden, began life in 1955 as a 1,200-square-foot ranch. The college bought it in 2011 and rented it to various tenants—many associated with the college.

The house recently has been renovated into a teaching space focused on food and sustainability, thanks to donations from **Mike '89 and Amy Dietrich Eilers '88** and son **Joe '18**; Professor of Political Science **Jim Zaffiro** and Professor Emerita of Chemistry **Louise Zaffiro**; the Wellmark Foundation; and the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation.

The remodeling removed walls to create a large, open kitchen that spans the entire first floor. It also installed new insulation, interior surfaces, lighting, appliances and ADA accessible bathrooms and entry ramp. The work was finished in October.

The Garden Cottage already has hosted workshops, classes and education programs in sports nutrition, beer brewing and sustainable food education. Two college courses have been taught there: "Behind Bars: Revealing Chocolate's Bitter Sweetness," in which students make their own chocolate while exploring sustainability issues related to the confection and "Food for Thought," a Liberal Arts and Sciences seminar exploring healthy foods.

The cottage is now the location for the Fun With Food summer camp, *above*, which introduces gardening, cooking and nutrition to 8 - 12-year-olds. It also will help host the Iowa Farm to School Conference in summer 2019 for public school K - 12 cafeteria staff who seek to use fresh produce and seasonal ingredients.





## NONCOLLEGE CAMPS AND CONFERENCES

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In addition to college-sponsored events, Central's campus hosts summer camps run by these organizations:

**Central Iowa Color Guard Camp** is Iowa's longest-running camp of its kind, having specialized in flag, rifle and drum-major instruction for nearly 40 years.

For more information: [centraliowacolorguard.com](http://centraliowacolorguard.com)

**Fellowship of Christian Athletes** has challenged athletes and coaches to reach their potential through comprehensive athletic, spiritual and leadership training.

For more information: [fcacamps.org](http://fcacamps.org)

**Business Horizons**, July 14 - 18, is a weeklong program in which Iowa high school students work together and alongside Iowa professionals to create a product, develop a business and marketing strategy, film an infomercial and pitch their idea to a panel of investors. Students visit local businesses and connect with professionals in a variety of industries and can earn college credit and a \$1,500 renewable scholarship to Central College.

For more information: [iowaabi.org/business-horizons/](http://iowaabi.org/business-horizons/)

**Little Hawkeye Math Conference**, April 10, invites students from the Conference to Central for a math-filled morning. Conference schools may send up to 16 students to compete individually, by grade level, and as a school. Students work individually on a challenging exam that spans different mathematical areas. Next, while Central students and professors score the exams and determine awards, schools form two teams of eight students and compete in a math relay. For this event, students pass the solution to a mathematics question to the next student; this solution then becomes part of the next problem to solve. Students are then introduced to a new math puzzle or game which they work on until awards are announced.

For more information, contact Professor of Mathematics **Wendy Weber**, [weberw@central.edu](mailto:weberw@central.edu).

**National History Day** is a nationwide competition; hundreds of students grades six through 12 visit Central each spring to present their projects in the form of a research paper, documentary, website, performance or an exhibit about a person they believe represents leadership and legacy. Projects address a conference theme which changes each year. Central faculty, staff, students, retirees, alumni and members of the Pella community judge the projects. The top two winners from each category advance to the state competition; the top two from state continue to the national competition.

For more information: [nhd.org](http://nhd.org)



## NEWSNOTES

## THE '40s

**Dora Boomstra '48** of South Holland, Illinois, served 40 years as a missionary in India before her retirement 25 years ago. She has fond memories of classmates and enjoys learning about student activities and campus events via college publications.

**Carl Vogelaar '48** of Santa Rosa, California, lost his wife, **Joan Ver Meer Vogelaar '48**, of 70 years in August. Carl hasn't let his 93 years stop him from driving, taking care of his finances or leading a weekly Bible study. According to Carl, "The Lord is good."

## THE '50s

**Allen Wortman '57** is Professor Emeritus of Music at Minnesota State University. In November, Allen completed eight performances as music director for "The Happy Elf" by Harry Connick Jr. at Minnesota State. It was his 70th MSU theatre production. Allen and wife, Bette, live in Mankato, Minnesota.

## THE '70s

For information about **Linda Anderson Gause '71** and **Jeff Oliver '79**, see the '10s. For information about **Harry Smith '73**, see the '80s and '90s.

**Curry Pikkaart '71**, a retired minister, has released his third book, "A Nation Under God: Reflections from Jeremiah." To order his books: [www.pastorcurry.com](http://www.pastorcurry.com). He and wife, Barbara, live in South Haven, Michigan.



CLASS OF '78 PARIS REUNION

▲ From left to right with **Harry K. Smith '73**: **Vicki Vanderbur Gallagher**, **Lynn Haley Jackson**, **Michele Holtz Mueller**, **Lynn McGreevey Patterson**, **Mary Dubberke**, **Melinda Gibb Thompson**, **Mary Long Gallo**, **Sandi Dather Agnew** and **Bernadette Allen**.

**Warren Poldberg '74** retired Jan. 11 from the Raccoon Valley Bank, Adel, Iowa. He had also worked at State Bank and Trust in Council Bluffs, Iowa, First Federal Savings and Loan of Council Bluffs and the National Bank in Harlan, Iowa, during his 45-year career. Warren and wife, Connie, plan to move back to the Omaha, Nebraska, area.

**Kathleen Smith Boswell '75** has, after many years of collecting anything written about Laura Ingalls Wilder, created a first-person presentation as Laura in 1947. The program runs just more than an hour and addresses why Laura began writing the "Little House" books at age 60.

Her first performances were in central Missouri and Northeast Kansas, but she is willing to travel. To contact her: [boswell@iland.net](mailto:boswell@iland.net).

**Kathy Gervasi '75** was re-elected to and chairs the Tillamook Bay Community College board of directors. She also was appointed AAUW STEM coordinator for the State of Oregon. Kathy and husband, Mark, are retired and living in Tallamook, Oregon.

**Dennis Groenenboom '75**, a 1978 graduate of the University of Iowa College of Law, was recognized with that school's Alumni Service Award in October. The award recognized his 40-year career providing

legal services to low-income Iowans. During the past 25 years, Dennis has served as executive director of the program for all 99 counties in Iowa. Dennis and partner, Scott Hartsock, live in Des Moines, Iowa.

**Sandra Hildebrand James '75** is a substitute teacher at Puyallup Senior High School in Puyallup, Washington, where she lives with husband, **Doug James '78**. Doug teaches special education for the Tacoma Public School District in Tacoma, Washington.

**Earl Cater '77** is a self-employed author and researcher in Waterville, Washington, where he lives with wife, Erma.



## THE '80s

For information about **Jeff Rosien '80**, **Tony Braida '89** and **Amy Pierson Van Haaften '89**, see the '10s.

**Jim Langstraat '81** was named vice president for finance and administration, Pacific University, Forest Grove, Oregon. Jim and wife, Lisa, live in Lafayette, Oregon.

**Barry Edwards '83**, a 30-year bank veteran, is senior vice president and commercial relationship manager at Independent Bank, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Barry and wife, Michelle, live in Colorado Springs.

**Ben Leedle Jr. '83** is president, chief executive officer and member of the board of managers at Blue Zones LLC in Nashville, Tennessee. Ben and wife, Liz, live in Nashville.

