

SPRING 2019

CENTRAL

CENTRAL COLLEGE **CIVITAS** ALUMNI MAGAZINE



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EDUCATION CENTRAL

EXPERIENCE IS
THE DIFFERENCE

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NEXT STOP: KAZAKHSTAN

SARAH FRESE NICKEL '09

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RENOVATIONS REVEALED

PEACE MALL

EVERYTHING BELONGS

BY: MARK PUTNAM, CENTRAL COLLEGE PRESIDENT

MARK: MY WORDS

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

I

learn from the questions prospective students and their parents ask. These questions address personal interests

and detail individual concerns. They also reveal hope and ambition, optimism and uncertainty and some degree of fear and doubt. Listening to them reminds me that no two Central College educations are identical. Broad patterns emerge, but students draw on the resources we provide in varying ways. They carefully curate their opportunities to fit their own needs and interests with the advice of faculty and staff. A Central education is much like a fingerprint.

During a recent discussion with prospective parents I was asked, "How do you teach students to work in teams?"

"We encourage them to play in music ensembles, perform in theatre productions, participate on athletics teams and volunteer for student organizations," I responded. It took some by surprise. I suppose many in the room expected I would refer to a course or a curriculum. But some things are best learned through life experience.

I also was asked how we teach negotiation, mediation and conflict resolution. "We give them roommates," I said. People laughed, but also realized that everyday life has a lot to teach us if we intentionally incorporate it into our learning.

Everything belongs in the educational journey of students at Central College. Many alumni say co-curricular activities have a profound impact on their personal and professional journey. Stories abound. Planning an event with the Campus Activities Board teaches organizational skills. Coming back after a tough loss on the court teaches resilience. Mastering a difficult piece of music teaches dedication, persistence and high standards.



Prevailing winds in education seek to reduce the rich relational experience of learning to a series of test-taking, box-checking transactions. We deceive students when we tell them they can complete much of college when they are in high school. Most are not developmentally ready. Higher learning is an unfolding process. Brain development responds to increasing complexity. Emotional maturity flows

from experiencing increasing ambiguity. Intellectual ability grows through repeated encounters with cognitive dissonance. This occurs in classrooms, studios and labs but also in residence halls, via internships and in service learning opportunities.

Our alumni achieve because they draw on their whole Central College experience, in which everything belongs to learning. ■

CENTRAL COLLEGE
CIVITAS
ALUMNI MAGAZINE

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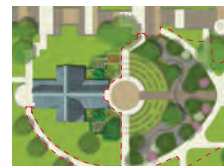
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AROUND THE POND



AWARDS, GIFTS AND RECOGNITIONS

▲ 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Mark Johnson, Ruth & Marvin Denekas Endowed Chair in Science and Humanities and professor of mathematics/computer science, (B.A., St. Olaf College; M.A., Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison). Johnson began teaching mathematics and transitioned to computer science in 2000. His areas of expertise include computer graphics, theory of computation and mathematical logic.

\$50,000 SCHOLARSHIP GIFT

The Noel Cover Foundation of Cozad, Nebraska, presented Central College with a \$50,000 gift. The foundation provides scholarships and loans to needy, deserving and promising young men who live in Nebraska, Iowa, Colorado or Minnesota, attend private, Protestant-related colleges and study engineering, medicine, science or social science.

Central is one of four regular gift recipients and the only Iowa institution represented. Central has received 261 scholarships for 114 students totaling \$1.19

▲ BEST STORY OF THE YEAR

The cover story of the Summer 2018 issue of Civitas won a gold award in the platinum category for the best story of the year from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education.

The story, titled “The Unbroken Circle,” profiled the journey of **Carol Mendez ’09** from immigrant field laborer in Cambridge, Iowa, to two-time, award-winning fifth-grade math teacher at KIPP Triumph Academy in inner-city St. Louis, a free public charter school serving a 100 percent low-income and minority student body.

Mendez quintupled her student’s math scores, for which she earned both the William T. Kemper Excellence in Teaching Award and the 2017 Missouri Public Schools Teacher of the Year Award. **Dan Weeks**, Civitas editor, wrote and photographed the story.

To read the story: central.edu/mendez

million since the foundation was established in 1972.

“We are extremely grateful to the Noel Cover Foundation for its significant, long-term support of Central College and its students,” says **Sunny Gonzales Eighmy ’99**, Central’s vice president for advancement. “The college’s recent addition of an engineering degree strengthens Central’s alignment with the foundation’s objectives.”

Noel Cover was a farmer and rancher in the Cozad, Nebraska, area. He and his wife, Nellie Cover, believed in education even

though they had no children. The Noel Cover Foundation was established after Noel’s death to benefit students. Earnings from the foundation are derived from the annual revenue generated by approximately 1,000 acres of irrigated farmland near Cozad.



▲ PRAIRIES FOR AGRICULTURE

As a result of its groundbreaking research on tallgrass prairies, Central's Prairies for Agriculture project will host two regional conferences this year: the annual conference of the Midwest Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration in April and the Iowa Prairie Conference Aug. 8-10.

Now in its eighth year, the project uses 350-plus plots at the college's Carlson-Kuyper Field Station to test and demonstrate the benefits of planting prairie plants rather than nonnative species on unfarmable sites in the agricultural landscape.

Central students do much of the work,

data collection and statistical analysis.

Many have gone on to become leaders in government agencies and NGOs; others are in graduate school.

PFA already has learned much about how prairies work and how they potentially can benefit nature and humans. It has studied prairie planting techniques, the impact of drought, the importance of individual plant species for monarchs and native bees and how likely common prairie plants are to thrive in new plantings. Starting this year, researchers also will study using highly diverse seed mixes to minimize the effects of drought on new prairie plantings.

"Drought has impacted four of PFA's first

seven years and is expected to become more frequent in the Midwest as climate change increases," says **Russ Benedict**, professor of biology and the project's director. "Our research during the last two years suggests diverse prairie plantings do better during the critical first years of growth than do less diverse mixes."

To tour the Carlson-Kuyper Field Station and its tallgrass prairie, contact: **Russ Benedict, professor of biology** (benedictr@central.edu).

For more information on the Iowa Prairie Conference: central.edu/prairie



◀ RED ROCK AREA AWARDS

Jenae Jenison '11, bottom left and Reid Evans '01, bottom right, were named as two of the Red Rock Area's Top 10 under 40. Jenison is director of external engagement at Central College. Evans is financial advisor at Main Street Advisory Group in Pella.

Central also won three Best of Red Rock Area awards from the Marion County Development Commission. For 2018, Central was named Best Caterer, Best Wedding Reception Venue and Best Meeting Facilities. Central also won top honors in these categories for 2016 and 2017. The Best of Red Rock Awards honor the best in local tourism and business throughout the county in over 50 categories.



◀ TREE CAMPUS

Central received 2018 Tree Campus USA recognition by the Arbor Day Foundation for promoting healthy trees and engaging students and staff in conservation efforts.

Central integrates trees into its sustainability education with maple syrup harvesting, apple cider pressing, a student-produced “Tree of the Week” column in the college’s sustainability blog and by caring for trees on public lands during the college’s annual service day.

Zach Greder '19 and his friends living in the green pods—one of Central’s sustainable housing options—led the effort to obtain the recognition with Brian Campbell, director of sustainability education.

Central is one of only six campuses in Iowa and just 364 nationwide to earn the Tree Campus recognition.

To read Central’s Sustainability Blog: <http://blogs.central.edu/sustain/>

RETIRING FACULTY



Allen Hibbard, professor of mathematics/computer science, (B.A. St. John’s University, Collegeville, Minn.; M.S., Ph.D. University of Notre Dame) has taught

mathematics, computer science, racquetball fundamentals and Greek at Central since 1989. He received the Central’s Marvin L. Hackert Faculty Development Award for Science and Mathematics and awards for distinguished teaching and meritorious service from the Iowa section of the Mathematical Association of America. He published a textbook, *Mathematica*, and authored numerous websites on using technology in the classroom. Hibbard says he is most proud of his students who have gone on to do good things. In retirement, he plans to travel, spend time with family, volunteer and perhaps teach abroad.



Keith Ratzlaff, professor of English, (B.A., Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas; M.F.A., Indiana University) has taught poetry, the essay, newswriting,

travel literature and American literature at Central since 1984. He has published four books of poetry and poems and essays in many national magazines. He was a finalist for the Walt Whitman Award from the Academy of American Poets, was awarded a Pushcart Prize, was included in the 2009 edition of *The Best American Poetry* and received the college’s Wesslink Award for Teaching. He served as co-resident director of Central’s London program and on the college’s study abroad committee. In retirement, he plans to write at least one more book, travel and pursue photography.



Kimberly Koza Harris, associate professor of English, (B.A., Colby College; M.A., Ph.D. Indiana University) has taught women’s literature, feminist criticism, African-

American literature, peace studies and writing for nonprofit organizations at Central full-time since 2002 and developed the interdisciplinary course, *Literature of Peace and Social Justice*. She chaired the English department from 2010-2016. In 2016, she and spouse **Michael Harris** helped to develop a social justice internship program in New York City and Des Moines in collaboration with community-based learning. Both taught classes in communities where students are doing internships to connect classwork theory to hands-on practice. In retirement she’ll teach this fall in Mérida, Mexico, and perhaps later find some time for writing.



Michael Harris, professor of English (B.A. Tulane University; M.A., Ph.D. Indiana University) taught African/Caribbean, Irish, British and Indian

literature and Buddhist traditions. His first Fulbright in East Africa led to a Fulbright Nehru Senior Research award in northern India. He won a CHOICE Outstanding Academic Book award, awards for supporting international education and an Iowa Campus Compact honorable mention. Harris and spouse **Kim Koza Harris** helped to develop a social justice internship program in New York City and Des Moines. Both taught classes in communities where students are doing internships to connect classwork theory to hands-on practice. In retirement he looks forward to reading, practicing a healthy lifestyle, traveling and planning a Yucatan semester for next fall.



Marguerite "Peggy" Fitch, professor of psychology and Title IX Coordinator (B.A., Stephens College; M.A., University of Maryland; Ph.D. University of Kansas) joined Central

in 1992. Her commitment to service learning was recognized twice by Iowa Campus Compact. Fitch taught Intersections for 11 years and directed it twice. She held the Kenneth J. Weller Distinguished Professorship in the Liberal Arts from 2007-2010 and received the Outstanding Performance Award for Institutional Service and chaired the diversity task force. As Title IX coordinator she helped develop policies and implement programs for students, faculty and staff. In retirement, Fitch will continue as Title IX coordinator and adjunct teach on contract, research, volunteer with an anti-poverty organization and spend time with her spouse.



Treva Reimer, professor of art (B.A., Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas; M.F.A., Indiana University) taught and designed theatrical sets, costumes and lighting informed

by international research as a member of the United States Institute of Theatre

Technology. She taught fiber arts, museum studies, installation and environmental arts and curated the college's collection and Mills Gallery. She administered a grant that funded faculty to travel to Washington, D.C., to consider further integration of the arts into Central's curriculum. As director of cultural affairs, she introduced guest speakers and hosted large-scale ethnic dinners. She served as co-resident director of Central's London program. In retirement, Reimer expects to travel and create fiber art.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



Steve Van Wyk '81, executive vice-president and head of technology and innovation for The PNC Financial Services Group, will speak at Central's 2019 commencement

Saturday, May 18, at H.S. Kuyper Fieldhouse. Van Wyk, a Pella native, earned a bachelor's degree in business management and accounting from Central.

Van Wyk has been with PNC since January 2013. He previously served as global chief operating officer for ING, Amsterdam. He was promoted to that position in 2007, a year after joining ING as chief information officer of the Americas division.

Van Wyk also worked at Morgan Stanley, holding various positions from 1996-2006. He was the global chief information officer and global head of operations and technology in its retail division.

He previously worked as a senior manager and computer assurance consultant for Deloitte & Touche in Chicago; as chief information officer and chief financial officer at Pella Corp.; and as controller and senior auditor at Phillips Petroleum Company in Oklahoma.

For more information about commencement: central.edu/alumni/commencement



DUININK NAMED REGISTRAR

Interim registrar and associate professor of exercise science **Leslie Duinink '90** (B.A., history with emphasis in secondary education; M.A., physical

education/athletic training, Indiana State University) has been appointed registrar.

Duinink has spent the past 21 years in various roles at Central, including 10 as an elected faculty member of the curriculum committee, seven as secretary and one as chair. Duinink teaches athletic training and exercise science and has been both assistant and head athletic trainer at Central. She also served three years as class dean.