**Jim Schmid '83** owns and operates Papas Pies Catering in Wentzville, Missouri. Jim and wife, **Sarah Prins Schmid '83**, live in Wentzville.

**Renee Becht Cooper '84** retired in May after teaching middle school art for 34 years. Renee spent the past 29 of her teaching career in Urbana, Illinois, where she lives with husband, Michael.

**Todd McDonald '85** is a guidance counselor at MOC-Floyd Valley High School in Orange City, Iowa. Todd and wife, **Kristin Kluis McDonald '88**, live in Orange City. Kristin is a Spanish instructor at Northwestern College.



▲ **Leslie Blecken Hanson '94** accompanied her husband, Eric, to the National Edward R. Murrow Gala, where Eric was presented the Television Small Market Writing award by **Harry Smith '73**. The Hansons discussed their shared connections with Smith, including Central. Leslie is a Realtor, Iowa Realty Company, West Des Moines, Iowa.

**Aricia "Pati" Henderson Shaffer '86** is an author and counselor in Westminster, Colorado. Her debut novel "The Timeshare" was published in September. The psychological thriller focuses on trauma and addictions. To read a free sample chapter: [www.booksbyari.com](http://www.booksbyari.com).

**Bradley Eggers '87** is director of operations, Eurofins Nutrition Analysis Center, Des Moines, Iowa. Brad and wife, Janice, live in Ankeny, Iowa.

**Joel Alberts '88** is client adviser, Cresset Family Office, Excelsior, Minnesota, where he lives with wife, **Brenda Glasnapp Alberts '88**. Brenda is president/CEO of Albert's Tutoring in Excelsior. Joel and Brenda have two children.

**Tony Huegel '88** is senior asset manager, LCS Real Estate, Des Moines, Iowa. Tony and wife, Debra, live in Grimes, Iowa.

## THE '90s

For information about **Julie Pothoven Fisher '90** and **Deanna Ver Steeg '94**, see the '10s.

**Tammy Williamson Chase '90** was named director of communications, Chicago Transit Authority. She will lead communications and community outreach efforts for the CTA's largest project to date: rebuilding the red and purple lines on Chicago's north side, including all stations and century-old track structure. Tammy and husband, Brett, live in Chicago.

**Alan Grau '91** and Jodie Stewart of Ankeny, Iowa, married Sept. 9. Alan is president of Icon Labs in West Des Moines, Iowa.

**David Weaver '92** worked as a librarian at Augustana and Grinnell colleges before he gave it up to become a full-time farmer on land his grandparents once farmed outside of Rippey, Iowa. Dave and wife, Emily, live in Rippey with their daughter.

**Michael Schaeffer '93** is a product analyst at Finastra. Michael and wife, **Allison Riley Schaeffer '93**, live in Ankeny, Iowa, with their two children. Allison is business systems consultant, Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Des Moines, Iowa.



**Angie Leonard Morrow '94** is director of collections and exhibitions, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago. Angie had the opportunity to host a group from Central at the museum when the Economics and Accounting Club paid a visit to Chicago. Angie and husband, Mike, live in Chicago with their two children. Previously, Angie worked as chief registrar and head of collections registration at The Field Museum.

**Nicole Hampton '95** is a sales service representative, Stanley Black and Decker, Inc., West Des Moines, Iowa.

**Christopher Stone '96** is director, disability resource center, at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington. Chris was elected to a three-year term as director-at-large of the Association on Higher Education and Disability board. He is treasurer, North Carolina AHEAD affiliate and chair, sponsored programs, ACPA Coalition on Disability. Chris and wife, Claire, live in Wilmington. Together they are active with the Coastal Carolina St. Bernard Rescue Foundation.

**Kevin Thompson '98** is chief administrative officer, Pinnacle Performance Group. Kevin and wife, Rebecca, live in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, with their three children.

**Kaci KlenkVanDalen '98** is a bio-risk health specialist, National Institutes of Health, Rockville, Maryland. Kaci and husband, Scott, live in Silver Spring, Maryland, with their two daughters.

**Erin Pierce Nardo '99** was promoted to vice president, portfolio management, SAP Concur. Erin and husband, Adam, live in Mound, Minnesota, with their recently adopted 16-year-old daughter.

## THE '00s

For information about **Laura Bade '09**, see the '10s.

**Jeremy Hendricks '02** is senior data modeler, Emerson Process Management, Marshalltown, Iowa. Jeremy and wife, Amy, live in Marshalltown.

**Christopher Kuchta '02** of Chicago was named director of athletics, Prairie State College, Chicago Heights, Illinois.

**Will Owens '02** works in customer service and delivery logistics at Windmill Coffee Roasters. Will and wife, **Jessica Criswell Owens '02**, live in Ames, Iowa, with their three children.

**Patrick Sawyer '02** is recreation coordinator, Trustmark Health Fitness, Georgetown, Kentucky. Patrick and wife, Ashley, live in Richmond, Kentucky, with their three children.

**Gary Christensen '03** is a pharmacist at Hy-Vee, Inc., Des Moines, Iowa. Gary and wife, Lisa, live in Des Moines with their three children.

**Aaron DeKock '03** was elected to the Warren County board of supervisors in November. Aaron and wife, **Sarah Wagner DeKock '04**, live in Norwalk, Iowa, with their three daughters. Sarah is director, account services, Flynn Wright, Des Moines, Iowa. Aaron is a general practice lawyer at Wagner Law Firm.

**Jill Figgins-Burns '03** of Waukee, Iowa, is executive assistant, Navigate Wellbeing Solutions, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Angie Reschly Klobberdanz '03** was promoted to operational risk consultant at Wells Fargo Home Mortgage in Des Moines, Iowa. Angie and husband, Matt, live in Des Moines.

**Angela Vander Werf Kruse '03** was promoted to vice president, community outreach, Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Des Moines, Iowa. Angela and husband, Adam, live in West Des Moines, Iowa, with their daughter.

**Jill Parsons Payne '04** was named one of three state finalists in the science category of the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. She teaches fifth grade at Jefferson Intermediate School in Pella, Iowa. Jill and husband, Joshua, live in Pella with their two children.

**Renae Boeke '06** is marketing project manager, Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Service, Chicago, Illinois.

**Angela Long Hall '06** is a childbirth educator, Mercy Medical Center, Des Moines, Iowa, and a contract reviewer of admission application files, Marian University, Indianapolis. Angela and husband, Joel, live in Ankeny, Iowa.

**Dustin Hite '06** was elected to the Iowa House of Representatives District 79 in November. **Dustin and wife, Kate Jackson Hite '04**, live in New Sharon, Iowa, with their two daughters. Kate teaches English at North Mahaska High School.

**Curt Hunt '06** is diagnostic imaging field service engineer, GE Healthcare. Curt was selected as a health services maintenance warrant officer and finished first in his warrant officer basic course. Curt and wife, **Alyssa Jones Hunt '08**, live in Shawnee, Kansas, with their two daughters.



▲ **Haileigh Meyers '07** and Andrew Dunn of Austin, Texas, married Oct. 26, 2018. Haileigh is trade and investment officer, UK Department of International Trade. Attending the wedding are, *left to right*: **Bethany Gullion Djordjevic '07**, **Brittney Hansen Fuchs '07**, Andrew Dunn, **Haileigh Meyers '07**, **Sasha Djordjevic Fuerstenberg '08**, **Kyle Fuerstenberg '08**, **Sheri Hawker Petersen '07** and **Ryan Petersen '07**.