"Leslie brings exceptional experience and understanding to the role of registrar," says **Mary E.M. Strey**, vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty. "Her experience has given her the opportunity to recognize opportunities for curricular innovation, process clarification and student support."



NEW CENTRAL LICENSE PLATES

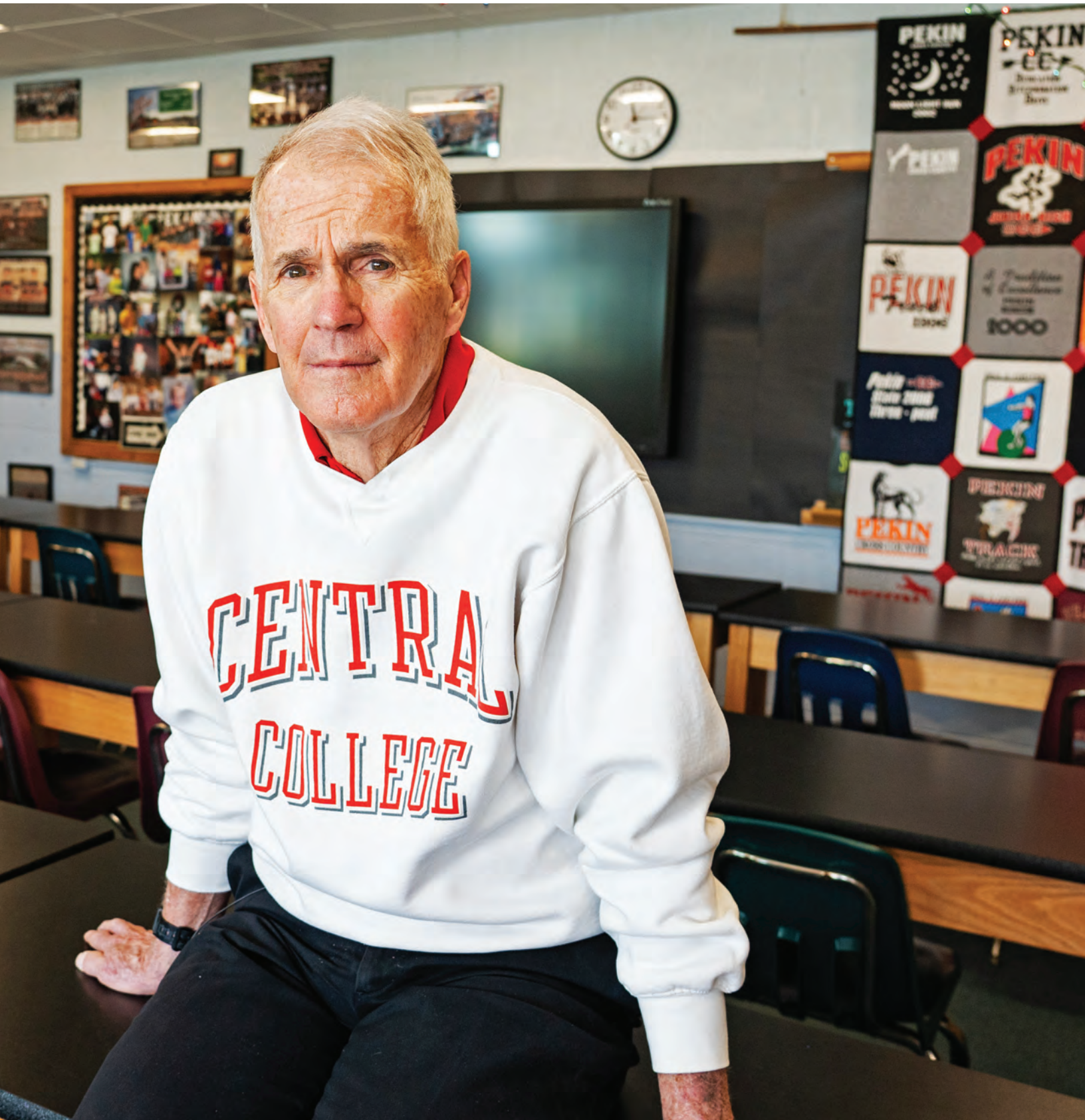
New Central College license plates are available through the Iowa Department of Transportation!

To order the new Central design from the Iowa DOT: central.edu/plates

To exchange an existing Central College plate for the new design: Visit your local courthouse. Cost for the exchange is \$5.

IT'S NOT A SPRINT, **IT'S A MARATHON**

AFTER 57 YEARS OF TEACHING AND COACHING, DAVIS EIDAHL '63 IS STILL GOING STRONG



Why, at age 77, is **Davis Eidahl '63** still at it? He's bouncing on a seat as comfortable as an ironing board on a wind-chilled Pekin High School bus, chugging down an icy county road as his girls basketball team rumbles toward a neighboring speck of a southeast Iowa town. Eidahl's still churning out winners as one of the state's most successful girls and boys cross country coaches—along with coaching equally dominant boys and girls track and field teams. And teaching biology, physiology forensic science—even Latin, inspired by his long-ago Central Latin professor **Herbert Mentink**. Not to mention giving daily summer swimming lessons. Why, indeed?

"What else would I do?" says Eidahl, almost startled by the question. "I love it. I like being around the kids, getting up every morning and doing what I've done for 57 years."

After graduating from Central where he served as captain in basketball, cross country and track, he taught at Anita High School for a year, then took a job at Pekin intending to stick around a couple more. He's stayed for 56. His wife, **Sandy Eidahl '65**, is in her 35th year there as a teacher associate and secretary.

Eidahl's energy level and his teams' performances remain high. Yet among all the championships and accolades, "I like to be known as a teacher first and a coach second," Eidahl says. "I enjoy the classroom. Coaching is just extra."

He cherishes spending time with students who increasingly come from homes where attention is lacking.

"Always greet them at the door, always call them by their first name, shake hands," he says. "Never have a kid go by that you don't speak to. If they respect you, they're going to act pretty good."

Same goes for coaching, he says.

"They're going to work extra hard for

you if they can see that you care," he says. "Kids are pretty smart, they pick up on who cares for them and who doesn't. They'll go that extra mile for you if they see that."

Pekin grad **Maci Gambell '22** saw it. Now on the Central women's basketball team, she played for Eidahl and took his biology class. His care was evident when he took the team out to dinner, in the candy he offered as prizes in weekly free throw contests, in the t-shirts he often created and bought for the team and the pies he gave each player at Thanksgiving.

Most importantly, "He was always there to talk to you or help you if you needed anything," Gambell says. "He was someone kids knew you could go to."

"He's always there super early. We'd come in early and shoot hoops with him. And he was always one of the last ones to leave school, so kids saw him around and knew he was very open to talking."

Eidahl puts his Gen Z athletes through many of the same workouts he learned at Central in the early 1960s. But old school doesn't mean orthodox. A training run might mean a round on a golf course, minus the clubs, with tee-to-green sprints or loping along a desolate farm road to a neighboring town where the runners find a waiting bus to return to school.

"How do you make them work hard?" Eidahl asks. "You have fun. You go different places, you do different things they aren't used to doing. They enjoy that, they look forward to it. They wonder, 'What are we going to do tonight?'"

Likewise, in class, when he senses the students' interest lagging he'll subtly steer the class discussion off topic.

"I know what their interests are," he says. "We get off the subject a little bit and talk about some things they like."

His class trivia contests are popular, especially those that include tales of the sometimes-wayward exploits of the

students' parents and grandparents he once taught in the same classroom.

Eidahl, a competitive race walker who's logged more than 300 race wins and was a 1972 U.S. Olympic Trials qualifier, is still surging ahead, with no sense of a finish line and no interest in a different path.

"Work hard regardless of what you do, have fun and never look back," he says. "I've used that in the classroom and in coaching and it's worked well for me." ■

ATHLETICS UPDATES

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S INDOOR

TRACK AND FIELD: Will Daniels '19 won his second NCAA Division III heptathlon title after setting a Division III heptathlon record of 5,441 points; he was named Division III Central Region Track & Field Athlete of the Year for the second time. **Kyle Pape '19** (800 meters), **Courtney Kruthoff '21** (high jump), **Mary Gray '21** (pentathlon) and **Kennedy Morris '21** (weight throw) also were NCAA national qualifiers. Dutch men and women finished fifth in the American Rivers Conference; Dutch men are tied for 19th place in Division III.

MEN'S BASKETBALL: Central went 8-17 overall, 5-11 in the American Rivers Conference (seventh place). Guards **Jamel McKnight '19** and **Jaden Moody '20** were named second-team all-conference. Coach **Craig Douma** topped the 100-win mark in his seventh season at Central (101-88).

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: Central finished 7-18 overall, 3-13 for the conference after scoring the most league wins in five years. Forward **Kendall Brown '20** was second-team all-conference and set the school's single-season blocked shots record (73).

WRESTLING: Central was 13-3 overall, fourth in American Rivers, third in NCAA Division III Lower Midwest Regional and 33rd in the NCAA Division III national tournament. **Cam Timok '19** (125 pounds) took a sixth-place national finish and is a two-time all-American. **Chase Petty '19** (133 pounds) was a national qualifier. **Eric Van Kley** won the NCAA Regional Coach of the Year and surpassed the 100-win mark in his 12th season at Central.

**FOR UP-TO-THE-MINUTE NEWS
ON CENTRAL ATHLETICS:
ATHLETICS.CENTRAL.EDU**

EIDAHL BY THE NUMBERS

- + 12 time Central College letterwinner (4-year letter winner in basketball, cross country and track)
- + 300 first-place competitive race walking finishes
- + 77 years old
- + 57 years teaching and coaching
- + 39 conference boys track titles
- + 35 conference girls cross country titles
- + 33 conference boys cross country titles
- + 25 boys track district crowns
- + 17 cross country district crowns

- + 4 boys state cross country titles
- + 4 girls state cross country titles
- + 3 coaching awards:
 - First ever winner of the Girls' Athletic Union Golden Plaque of Distinction
 - 2017 finalist, U.S. Cellular Most Valuable Coach for impact on community and school
 - 2001 inductee, Iowa Association of Track and Cross Country Coaches Hall of Fame
- + 2 boys track state titles



CENTRAL SCENE

PHOTO: ANDREW GORMAN '19

A drone's eye view of the campus pond
on a glass-calm day.





EDUCATION CENTRAL

Through experiences like CTA, Central continues to stand out in preparing tomorrow's educators.

BY: JEFF BERSCH

Mason Muur '20 remembers one of the first times he stood in front of a class. He wrote a few things on a white board and placed it back on the cabinet where it belonged.

"It ended up falling down and almost crashed on a student," he says, still a bit embarrassed about it. "I look back and think about how nervous and jittery I was."

A few semesters later, the Central College education student is more than comfortable in front of a class of eighth-graders at Pella Middle School. Muur is used to talking with students. He's developed relationships that are so important in the student-teacher dynamic.

"It's totally different," he says. "I can get in front of them and now I'm excited and I'm ready to go. I have all the confidence in the world and I owe a lot of that to the CTA program."

CTA is the Central Teacher Academy, a one-of-a-kind program that puts education students in classrooms well ahead of their student-teaching requirement.

It's one part of preparing education students at Central for their first job after graduation. Central has earned a reputation for going above and beyond in preparing tomorrow's educators.

"The education department at Central really stands out," Muur says. "They go the extra mile."

BUILT ON A REPUTATION

Jennifer Diers, chair of Central's education department and associate professor, says, "We have students who haven't even started their student teaching being offered contracts. That's the reputation of the program."

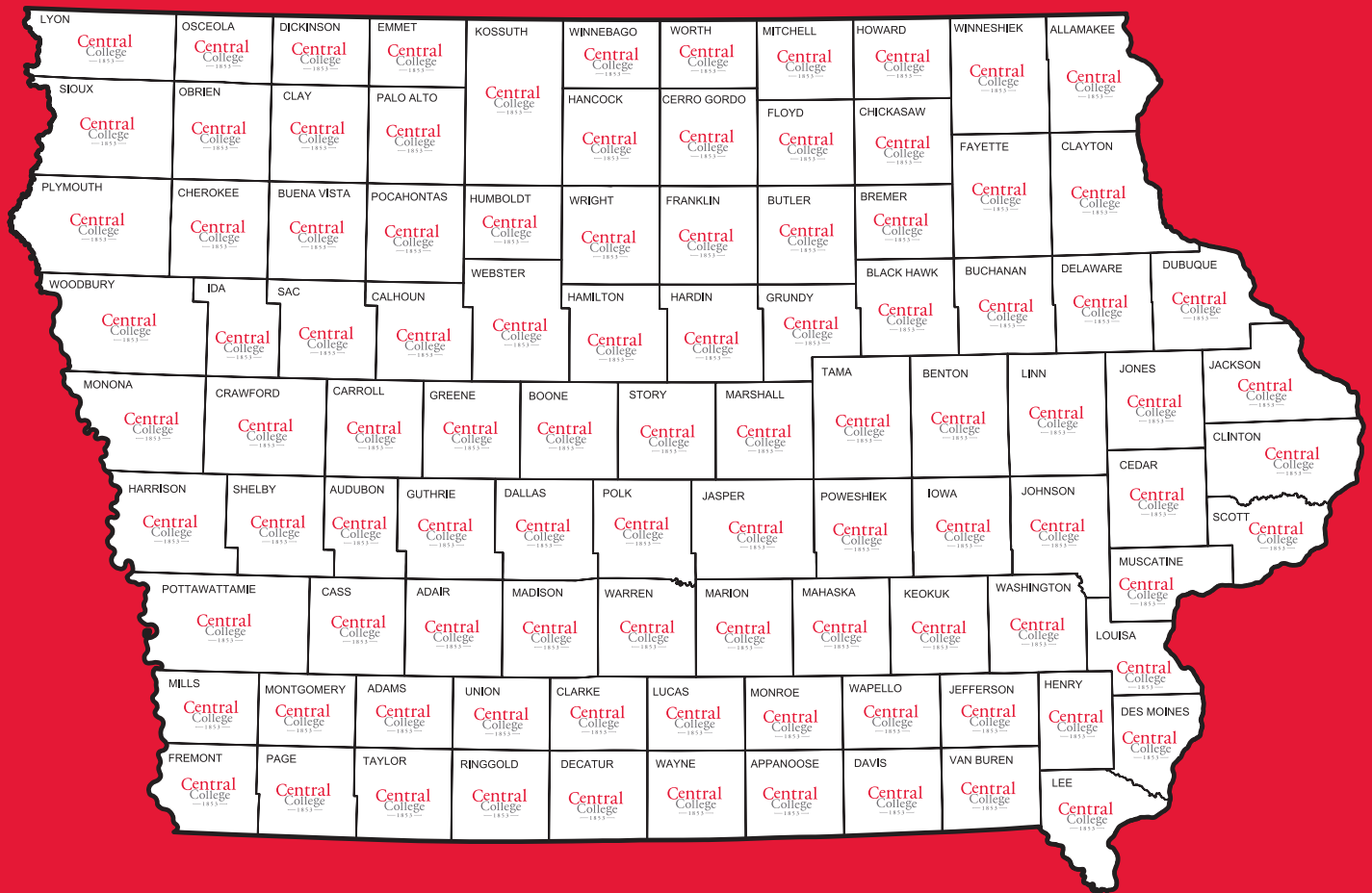
"We are the top," says **Mindi Kacmarynski '93**, coordinator of the CTA program and an adjunct professor.

The numbers speak for themselves.

Nearly 100 percent of education graduates are employed; 50 percent have master's degrees. Central education graduates are teachers or administrators in each of Iowa's 99 counties; more teach in other states or abroad.

"We take special notice of graduates from a few schools when we are hiring," says Lowell Ernst, director of K-12 instruction at Pella Community Schools.

"Central is one of those at the top doing a good job preparing teachers in our state." Ernst has lived and worked in Pella since 1998 and has a unique perspective of Central's education program. He helped



CENTRAL EDUCATION GRADUATES ARE TEACHERS OR ADMINISTRATORS IN EACH OF IOWA'S 99 COUNTIES.

launch the CTA program (which started in 2001), pairing Pella Schools and its teachers as mentors for education students at Central.

He also has seen two daughters go through Central's education program. **Taryn Ernst '19** is student teaching in Knoxville, Iowa. She already has been hired to teach first grade in the fall in Winterset, Iowa. **Morgan Ernst '17** teaches middle school math in Camanche, Iowa.

"When they were in the job market, there were numerous questions in a job interview wanting an example," Ernst says. "Rather than being an eight-week student

teacher, they're actually a three-year intern and able to come up with those examples. They've had real-life situations and they've grown and learned from them."

A ONE-OF-A-KIND PROGRAM

Experience is the goal of the education program at Central. All students observe in classrooms their freshman year. During their time at Central, education students will spend around 200 hours in classrooms. That is in addition to the regular education requirements.

CTA is above and beyond, offering up to another 200 hours in a classroom. Central believes it to be one of a kind in the country. It certainly is in Iowa.

"We don't know of another like it," Kacmarynski says. "It is an attractive thing for students. Many will say that the reason they came to Central was because they heard about CTA."

CTA started with the goal of bringing more college students into the teaching profession. It also desired to retain them.

"Teachers weren't prepared their first years of teaching so they weren't staying in the field," says Kacmarynski, who was the first coordinator of the CTA and took on the duties again in 2014. "We had to do something different."

Central partnered with Pella Schools from the start and added Pella Christian in 2013. The program puts a student in the classroom with a mentor teacher. It's a three-year commitment for each and the partnership benefits both sides.

During their first year or Level 1, usually sophomore year, students spend three hours a week in the classroom. In Level 2, or junior year, it's two hours a week but with more responsibilities.

SINCE 2001,

272 STUDENTS HAVE
PARTICIPATED IN THE
CTA PROGRAM.

"That program has transformed my teaching style," Muur says. "It's really showed me what it's like to be in the classroom. I'm lucky to have had those experiences."

Central education students must apply to be part of CTA and not all are accepted. According to Kacmarynski, about half the 100 students in the education program are involved. Those who aren't still are well prepared when they graduate; CTA is just extra.

"CTA is a fabulous program and it works, but it just isn't an option for all students due to work schedules, athletics, music involvement or family or course schedules," Diers says. "All of our students leave us fully prepared."

To get in to CTA, there's a written essay and an interview process during which faculty look for responsibility, initiative, commitment, enthusiasm and past experiences. The reward is the 200 additional classroom hours, constant feedback and evaluation and much-needed encouragement and support.

"Administrators tell us that the Central Teacher Academy students come out more like second- or third-year teachers because of the amount of experience they have," Diers says.

Adds Kacmarynski: "Our mentor teachers and our professors are preparing students with both the theory and the specific tools."

Andrew Schlatter '19 said Central prepared him well for his semester of student teaching in Des Moines.

"My friends at other colleges and universities say they might have 40 hours in a classroom in three years," Schlatter says. "Through practicum and CTA, I had

of education is in the relationships you build.

"A student will never learn in my classroom until they know how much I care about them," she says. "They don't care how much I know. They want to know how much I care first."

BETWEEN 2007 AND MAY 2018, CENTRAL HAS GRADUATED 338 ELEMENTARY AND 268 SECONDARY EDUCATION STUDENTS.

a good sense of how to run a classroom so I was able to jump in and get moving. I wouldn't have gotten that without CTA, without the experiences we get in the education department as a whole."

RELATIONSHIPS ARE KEY

Diers believes it is relationships that make education unique at Central. Those relationships are many.

Students and professors form a lifelong bond. So do students and their CTA mentor teachers. There's the relationship with the local schools, Pella and Pella Christian, with alumni and faculty and with alumni and Central students.

"I've been able to form great relationships with the professors," says **Chapel Carter '19**, an elementary education major. "Having that small class size and having them available is huge. I could stop by or call or email any of them and they'd respond."

Mary Popson-Klein '95 was a CTA mentor teacher. She is a special education teacher at Jefferson Intermediate

School in Pella and an adjunct professor at Central. She says her door is always open.

"I want to contribute back," Klein says. "I had a professor that made me want to be an instructor. Sometimes I don't see myself like that, but when students come into my room, they say, 'Your class was the reason.'"

Klein, too, believes the biggest part

Muur learned the importance of relationship-building.

"The professors here are amazing," he says. "They're doing what they preach. They want us to build relationships with students and they're doing it with us. It's cool to see and makes it easier for me to do it in the classroom."

TRADITION CONTINUES

Diers has plenty to talk about. Take the Roe Center. It's a state-of-the-art LEED-rated space that provides the latest technology and is "an incredible place for teaching."

"It's always great to showcase this top-notch facility to prospective students and other education professionals," she says.

In addition, Diers talks about the Geisler Penquite relationship, also unique to Central. The Geisler Penquite Foundation provides the education department funding for scholarships and for advanced learning opportunities. It brings in well-known speakers to campus or Pella and offers the chance to network.

There's the "I Understand, I Can, I Am" model used at Central. It focuses on core knowledge per the state of Iowa teacher licensure requirements (I Understand statements); core competency exhibition in clinical settings (I Can statements); and reflecting key dispositions and attitudes of successful teachers (I Am statements).

It all comes down to preparing college students to be teachers.

"We just love talking about what's best for students," Diers says. "Central has a rigorous, relevant program that is putting out top-notch teachers."

"Central College education is steeped in great tradition of preparing highly qualified teachers. It is a privilege to continue that tradition while looking to the future with a vision for even more success." ■

100

100 PERCENT OF CENTRAL'S EDUCATION GRADUATES ARE EMPLOYED; 50 PERCENT HAVE MASTER'S DEGREES.



ANDREW SCHLATTER '19

HOMETOWN: Story City, Iowa

MAJOR: Elementary education

ENDORSEMENTS: Special education and reading

SCHOLARSHIPS: Presidential, Trustee, Root and Geisler/Penquite

Andrew Schlatter jokes he came to Central with sights set on making big bucks.

"Then I realized it wasn't my passion," he says.

Originally a business major, Schlatter switched to education after his first year. He knows he made the right decision.

He was perhaps pushed a little by family. His father, Steve, is high school principal at Roland-Story High School. His cousin, **Josh Manning '03**, is principal at Pella Middle School.

"I took a couple education classes and fell in love," Schlatter says. "Now, here I am."

Schlatter has spent his final semester as a student teacher, first in K-5 special education at Jackson Elementary School in Des Moines, then in fourth-grade at Westridge Elementary in West Des Moines.

"Student teaching has been amazing," he says. "I was extremely prepared."

The CTA program was huge for Schlatter.

"I got into CTA and realized it was something I wasn't going to get anywhere else," he says. "I was able to gain experience. It gave me a good idea of what teaching is all about."

Schlatter has accepted a job as a special education teacher in Des Moines and also will be an assistant football coach. He knows Central prepared him for his next step.

"The relationships I've had with my professors are amazing," he says. "I could talk to them at any moment about anything. The relationships you make are remarkable. They always talk about it, but you don't realize it until you're part of it."



CHAPEL CARTER '19

HOMETOWN: Colorado Springs, Colorado

MAJOR: Elementary education

ENDORSEMENTS: Reading and social studies

SCHOLARSHIPS: Presidential, Trustee, Entrepreneurship, Central Heritage, Journey and Philip J. Harmelink

Chapel Carter is a long way from home. But a "family atmosphere" drew her to Central — first with her volleyball team, then in the education department.

Now in her final semester, Carter is spending it student teaching at Northstar Elementary School in Knoxville. It's something she never imagined.

"I stumbled into the treasure of education at Central," she says. She was planning to major in business or psychology but took introductory education at her mother's request.

"The class itself was good, but what really sold me was going out into the schools and observing the classrooms," Carter says. "I just fell in love with it. How did I not know I wanted to be an elementary teacher?"

Carter joined CTA as a second semester sophomore. She's been a quick study.

"My first time teaching, I did pretty much everything wrong," she says. "I was so nervous I forgot what I'd been taught."

"CTA gives you so many hours in a classroom that you're able to speak in front of a class knowing you're a capable educator."

A future Carter couldn't picture four years ago now is here. She wants to teach in elementary school in Iowa or in the Nashville area (she was born in Tennessee).

"I arrived thinking I wanted to pursue a completely different career," she says. "One education course changed my life."



MASON MUUR '20

HOMETOWN: Morrison, Illinois

MAJORS: Social science and secondary education

SCHOLARSHIPS: Presidential, Trustee, Ministry and Mission, Central Heritage and Geisler/Penquite

Cliché or not, Mason Muur loves how Central and Pella felt like home. So does the education department, of which Muur had heard good things.

"The reputation is a big deal," he says.

Muur arrived undecided on a major but quickly chose education.

"The education department at Central has really helped me shape my future."

Muur plans to teach middle or high school. In the final semester of his junior year, Muur believes he is ready now.