**Brooke Nederhoff O'Kane '07** is implementation consultant, wealth and management, Wells Fargo. Brooke and husband, **Paul O'Kane '10**, live in Ackley, Iowa, with their four children. Paul is a dentist and co-owner at Iowa Falls Family Dentistry.

**Trenton Blythe '08** is vice president, business development, Integrus Construction, Naperville, Illinois. Trenton and wife, Jessie, live in Chicago, Illinois, with their son.

**Maria Schumacher Hackett '08** is senior relationship manager, Gilbert and Cook, Des Moines, Iowa. Maria and husband, Damion, live in Ankeny, Iowa.

**Shelley DeWeerd Kallenbach '08** and husband, Jonathan live in Manchester, Iowa. In January, they purchased Widner Drug and Gift Store, an independent pharmacy and gift shop.

**Scott Paja '08** is assistant dean, experiential learning and employer relations, College of Engineering, Oregon State University. Scott and wife, Brittany, live in Philomath, Oregon.

**Joshua Smith '08** is senior internal audit manager at Pella Corporation, Pella, Iowa. Joshua and wife, Erika, live in Pella with their daughter.

### THE '10s

For information about **Paul O'Kane '10**, see the '00s.

For information about **Faith Bliss '10**, **Robert Kreiser '12**, **Jacob Stevenson '13**, **Morgan Gray Kreiser '14**, **Taylor Cox '16**, **Trisha Smith '16**, **Josh Carpenter '17**,



▲ **Alyssa Fuller '14** and **Matthew Schrafel '14** of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, married April 8, 2018. Alyssa works as a special education paraprofessional, Cedar Rapids Community School District and Matthew is a sales support specialist, Stamats Communications. Wedding participants included, *left to right*: **Samantha Mitchell Vance '13**, **Jordan Roseburrough Kruger '14**, Ashtyn Fuller, **Alyssa Fuller Schrafel '14**, **Anna Leavenworth '13**, **Amber Muntz '14** and **Kate Ricke '14**.

**Jeff Knouse '17**, **Logan Moeller '17**, **Noah Stochl '17**, **Austin Little '17**, **Zach Brown '17**, **Jake Hirst '17**, **Blake Judkins '17**, **Hunter Caspers '17**, **Dalton Hulme '17**, **Michael Reuter '17**, **Cade Harvey '17**, **Joe Kotz '17** and **Jessie Peterson '17**, see Class of 2018, Where Are They Now?

**Kyle Michel '10** has been named the city administrator, Van Meter, Iowa. During graduate school, Kyle served as an intern for the City of Van Meter and is excited to come back to the community. Previously, Kyle was the city clerk, Elkhart, Iowa, where he assisted the city in receiving the 2018 Program of the Year Award. He has served in the military for more than eight years in the Army, Iowa Army National Guard and Army Reserves. He continues to serve with the 103rd ESC as a medical services officer, Fort Des Moines, Iowa.

**Katie Papke '10** of Minneapolis, Minnesota, is program manager, office of study abroad, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul.

**Evan Stark '10** is special projects manager, Operation New View, Dubuque, Iowa. Evan and wife, Jessica, live in East Dubuque, Illinois.

**Melissa DeRuiter Carlson '11** of Malvern, Iowa, works for EMC Insurance, Omaha, Nebraska. Melissa and husband, Dustin, live in Malvern.

**Beatriz Mate-Kodjo '11** of Pella, Iowa, is an attorney with Newkirk Zwagerman, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Tyler Wallingford '11** is an associate dentist, Clay & Associates, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

**Allison Kolker '13** of Ankeny, Iowa, is assistant scientist I, Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, Ames, Iowa.

**Ian Michel '13** is foreman and climbing and consulting arborist at Slater Diederich Tree Care. Ian and wife, Kathryn, live in Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin.

**Jeana Newendorp Parker '13** is a work-from-home reporting consultant at SAP Concur. Jeana and husband, **Sam Parker '13**, returned from two weeks in Amsterdam and Barcelona before welcoming a puppy into their new home in Baltimore, Maryland. Sam is a strategy manager at Tessco Technologies.

**Melissa Shadlow '13** of Guthrie Center, Iowa, is a financial adviser, Edward Jones Investments, Panora, Iowa.

**Joseph Binns '14** is assistant actuary, Principal International, Des Moines, Iowa. Joe and wife, **Rhiley Huntington Binns '13**, live in Des Moines. Rhiley works as a doula.



**Anna Dickerson '14** of Des Moines, Iowa, is a business support associate, Wells Fargo.

**Steven Grotzinger '14** is associate actuary, EquiTrust Life Insurance Company, West Des Moines, Iowa. Steven and wife, **Katelyn Dawson Grotzinger '14**, live in Clive, Iowa. Katelyn teaches pre-school at Shepherds Flock Early Learning Center in West Des Moines, Iowa.

**Rachel Lehr '14** of Chicago, Illinois, is a clinician, Association House of Chicago. Rachel provides transition/supportive services and therapy to out-going patients out of psychiatric nursing homes into the community.

**Meghan Nelson '14** of Aurora, Colorado, is president of Mammoth Marketing, Aurora and hosts the podcast "Expectations versus Reality" which focuses on what she and other business leaders from across the country have noticed about the millennial thought process.

**Ashley Ramker Rosas '14** is a primary mental health nurse practitioner, Vera French Community Mental Health Center, Davenport, Iowa. Ashley and husband, Austen, live in Davenport with their daughter.

**Blaze Smith '14** has returned to Honolulu after a brief stint in Florida. He is CEO and owner, Green Feet Hawaii Tours. For more information about his tours: [www.greenfeethawaiitours.com](http://www.greenfeethawaiitours.com).

**Mackenzie Uhlenhopp '14** of St. Louis Park, Minnesota, is music therapist, Living Spirit Therapy Services, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**Torie Hollingsworth '15** of Fairfield, Iowa, is the customer service representative, Overland Sheepskin.



▲ **Carly Stratbucker '14** and Kale Rodrigues of Malta, New York, married Sept. 8, 2018. Carly is district sales manager, Northeast region, Pella Corp. Participants in her wedding included, left to right: **Alexis Andrews '14**, **Yaw Sapon-Amoah '15**, **Megan Flynn Sapon-Amoah '15**, **John Seier '14**, **Crystal Spoor Seier '14**, **Jessy Stika '14**, **Carly Stratbucker Rodrigues '14**, **Kale Rodrigues**, **Brandon Bautista '14**, **Karen Castillo Eversmeyer '13**, **Courtney Kelderman Wessels '14**, **Hilary Beaird '14** and **Ali Neevel '14**.

**Hillary Hotz '15** of Lincoln, Nebraska, is graduate programs recruitment coordinator, College of Business, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Lexus Waymire Thiessen '15** teaches kindergarten through fifth grade music, Carlisle Community School District, Carlisle, Iowa. Lexus and husband, **Nathan Thiessen '15**, live in West Des Moines, Iowa. Nathan is a music academy instructor at Central College.

**Miranda Ebeling '16** and Logen Conklin of Muscatine, Iowa, married Sept. 15. Miranda is an athletic trainer, Rock Valley Physical Therapy.

**Susan Elder '16** of West Des Moines, Iowa, is a human resources generalist, Strategic America.



▲ **Heidi Heckenberg '16** and Andrew Gossen of Birmingham, England, married April 28, 2018. Heidi is an art therapist, ReachAcross, Birmingham.

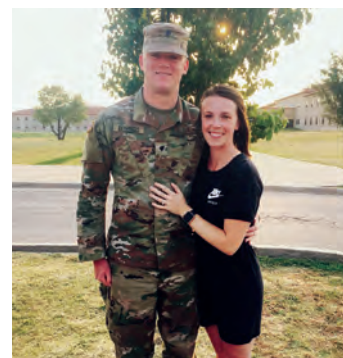




▲ **Rachel Evans '15** and **Drew Kleis '15** of West Des Moines, Iowa, married Aug. 4, 2018.

Rachel and Drew are certified athletic trainers, Des Moines Orthopaedic Surgeons, West Des Moines. Participants in the wedding included, *front row (left to right):*

**Spencer Boeyink '16, Lauren Sharp '15, Dzenita Bahtic '16, Heath Jackson '15** and **McKenna Zimmerman '15**. *Second row: Alex Kleis Rosien '12, Drew Kleis '15, Rachel Evans Kleis '15, Abbie Agan '17, Michael Daigle '15, Jameson Rosien '11* and **Jeff Rosien '80**. *Third row: Keith Rush '13, Kalli Richardson Rush '15, Ryan Collins '15, Brendon Boerm '15, Kenzie Vander Molen '15, Jess Helton '18* and **Cael Halfman '16**. *Fourth row: Mitch Boerm '17, Leah Hilpipre Johnson '15, Jill Schildroth Collins '15, Annie DeVries '17, Emily Neff '17, Alison Malaby '18, Rachel Cassens '15* and **Savanna Thornton Janssen '17**. *Fifth row: Ryon Rasmussen '15, Sara Eeling Clubb '15, Courtney Allen '15, Eric Larson '15, Jackie Kriegel '18, Courtney Kelderman Wessels '14, Hilary Beaird '14* and **Julie Wunder Evans '14**. *Sixth row: Todd "Tator" Clubb '16, Hannah Welter Curry '15, Trevor Curry '15, Katie Sunderman Rich '16, Christian Rich '13* and **Hayley Mullins '15**. *Seventh row: Molly Neil Meeker '15, Brayton Meeker '15, Kyle Smith '18, Tina Lane '18, Betty Bylsma DeBoer '62* and **Kay Vermeer Van Wyk '85**. *Eighth row: Jill Van Zee VandeWeerd '91, Sam VandeWeerd '86, Andrea Fish Rouw '89, Darwin Rouw '87, Matt Guinane '15, Andrea Enyart Dana '03, Erica Schulte Guinane '16, Aaron Eiseler '15, Dawn DeBoer Kleis '86, Gene DeBoer '62, Mike Kleis '86, Lyle Van Wyk '84, Jacob Tune '15, Frank Neu '91, Shelli Green '07, Stacey Profit Neu '92* and **Brody Janssen '15**.



▲ **Gen Richards '16** and **Mark Richards '16** were married April 14, 2018. They are stationed in South Korea for a two-year tour. Mark is an army specialist, air defense artillery. Gen and Mark thank Central College for their wonderful study abroad experience which allowed them to explore Wales. They are excited to experience a different part of the world and a new culture.

**Andrew Fritz '16** is an athletic trainer, Regents Center Training Room, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa.

**Samantha Claypool '17** of Altoona, Iowa, is a venue associate at the Des Moines Social Club in Des Moines, Iowa.

**Jaime Miranda '17** is a transportation specialist, United States Marines, Arlington, Virginia.

**Kyle Pepper '17** of Pella, Iowa, is an admission representative at Central College.

**Colby Taylor '17** of West Des Moines, Iowa, is an investment and product solutions specialist, Principal Financial Group, Des Moines, Iowa.





▲ **Madison Gause '16** and **Nelson Wiese '16** of North Liberty, Iowa, married July 28, 2018. Madison is attending University of Iowa College of Law and Nelson is systems engineer, Rockwell Collins, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Participants in the wedding included, *first row, left to right: Matt Van Sant '16, Ian McNees '16, Jeremy Caracci '18, Nelson Wiese '16, Josh Prokupek '18, Madison Gause Wiese '16, Brittany Carlson '16, Laura Bade '09, Jacqueline Hauber Hale '13 and Adam Hale '12. Second row: Dann Kuttler '16, Beth De Vries '18, Nathan Thiessen '15, Lexus Waymire Thiessen '15, Betsy Van Haaften '17, Keri Murphy '17, Caitlyn Conway '18 and Kari Grindberg '18. Third row: Kjerstin Grindberg '17, Jen Kern '19, Evan Fischer '16, Trevor Rau '17, Ashley Hulsing Kriegel '15, Nick Lutsch '15, Heath Jackson '15, Kirsten Johnson '16 and Katie Todd '16. Fourth row: Tristan Miedema '18, Deanna Ver Steeg '94, Julie Pothoven Fisher '90, Ashley Cliff '16, Jane McKown '17, Tony Braida '89, Mark Babcock '91, Sarah Holtz Young '16, and Amy Pierson Van Haaften '89. Fifth row: Jeff Oliver '79, Susan Elder '16, Linda Anderson Gause '71, Eric Gause '91, Sara Eeling Clubb '15 and Todd Clubb '16.*



◀ **Emma Simmons '17** and **Josh Curtis '16** of Altoona, Iowa, married Sept. 8, 2018, in Davenport, Iowa. The couple met in Paris while studying abroad. Emma is a Vista volunteer coordinator with AmeriCorps. Participants in the wedding included, *front row left to right: Brandie Heims '17, Irene Nickerson '17 and Stephanie Clark '17. Back row: Gordon Atkinson '17, Josh Villalobos '16, Josh Curtis '16, Emma Simmons-Curtis '17, Zach Steward '17, Andrew Buenger '16 and Kaitlyn Damerval '17.*



## NEW ARRIVALS

**Kelly and Ryan Konrad '97**, son Cyrus James, Dec. 8, 2017.

Frank McCawley and **Daniela Grob '00**, daughter Maria Francis, Sept. 24, 2018.

Brian Baker and **Michelle Roozeboom-Baker '00**, son Easton Blake, Nov. 28, 2018.

Laura and **Denise Barnard '02**, son Daniel Jay, Sept. 27, 2018.

Nic and **Abby Gonzales Larson '02**, son Wesley James, Nov. 23, 2018.

Adam and **Angela Vander Werf Kruse '03**, daughter Ava Grace, Oct. 18, 2018.

Tyler and **Sarah Williams Christian '05**, daughter Caroline Hope, Sept. 6, 2018.

Todd and **Mandy Bahr Lauderbaugh '05**, daughter Naomi Joy, Aug. 31, 2018.

**Curt '06** and **Alyssa Jones Hunt '08**, daughter Cecilia Ethel, Sept. 21, 2018.

Stephanie and **Ben Bollard '07**, daughter Jordan Marie, Nov. 2, 2018.

Jessie and **Trenton Blythe '08**, son Stetson James, Nov. 5, 2018.

Cody DeWitt and **Katie Petty '08**, son Grayson Adam, May 31, 2018.

**Austen '08** and **Ashley Lippincott Schueler '10**, daughter Ada Rose, Nov. 1, 2018.

Erika and **Josh Smith '08**, daughter Elise Emily, June 30, 2017.

Greg and **Sara Mouw O'Brien '10**, daughter Jillian Mae, Oct. 14, 2018.