"Do I have stuff to learn? Yes," he says.

"But I could student teach now if I had to."

Muur is paired with **Jerod Garland '99**, a mentor at Pella Middle School in an eighth-grade classroom.

"I've been able to watch and observe and put together lessons," Muur says. "That's what CTA does. They get you in front of a classroom talking with students."

Muur also competes on the cross country and track and field teams. He's the president of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and leads a Bible study for his two teams.

It's all about experiences for Muur, in the classroom and out. That includes the experiences he believes have prepared him for the future, whatever it ends up being.

"I'm thinking about becoming a school counselor or getting my master's in administration and becoming a principal or superintendent. I'm keeping my options open. My degree from Central sets me up for that."

For more information about Central's education program:

- + central.edu/secondary-education
- + central.edu/elementary-education
- + central.edu/cta

NEXT STOP: KAZAKHSTAN

STORY AND PHOTOS BY: DAN WEEKS

Sarah Frese Nickel '09 followed her eclectic education into a career in international business

Sarah Frese Nickel '09 grew up in small-town Iowa, but always had her eyes on the horizon. The daughter of parents who met on a mission trip abroad, she learned about world cultures early: Her family hosted visiting clergy from around the world and even went on their own mission to Cambodia.

Now she's executive director of the U.S.-Kazakhstan Business Association in Washington, D.C. It is a group of about 45 U.S. corporations that promotes economic and commercial cooperation with Kazakhstan, a former member of the USSR that is now the world's ninth-largest country. It has a large agriculture sector, rich energy resources and a growing industrial base.

"Kazakhstan is a proud and welcoming country, and much of it is very similar in climate range to the America's upper Midwest," Nickel says. "There's so much opportunity for American companies in education, agricultural infrastructure, irrigation, agricultural equipment and energy there."

A DREAM JOB

As the association's only employee, Nickel has taken 30 Kazakhstani farmers, corporate and government officials and academics on tours of the American upper Midwest; last fall she took representatives of 16 American companies to Kazakhstan. Both groups met with their counterparts abroad. At the association's office, she

serves as a one-stop shop for Kazakhstan information and contacts for association members, interacts with ambassadors and other high-level government officials in both countries and does all the recruitment and fundraising for the association.

"It's kind of a dream job," Nickel confides over borscht and pelmeni at a Russian restaurant near her office. She's been at the association for five-and-a-half years now. "I've gotten to know all the member companies, their business sectors and how they operate really well. What I do is a mixture of corporate government relations, business consulting and international business strategy."

She says it is particularly exciting to be working with a young country. "Like other post-Soviet countries, Kazakhstan is just 29 years independent and is trying to define what its place is in the larger world. Trade and cultural and economic activity are so important to that."

Following its independence, the Kazakhstan government sent its best and brightest citizens to the top 100 universities around the world for free in return for their pledge to come back and work in the country for five years. "There's a whole generation of people 10 to 15 years older than me and younger who have had a lot of opportunity to work and learn abroad," says Nickel, who loves the challenge and excitement of working with such accomplished, cosmopolitan and highly educated Kazakhstanis.

"We did a pre-briefing with a new U.S. ambassador to Kazakhstan before he took his post. Our member companies introduced themselves and told him what they do in Kazakhstan and what they know about the country. We appreciate the U.S. embassy's support. We do regular events with Kazakhstan's U.S. ambassador here, too. And, I'll be going to Houston for an energy conference," she says.

One of the benefits of the job is the chance to live in Washington, D.C. "I love D.C. It's not as big as New York—I can walk to work—but it's a true international city, with food and people here from all over the world."

GETTING THERE

So how did she get here from rural Iowa?

Even as a high school student Nickel knew she didn't have to travel farther than Pella from her home in Marshalltown to study at a college long known for offering its students a window on the world. She'd first learned about Central from participating in National History Day (nhd.org), an event the college hosts annually.

During her high school senior year, Central recruited her to play soccer. "The team was great," she recalls. "They made me feel at home and welcome right away, and I learned about the study abroad options at the same time. I could see that Central was the right size for me. I could do a little bit of everything: study all kinds of subjects, play



"I LOVE D.C. IT'S A TRUE INTERNATIONAL CITY, WITH FOOD AND PEOPLE HERE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD." — Sarah Frese Nickel '09

soccer, go abroad—and not have to narrow my interests.”

Those interests were considerable. (For a tally of Nickel’s activities, see “A Central Education by the Numbers,” *right*).

AN INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVE

Nickel credits her highly interdisciplinary liberal arts education as excellent preparation for a job that combines many different roles under one job title. She also appreciated the college’s flexibility. “My freshman year I wanted to take a 300-level class, which isn’t the usual practice. But I talked my way into it and I loved it,” she says.

“My political science professors, **Jim Zaffiro** and **Andrew Green**, were wonderful,” Nickel recalls. “At the time, the political science and art faculty had their offices in the same building, and you could sit on a couch in the lounge outside and talk to everyone at once.”

“I had done a lot of pottery in high school, so I kept doing that at Central. And I took glassblowing. It was great to make something with your hands. I liked everything.”

And what, exactly, do glassblowing and pottery have to do with international business?

“It’s all about being open to multiple perspectives,” Nickel says. “You can’t look at things through a tunnel. Everything is affected by or affects something else. You can’t overly simplify. In Kazakhstan, they’re building a country: a culture, an economy, a language—you have to be able to look at things using different strategies and perspectives to make sure you’re seeing the full picture.”

If she learned to see things from diverse perspectives in classes, she learned how to do many jobs simultaneously as a co-president of the Campus Activities Board. “We ran everything from A to Z,” she says. “We budgeted, contracted and scheduled acts and artists. **Bonnie Dahlke** was the director of student activities then, and she was great. She’d tell me when we weren’t doing something right in a way that made sure we knew how to build on what we’d learned and grow from there. She was always super supportive. We made all the arrangements, covered all the details. I’ve used that on all my jobs—the ability to get excited about a lot of things and explore them all and work out all the details.”

Nickel also was involved in Pella. She taught swimming and lifeguarding at the public pool for several summers and

eventually became pool manager, which she says gave her valuable experience managing people.

OFF-CAMPUS STUDY

Other major bridges from her Central experience to her international business career include studying off-campus for two semesters—one in Vienna and one in Washington, D.C. Her Vienna experience included taking a crash course at the Goethe Institute during the preceding summer. She was the only native English speaker there at the time and had to communicate with all her fellow students from all over the world speaking only in German. That gave her experience learning a new language quickly and comfort with people from many cultures. She brought her soccer cleats with her and ended up playing Gaelic Football—a cross between soccer and basketball—with a bunch of Irish and other expats in Austria, furthering her multicultural experience.

All of the above is proof, she says, of the individual nature of a Central education. “I felt like I could explore anything and everything. If I was interested, I could always find a way to fit it in to my program. I don’t know many other colleges where I could have double majored, played a sport and studied off-campus twice.”

Her semester in D.C. resulted in a job offer there with what now is the Atlantic Council, a U.S.-European relations think tank. She was hired to coordinate the organization’s first conference in Bucharest. That involved managing a million-dollar budget, three trips to Hungary and working with the likes of Chuck Hegel, the chair of the Atlantic Council at the time and secretary of defense during the Obama administration. Later, she managed the conference when it moved to Istanbul and spent a good deal of time in Turkey. It wasn’t a bad gig for a fresh college graduate.

“THE IOWA GIRL”

In 2012 she applied to Georgetown University’s prestigious School of Foreign Service Russian and Eurasian Studies program. She had to learn Russian from scratch. Coping with the Cyrillic alphabet was “like learning to read all over again,” Nickel says. But much of her graduate school experience was similar to her Central studies: interdisciplinary (she took courses in Russian history, politics, language, culture and economics) and heavy on electives.

A CENTRAL EDUCATION BY THE NUMBERS

At Central, students don’t have to specialize. They are encouraged to explore multiple interests—curricular, cultural, athletic and otherwise. Few students have taken fuller advantage of this than **Sarah Frese Nickel ’09**.

THE EXACT TALLY OF HER ACTIVITIES:

2 MAJORS: Political Science and International Studies

3 MINORS: Spanish, German and Art

3 CO-CURRICULARS: Soccer, Campus Activities Board and SOS

2 OFF-CAMPUS STUDY PROGRAMS: Vienna and Washington, D.C.

1 INTERNSHIP: Iowa State Historical Society

For more information on Central’s Political Science and International Studies majors: **central.edu/majors**

For more information on Central’s off-campus study options: **central.edu/study-abroad**



"I DON'T KNOW MANY OTHER COLLEGES WHERE I COULD HAVE DOUBLE MAJORED, PLAYED A SPORT AND STUDIED OFF-CAMPUS TWICE." — Sarah Frese Nickel '09

She relished being one of very few students there who wasn't an Ivy League graduate. She proudly introduced herself as "From Central College, in Iowa." It made her memorable, even to professors who were former ambassadors or attachés.

"They'd say, 'You're the Iowa girl!'" says Nickel. "I really stood out."

Her Central experience managing multiple roles and projects came in handy during grad school, too. She was simultaneously working full time doing macroeconomic risk analysis as an associate for Oxford Analytica, an international business consulting firm, in its Washington, D.C., office. The firm was founded in the U.K. by David Young, who had worked for Henry Kissinger during the Nixon administration.

While at Georgetown, she received a grant to attend a conference in Baku and to go to Kyrgyzstan for a summer. She still had a year left of grad school when a friend

sent her the posting for her current job. It's perfect for her. "I like politics, but I don't like infighting," she says. "Here, I can work for the American team on the international level. I do answer questions about such things as the spillover effects of Russian sanctions, but I stay out of domestic politics."

Nickel has stayed in touch with Central since graduation and regularly attends the college's regional alumni meetings in D.C. She remains an avid soccer player and Central fan. "There are not many things I want to go back and redo, but what Central has done with the soccer team and program recently is awesome," she says. "I'm really proud of what they've accomplished and are continuing to build."

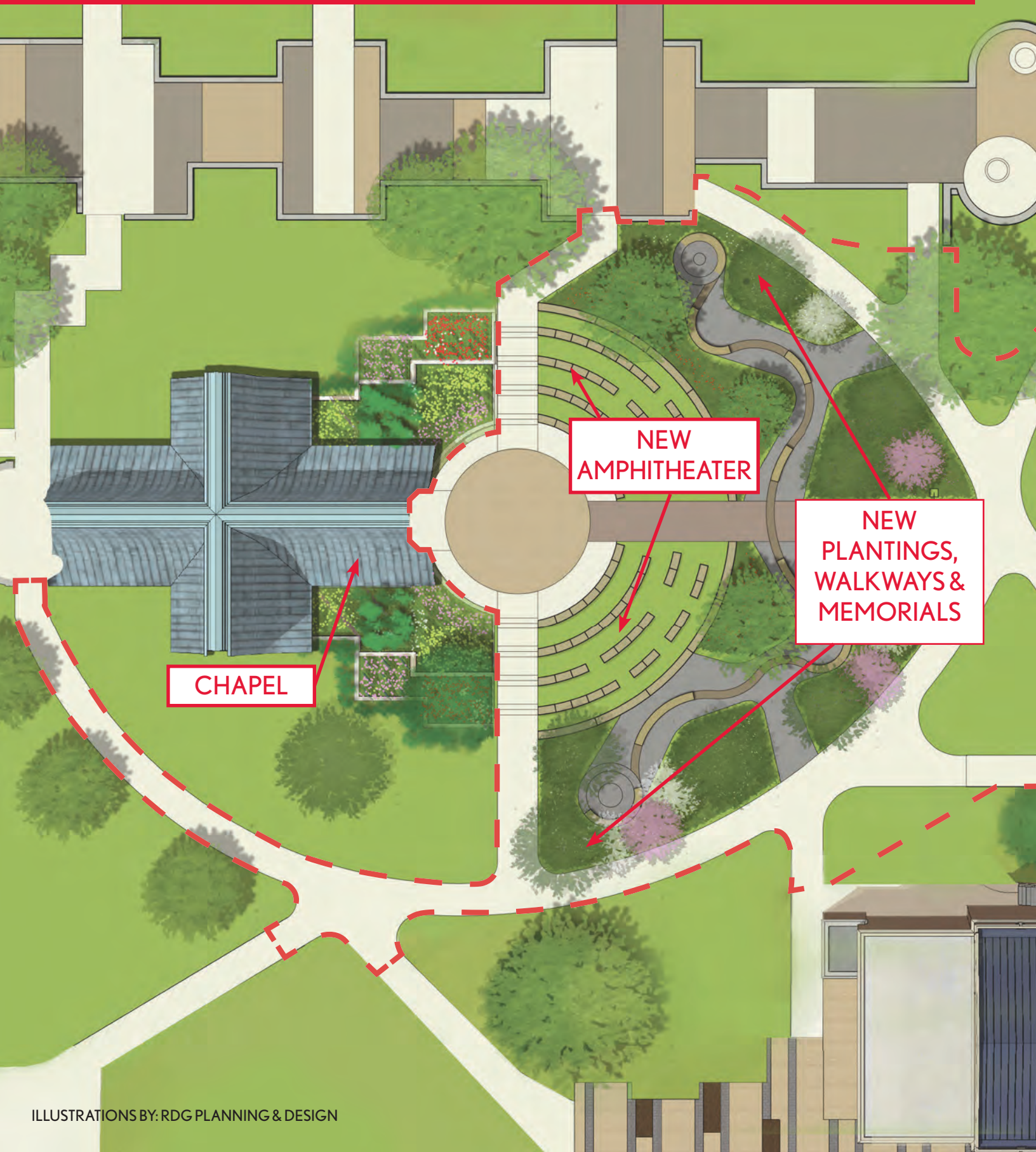
Her advice to Central students: "Don't let the college's size fool you. You can get a big education there. Jump in and explore all your interests. Join student clubs, work in town, take whatever courses interest you. I

wouldn't trade my Central education for anything." ■

For more information on Central's international studies program:
central.edu/international-studies

For more information on Central's study abroad programs: central.edu/study-abroad

THE COLLEGE'S NEW HISTORY GARDEN IS CENTRAL'S BIGGEST LANDSCAPING PROJECT SINCE THE POND



PEACE MALL

BY: CYVANNAH VECCHIO

The Central College campus always has been a work in progress. That's more so than usual this spring, when the college will create a new, thoughtfully landscaped history garden as a part of a renovated Peace Mall in the center of campus.

Much of the area between the chapel and pond will be completely transformed. A new amphitheater will host outdoor events. Fourteen memorials will honor the college's veterans and themes in Central's history. Plantings and a sinuous walkway will promote strolling and reflection.

It's the most significant alteration to campus landscaping since the Peace Mall and pond were constructed 55 years ago. [See "Lubbers' Lagoon," *right*].

"The history garden was inspired by **Tom Gaard '61**," says **Sunny Gonzales Eighthmy '99**, vice president of advancement. "Tom's passion for history helped shape the project."

Gaard remembered Civil War and World War II memorials were on display in Central Hall when he was a student. "I came back a few years ago and the memorials were in storage," Gaard says. "I suggested putting them in a prominent place to both honor veterans and to enhance the campus aesthetics."

That suggestion has morphed into a history garden—a landscape celebrating not only the college's veterans but also significant moments and meaningful themes in Central's history. The 100 percent donor-funded project was designed by RDG Planning & Design of Des Moines with input from project lead donors, college leaders, **Lori Witt**, associate professor of history, and **Brian Roberts**, professor of art.

The east entrance to the history garden passes through "Sentinels," a memorial honoring Central's veterans.

Steve De Cook '65, one of the project donors, had a great-grandfather who fought in the Civil War in Company G 33rd Iowa infantry, which consisted mostly of Pella men. Many had immigrated to America in the 1840s and 1850s and spoke little to no English. They wanted to show loyalty to their new country, and many died in the process. De Cook's grandfather enlisted in the fall of 1862.

"There were only two boys enrolled in Central College for a while," De Cook says. "All the rest served at the beginning of the Civil War."

"I HOPE PEOPLE DON'T FORGET. I HOPE THE MEMORY STAYS ALIVE AND THAT THROUGH THIS HISTORICAL GARDEN AND VETERAN'S MEMORIAL, THE COMMUNITY WILL IDENTIFY THOSE WHO SERVED—PERHAPS THEY'LL FIND MEMBERS OF THEIR OWN FAMILIES—AND REMEMBER THE SACRIFICE THEY MADE FOR THIS COMMUNITY AND THIS COUNTRY."

— STEVE DE COOK '65

Fourteen markers throughout the garden will denote important moments in Central's history from the college's founding in 1853 through many years in the future. To date, 11 such moments have been identified, each with a themed word to describe them. Three more markers remain unnamed for now, leaving room for future decisions or three additional moments possibly yet to occur.

LUBBERS' LAGOON

Where it all began.

In 1963, "We wanted to make the campus more distinguished," recalls then Central College President **Don Lubbers** in a 2015 interview. "We contacted a landscape architect in Des Moines and he came up with a lake in the middle of the campus. Whoa—that was shocking! It required closing Peace Street, and the City of Pella agreed."

The college purchased "Peace Street from Broadway to West Third Street, West First Street from Peace Street to the alley north and West Second Street from Peace Street to the alley" from the City of Pella. In 1964, it closed Peace Street forming what is now the Peace Mall and built the pond at one end.

Meanwhile, said Lubbers, "My wife and I and our kids went to New Jersey for a little holiday and fundraising. I got a call from the business manager and heard people were in an uproar. Fortunately for me, I was a thousand miles away. I said just take the criticism, and it will work out all right."

So it did. Pella residents who at first chafed at the inconvenience of having to drive around campus rather than through it were charmed by the more unified campus and picturesque pond. Centralians and community members soon became fond of strolling around and gazing at the water feature, particularly when ducks, geese and even turtles arrived. Students affectionately dubbed it Lubbers' Lagoon.

Twice a year the pond hosts the college's most distinguishing rituals. In Homecoming's Lemming Race, costumed students throw themselves into the water and thrash their way to the pond's island. During the Spring Fling Boat Race, improvised, student-powered crafts battle it out to see which can circumnavigate the island fastest.

Like the pond, the history garden is designed as a focal point for strolling, gazing and reflection. But who knows what new campus rituals the amphitheater and other elements may host once ingenious students make the new features their own?

The names of the 11 identified markers, along with the historical moment they honor or celebrate, are:

+ Community

The founding of Central College.

+ Courage

The purchase of the college by the Reformed Church in America.

+ Resilience

The destruction of the college bell in the Old Central Hall fire.

+ Service

The service of Central's veterans.

+ Entrepreneurial

The saving of the college by Central's "Pellacraft" Industries.

+ Continuity

The founding of Central's A Cappella Choir.

+ Connection

The building of the college pond and bridge.

+ Transformation

The launching of the college's study abroad focus.

+ Diversity

The visit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to the college.

+ Leadership

The creation of NCAA Division III athletics and the student-athlete, a philosophy authored by President Emeritus Ken Weller.

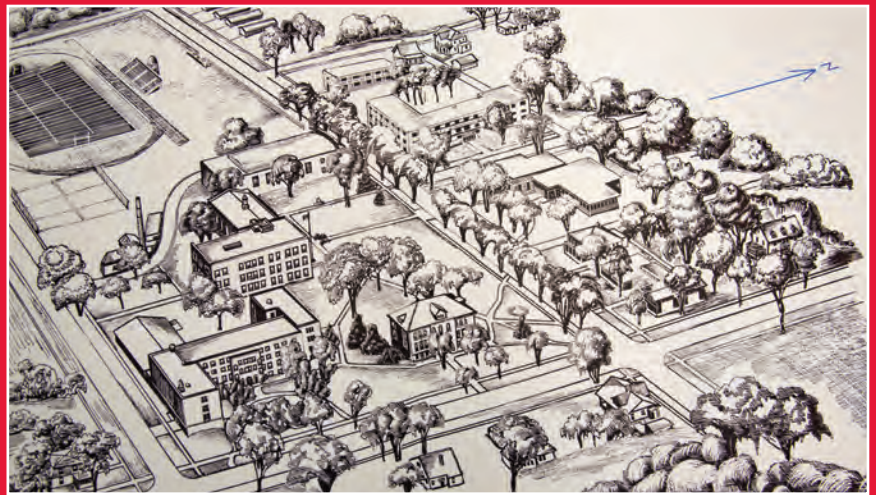
+ Sustainability

The college's early and continued leadership in sustainability.

"It's appropriate and respectful to honor the past as we prepare for the future," Central President **Mark Putnam** says. "The markers articulate the values that founded and continue to guide the college and characterize its graduates."

Putnam notes the Peace Mall renovation is 100 percent donor-funded. More than \$850,000 has been raised toward the project to date. In addition to Gaard and De Cook, significant donors include members of the board of trustees in honor of board chair emeritus **Lanny Little '74**, the Class of 2018, gifts from estates and anonymous donors.

For more information or to donate to the history garden: 641-628-7604, alumni@central.edu or central.edu/alumni. Naming opportunities are available.



Central's campus was originally divided by Peace Street, which runs from top left to bottom right in this 1959 campus rendering.



The original version of the pond was in the shape of two triangles joined at their apexes, contained three islands and lacked a way across. This photo was taken in the early 1970s.



Today the pond has rounder shapes, one island and a bridge. The new history garden is being installed between the pond and the chapel.



The “Sentinels” Veterans Memorial will mark the east entrance to the history garden. The weathering steel cutouts flanking the path honor uniformed servicemen or women of the five branches of the United States military.



This tablet honoring Central’s Civil War dead was one of those that inspired **Tom Gaard ’61** to propose new landscaping to honor Central’s veterans.

Historical and thematic markers will dot the new landscaping, offering places for visitors to pause and reflect.



Like “Sentinels,” most markers will be constructed of weathered steel cutouts and limestone tablets.

NEWSNOTES



▲ **Phil Van Den Berg '64** and wife, Izzy, hosted a reunion with friends from Central in February 2019. They are front row, *left to right: Connie Neevel Loomans '65, Bea Werner DeBie '65, Maureen Timmer, Gary Timmer '55, Sally Sikkink Arendt '67 and Jim Arendt '65. Back row: Jack Walvoord '54, Eugene "Red" Loomans '65, Harold DeBie '65 and Phil Van Den Berg '64.*



▲ **John Cobb '65** of Ireland, West Virginia, *center*, earned the West Virginia 2019 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year by the West Virginia Senate on Feb. 11. John owns and manages a 327-acre tree farm.

THE '50s

Elliot Tanis '56 co-authored the 10th edition of "Probability and Statistical Inference," published by Pearson Education. In the acknowledgements, Central College Professor of Mathematics **Mark Mills** was recognized for his contribution. Tanis is a retired professor of mathematics at Hope College. He and wife, **Elaine Buteyn Tanis '56**, live in Holland, Michigan. Elaine is secretary for Asia RCA in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

THE '60s

John Carle '60 was elected into the Knoxville High School Athletic Hall of Fame in January. John played basketball, track and football at Knoxville High School. When he graduated in 1956, he owned every scoring record on the Panthers basketball charts. At Central, he was named the Small College All-American. He later returned to coach the varsity boys basketball team before leaving to coach at Des Moines' Lincoln High School, where he took four teams to state and won the title in 1975. John and wife, Connie, live in Des Moines, Iowa.

Gerald Schleier '69 earned the Alumnus of the Year Award from the College of Dentistry, University of Iowa. He is past president of the Iowa Academy of General Dentistry and served on the board of trustees for the Iowa Dental Association from 2009-2015. Gerald is a fellow of the Academy of General Dentistry and the Pierre Fauchard Academy. He served as president of the University of Iowa's Dental Alumni Association from 2014-2016. Gerald is a doctor of dental surgery at his practice in Keokuk, Iowa, where he lives with wife, Dian.

THE '70s

Darla Horman '74 retired as a planner and research analyst, State of Missouri Department of Economic Development. Darla and husband, Christopher Spurgeon, live in Columbia, Missouri.

Warren Poldberg '74 spent his 45-year banking career in Iowa with stops in Council Bluffs, Clarinda and Harlan before retiring from the Raccoon Valley Bank in Adel on Jan. 11. Warren and wife, Connie, plan to return to the Omaha-Council Bluffs area to be closer to family.



▲ **Deb Balogh Kosche '76** worked in the Seattle area for 29 years as a C-level executive assistant at companies including Starbucks, T-Mobile, Amazon and PACCAR. Deb plays fiddle in two Scandinavian folk bands and, along with husband, Ralph, is a regular at Scandinavian, Contra, Swing, Waltz, Cajun and Zydeco dances. They often perform at Seattle's Northwest Folklife Festival. Deb and Ralph live in Bothell, Washington.