**Paul '10** and **Brooke Nederhoff O'Kane '07**, son Carson Dean, May 24, 2018.

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

**Austen and Ashley Ramker Rosas '14**, daughter Ruby Ruthanne, July 1, 2017.

Richard and **Libby Larson Russell '14**, son Henry David, Jan. 27, 2018.

## ADVANCED DEGREES

**Kaci Klenk VanDalen '98**, master of science, microbiology, Auburn University, 2001.

**Gary Christensen '03**, doctor of pharmacy, University of Iowa, 2009.

**Arza Hammond '10**, master's degree, environmental studies, University of Montana, 2015.

**Evan Stark '10**, master of divinity, University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, 2014.

**Peter Fegley '11**, master of strategic leadership, Mount Mercy University, 2018.

**Tyler Wallingford '11**, master of science, clinical anatomy, summa cum laude, Creighton University, 2013. Doctor of dental surgery, University of Iowa School of Dentistry, 2017.

**Libby Larson Russell '14**, master of arts, education, Morningside College, 2017.

**Lucas Hamilton '16**, master of arts, psychology, Cleveland State University, 2018.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Janet Klyn Beving '41**, Camarillo, California, Nov. 4, 2018.

**Mildred Ardapple Slickers '45**, West Lafayette, Indiana, Nov. 7, 2018.

**Gene Wormhoudt '47**, Pella, Iowa, Oct. 10.

**Joan Ver Meer Vogelaar '48**, Santa Rosa, California, Aug. 19, 2018.

**Bill Peters '49**, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Sept. 26, 2018.

**I. John Hesselink '50**, Holland, Michigan, Oct. 28, 2018.

**Luella Rozeboom Mulder '51**, Holland, Michigan, Sept. 23, 2018.

**Robert Gibson '52**, Sonora, California, Oct. 17, 2018.

**Jen Noordsy Andeweg '54**, Pella, Iowa, Nov. 26, 2018.

**John Timmer '54**, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Nov. 5, 2018.

**Elisabeth Kempkes Van Horn '54**, Salem, Virginia, Oct. 16, 2018.

**Arvin De Cook '57**, Urbandale, Iowa, Nov. 8, 2018.

**Verla Harmelink Tagliabue '59**, Rutherford, New Jersey, Sept. 15, 2018.

**Dirk Van Gorp '62**, Oskaloosa, Iowa, Oct. 5, 2018.

**Tommi Hay Boeder '74**, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Oct. 26, 2018.

**Dan Oppermann '74**, Fayetteville, North Carolina, Aug. 13, 2018.

**Dan Elwood '75**, Estherville, Iowa, Oct. 8, 2018.

## TELL US YOUR NEWS!

Alumni are invited to submit Newsnotes online. We want to hear about recent promotions, degrees, honors, relocations, marriages and births to keep classmates and friends informed about important changes in your life. Update information online at [civitas.central.edu](http://civitas.central.edu), [www.central.edu/alumni-update](http://www.central.edu/alumni-update) or email [alumni@central.edu](mailto:alumni@central.edu). News items also are welcome by phone, 800-447-0287 or 641-628-5154. Or send a note to Central College Alumni Office, 812 University St., Campus Box 5200, Pella, IA 50219.



## CENTRAL COLLEGE RECEIVES \$1M+ GIFT FROM ALUMNUS ESTATE

Wallace Spencer Stepenske '64 may be one of the stealthiest major donors in the college's history.

"The college is fortunate to have many generous benefactors who remember Central in their estate plans. Most choose to discuss their bequest with the college in advance," says **Sunny Gonzales Eighthmy '99**, vice president for advancement.

But last summer, Central leaders got a million-dollar surprise in the form of a call from Stepenske's attorney saying the alumnus had dedicated much of his estate to the college. Checks totaling \$1,031,713 followed.

"To say we're incredibly grateful may be the understatement of our year," Eighthmy says. "His generosity will live on through Central students, many of whom wouldn't have access to a Central education without the support of generous donors like Stepenske."

"We'd had conversations with him over the years," Eighthmy adds. "In 2007 we learned Central would be a beneficiary of his estate. But we had no idea the extent of his generosity."

Stepenske's gift was unrestricted, allowing the college to apply it wherever it will do the most good with guidance from the Board of Trustees.

The gift is quite in character for Stepenske, according to his longtime friend Richard Lindahl.

"He had a big heart," Lindahl says. "He loved Central College and talked about his time there often."

According to Lindahl,



Wallace Spencer Stepenske '64

Stepenske—"Spencer" to his friends—was born Jan. 14, 1943, to Walter Paul Stepenske and Dena Vanderwall Stepenske in Denver. He graduated from Denver South High School in 1960.

College records show Stepenske received a bachelor's degree with majors in business and economics from Central in 1964. His campus activities included participation in the Championship Current Affairs Quiz, serving as business manager for Homecoming and for The Pelican, the college's yearbook.

Following graduation he

returned to Denver to work in the banking industry. Years later he enrolled in graduate school at the University of Arizona to study geography.

From there he headed to California and pursued a new profession. He taught for 30 years in the California College Systems. He retired in 2000 to an active adult community in a six-story high-rise condo near Denver with spectacular views of the Rocky Mountains.

"While he did not profess to be a professional artist, that's where his heart was and he spent long hours creating works of art in his studio," Lindahl

says. "Every year at Christmas he would decorate the lobbies. His Christmas trees were award-winning and truly works of art."

According to Lindahl, Stepenske also had a quirky sense of humor and a flair for the unexpected that may have influenced his under-the-radar donation. "You never knew what was going to come out of his mouth, but everyone loved him," Lindahl says.

Stepenske died April 9, 2018.



# 2018: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

It's less than a year since they graduated, but members of Central's Class of 2018 are already making their mark in the world.

**Steven Adkins** is a graduate student, sports administration and coaching, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley.

**Tyler Alessio** worked as head organizer, Southeast Iowa, Fred Hubbell for Governor Campaign.

**Chase Allen** is a graduate student in pharmacy, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora.

**Bailey Anderson** is a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**Rachelle Annen** teaches second grade at Cactus Wren Elementary School, Washington Elementary School District, Glendale, Arizona.

**Cory Archer** teaches physical education and coaches at Red Oak Community Schools, Red Oak, Iowa.

**Rachael Barnette** is a graduate student in occupational therapy, Creighton University Omaha, Nebraska.

**Christopher Beaubien** is a client service associate, RBC Wealth Management, Kansas City, Missouri.

**Tristyn Bianchi** is a business annuity associate, MetLife, Des Moines, Iowa.

**James Black** is manager trainee, Enterprise Holdings, Johnston, Iowa.

**Garrett Blythe** works in marketing for Heritage Lace Inc., Pella, Iowa.

**Mahogani Boeteaches** teaches English for the Peace Corps in Indonesia.

**Nathan Boertje** is a library reference assistant, Central College, Pella, Iowa.

**Trashawn Boyd** is a management trainee, Enterprise Holdings, Johnston, Iowa.

**Michala Brand and Taylor Cox '16** of Iowa City, Iowa, married Aug. 17. They are attending the University of Iowa, where Michala is a graduate student in educational psychology and Taylor is a graduate student in medicine.

**Kaci Braner** is a graduate student, veterinary medicine, University of Missouri-Columbia.

**Lewis Braster** is a graduate student in medicine, Des Moines University, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Taylor Broshar** is a language and culture assistant in Spain.