Allen Reynen '76 retired Feb. 1 after 32 years at Lawnwood Regional Medical Center in Fort Pierce, Florida. He spent the past 22 years in the IT&S department. Allen plans to enjoy his retirement years traveling and spending time with his granddaughters.

Greg Garth '78 is adjunct professor of sociology and adolescent psychology, College of Saint Mary, Omaha, Nebraska. There he earned the Adjunct Teacher of the Year in the Arts and Sciences Award and the Teaching Excellence Award. Greg and wife, **Denise Bartlett Garth '80**, live in Omaha.

Mark Baumann '79 is college organist, Cornell College, Mount Vernon, Iowa. Mark and wife, **Marcia Edwards Baumann '82**, live in Marion, Iowa. Marcia is assistant vice

president of consumer loans, Farmers State Bank, Marion. Their youngest daughter, Meredith, was married last summer by the **Rev. Rick Burns '82**. Other Central alumni at the wedding were **Paul '74** and **Sheryl Van Dyke Steenhoek '82**.

THE '80s

For information about **Denise Bartlett Garth '80** and **Sheryl Van Dyke Steenhoek '82**, see the '70s.

Perry Bell '80, longtime sports reporter for the Knoxville Journal-Express and Pella Chronicle, earned the Distinguished Service Award from the Iowa Newspaper Association. Perry is also the baseball coach at Knoxville Middle School. Perry and wife, Lisa, live in Knoxville, Iowa.

Steve Arndt '81 planned to follow his mother's footsteps into a teaching career but life had other plans. After 35 years in the automotive distribution business, the past six as president and CEO of FinishMaster Automotive Paint, Indianapolis, Indiana, Steve and wife, Susan, moved back to Oelwein, Iowa, where he plans to obtain a State of Iowa Teachers and Coaching Certificate and volunteer his services to a school.

Chuck Duggan, Int'l

London '83 is recuperating from a heart transplant and doing well. Chuck and wife, Gail, live in Austin, Texas.

Tom Griffith '83 is the founder of Griffith Search Consultants. Tom and wife, Karen, live in West Bend, Wisconsin.

Rod Schneider '86 is principal solution consultant, Oracle American, Inc., Broomfield, Colorado. Rod and wife, Carrie, live in Louisville, Colorado, with their daughter.

John Shields '87 is senior information security consultant, Securion Financial, St. Paul, Minnesota. John and wife, Kris, live in Arden Hills, Minnesota, with their four children.

Trish Smith Merz '88 of Shawnee, Kansas, was named regional vice president of sales at Tanium in Lenexa, Kansas.

Nathan Busker '89 is senior pastor, Ponds Reformed Church, Oakland, New Jersey. Nathan and wife, **Kara Glendening Busker '89**, live in Oakland. They recently welcomed into their home two young women—one from Nicaragua, one from Mexico—who were granted

asylum to enter the United States to escape violence and are now enrolled in high school. Nathan is working with **JJ Johnson Ten Clay '98** to see how RCA colleges can provide scholarship support for refugees and asylees.

Tim Larson '89 is business development executive, Control Service Company. Tim and wife, Melissa, live in Kansas City.

THE '90s

For information about **JJ Johnson Ten Clay '98** see the '80s.

Sandy Klomp Chilson '91 is administrator, Accura HealthCare, Cresco, Iowa. Sandy and husband, Chris, live in Lime Springs, Iowa.

Shari Kerr Miller '91 is program coordinator, ISU 4U Promise program, Iowa State University, Ames. The 4U Promise is a partnership with King and Moulton Elementary Schools in the Des Moines Public School District to promote higher education. Shari and husband, Mike, live in Polk City, Iowa. They have two sons.

Kyle Nelson '91 is sales representative, Curriculum Associates, Inc., Des Moines, Iowa. Kyle and wife **Jil Bancroft Nelson '94** live in Pella, Iowa. Jil is principal at Eddyville Elementary School, Eddyville, Iowa.

Kristin Schakel Gibbar '92 is director of operations—renewables, Black & Veatch, Overland Park, Kansas. Kristin and husband, Scott, live in Overland Park with their two children.

THE '90s (continued)

Andrew Hudson '94 is contract manager, Collins Aerospace, Des Moines, Iowa. Andrew and wife, Sue, live in Urbandale, Iowa, with their two daughters.

Cole Adrian '96 of Pella, Iowa, is vice president of direct sales, Pella Corp. Cole and wife, Jaime, have a son and daughter.

Josh Bailey '96 is president and chief development officer, Catholic Health Initiatives Colorado Foundation, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Josh and wife, Barbara, live in Colorado Springs with their three sons.

Sarah Waschle Andersson '97 is senior global product development analyst, Principal Global Investors, Des Moines, Iowa. Sarah and husband, Jesper, live in West Des Moines, Iowa, with their son.

Ryan Van Haaften '99 is studio project manager, Creatis, Minneapolis. Ryan and wife, Tisha, live in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

THE '00s

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

Dustin Kraft '00 is corporate accounts manager, Vermeer Corporation, Pella, Iowa. Dustin and wife, **Tara Sorensen Kraft '08** live in Pella with their daughter and son. Tara teaches second grade for Pella Community Schools.

Nicholas Richtsmeier '01 is founder and president, CultureCraft, Des Moines, Iowa. Nicholas and wife, Wendy, live in Urbandale, Iowa, with their three sons.

Anna Swanson '03 is founding principal, Farrell Day, Chicago, a higher education consultancy.

Sara Dietrich Coggin '04 and husband, Brian, work together flipping houses in the Alma, Georgia, area and opened their third car wash last year. Sara and Brian have two children.

Kristen Van Veldhuizen Parks '04 is senior employee experience and employee relations specialist, Cargill Inc., Eddyville, Iowa. Kristen and husband, Thomas, live in Oskaloosa, Iowa, with their three children.

Janet Bailey '05 is full-time care partner, Terrace Glen Village, Marion, Iowa. Janet and husband, Chris Bulger, live in Marion.

Aaron Eggers '05 is vice president, sponsor and partner relations, National Investor Relations Institute, San Diego.

Katie Haun Schuring '06 is architectural historian, Minnesota Department of Transportation, Minneapolis and president, Preserve Minneapolis, a nonprofit that champions historical architecture. She was featured in the Feb. 6 issue of City Pages' People. Katie and husband, **Bret Schuring '05**, live in Minneapolis. Bret is a software engineer, SmartThings Inc., Minneapolis.



▲ **Laura Elting '08** and Scott Bleything of Burlington, Iowa, married May 12, 2018. Laura is an accountant at Shottenkirk Inc. Wedding participants included, left to right: **Justine Copeland Robinson '08**, **Laura Elting Bleything '08** and **Barbara Ann Warburton '07**.



▲ **Megan Hansen '08** and Bryan Dewhurst of Hubbard, Iowa, married Oct. 27, 2018. Megan is assistant sports director, Iowa Games, where she plans Olympic-style sports festivals for the summer and winter Iowa Games since 2018. Earlier, she taught and coached school and club volleyball for nine years including three summers in Ukraine. Wedding participants included, left to right: **Joe Burch '08**, Bryan Dewhurst, **Megan Hansen Dewhurst '08**, **Maria Weiler '08**, **Alisa Scarrow Wood '06** and **Heather Goemaat Malone '07**.

McKenna Cornish Beck '07 teaches English at Tipton High School, Tipton, Iowa. McKenna and husband, Scott, live in Tipton with their two children.

Billy Fox '07 was recognized by Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds during her Condition of the State address for helping keep more than 3,000 people in Pella, Iowa, safe during an EF-3 tornado last July. Billy is security and emergency preparedness leader, Vermeer Corp.

James Baier '08 is psychiatric resident, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut. He also presented at the American Public Health Association Conference in San Diego on developing and evaluating an advocacy training program for health professionals and health professions students. James and wife, Amanda, live in Hamden, Connecticut, with their daughter.

Amanda Roling Schwerdtfeger '09 is clinical informatics advisor, Pella Regional Health Center, Pella, Iowa. She earned the 2017 Rising Quality Star Award from the Iowa Association for Healthcare Quality. Amanda and husband, Dan, live in Pella with their three children.

THE '10s

Anthony Bazant '10 is proprietor, All American Tile, Omaha, Nebraska.

Caleb Bonjour '10 is principal, Cardinal Elementary, Maquoketa Community School District, where wife, **Amanda Roggeman Bonjour '10**, is middle school principal. They

attribute their achievement to the preparation they received at Central. Caleb and Amanda live in Maquoketa, Iowa, with their two children.

Anna Harmon '10 and Kurt Rosenberg of Mount Pleasant, Iowa, married Sept. 15, 2018. Anna is certified occupational therapy assistant and director of rehab, Independence Rehab, Bloomfield, Iowa.

Stacey Kracht '10 is member network specialist, Thrivent, Des Moines, Iowa.

Allison Moeller McKibbin '11 is relationship manager and senior associate, Avalon Advisors LLC, Houston. She recently earned the General Securities License (Series 7). Allison and husband, Taylor, live in Houston, Texas.

TJ Duff '12 of Ankeny, Iowa, is resource manager, MidAmerican Energy Company, Des Moines, Iowa. Duff is a certified reliability coordinator.

Holly Von Fumetti Hobbs '12 is consumer marketing manager, Meredith Corp., Des Moines, Iowa. Her husband, **Curtis Hobbs '11**, is logistics manager, XPO Logistics, Des Moines.

Jason Nabholz '12 of Waterloo, Iowa, is supervisor of operations, CBE Companies, where he has been employed since 2015.

Abbey Sparks Rock '12 is senior financial analyst, Precision Inc., Pella, Iowa. Abbey and husband, Kirby, live in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, with their son. Kirby is route salesman, Mahaska Bottling Company, Oskaloosa, Iowa.



▲ **Amy Meyer '11** and Adan Rodriguez of Waukee, Iowa, married June 30, 2018. Amy is information technology business analyst, EMC Insurance Companies. Wedding participants included *left to right*: **Amy Meyer Rodriguez '11** and **Melissa DeRuiter Carlson '11**. *Second row*: **Jacob Peterson '11**, **Jessica Williams Fisk '11**, **Teresa Beiermann Goodenow '11** and **Brent Goodenow '12**. *Third row*: **Tosha Kirchner Peterson '11**, **Juliana Dreyer '11** and **Cassie Gerster Petersen '11**. *Back row*: **Jon Vanderpluym '77**, **Jeanne Aggen Vanderpluym '77** and **Sara Meyer Sheets '07**.



▲ **Allison Jensen '13** and David Arendt of North Liberty, Iowa, married Oct. 20, 2018. Allison is associate director, main campus events, University of Iowa Center for Advancement, Iowa City, Iowa. Wedding participants included, *front row, left to right*: **Meghan Cain Newton '13**, **Steve Cain '10**, **Emily Miller '13**, **Rachel Theurauf Gibbins '13**, **Joanna Peters '13**, **Allison Jensen Arendt '13**, **Stephanie Hasken '13** and **Dayna DeWalt Jensen '80**. *Back row*: **Ali Dameron Davis '14**, **Susie Engstrom Dameron '75**, **Taylor Gibbins '13**, **Shannon Schmidt '13**, **Joy McEachran Ott '13**, **Mary DeVries '13**, **Tim Gibson '15** and **Sheryl Vander Hart Dickinson '80**.

THE '10s (continued)

Brandon Clough '13 is fish and wildlife branch coordinator, Meskwaki Department of Natural Resources, Tama, Iowa.

Taryn Pennington '13 of Colorado Springs, Colorado, is high-performance health care services provider, United States Olympic Committee, Colorado Center of Orthopedic Excellence.

Tyler Schippers '13 is finance manager at Pella Motors in Pella, Iowa. Tyler and wife, **Colette Kotz Schippers '13**, live in Oskaloosa, Iowa, with their daughter. Colette is a rehabilitation counselor, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Service, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Kelly Spavin '13 is events coordinator, University of Kansas Libraries, Lawrence, Kansas.

Nicole Lantz '14 and Ian Willard of West Des Moines, Iowa, married Sept. 15, 2018. Nicole is a registered nurse, Mercy Medical Center, Des Moines, Iowa.

Kyle Maynard '14 of West Des Moines, Iowa, is bilingual workforce advisor and foreign labor certifier, Iowa Workforce Development, Des Moines, Iowa.

John Seier '14 is controller, JRS Management/Up Down Arcade Bars, Des Moines, Iowa. John and wife, **Crystal Spoor Seier '14**, live in Waukee, Iowa. Crystal teaches eighth grade language arts at Southeast Polk Junior High School, Runnells, Iowa.