**Corey Broxson** is a pricing analyst, Farm Bureau Financial Services, West Des Moines, Iowa.

**Maegan Bruene** is a graduate student, University of Iowa College of Nursing, University of Iowa, Iowa City.

**Joshua Brunk** is a graduate student, occupational therapy, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri.

**Jordan Bryne** is attending Bangor University, Bangor, Wales.

**Zachary Butters** is a chemist at Barton Solvents, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Andy Butts** serves with the United States Navy.

**Elisa Callejon** is the human resource coordinator at Schreiber Foods, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

**Jeremy Caracci** teaches social studies at Valley High School, West Des Moines, Iowa.

**P.J. Carey** is a food and beverage intern, Hyperion Field Club, Johnston, Iowa.

**Hunter Caspers** teaches third grade for the Ankeny Community School District, Ankeny, Iowa.

**Jessie Cassens** teaches second grade for the Ankeny Community School District, Ankeny, Iowa.

**Brandon Charls** is Pella Northland project manager, Pella Corp., Pella, Iowa.

**Melissa Charlton and Josh Carpenter '17** of Des Moines, Iowa, married July 14.

**Austin Chipps** is a graduate student, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas.

**Tyler Christensen** teaches fourth grade for Audubon Community Schools, Audubon, Iowa.

**Tim Christudoss** is a financial systems analyst, EMC Insurance, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Benjamin Clark** is a technical recruiter, Apex Systems, Ladson, South Carolina.

**Connor Claypool** is a credit analyst, Cedar Rapids Bank and Trust, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

**Charles Cliff** is department manager at Pella Corp., Pella, Iowa.

**Michael Collins** is a service adviser, Bowling Motors, Ottumwa, Iowa.

**Kathy Connolly** is in the marketing department, Mercer Consumer, Urbandale, Iowa.

**Caitlyn Conway** is a campus staff intern, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship and reading aid, Pella Christian Grade School, Pella, Iowa.

**John Courtney** is a material handler, Vermeer Corp., Pella, Iowa.

**Christopher Culek** is a graduate student, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa.

**James Cunningham** is IT contractor, TransAmerica, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

**Taylor Dahlberg** is a theatre practitioner in Des Moines, Iowa.

**Trent Dailey** is a personal computer technician, Ecolab, Eagan, Minnesota.



**Shelby Dash** is a graduate student in nursing, University of Arkansas in Little Rock, Arkansas.

**Paul DeHart** is a commercial lines underwriter, IMT Insurance, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Luke DenAdel** is employed at MJ Properties, Ankeny, Iowa.

**Annie DeVries** is a graduate student in pharmacy, University of Iowa, Iowa City.

**Elizabeth DeVries** teaches kindergarten through fifth grade general music at Willowbrook Elementary School, Southeast Polk Community School District, Altoona, Iowa.

**Andrew DeWindt** is the historical interpreter, Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum, Paradise, Michigan.

**Haley Dickel** is a judicial specialist court attendant, Iowa judicial branch, Des Moines.

**Hannah Dickel** is a constituent services specialist, U.S. Senator Charles Grassley, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Paige Dickel** is a product analyst, Nationwide Insurance, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Justin Dilks** is a full stack developer, Genova Technologies, Davenport, Iowa.

**Jenna Dille** is a graduate student, occupational therapy, Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska.

**Emma Disterhoft** is special events manager, Junior Achievement of Eastern Iowa, Iowa City.

**Caitlyn Dixson** is executive director, Iowa Right to Life, Pella, Iowa.

**Kayla Dowell** is a field specialist, Pella Corp., Pella, Iowa.

**Chelcee Downing** is a leasing consultant, Pedcor Investments LLC, Carmel, Indiana.

**Nicholas Drucker** is the assistant acquisition manager, Meredith Corp., Des Moines, Iowa.

**Emily Dye and Kody DeNeve** of Van Horne, Iowa, married July 21. Emily is a substitute teacher, Benton Community School District, Van Horne.

**Seth Eash** is a graduate student, physical therapy, University of Iowa, Iowa City.

**Joe Eilers** is a graduate student, electrical engineering, at Iowa State University, Ames.

**Mason Ellis** was head organizer, Southeastern Iowa, Fred Hubbell for Governor campaign.

**Regan Engleman** is a graduate student in nursing, Allen College of Nursing, Waterloo, Iowa.

**Denise Ewing** is an actuarial analyst, Global Atlantic, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Mark Fairley** is a graduate student in sports administration and coaching, Liberty University, Lynchburg, Virginia.

**Samantha Ferry** is an enrichment coordinator, Illahee Hills, Urbandale, Iowa.

**Kalee Findlay** is a special education associate, Webster Elementary School, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Keegan Flaherty** is a campus intern, InterVarsity, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Rachel Flynn** is a bilingual teller service representative, Veridian Credit Union, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Cole Foster** is a student at Drake University Law School, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Jordan Fox** is a student at Drake University Law School, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Madison Friedrich** is a soil conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Onaway, Iowa.

**Abby Fyfe** is a graduate student, University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine, Iowa City.

**Callie Gardemann** is a self-employed children's book illustrator in Monroe, Iowa.

**Matthew Gardner** is a project coordinator, Primoris, Johnston, Iowa.

**Nicholas Goodwin** is a contractor, QCI Consulting, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Derrick Gray** is a warehouse associate, Rural Recycling Grinding, Stanwood, Iowa.

**Peyton Gray** teaches seventh grade language arts at Pleasant Valley Junior High School, LeClaire, Iowa.

**Nick Greteman** is assistant manager, Uptown Sporting Goods, Carroll, Iowa.

**Julie Grether** is a graduate student, physical therapy, Northern Arizona University, Phoenix.

**Kari Grindberg** lived at Fair Haven East, Pella, Iowa, last summer as a pilot project to promote intergenerational experiences in senior living.

**Kyle Gritsch** teaches physical education, the Grinnell Community School District, Grinnell, Iowa.

**Regan Gritsch** teaches kindergarten through second grade special education, BGM Community School District, Brooklyn, Iowa.

**Nicholas Guzman** is a graduate student, physical therapy, St. Ambrose University, Davenport, Iowa.

**Alex Hale** is an athletic trainer, AthletiCo, Forrest City, Iowa.

**Tess Hanson** works for Winnebago Coop Telecom Marketing Association, Lake Mills, Iowa.

**Jossie Harland** is an elementary school teacher, Keota Community Schools, Westchester, Iowa.

**Jacob Hay** is a tax associate, KPMG Peat Marwick LLP, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Rachel Heatwole** is a park naturalist, Secret Woods Nature Center, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

**Connor Hehli** is assistant manager and recreation coordinator, Smash Park, West Des Moines, Iowa.

**Taylor Heitkamp** is a graduate student, Medical Sales College, Lone Tree, Colorado.

**Jessica Helton** is a graduate student in nursing, Des Moines Area Community College, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Renee Herbers** is a graduate student in physical therapy, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, Nebraska.

**Jamie Heren** is a graduate student in pharmacy, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia.

**Alex Heuton** is front end web developer, Pella Corp., Pella, Iowa.

**Mikayla Hintz** teaches fifth grade at Oskaloosa Community Schools, Oskaloosa, Iowa.

**Jamie Hunt** is a nurse's aide, Pella Regional Health Center, Pella, Iowa.

**Maxwell Hytone** is a marketing coordinator at Graham Construction, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Jake Irwin** is a supply chain intern at Tyson Food, Inc., Le Mars, Iowa.