Mackenzie Uhlenhopp '14 of St. Louis Park, Minnesota, is certified music therapist and neurologic music therapist, Living Spirit Therapy Services, Minneapolis. She will present "Utilizing Harp within Neurologic Music Therapy Interventions to Address Parkinson's Disease Symptoms" at the Midwestern Regional American Music Therapy Association Conference.

Carson Claypool '15 of Pierre, South Dakota, is loan review officer and institutional credit analyst, First National Bank, Pierre.

Conner Freeman '15 of Urbandale, Iowa, is researcher, The Data Initiative.

Ashley Hulsing '15 and Matt Kriegel of Brooklyn, Iowa, married Oct. 13, 2018. Ashley teaches math at BGM High School, Brooklyn.

Ellie Miller '15 of Omaha, Nebraska, is stockroom manager, the chemistry department, University of Nebraska Omaha.

Elizabeth Paladino '15 and Joseph Amsberry married June 11, 2016. Elizabeth and Joe live in Cedar Falls, Iowa, with their son.

Richard Williamson '15 is graphic designer, TwoTone Creative, Des Moines, Iowa.



▲ **Camie Kibbee '15** and Zach Thornblade of Mason City, Iowa, married Sept. 8, 2018. Camie is special education paraprofessional, Roosevelt Elementary School, Mason City. Wedding participants included left to right: **Dakota McNamara '17, Hannah Laflin '16, Jessica Laflin '15, Ife Ajayi '15, Camie Kibbee Thornblade '15, Brianté Bagg '16, Joanna Blomquist '14, Rachel Church '14 and Allie McBroom Zahnlel '15.**



▲ **Kaitlyn Gillett '15** and **Aaron Rosenstiel '15** of Cedar Falls, Iowa, married July 21. Wedding participants included left to right: **Morgan Wilson '16, Brittany Lenth '15, Amber Rosenstiel '22, Aaron Rosenstiel '15, Kaitlyn Gillett Rosenstiel '15, Taylor Beckman Mills '15 and Shannon Coulson '15. Second row: Andrew Fritz '16, Joseph Heath '16, Michael Iseman '15, Scott Mills '13 and Jaemin Powell '16. Third row: Nate Munn '16, Nile Eckermann '15, Tate Handsaker '17, Drew Moore '16, Colby Taylor '17 and Abby Eakes Verros '15. Back row: Brian Fegley '80, Lori Humphrey Fegley '80, KJ Cool '13, Craig Douma, Jim Fuller and Nick Lutsch '15.**

Parker Smith '16 and Danna Verastegui of Durham, North Carolina, married Dec. 22, 2018. Parker is senior digital analyst, Cognetik, Cary, North Carolina.

Curtis Klein '17 is golf professional, American Legion Golf Course, in his hometown of Jessup, Iowa.

Brandon Zumbach '18 is minor league athletic trainer, Houston Astros, West Palm Beach, Florida.

ADVANCED DEGREES

Shari Kerr Miller '91, master's degree, urban studies, community development, Eastern University, 2012.

Aaron Eggers '05, master's degree, public administration, Drake University, 2007.

TJ Duff '12, master's degree, global management, Thunderbird School of Global Management, 2013.

James Baier '08, master's degree in public health and doctor of medicine, University of Pennsylvania, 2018.

Taryn Pennington '13, doctor of athletic training, A.T. Still University, June 2018.

Kelly Spavin '13, master's degree, library science, leadership and administration, May 2016.

Nicole Lantz Willard '14, bachelor of science, nursing, Mercy College, Aug. 2017.

NEW ARRIVALS

Elisabeth Lewandowski '00, daughter Josie, Aug. 11, 2017.

Brian and Sara Dietrich Coggin '04, son Jude Sawyer, Aug. 20, 2018.

Kristen and Matt Lynch '06, son Owen Patrick, Oct. 14, 2018.

Scott and McKenna Cornish Beck '07, daughter Jemma Hazel, Oct. 16, 2018.

David and Sara Meyer Sheets '07, son Warren James, Dec. 2, 2018.

Amanda and James Baier '08, daughter Alivia Ruth, Dec. 11, 2018.

Dan and Amanda Roling Schwerdtfeger '09, son Oliver, April 24, 2017.

Natalie and Justin Madsen '10, son Isaac Raymond, Sept. 26, 2018.

David and Jessica Williams Fisk '11, daughter Anna Jo, Jan. 20, 2019.

Cody and Sarah Kramer Roozeboom '12, daughter Emmalyn Grace, Aug. 26, 2018.

Greg '13 and Elizabeth Cook Ellingson '12, son Wendell Pax, Jan. 3, 2019.

Andrew and Katelyn Knaack Raska '14, son Mason William, Sept. 7, 2018.

Joseph and Elizabeth Paladino Amsberry '15, son William Thomas, Sept. 10, 2017.

IN MEMORIAM

Dorothy Ostendorf Vos-Voelker '45, Ames, Iowa, Feb. 8, 2019.

Andrew Bandstra '50, Grand Rapids, Michigan, Feb. 8, 2019.

Hans De Vries '50, Cedar Falls, Iowa, Feb. 7, 2019.

Mary Roorda Sytsma '52, Aurora, Colorado, Dec. 12, 2018.

Norma Stephenson Stokes '55, Hermitage, Tennessee, Dec. 4, 2018.

Bessie Heerema Burns '56, Ontario, California, Nov. 7, 2018.

Wilma Keuning Clauson '56, Spirit Lake, Iowa, Dec. 31, 2018.

Kenneth Keuning '58, Mariposa, California, Jan. 29, 2019.

Ken Harter '64, Pella, Iowa, Jan. 13, 2019.

Linda Garrison Perrenoud '72, Newton, Iowa, Feb. 4, 2019.

Jessica Lyon '99, Des Moines, Iowa, Jan. 27, 2019.

IN MEMORIAM

STEPHEN BELL '59



Stephen Bell '59 (B.A., history and political science; M.A., journalism, Northwestern University) died Jan. 25, 2019, at age 83. The Oskaloosa, Iowa, native participated in Central's choir, football, College Democrats, speech, band and radio station.

Bell worked at WOW-TV in Omaha, WNEW radio in New York and ABC Radio News, where he covered the Vietnam War, Robert Kennedy's assassination and Watergate and anchored Good Morning America and World News This Morning. He then taught telecommunications at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana.

Bell's honors include the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame, an Indiana Broadcasters Association Lifetime Achievement Award, Emmy awards, an Overseas Press Club award, a National Headliner Award, and a Central honorary degree (1969). He was a Central trustee (1975 - 2008) and trustee emeritus (2008 - 2019). He presented the college's commencement speech in 2005. In 2007, he created the Steve '59 and Joyce Bell Excellence in Journalism Award.

Bell is survived by his wife, Joyce, their children, Allison and Hilary, and three grandchildren.



CELEBRATING HOO-RAH! DAY

**CENTRAL COLLEGE CELEBRATED ITS THIRD ANNUAL HOO-RAH DAY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10.
GENEROUS DONORS CONTRIBUTED 403 GIFTS TOTALING \$218,137
TO THE COLLEGE, MAKING THE DAY A HUGE SUCCESS!**

Donors included 329 alumni, 167 parents of alumni or students, 80 faculty and staff and 56 students. They gave to a variety of programs and needs at Central, including \$196,409 to the Journey Scholarship Fund, \$8,825 to the Forever Dutch initiative and more.

Social media helped spread the word and Central's Hoo-Rah Day ambassadors stretched the reach even further. Central had more than 127,000 impressions on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Gifts came in from 33 states!

Thank you to everyone who helped make this Hoo-Rah Day so successful.

Thanks to you, the college raised \$26,000 more than last year! See you next year to continue the tradition!

Check out some Hoo-Rah Day highlights here, www.central.edu/hoorah19

HOO-RAH! HOO-RAH! CENTRAL! CENTRAL! RAH! RAH! WOO!

Molly Parrott
@mollyparrott

Follow

Every college grad should love their alma mater as much as I love @CentralCollege.
#HoorahDay #ForeverDutch



25 years next month since I graduated from @CentralCollege! I've just made my #HoorahDay donation to celebrate!
hoorah.central.edu/giving-day/120...



**MORE THAN
127,000
IMPRESSIONS**



Harry Smith
@HarrySmith

@CentralCollege every time I walk into my office...and yes this is my office. I get the #HoorahDay feeling.

403 GIFTS

\$218,137 RAISED



Can I get a HOORAH!? Throwback to the picture that started it all ☐ Grateful, thankful, blessed! Wouldn't be who I am today without the experiences I had, or the people I met, at Central College. God is good ❤️ #centralcollege #hoorahday #2013 #doublepost



Tej Dhawan
@tejdhawan

More @CentralCollege #Hoorahday fun @dmymca with fellow alumni
pic.twitter.com/dYyhPnmnqF



THE JOYFUL GIVER

PETER CARTWRIGHT '82

HOMETOWN: Glen Ellyn, Illinois

MAJOR: Business Management

STUDENT ACTIVITIES: Football, Tennis, A Cappella Choir, Student Senate president, Central Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, The Pelican, The Ray and Society for Advancement of Management

CAREER: Senior Vice President and Senior Institutional Consultant, Morgan Stanley

CURRENT LOCATION: Ankeny, Iowa

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Worship leader, Meredith Drive Reformed Church and Prairie Ridge Church; Past President and board member, Johnston Community School Foundation; parent and coach, Special Olympics and Pioneer Baseball League; Hockey coach, Des Moines Youth Hockey; Past President and Board of Trustees, ChildServe and Board Member, Variety, The Children's Charity

SERVICE TO CENTRAL: Board of Trustees 2007-present, Cornerstone Society, Forever Dutch Steering Committee, Schipper Fund Steering Committee and National Advisory Committee

High school football player **Peter Cartwright '82** was recruited by a number of Division III schools when he met legendary Central coach Ron Schipper. That meeting made his college decision.

"Skip paid attention to me as a person as well as an athlete," Cartwright says. "He would chew me out for getting a C in accounting as much as if I missed a block. He was an important person in my life."

The same was true of the college as a whole. "Central gave me opportunities to develop my own skill set in an affirming environment. I came to Central with interest in music, athletics, theatre—and Central allowed me to participate in experiences that developed me as a whole person," says Cartwright, who has a 37-year career in finance.

"Central prepared me to be adaptive, to take on any career. I didn't realize it at the time, but everybody here challenged me to be better than I was. That goes for my coach, my speech professor, my accounting teacher, my choir director."

"That's why I give back to Central," he continues, "because someone gave so I could be a student here. I've been blessed so I can be a blessing to others. My money is not my own. I need to be a good steward of it, and some of that stewardship is investing in other people. My wife, Rebecca, and I have been purposeful about that. It is an important element of our faith."

Part of that faith, he says, is faith in organizations. "When you give to Central, the impact of your gift multiplies by enabling the college to invest in areas which have the most impact. Those areas may be different from what I might think is most important. You have to trust and have faith in the collective wisdom of the institution and its advisors."

That kind of faith and investment philosophy was something else Central taught, Cartwright says. "I didn't come here because of the Reformed Church, but I saw its example. Tithing is a powerful and

real thing. I learned how different people viewed giving, and it was selfless. They didn't think about how much they were giving, they thought of the impact," he says.

He says he also learned about giving from friends and business colleagues. "When you see what they do and how they share their mission—that's pretty cool. I've had a couple of business colleagues who challenged me: 'You need to be responsible with your resources. You need to share them.' It has turned into a passion for me."

"I want to challenge people to be generous the way that they challenged me. The Bible tells us to be a joyful giver. When you see the impact," he says, "that's where the joy comes from. That's why you give."

Cartwright has been generous to the college. "I heard someone once say 'to be an effective board member you need three things: wealth, wisdom and works—so I try to live that out.'"

He served as Tri-Chair of the Forever Dutch initiative and is a longtime supporter of the Journey Scholarship. He has served on the National Advisory Council and more than 10 years on the board of trustees. "The board is not just people with deep pockets, it is people who are willing to roll up their sleeves and serve the school and students."

"I'm humbled when I see the real giants of this college who have been so generous with their resources. We need to continue to develop those types of donors outside of Pella. That's the next frontier. People tend to give to what they are passionate about. If you want a student to have the experience you did, endow a scholarship, give to Central!"

Going forward, scholarships are very important, he says.

Some options to give:

1. If you're older than 70 years, six months, you can give out of your IRA.
2. You can donate appreciated stock, which can be a way to give a nice gift without paying taxes on it yourself.
3. You can name the college the beneficiary of your life insurance policy.