**Reese Iversen** is a sales representative, Intoxalock, Urbandale, Iowa.

**Brooke Jansen** is a senior customer service representative, MetLife, West Des Moines, Iowa.

**Amanda Jensen** is an administrative assistant, Iowa United Methodist Foundation, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Jenna Jensen** is a graduate student in theatre arts, Middlesex University, London, England.

**Hannah Johnson** is a financing analyst, Principal Financial Group, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Joshua Johnson** is a graduate student, Washington University, St. Louis.

**Lexi Johnson** is a sales associate, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, Carroll, Iowa.

**Sharla Johnson** is an executive assistant, Rp Support America, Inc., New Sharon, Iowa.

**Brianna Johnston** is a graduate student in nursing, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora.

**McKenna Kilburg** is a graduate student in dentistry, University of Iowa College of Dentistry, Iowa City.

**Cheyenne Kinsella** is a graduate student, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.

**Brooke Klemme** is a nanny in Ankeny, Iowa.

**Alison Kretzinger and Jeff Knouse '17** of Sully, Iowa, married Dec. 16, 2017.

**Jackie Kriegel** is a graduate student, social sciences, Lakeland University, Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

**Tiffany Latshaw** is an audit associate, KPMG, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Bryce Leonard** is a communications VISTA, College Possible, Inc., St. Paul, Minnesota.

**Jared Lichman** is a graduate student in physical therapy, University of Iowa, Iowa City.

**Huma Liptak** is an online marketing manager, Big Tree Marketing, Fairfield, Iowa.

**Jacob Logan** is a pricing analyst, Nationwide Insurance, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Alexis Lotspeich** is a costume designer, The Spotlight Theatre, Moline, Illinois.

**Elyse Lubbers** teaches first grade in the Winterset Community School District, Winterset, Iowa.

**Kylie Mack-Garding** teaches at Basis Chandler High School, Chandler, Arizona.

**Alex Mandi** is a graduate student in sciences, Nova Southeastern University, Davie, Florida.

**Hannah Marcum** is a graduate student, Baylor University, Waco, Texas.

**Arisa Marine and Logan Moeller '17** of Wellman, Iowa, married May 20, 2017. Arisa is a graduate student in nursing, Allen College of Nursing, Waterloo, Iowa. Logan is a transportation patient care coordinator, VGM Group, Waterloo.

**Mollie Mason** is a graduate student in nursing, Allen College of Nursing, Waterloo, Iowa.

**Cory McCleary** is a mechanical designer, Kiewit, Lenexa, Kansas.

**Owen McConnell** is a graduate student in chiropractic medicine, Palmer College of Chiropractic, Davenport, Iowa.

**Emily McDonald** teaches seventh-grade English language arts at Sioux Center Middle School, Sioux Center, Iowa.

**Holly McKinney** is a graduate student in public health, Grand Valley State University, Michigan.

**Madison Megonigle** is an agency representative, Athene, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Tristan Miedema** is a graduate student in voice performance, University of Iowa, Iowa City.

**Kendra Miller** teaches English for EF English First, Chongqing, China.

**Katelyn Miner** is a graduate student, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls.

**Benjamin Mitchell** is a stormwater and pollution plan inspector, Soil-Tek, Grimes, Iowa.

**Blake Morgan** is a project engineer, Commonwealth Electric Company, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Jenny Morrett** teaches ninth through 12th grade art at Prairie City Monroe High School, Monroe, Iowa.

**Sam Moss** is a singer songwriter with Sam Moss Music.

**Christopher Neeld** works for Michels Corp., Brownsville, Wisconsin.

**Regan Nelson** is a graduate student in nursing, Allen College of Nursing, Waterloo, Iowa.

**PJ Norem** is a graduate student, sports administration and coaching, Eastern Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tennessee.

**Samuel Norgaard** is a graduate student in chiropractic medicine, Palmer College of Chiropractic, Davenport, Iowa.

**Caitlin Novak** is a bank teller, Veridian Credit Union, Cedar Falls, Iowa.



**Alexis Oldham** is a quality assurance control chemist, Wacker Chemical, Eddyville, Iowa.

**Logan Osborn** is an athletic trainer, Northeast Orthopedics, Gadsden, Alabama.

**Morgan Oster** is the autism day help lead, ChildServe, Grinnell, Iowa.

**Allison Owens** is a graduate student, accounting and business, The Ohio State University, Columbus.

**Bailea Pakkebie** teaches special education at Hanawalt Elementary School, Des Moines Public Schools, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Shelby Palm** teaches Spanish at Hoover High School, Des Moines Public Schools, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Tyler Paterson** is a .NET developer, Copy Systems, Inc., Gilbert, Arizona.

**Kate Patton** is a service support worker, Mid Iowa Family Therapy Clinic, Windsor Heights, Iowa.

**Grant Pearson** teaches fifth grade at Southeast Warren Community School District, Lacona, Iowa.

**Steven Peterman** is a design engineer, Ahren Fire Protection, Omaha, Nebraska.

**Kailey Phillips** is a student, Des Moines Area Community College, Ankeny, Iowa.

**Hunter Pollpeter** is a software developer, Rocket Referrals, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Adrien Pounds** is a family consultant, Mid Iowa Family Therapy Clinic, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

**Monica Powers** is a foundation worker, St. Luke's Hospital/Unity Point, Sioux City, Iowa.

**Sydney Pratt** is a database manager, Professional Research Consultants, Omaha, Nebraska.

**Joshua Prokupek** is a business analyst, Pella Corp., Pella, Iowa.

**Cierra Pulse** is the group coordinator, Sand Valley Golf Resort, Rome, Wisconsin.

**Wyatt Rath** teaches sixth through 12th grade vocal music at West Sioux Community Schools, Hawarden, Iowa.

**Makenna Reed** is a graduate student, sciences, Indiana University Purdue University in Indianapolis.

**Sara Rodriguez** is a sales and communications coordinator, Aaron's Lawn Care and Landscaping, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

**Jeb Rosebrook** is a graduate student, Montpelier Archaeology Field School, Orange, Virginia.

**Austin Rozendaal** is an IPERS IT specialist, State of Iowa, Des Moines.

**Trevor Ruiz** is a physical technician, Mercy Hospital, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Alicia Ruzich** teaches at Eagle Grove High School, Eagle Grove, Iowa.

**Josh Scheible** is a service support worker, Mid Iowa Family Therapy Clinic, Windsor Heights, Iowa.

**Kyle Schelling** is a graduate student, Logan University, Chesterfield, Missouri.

**Jessup Schuler** is an independent writer of a self-published poetry chapbook, an ongoing online fantasy short series and a novel in Des Moines, Iowa.

**Kendra Schwery** is a social media community manager, Pella Corp., Pella, Iowa.

**Matthew Seabold** teaches middle school for Burlington Community School District, Burlington, Iowa.

**Amie Ennis-Werner Seely** is a certified nursing assistant, WesleyLife, Johnston, Iowa. Amie and husband, Spencer, live in Pella, Iowa.

**Jeremy Shannon** is a peak performance enhancement director, SportsPlus Sports Medicine and Physical Therapy, Marshalltown, Iowa.

**Carly Shelman** and Matt Moeller of Washington, Iowa, married July 7. Carly teaches third grade in the Keota Elementary School District, Keota, Iowa.

**Seth Signs** is a graduate student in medicine, University of Kansas City, Kansas City, Missouri.

**Cole Silver** is department manager, Pella Corp., Pella, Iowa.

**Sabrina Smead** is a public relations and educational coordinator, RJO Inc., Newton, Iowa.

**Isaiah Smith** is a package handler with United Parcel Service of America, Inc., Dolton, Illinois.

**Kyle Smith** is a public relations marketing coordinator, MUSCO Lighting, Oskaloosa, Iowa.

**Madeline Smith** is a graduate student, occupational therapy, Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska.

**Mariah Snyder** teaches seventh and eighth grade special education in the Eagle Grove Community School District, Eagle Grove, Iowa.

**Jonathan Specht** is a graduate student, sciences, Western State Colorado University, Gunnison.

**Ellie Stoakes** is a graduate student, chiropractic medicine, Palmer College of Chiropractic, Davenport, Iowa.

**Elizabeth Stock** teaches high school math in the Knoxville Community School District, Knoxville, Iowa.

**Sara Strader** is an AmeriCorps VISTA, Central College, Pella, Iowa.

**Chandler Sturtz** is a marketing program manager intern, Workiva, Newton, Iowa.

**Jacquelyn Sunderman** teaches kindergarten in the Shenandoah Community School District, Shenandoah, Iowa.

**Mariah Swartzentruber** teaches seventh grade science for Washington Community Schools, Washington, Iowa.

**Tabitha Taylor** is an internal auditor, Pella Corp., Pella, Iowa.

**Valorie Taylor** and Casey Dorhout of Polk City, Iowa, married Aug. 4, 2018. Valorie is an actuarial student, Sammons Financial Group, West Des Moines, Iowa.

**Erich Thalacker** is a software developer, Lean Technologies, Pella, Iowa.

**Madison Thingstad** is a graduate student, St. Mary's of the Woods, Terre Haute, Indiana.

**Megan Pothoven Thomas** teaches English language arts at Knoxville High School, Knoxville, Iowa. Megan and husband, Matthew, live in Pella, Iowa.

**Hannah Thompson** is a care assistant, REM Iowa, Knoxville, Iowa.

**Holly Vander Pol** is a graduate student, HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

**Paige Vannausdle** teaches special education in the Southeast Polk Community School District, Pleasant Hill, Iowa.

**Jahleel Vester** is a mortgage loan representative, Peoples Bank, Oak Harbor, Washington.

**Jake Walters** is the assistant personal training director, LA Fitness, Chandler, Arizona.

**Daniel Weir** is the wellness coordinator, Aegis Therapies, Ballwin, Missouri.

**Matthew Wells** is a graduate student, Baylor University, Waco, Texas.

**Wesley Wheat** is a personal trainer, Anytime Fitness, Pella, Iowa.

**Kolby Whisner** is assistant football coach, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

**Malik Wildermuth** is a graduate student, HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

**Scott Wilson** is a web application developer, EMC Insurance Companies, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Shayla Wolver** works for Unity Point Health, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Rachel Woodward** is a print music associate, Rieman Music, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Josie Youel and Dalton Hulme '17** married June 23. Josie teaches kindergarten through eighth grade art at Dike-New Hartford, Dike, Iowa.

**Jacob Zimmerman** is the assistant manager, True Guard Aquatics, Kansas City, Missouri.

**Katie Zimmerman** is a social media recruiter, C&A Industries–Aureau Medical Division, Omaha, Nebraska.



▲ **EmmaGrace Walter '18** and **Noah Stochl '17** of Johnston, Iowa, married May 27, 2018. EmmaGrace is a physician assistant graduate student, Des Moines University, Des Moines, Iowa. Noah is in officer candidate school, Iowa National Guard and in his second year of law school, University of Iowa. Noah will become an officer in the Army next summer and plans to complete his law degree in spring 2020. Participants in the wedding included, *front row, left to right: Jennifer Zoutte '18, Austin Chipps '18, Austin Little '17, Zach Brown '17, Jake Hirst '17, Faith Bliss '10 and Jacob Stevenson '13. Second row: Jeremy Caracci '18, Macin Harvey '19, EmmaGrace Walter Stochl '18, Noah Stochl '17 and Blake Judkins '17. Third row: Morgan Gray Kreiser '14, Kyle Smith '18, Garrett Saunders '19 and Kaitlyn Johnson '19. Fourth row: Robert Kreiser '12, Hunter Caspers '17, Michael Reuter '17, Adam Carey '18 and Tanner Wood '19. Fifth row: Tina Lane '18, Paige Vannausdle '18, Ashley Maley '18, Jenna Stewart '19, Brittany Coppess '19 and Cierra Pulse '18. Back row: Trisha Smith '16, Cade Harvey '17, Joe Kotz '17 and Jessie Peterson '17.*



# LAST NIGHT IN LONDON

FOR ONE GOLDEN MOMENT, THE CITY WAS OURS FOREVER.

BY: SARA RICHARDSON PEREZ '02



Vandon House residents on their fancy night out. Photo courtesy of Sara Richardson Perez '02.

We cross Embankment Bridge like Londoners, walking fast and merging effortlessly. Phrases like “straightaway” and “bloody” fall from our mouths like they’ve always been there. That’s what I most fear about going home. What can I keep? How much of London is actually mine?

I traverse the Thames big-eyed. I want to see, breathe, touch and taste all of London for the bittersweet last time. The city is gray despite sunshine. Sunshine at home is yellow and solid; in London it is fragile, translucent, a lover who will inevitably leave. I can’t seem to enjoy London sun because, ironically, I am supposed to enjoy it so much.

This is our final night. We, the roomers in Vandon House, are celebrating with a cruise down the Thames. I feel like the narrator of our story: “The Vandon House Residents Have A Fancy Night Out.”

We are all so young, even though we have learned when to avoid Victoria

Station, the secrets of shopping at Sainsbury’s and how to sneak others into the Tube. (Only those who truly know a city can be delinquent in it.) We have learned that peanut butter here is horrible, that passports can get lost and that sometimes dads die. We have learned that children are children, no matter their nationality. We have learned the meaning of home in abstentia.

We have discovered cruelty and kindness both in this city and in ourselves. I have walked past a man nearly every day and not once looked in his eyes. “Spare some change, miss?” He has a brown dog. I wonder what kind of person I am to walk by the man and feel sorry for the dog.

We are still young enough to believe our future is golden. We do not believe the odds that five of us will get cancer, that two-thirds of us will divorce. We sing loudly and pretend to like British food. We drink and laugh and sit closer together than necessary.

Later I stand alone on the foredeck as our boat passes under London Bridge. I hear the music of my friends’ voices singing loudly and off key in the cabin. The wind blows my hair into my eyes. I can count the stars I see on one hand. Tomorrow, I’ll have a sky full of stars and no London. The moment is clear and heavy, weighted with impending change.

I hear footsteps behind me. I turn, smile, am led to the dance floor, join the mass of singing friends. All of our voices are golden, our feet golden, our glances golden—for now. The narrator rests the pen softly on the paper and—for now—I sing along.

*Sara Richardson Perez '02 lives in Des Moines, Iowa, and teaches literature and creative writing. An earlier version of this essay appeared in “World Class: 25 Years of Central College Travel Writing Celebrating 50 Years of Study Abroad.”*



**Abigail Lowry '22** pauses  
between classes to make a  
snow figure.

**PHOTO: PAUL JOY**