For Cartwright, it all comes back to the results. "I guest lecture at a large university to senior finance classes. I would put a Central student up against those kids any day of the week. Central develops a much more well-rounded person. If I had to pick someone to employ, I'd pick the Central kid every time. No matter what you study here you can adapt to a changing workforce." ■

CENTRAL'S GREAT ART HEIST

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, 11 WORKS OF ART BY DUTCH MASTERS DISAPPEARED FROM THE COLLEGE'S COLLECTION. THEY HAVE YET TO BE FOUND.

BY: DAN WEEKS

"Brower Collection Stolen; Investigation Continues" reads the headline of Central College's campus newspaper, *The Ray*, Tuesday, April 24, 1984.

"College and local officials are working with the DCI in an investigation into the theft of 11 pieces of the Brower Collection from Central sometime last weekend," wrote **Paula Johnson Buenger '85**, the paper's editor. The article continued:

"The theft took place between Thursday evening and Tuesday morning when they were discovered missing. The paintings and drawings were located in a special room on the third floor of the Geisler Learning Resource Center, east of the Archives Room. The works were apparently just ripped right off the walls where they were hung framed and on permanent exhibit. There was no sign of forcible entry to the room.

"The 11 pieces, the work of predominantly 17th-century Dutch masters, were part of the Brower Collection, a group donated to the college in 1966 by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Brower '27 of Beverly Hills, California. Mr. Brower was a longtime trustee of the college.

"Over the years a number of the works have been loaned to other collections for exhibit or have gone on tour. The Fragonard drawing of Don Quixote was loaned to a special Fragonard exhibition which showed at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., the Fogg Museum at Harvard University and the Frick Collection in New York City.

"The paintings and drawings were last appraised in the late 1960s at \$18,000, although their current value could range from \$30,000 to \$50,000 [in 1984], according to Vice President for Student Affairs **William Hinga**."

THE HUNT

The story continued: "Also included in the Brower collection is a painting by Dutch artist Rubens, which was hanging in the



▲ **"Landscape" by Herman Salftleven, a Dutch baroque artist who lived in Rotterdam and Utrecht (1609-1685) was one of the drawings stolen in the heist. The college initially hoped the robbery was a student prank and that the artwork would be returned.**

archives room and was not taken with the rest of the collection. This painting has been moved for security reasons.

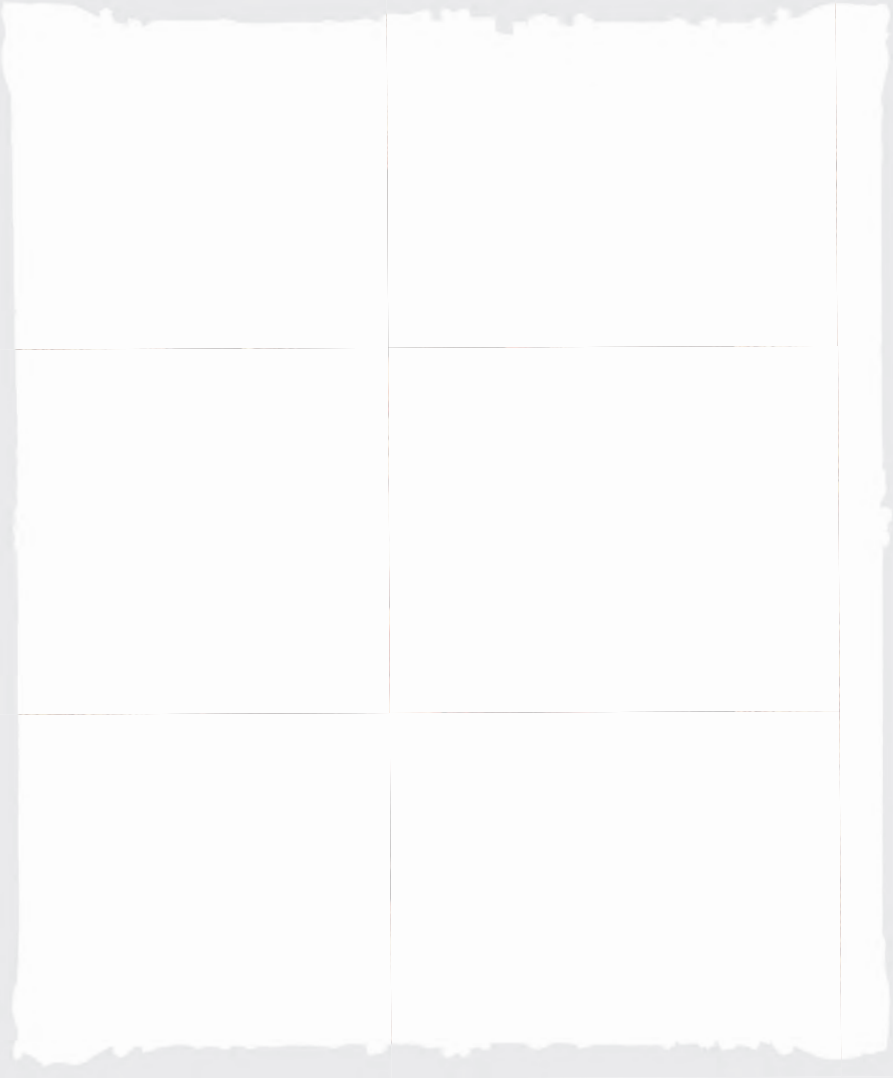
"Campus officials have been working with the Pella Police Department of Criminal Investigation in the search for the artwork. 'I feel confident that we are working with the best in this matter,' said Hinga. 'International art publications have been informed of the theft to ensure that none can be sold to a reputable dealer.'

"A real fear of officials is that the paintings and drawings were taken as a prank, and the persons taking the works may now have more on their hands than they bargained for. Hinga said that a real wish of his is to have the works 'quietly show up at door,' rather than disappearing. If that were the case then Hinga stressed that the artwork must be returned and

not disposed of or destroyed. The work is of considerable learning value and is irreplaceable. Additional security measures have been taken, and a 24-hour guard is now on campus."

Then College Archivist **Alice Lammers** was interviewed by Des Moines' KCCI TV 8 News in the days after the theft. "I couldn't believe what I saw—these blank walls," she told a reporter as the TV camera panned over pockmarks and twisted bits of picture wire where the paintings had formerly hung. "It was a terribly sinking feeling."

Hope that the theft was a prank withered in the days and weeks following the event. The investigation soon progressed well beyond the scope of the Pella Police Department. Eventually, the FBI and even INTERPOL were involved.



◀ “The Holy Family” by Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640) is the one painting in the collection that was not taken in the robbery. It was painted by perhaps the most famous, prolific, and influential artist of any work in the Brower Collection. At the time of the theft, the painting was in a different room than the 11 pieces that were stolen, and was perhaps overlooked or inaccessible to the thieves.

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Thirty-five years later, the works have not yet been found. But the event remains vivid for those involved.

Buenger, The Ray editor who wrote the story quoted above, is now publisher of the Spencer Daily Reporter, the Dickinson County News and the Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune, all in Iowa. “Those were different times, of course, and security wasn’t as tight as today,” she reflects. “Also, with all the rows of bookshelves and countless study carrels I would imagine it wouldn’t have been that difficult to ‘stow away’ when the facility closed for the night.

“For myself and the staff of The Ray, it was also a very big deal at the time when the Register later published a story on the theft—it was my first ‘big’ story of my career and we beat the paper ‘Iowa Depends On’ to get the goods.”

A HARROWING HISTORY

The paintings had a harrowing history even before they were stolen from Central. In a 2007 email exchange with **Robin Martin**, then director of Central’s Library, the donor’s grandson Jeff Brower described his grandmother fleeing the Netherlands with the collection.

“Did you know what she went through to get the Rubens and drawings into the U.S.?” Brower wrote. “She managed to get out of Holland in Oct. 1939 with her two kids (one my father) only seven months before the Nazis invaded. The family story is that a German officer helped her with papers she needed from Germany for the Dutch government in order to emigrate (her husband was a German citizen and died in 1937). She was Jewish, and this officer helped others, but he was later caught and committed suicide.”

The Brower Collection is still listed in the index of the Netherlands Institute for Art History in The Hague. Eleven of the 12 dated from the 17th century and “forcefully reflect the vitality and the genius that has become the rich tradition of that period,” states a college brochure on the collection published after its acquisition. The sole surviving painting in college custody, Rubens’ “The Holy Family,” was formerly in the collection of the Duke of Sutherland and later the Belvoir Castle collection of the Duke of Rutland. The Browsers had purchased it from an Amsterdam gallery in 1932.

The Holy Family remains on display in a high-security, environmentally controlled niche in the college archives on the third floor of Geisler Library. Art students visit it regularly, and library Director **Beth McMahon** enjoys telling archive visitors the story behind the one that didn’t get away. ■

"A DARK CLOUD BUT A SILVER LINING"

How an art collection became an endowed scholarship

"It pains me to write it but I must report that it appears that the paintings will not be recovered," wrote Central's then-president **Kenneth Weller** to Suzanne Brower in January 1985 (her husband, **Frank Brower '27**, had died in 1975). "All available leads have been followed up by local and state authorities to no avail. They will continue to check with national and international dealer organizations but they are not very optimistic. The clearest indication of finality is the insurance settlement which we have received.

"The amount of the payment is \$93,000. It seems a very fair amount to us in view of the appraisal we have had and the fact that the Rubens was untouched. The remaining question on which we need your advice is the disposition of the funds."

Weller put forth several options for Brower to consider. He wasn't obliged to: the Browsers had deliberately given the collection to the college with no restrictions, meaning Central could sell any of the paintings or the entire collection if the college believed doing so was in its best interests. A conversion to cash was never the college's intent, but now that the paintings were gone, Weller wanted Brower's input.

He suggested the college could use the funds either to buy more art or establish an endowment for one or more purposes: buying more art, financing an ongoing series of art exhibitions in the college's Mills Gallery, establishing a scholarship for students interested in art or some combination. He was open to Brower's suggestions but confided his advice would be to endow something permanent and ongoing.

"It is a dark cloud, but a silver lining may yet be possible," he wrote near the end of his letter.



▲ "Port on a River" by Jan van Goyen (1596-1656) depicts a typical subject of a painter and etcher who has been called one of the most gifted landscape artists in the 17th century Netherlands.

Brower was a serious amateur artist and photographer herself. She described in a newspaper article that late in life she'd had a revelation that caused her to switch from representational to abstract subjects. Perhaps her devotion to her painting influenced her response to Weller's letter.

In any case, Weller wrote Brower in April 1985, one year after the heist: "On the basis of your conversation I have decided to place the \$93,000 payment in the endowment funds of the college designated for the Frank and Suzanne Brower Scholarship program" for students interested in art.

Since its establishment, the Frank and Suzanne Brower Scholarship's endowment has dispersed hundreds of thousands of dollars to hundreds of Central students. Many faithfully wrote Suzanne Brower during her lifetime (she died in 2001) to personally thank her for helping make their Central educations possible.

In their letters, students share with Brower their dreams of becoming artists, art professors, architects, art teachers and graphic designers. They talk of studying art abroad on Central programs in Vienna (Brower's native city) and the Netherlands, of visiting art shows on Central-sponsored trips to Chicago, of internships with projects promoting public art and of getting their

works accepted in exhibitions.

Joseph Cory '01 wrote Brower that he planned to continue his study of art after graduation from Central and become an art teacher. And he has. After earning a B.F.A. from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago and an M.F.A. from the University of Chicago, he now is a visual artist and associate professor of art and design at Samford University School of the Arts and Faculty Fellow in Samford's Center for the Arts in Birmingham, Alabama.

Hollie Reilly '03 grew up in Massena, Iowa, population 355, where she was considered "THE artist" in school and lamented that few art teachers lasted long in her small school district. After majoring in art from Central, she is happily teaching art in the same public school district from which she graduated—and has been for 10 years.

The theft was a huge blow for the college and the art world. But it's easy to see from examples such as Cory's and Reilly's that the Brower Collection is continuing to have a huge impact on Central students and their art—and in some cases their students and their art—even in the collection's absence.

Silver lining indeed. ■



812 University St., Pella, Iowa 50219

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MAKE WAY FOR GOSLINGS

Andrew Gorman '19
was walking from his room
in Scholte Hall to breakfast
in Maytag Student Center
when this family of geese
on the pond's edge caught
his eye.